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Inside:



Qana massacre and Arab and international



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"The domestic banking industry did not learn from the Watani

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%)

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
- 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 stop-

Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. However, Yemen did call for an emergency Arab summit, but to no avail, with Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulgader 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 Israel 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

"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 ping the war or reducing strikes on and ready for anything. Frankly speak-



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

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

Yemeni journalists

protest war on Lebanon

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."

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

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 solidari-

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

معمتنا نجاحك

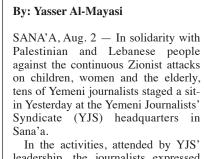


Al-Qirbi

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



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

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



with his son during the protest.



Yemeni journalists show their solidarity with Lebanese people.

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."

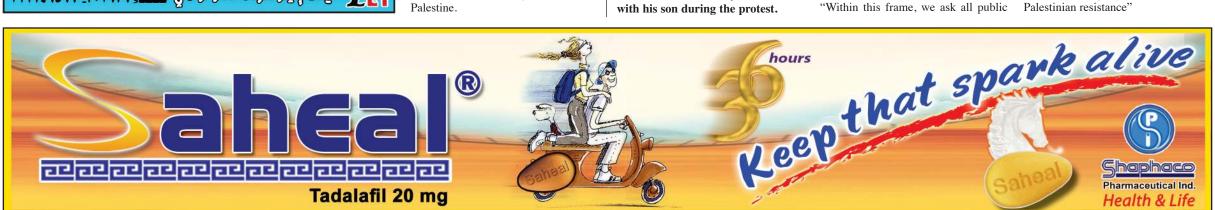
The statement pointed out also, that standing as spectators will just delay the attack on our towns and cities, but will not prevent it. The objective now is existence and not the rectification of trivial details; we have either a future of freedom and dignity or one trodden under-foot.

The statement ended:

"Shame and Slur upon all silent and submissive people

Victory and glory for Lebanese and Palestinian resistance"





Al-Baidani: I will sue **Parliament and Shoura Council**

SANA'A, Aug. 2 - Reacting to the Supreme Court resolution regarding the refusal of his nomination documents and further rejecting the appeals he made, Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Baidani held a press conference on Tuesday, August 1, in which he declared his intention to file a civil and criminal case against the Shoura Council's Chairman and Parliament, giving assurances that there were no logical causes for rejecting his documents, rather it was done through political tricks and weak pretexts.

Regarding the accusations attributed to him regarding the provoking of factionalism and racism and his connection to foreign intelligence, Al-Baidani declared that "These terms are not valid as legal causes for rejecting nomination documents; they are abuses and defamation for which the members of the two boards of Parliament and Shoura, should be punished in accordance with the law."

Al-Baidani further accused the Supreme Court of being partial and not independent and of following the executive authority. He further added that it should be separated according to the principle dictating authorities' separation, legislative, executive and judicial,



Al-Baidani at the press conference.

PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

dominant in democratic regimes.

He also gave his assurances that the constitutional circle of the Supreme Court has committed a big fault, thus violating the constitutional provisions. For half of its members do not belong to the constitutional courts for the chairmen of military, commercial and personal

Additionally, Al-Baidani pointed out that the boards of Parliament and Shoura presidency are dominated by the executive authority. All the Shoura

Council's members were appointed by presidential resolutions and the majority of Parliament members belong to the ruling party, General People's Congress (GPC). He also added that the corrupt officials conspired against him as they do not want educated men from whom the country can benefit. Al-Baidani was one of 64 Yemenis submitted their applications to Parliament to run for presidency in the upcoming elections. Only five candidates were selected by the

YLS calls for boycotting Israel sympathizers' products

SANA'A, Aug. 1 - In a statement released last Sunday, the Sana'a branch of the Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate (YLS) called on its members and the Yemeni people to boycott products imported from the U.S., Britain, Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia in solidarity with resistance in Lebanon and Palestine.

Qana's massacre by the Israeli air strike at dawn on Saturday is an attempt by Tel Aviv blood shedders to cover defeatism of their vulnerable army at the hands of the Hezbollah resistance; the statement

It added: "with their massacres,

the Zionists attempt to pave the way for their project of the Great Middle East, which is supported by the White House. The minorities (Israelis) who came from Nazism. Fascism, Zionism and Racism, have become addicted to the smell of burnt corpses and human blood and flesh left by weapons of mass destruction."

The statement continued: "It is a band whose leader Bush-the Younger-arrogantly said: 'the corpses of children, women, old men and innocent people are the sacrifices of the New Middle East'."

As Arab and Muslim leaders

cinema film without any understanding of the film's dimensions-only appreciating what it is that they watch, the brutality of the aggression increases.

"What happens in Lebanon is a violation of all the divine legislations and principles of human laws and an exploitation of the silence of Arabs. So, the Sana'a branch of YLS urges its members and Yemeni people to boycott the US, British, Israeli, Jordanian, Egyptian and Saudi products in support of the brave resistance," the statement concluded.

Yemen-Afghans escape Ja'ar Prison

SANA'A, Aug. 1 — Media sources two of them, while the other five man-causing death and injuries to many revealed at the end of the week that aged to run away. seven individuals suspected of being affiliates of the Jihad Organization, known as Hitat Group or Yemeni-Afghans Group, managed to escape Al-Bahrain Prison in Ja'ar city, Abyan

According to Al-Shoura.net, "helped by a person from outside the prison, seven individuals affiliated to the Hitat Group managed to escape on July 26 from the Al-Bahrain Prison, after arranging for the escape by staying outside their rooms. They attacked the guards there, and during the process bullets were fired into the air and smoke grenade were ignited for camouflage.

The same sources added that security authorities were able later to arrest

beginning, masked the events. It is sations that they worked for the also said that authorities were compelled to acquit the escapees, some of whom spent ten months in jail, without any accusations.

Other sources linked their escape and the amnesty process to the threat released by Khalid Abulnabi, the Hitat Group head, as well as the differences between the members of the group which had amounted to fighting.

Security apparatuses in Abyan arrested a number of those connected to the Hitat Group in August, 2006. Some of those arrested had participated in attacking army units in 2003 in the Hitat Mountains, including an attack on a military medical caravan,

doctors and nurses affiliated to Security authorities, right from the Yemeni Military Hospital, with accu-American Investigation in the area.

> At the request of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) which expected them to go to Iraq to fight the American forces, security authorities took photos of the individuals arrested at that time. In Addition, the local council exerted efforts to set them free and issued a resolution with regards to jailing without accusations or referral to the prosecution Prosecution.

> This escape is considered the first of its kind since the escape of 13 individuals, belonging to Al-Qaeda, from the Political Security jail in Sana'a five months ago.

Judiciary Research Center inaugurated

SANA'A, Aug. 1 - As an affiliate to the National Committee for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD), the Judicial Research Center was inaugurated on Tuesday with the aim of enhancing the independence of the Yemeni judiciary.

The activities of the centre, which was founded by many lawyers and judicature coordinators, include work on activating the independence of judiciary and advocacy and protecting judicature coordinators from any arbitrary attacks over their calls for fair application of the law.

The centre aims to contribute to enacting legislations concerned with works and tasks of the judicature to ensure independence of the judiciary. It also aims to increase legal awareness of adjudicatory officials and claim equality in job entitlements between workers in judiciary.

It is a prerequisite to protect judges during their work in order not to be exposed to influence by government officials, social personalities or rich people, said lawyer Mohamed Naji

Allaw, one of the centre's founders. Allaw noted that the current judi-

cial system works on transforming judges into fellow employees- denied the power to rule or to issue decisions. This is the primary reason behind poor performance in prosecutions and courts, and therefore people don't question themselves about such

According to Allaw, this fact led to the spread of violations of rights and freedoms thus forcing people to resort to tribal arbitration or to ask help of influential persons under the pretext of the absence of an independent and fair judiciary.

Bashaiba carries out a suicide operation

SANA'A, Aug. 2 — Media sources revealed that Abdulbaset Ali Ahmed Bashaiba, from the Azan district, Shabwa governorate, was killed on Tuesday afternoon, July 25, in a suicide attack carried out in Al-Mousal town, Iraq.

According to news published by Al-Tariq newspaper, "Abdulbaset left the Azan district on Saturday, July 15, heading to Iraq; and on Tuesday afternoon, at about 2.30, he phoned his family telling them that he was going to carry out a suicide attack using a car full of explosives.

On the evening of the same day, a person called and told the family that their son, Abdulbaset, had been killed in a sui-

Abdulbaset, 27, was born in Al-Houta, Shabwa governorate. He is married with

One of the observers said that "Yemeni security authorities gave directives to all ports to prevent those under 35 from traveling abroad, particularly to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria. So how did this one escape and from which port had he

He added saying "we still question who it might be who stands behind the youth's transfer to face war hell in Iraq, who finances, trains, and pays for the other costs? Who receives them in Iraq?

How does coordination take place? Was the passing away of thousands of Yemeni's in Afghanistan not enough? Have Yemeni's not been facing enough problems since 1992, and then September 11- events at the hands of Yemeni and Arab Afghans?"

Some media sources mentioned early this year that there are more than 500 Yemeni youths fighting with the Iraqi resistance. Further, the sources also said that extremist Yemeni parties, supported by influential powers, work on preparing these youths, by training them on fight operations, using explosives and driving

Country's Third Tourist Festival proved success

By: Saleh Al-Batati

HADRAMOUT, Aug. 1 - The Country's Third Tourist Festival, which took place July 14-29, proved that Yemen enjoys tourist attractions that help add cash to the state's revenues.

This year's season saw a great influx of Arab tourists, most of whom came from Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman, in addition to foreigners and local visitors from throughout the country.

People were shocked to find several expatriates sleeping along the coastline of the Arab Sea during the festival's days, according to eyewitnesses.

' 58 hotels and 1612 rooms remained full of residents as of one month prior to the festival, and as the festival kicked off, visitors could not find accommodation," Salim Bin Abdulaziz, General Manager of Hadramout's Tourism Office confirmed. "The city of Mukalla experienced a good economic movement in different areas as the daily incomes of restaurants, hotels and transportations means increased."

Abdulaziz strongly criticized local traders who contributed millions of riyals to festivals outside the governorate and contributed nothing to the

Country's Third Tourist Festival in their governorate.

With regard to difficulties and obstacles facing the festival. Abdulaziz pined, "early preparations and arrangements for the event helped us overcome most of the difficulties and made the festival a success. However, we faced difficulties associated with excluding Al-Mehdhar's Cornish Theater, one of the fascinating sites in Mukalla, from the festival's timetable due to a power

Some of the activities were cancelled in solidarity with the Lebanese and

Official media biased, experts say

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

SANA'A, Aug. 2 — A national symposium to organize media usage during the September elections campaign began Tuesday in the capital city of Sana'a, with participants agreeing that official media still aren't fair during elections coverage and electoral cam-

"The ruling party governs official media. Those responsible for it are directed and governed by strict orders and never submit to the constitution or effective laws," stated Abdulbari Taher, former chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate.

Taher clarified that the state doesn't differentiate between official media belonging to the public and ruling party media, as the ruling party monopolizes both. Oddly enough, he went on to say, bias and fanaticism are found much more in official media than in political parties' media. "The stalemate of Yemen's regime is that it acknowledges multi-politics and multi-parties, but at the same time, it wants to monopolize the most important media means.

"The question remains: How to ensure fair media coverage during the upcoming presidential and local elections in September?" Taher wondered.

professor Dr. Mohammed Al-Mutawakel said, "It's difficult to demand that official media not be biased in favor of the ruling party. We demand the official media not attack others.'

Meanwhile, Abdu Al-Janadi, information officer for the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER), confessed that neutrality within the SCER is absent, adding, "We lie to ourselves if we say we're neutral. We can't control candidates when the electoral campaign reaches its peak.

Raofa Hassan, head of the symposium and head of Yemeni Cultural Development Programs stated that having a neutral media is a dream, especially as democracy in Yemen still is in its early phases. Al-Janadi promised that presidential

candidates will be given equal space in print, radio and television official media. "Official media will be under SCER control. No presidential candidate will be given more space than other competitors," he noted.

According to Al-Janadi, the SCER intends to cover candidates' speeches, allowing 30 minutes for candidates to read their electoral program. "But we are ready to cover their speeches, even if more than three hours," Al-

Janadi affirmed.

Marek Mracka, a trainer from Slovakia, presented a paper at the symposium on international standards regarding media coverage of elections. He pointed out that state-owned (public) media must provide the public fair and balanced reporting to enable them to make an informed and unfettered choice in electing their representatives.

Sana'a University political science He emphasized that state-owned media mustn't be used as a communication or propaganda organ for one political party or as an advocate for the government to the exclusion of all other groups and parties.

Elections unlikely to be fair

"As long as the ruling party controls public funds and official media and uses them for elections coverage, impartial elections is impossible," said Ali Al-Dhalei, information officer for the Nasserite Unionist Organization.

Al-Dhalei revealed that 1.2 million names have been repeated on election registries and records, with some 700,000 similar names. "But the SCER has refused to submit such registries to the Legal Committee. They said they would submit them soon, but, legally speaking, submitting them now is useless," he pointed out.

He further noted that not all dead citizens have been dropped from the registries and that soldiers have registered in more than one constituency. "Having registered in his district, the soldier returns to his camp and isn't given his salary unless he re-registers in another constituency," Al-Dhalei explained.

However, Al-Janadi confessed that only 64,000 names have been repeated on registries and elections records, with 18,000 having been disclosed as children. He holds the political parities responsible for this.

Organized by the Human Rights

Information and Training Center, the symposium runs for seven days, with 60 participants representing civil community organizations, political parties, journalists and activists. The symposium aims to train participants in monitoring the media in covering electoral campaigns during elections.

Cricket Tournament 2006

Participants at the symposium.

SANA'A, Aug. 2 — The Yemen cricket league has announced that the cricket tournament for this year will start from 4th August. Matches will be of 20 overs a side and will be played every Friday at Al-Wahdah Football Club ground in Hadda, Madina Sakania. This year's response from the teams has been overwhelming all 8 of which will be participating this year. The inaugural match will pair Yemen United Cricket Club, Sana'a with Tilal Yemen Cricket Club from Aden.

YWU activities in week

SANA'A, Aug 1 — Organized by the Yemeni Women's Union (YWU) in collaboration with the Middle East Research Center, YWU set up a symposium, aiming to recognize the reality of handicapped women in Yemen, efforts were exerted to develop it as well as the role to be played by Civil Society Organizations (CSO). The number of participant reached 25, representing all CSOs and some ministries.

YWU, in collaboration with Tax Authority and Ministry of Industry, organized a businesswomen's

workshop, aiming to raise the tax awareness among participants reaching 25. The workshop aims further to raise the tax awareness among businesswomen regarding income and sales taxes and financial accountancy.

Performed in all Governorates across the republic, YWU also launches the Woman's Legal Protection Program which aims to conduct training courses for all those affiliated with Courts, Police Stations and Prosecution. Further, there will be field visits to a number of prisons.

Qana massacre and Arab and international stances

By: Hamdan Dammag and Ismail Al-Ghabiri

he 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-Jazzera 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 "horrifying", 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

For its part, Russia demanded conduct-

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 Novesti 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

"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 Oaisie 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.





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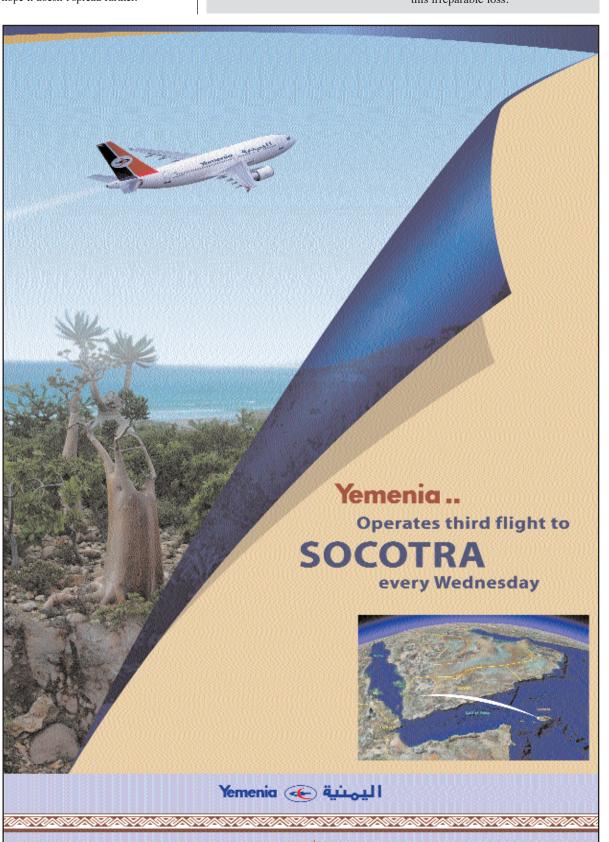
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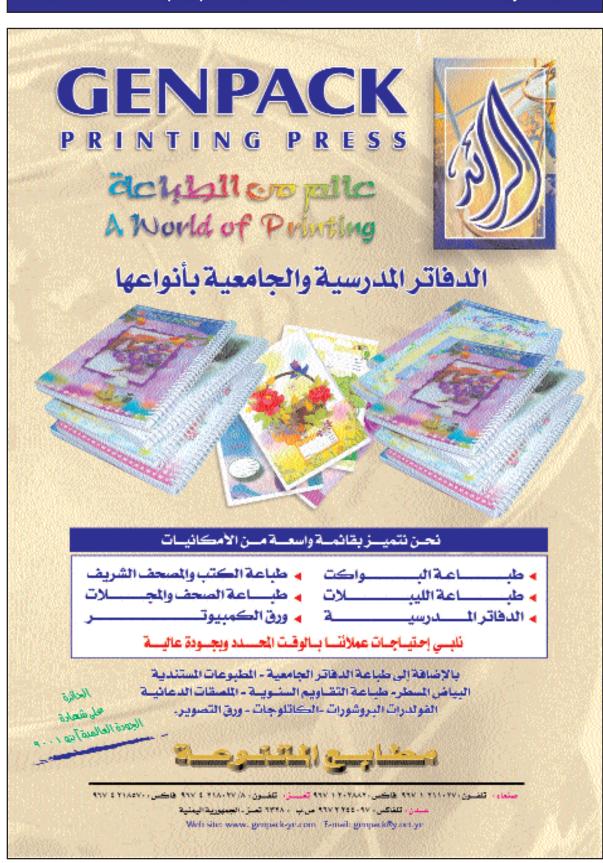
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Republic of Yemen

Ministry of Public Health & Population

"SERVICE PROCUREMENT NOTICE"

Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

1. Description of the contract

Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib.

2. Procedure of the tender

International Open Tender.

3. Contracting authority

The Government of the Republic of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Public Health & Population.

4. Source of Funding

A grant from the USDA (416 B) to the Ministry of Public Health & Population.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Tender validity

Tenders must remain valid for a period of 120 days after the opening date of tenders.

10. Maximum period for the initiation of the service

Within two weeks from the signature of contract.

SELECTION CRITERIA

11. 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

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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, Vemen

Five-year national strategy for the development of Higher Education in Yemen:

Reform Higher Education: A must for a better future

It was no surprise to many in the educational sector to see Yemen rank in the 151st position of the United Nations 2005 Human Development Report, with a Human Development Index value of 0.489. The report has named Yemen the 'worst performer in Arab States' and attributed this to several factors, led by its inability to properly develop on its educational cadres, students, and institutions. The report ranked Yemen below Djibouti in terms of expenditures on public education, echoing the calls by educational experts to revitalize and focus more on the education sector.

By: Walid Al-Saqaf

mong Arab countries, Yemen's educational standards, including in university level, have slipped dramatically in recent years. With extremely poor wages to staffers, and poorly equipped libraries and facilities, Yemen's public universities have been literally kicking out the best of its cadres, who found better refuge and opportunities in neighboring and developed countries.

The trend has been continuing and have cost Yemen's higher education sector a lot in recent years. However, noticeable consideration and attention seems to have been given to reforming this sector by the recently appointed Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Saleh ba Surrah to stop the deterioration and start a mission to reverse this trend.

The Five-year National Strategy for the Development of Higher Education in Yemen, which was released late last year, indicated that major reforms need to be applied to the higher education sector to achieve a better future for the country by qualifying badly needed human development resources.

The strategy acknowledges that Yemen's scarce financial resources have slowed down the rate of development in this sector. However it also mentions that funds that have been utilized for some aspects could have been better used to develop human skill and vital resources. "Certainly, there is substantial new building. Indeed, the availability of resources for new building contrasts to some extent with provision for equipment and to improve existing capacity - for example for things like staff development or for library books." the strategy said.

There were four key objectives mentioned by the strategy:

1- To establish at national and institutional level a governance system that ensures accountability and transparency in decision-making and implemen-

2- To link the higher education sector development with the labour market requests for higher education, thereby promoting diversification of the structures and programmes of higher education institutions, vertically and horizontally, and stimulating equity of

3- Provide additional resources [Government and non-Governmental] with a concentration on enhancing higher educations' capacity for increasing self-financing and creating partnerships with the private sector to finance and develop higher education institutions

4- Improving the quality of teaching and learning, research and services to enable higher education institutions to produce, adapt and disseminate knowledge for the use of solving society

According to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, those key objectives were based on the needs to create a "dynamic, efficient and high quality higher education system." It noted that urgent action towards this end is needed especially as "the number of secondary school graduates will increase by possibly four or five times in the next two decades, and the higher education system will need to expand to meet this additional demand."

The Ministry noted that it is the Yemeni Government that has triggered action to enhance the higher education system, which "will lead the nation's development – economically, culturally, morally and socially." It affirms that "the higher education system is in urgent need of renewal and updating." and at present it suffers from "a number of weaknesses".

The problems:

The strategy summarized the problems within the current higher education system. It said Yemen allocates a relatively good percentage of it's GDP to higher education, yet that is not reflected in higher educational standards due to fund mismanagement. Furthermore, the country is not benefiting from the highly qualified manpower that it has.

The report added that there are far fewer numbers of staffers compared to student in Yemeni universities, leading to a poor pedagogy and outcomes.

Despite increases in spending on higher education, much of the plant and equipment is very poor and out of date. Resources are being allocated and used sub-optimally, mainly because the governance arrangements are unsatisfactory.

Monopoly by the Ministry of Finance has restrained the ability of public education institutes to use their funds according to their needs. The Finance Minister is the ultimate controller of the funds allocated for the public higher education sector. The Ministry of Higher Education is somewhat paralyzed when it comes to taking decisions on finances, let alone the universities themselves.

Monopoly by the Ministry of Finance has restrained the ability of public education institutes to use their funds according to their needs.

According to the report, there is no single or even coordinating responsibility for planning tertiary education among different governmental bodies. Furthermore, university leaders and individual members of staff do not feel empowered and committed and are usually not found accountable and responsive to the needs of Yemeni society.

The fact that over the years, other 'higher' governmental entities are in control of funds and take important decisions, universities were unable to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for effective self-management because they have always been manipulated and used by other powerful elements within the government.

The out-dated curricula in public universities have resulted in having graduates suffer high unemployment and hence preventing the economy from benefiting from the investment that is made in higher education.

Among the problems faced, the report said, is the fact that Community Colleges and Technical Institutes, which are relatively cheap and provide courses of great relevance to the employment market, account for a very small proportion of the student

Lax monitoring and lack of communication with private universities has discouraged them from developing and expanding in a way that is beneficial to the state. Private universities lack proper scrutiny to abide by rigorous quality and accreditation standards.

The report noted that among the challenges facing the higher education sector is the lack of a tradition of research or community service in Yemeni higher education.

With all of those problems in mind, the Ministry decided to propose a complete 5-year strategy to resolve those issues one by one with the assistance of the international donor community and stakeholders within the country.

The vision:

After assessing the situation on the ground and identifying the problems, the strategy proposes a complete master-plan. It calls it "a vision and mission for the development of higher education in Yemen" and the Ministry of Education believes that the strategy has set up realistic objectives and actions that will enable these to be achieved.

The Ministry hopes the actual implementation of the plan could start in two itized according to whether their implementation should begin immediately, within 18 months, or within two years," the report said.

The most pressing issues that need to be given highest priority, the report noted, is the issue of 'reform of governance and autonomy'. "... without this, other reforms are unlikely to be effective." it said. The second and third priorities concern investment and quality assurance, which are not less important, according to the strategy, but can only be implemented once the autonomy condition is met.

It is not always the issue of money the strategy affirms in various parts of its report. In fact, the Ministry believes that some measures proposed "will save money". The proposal for systematic renewal of the laboratory and equipment infrastructure, as well as the proposal for improvements in the staff:student ratio will require continuing capital and recurrent investment. However, there will still be need for a significant injection of capital funds for other projects.

It is in this scope that donor assistance, according to the report, is most likely to be forthcoming "for limited investment in specific, self-contained, projects, and particularly projects of a capital nature".

The Ministry hopes that its present analysis should help convince donors to give grants in support of the projects proposed. "Beyond that, most of the cost of these proposals will fall to the public purse, and to income that universities can raise for themselves, including from student fees." the report added.

The strategy proposes steps to do the following:

To expand access to universities and other higher education institutions, particularly in the age group (19-23) from the current 13% to 16% during the third five-year plan and to reach 35% by the year 2025.

- To improve the quality of the graduates of universities and other higher education institutions with particular emphasis on acquiring breadth and depth of knowledge, problem-solving skills, critical and creative thinking, communication skills in both Arabic and English, lifelong learning, IT skills, and proactive participation in achieving their personal and national aspirations.

To develop and strengthen the policy-making, planning, coordination, and monitoring capabilities of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to supervise and guide the continuous development of higher education institutions in the Republic of Yemen.

To develop universities and other higher education institutions vertically and horizontally, initiate or open new disciplines, and diversify programs that meet local, national, and regional governance, and service, including vate institutions, and encourage them tors that need an overhaul.



Every year more and more university students graduate in fields not aligned with the market demand.

PHOTO BY JAMAL AL-AJEL

labor market needs.

To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of higher education institutions to enable them to rationalize the use of the available resources, and enhance the added-value of higher education.

To prepare future faculty members (junior teaching staff) to meet the quality improvement and expansion needs of Yemeni universities in leading or prestigious universities to ensure the quality of teaching, learning, and research and competitiveness in Yemeni universities according to international standards in the age of global-

The higher education strategy proposes steps to expand access to universities and other higher education institutions, particularly in the age group (19-23) from the current 13% to 16% during the third five-year plan and to reach 35% by the year 2025

- To implement the current design of the national and institutional ICT highspeed network and provide all its infrastructure needs as well as its human resources needs for all universities and other higher education institutions to enable them to keep up with international developments in the areas of teaching, learning, research. distance and electronic learning.

- To establish the national academic accreditation and quality assurance councils to assess and evaluate all universities and other higher education institutions, and ensure the quality and excellence of both public and private institutions according to international

- To enhance the institutional capacity of higher education institutions to govern, and provide high quality programs on permanent bases so as to meet the sustainable development needs of the country, and to keep-up with the accelerating developments in higher education at the international

> - To provide the necessary resources for the universities? and other higher education institutions infrastructure enable them to provide access to teach ing, learning, and scientific research according to the current and the future needs of the society.

> To restructure universities and other higher education

institutions to promote diversification of programs and institutions, and reduce un-necessary duplications in accordance with the higher education sector vision, and with the country's developmental needs.

- To diversify the sources of funding of all universities and other higher education institutions, including prito increase their self-supporting funds, and involve the private sector in funding and developing them.

- To build and enhance the institutionalization of a democratic culture in universities and other higher education institutions to strengthen national unity, and to participate in building a unified democratic Yemen, that stands on the Islamic creed, and its higher values of justice, good, equality, and

- To strengthen coordination and collaboration between and within universities and other higher education institutions to maximize the integration at the sector level, and to enhance its added -value to society as a whole.

- To develop a well-rounded and integrated personality in students that is strongly linked to Yemeni society and its Arabic-Islamic culture, which is able to meet positively the challenges of globalization in the twentyfirst century.

- To institutionalize strong university-based research in the country that tackles the country's developmental needs, and lays the basis for productive partnership between universities, government, and the private sector in accelerating the development of the country in the various fields.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has noted that it is only through dedicated efforts by those responsible in the different governmental bodies that the strategy could come into life. The ambitious strategy is the first of its kind and observers believe that if it succeeds, it could well be a model for similar strategies for various other public sec-

Vacancy

The Yemen Red Crescent and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies announce to employ a manager for health services provided by YRCS. The main tasks include planning, monitoring, coordination and reporting on health services implemented at national and at branch levels.

The ideal candidate should have the following skills and qualifications:

- Health administration and management background
- Knowledge of Health services development and advocacy on some health issues with emphasis on primary health care, HIV/AIDS, MCH and first aid.
- Proven field experience within the Yemeni context is
- University degree in public health or equivalent is required
- Computer literate and team work oriented
- Flexibility to travel frequently within Yemen and abroad
- Yemeni national with good command of English.

If you meet the above requirement please send your CV with a covering letter to IFRC Yemen Office, Sana'a, P.O. Box: fax:01-481871, preferably to: mohammed.sharif@ifrc.org Female candidates are encouraged to apply. Deadline for application is 15 August, 2006.

Vacancy Announcement

DFID Yemen is looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic person to fill the post of a Project Officer based in Sana'a. The post is ideal for someone with experience of working effectively and efficiently with a small team but busy programme and who understand the importance of a well-chosen and motivated team, staff training and development and effective administrative and financial systems

Post title: Programme Assistant Location: Sana'a. Yemen Grade: B1

Tasks:

- Provide assistance to the London-based programme management team in liaison with DFID partners.
- Assist DFID advisers and programme staff in the preparation of project
- Prepare, maintain and update files (electronic). Draft correspondence and communications in Arabic and English
- related to all aspects of project administration.
- Issue and manage local contracts and local procurement.
- Assist in the drafting of ToRs for consultants.
- Arrange meetings for projects' visitors. Build networks within the development community in Yemen.
- Update the DHO and HO on projects and report on meetings.
- Perform any other duties as requested.

Qualifications:

by 16 August, 2006.

- University degree in a development related field or management.
- 3 years minimal or work experience preferably in the development field. Demonstrate ability in programme management and problem solving.
- Good oral and written communication skills in both Arabic and English
- Able to develop and maintain a good relationship with partners.

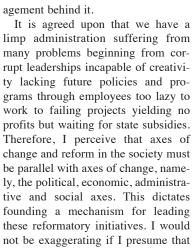
IT skills MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint.

Interested candidates may send their CVs to dfid@yemen.net.ye

Administrative **reform (1-2)**

Comprehensive visualization of a modern state

he major prob-Yemen and the Arab world suffer from is the administrative backwardness or the mismanagement. All factors of economy will appear dwindled beside the element of administration and no successful institution exists unless there is a successful and scientific management behind it.

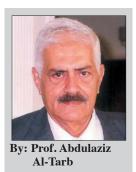


the administrative axis is the most

important of all those axes because of

its closeness to the public.

Administrative reform program in Yemen and the Arab world entertains a priority and this priority will not become tangible reality unless it includes a basic general framework going hand in hand with policies compatible with economic, political and financial reforms. Thus, the administrative reform and modernization of its establishments is a national project aimed at drawing up national agenda and strategy for reform in defined years. Formulation of the strategy should be done by experts in translation of outcomes of international conferences in this field. Administration reform has been a premonition of all previous governments. They have not achieved it because many have put hindrances on the way of realizing it. Now it comes back to be an urgent demand despite the existence of the so-called ministry of civil service and administrative reform. There is no tangible phenomenon to this reform in all



state establishments and facilities.

There are ideas rejecting development and reform. Those ideas reflect continuous fear from restructuring which means dispensing with some or a big number of employees working in government institutions. In

addition, there are the phenomenon of corruption, losses of companies and difficulty of fighting them. Among other things, there are also the wasting of public property, failure in implementation of rules and legislations, impeding the economic growth, high costs of production as well as the social corruption and drop in performance of public institutions and deterioration of human resources skills. All those challenges have led to slowness in the process of the manner of reform. The fact lies is in the absence until now of programmed visualization for the administrative reform emerging from deep theories and studies of experiences of a number of countries in this regard.

For many years there is all over the Arab homeland, including Yemen, talk is going on about administrative reform. Despite of the passage of years and convening many conferences and symposiums, they did not produce an established formula for administrative reform that defines methods of reform and its effect in enriching the public service.

The bright slogans and statements do not serve and are no longer enough. Words are more than acts and pompous expressions and terms are so many, such as "we have a complete system of new thought" and the like of such slogans. There is no impact of them, and added to those are statements by officials, which usually end up to nothing.

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

Lebanon and White House democracy

he overflow of White House democracy lastly has reached Lebanon in the form of missiles and destructive bombs, killing innocent civilians and creating a state of unprecedented panic the Lebanese people never experience before. The Lebanese state of panic

is paralleled with a magnificent state of challenge and unmatched national soli-

The question that may be asked regards the U.S. administration's intention in sending quantities of the latest weapons from its arsenal - via the Israeli entity - to Lebanon to destroy this beautiful small country. Since the beginning of the 19th century, Lebanon has formed an enlightening example of advanced democratic culture. The



Al-Maqaleh

ment. The advanced democratic world shouldn't interfere in Lebanon's affairs in favor of the Zionist entity, whose aggressive existence has damaged the Arab

world should have

worked to preserve it

and respect its experi-

region. The Israeli entity has led to trouble in the Arab region in the recent past and in the present and certainly will do the same again in the future to undermine every attempt at development and stability if the situation remains as it is now and the White House continues its stance of considering any aggression by this entity against Palestinians or other Arabs as an act of self-defense.

The White House's version of democracy spread in Iraq and

advanced democratic Afghanistan presently has extended to Lebanon. One can't predict where this horrific democracy will stop, a democracy endeavoring to undermine any strong relationship between brethren, destroy historical bonds between religious sects, encourage civil wars and push peoples toward them. This isn't just happening in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also extends to Sudan, Somalia and other regions.

> Despite the bitter and painful outcomes of this version of destructive democracy, the White House administration, with its conservative terrorist formation, is trying hard to convey this lethal democracy to a number of world capitals, particularly Arab ones. This administration repeatedly announces its willingness to convey its killing democracy, even to houses, without awaiting one word of gratitude.

If the present White House democracy isn't suited for Americans themselves, as expressed by the U.S. press and uneasiness on U.S. streets, then why does the conservative administration insist on generalizing this example? The worse image of this democracy has affected peoples who have been trying to adopt genuine democracy via their own effort without the need for any

It's quite true what's believed by political scientists and those following up political movements in the Arab homeland. They conclude that the U.S. administration's direct intervention in Arab countries has aborted the natural motive for political reform, confused national sentiments and raised the assets of currents opposed to democracy and

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for

Trumped up glories

threshold the Yemeni presidential elections, but he who follows the state run media would just as likely assume that we were heading towards war! There is no end to the wars of despotic regimes in any time or place. No sooner have they finished

one than they ignite another. However, when there is not an enemy to fight, they create a psychological war against their people, employing the media and rumors. The security authorities would not stop for a moment from chasing the citizens and watching their every movement. In Yemen, the security system has interfered in everything, with the excuse that this is the only way of guaranteeing good conduct and protecting the general security.

Nations, like Yemen, which are subjugated to this type of regime, do not even have the opportunity to catch their breath. The atmosphere of the battle and smell of powder hangs, always, in the air regardless of the nature of the country's present task, as there is no difference between the task whether political, economic or military whether facing an external attack or internal rebellion.

It is supposed that Yemen is preparing itself these days for the elections and atmospheres that should dominate are those that help the citizens focus their thinking on determining their



By: Ali Al-Sarari

what happens follows a different course. The state-run television and other media instruments darken the mood pervasive leaving tension and enmity. The media do not air the choices presented

upcoming selections

freely. Nevertheless,

before the elector public and insist on offering one choice: the president and his political party. Other choices are portrayed as hostile and described as betraying, inferior and other such provocative descriptions.

All this is done to the contrary of the terms of impartiality of the TV and other official media during election processes. Although impartiality was stipulated in the agreement of principles signed by the ruling party and the Joint Meeting Parties, the media has nowadays devoted itself to praising the glories of the president and his achievements, and praising the strategic accomplishments of his party. In association with all that, they present the opposition options with defamatory and libelous phrases. As glories and accomplishments are non-existent in this country since it has been prey to

the alliance of despotism and corruption, lies and deceit dominate the situa-

A person in Yemen would think it is a country without a history predating Ali Abdullah Saleh and that this history will come to a standstill if he were to step down from power. Instead of congratulating the president for the length of his stay in power, they bless the people that he is their leader, thus making the monopoly of power into a gift for a people devoured by poverty, burdened with unemployment and killed by diseases that have all but disappeared in the modern world. When president Saleh assumed power in July 1978, the income per capita in Yemen was \$700 and after 28 years of his keeping power the income per capita reduced to les than \$300. Despite that; the official media congratulates us for his being the leader of this people. A number of countries lagged behind Yemen in the scale of development at the time that he assumed power but they have since watched Yemen get relegated to last place along with other afflicted nations of the world. However, they still talk of accomplishments and strategic achievements.

Corrupt and despotic regimes are still perching on the chests of many people in the world but none of them inflicts offence on their peoples as the Yemeni official media does. The disdain reaches a great extent when the citizens are forced to take to the streets in demonstrations appealing for the leader to retract from his decision to leave power, but the official media tell us that the masses have behaved voluntarily. The most explicit sight of hypocrisy was that when one of those upstarts made a young girl beg the leader to nominate himself for another seven difficult years.

Some of them have also tried to exploit the demonstration organized in protest at the Israeli aggression on Lebanon last week to propagate for the election of the candidate Ali Abdullah

To add to all those insults directed at the people, and after his presenting of his nomination papers, the president presented a number of internal wars as being trends of his election platform. Maybe these promised wars can be implemented. The promises of development and investment mentioned in previous election campaigns have all

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

Letters to the Editor

Blind violence in Lebanon errorism is and always will be a

show of inhuman ferocity that, precisely for this reason, will never be able to solve conflicts among human beings. Only reason and love are he valid means of surpassing and resolving disputes between people. No situation of injustice, no feeling of frustration, no philosophy or religion can justify such an aberration.

The recent cycle of blind violence we are witnessing in Lebanon is the result of scandalous injustices and imbalances that create conditions favoring an uncontrollable explosion of the desire for revenge. When fundamental rights are violated, it is easy to fall prey to temptations of hatred and violence. Nonetheless, we must keep in check our base impulses and together work to build a global culture of solidarity that

restores hope in the future to the young. Presently we must raise our prayers for an immediate cease-fire to the fighting in the Middle East, for humanitarian corridors to be opened in order to bring help to the suffering peoples, and for international leadership in new efforts to open negotiations that could lead to a lasting settlement.

In reality, the Lebanese have the right to see the integrity and sovereignty of their country respected, the Israelis the right to live in peace in their State, and

the Palestinians have the right to have their own free and sovereign homeland. Paul Kokoski.

paulkokoski@mountaincable.net

A message to the free people of America

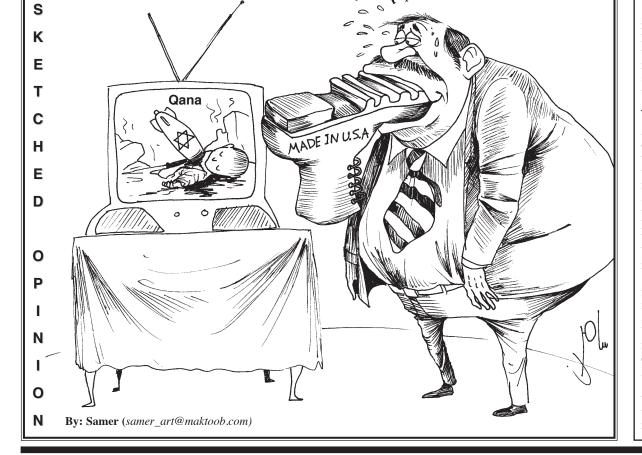
There are men who have criminal records, and lack the human and moral values Violate human rights conventions. But still appointed as leaders of countries to rule millions of people.

Î am addressing this message to the people of America, who were born free. Free to say "No" Free to make their own words into action. To every noble American who appreciate the value of a human life. Those people who were not asked by Bush whether they agree for him to enter Iraq by force, and support Israeli, in their occupation and killing of the Palestinians and Lebanese civilians. A nine month year old baby in Lebanon was cut in half by the Israeli weapons during the recent hitting of Lebanon by the most developed Israeli weapons, what would you do if only this incident happened to one of your children?

I am asking you people to say "enough is enough Bush" and put together all your strength and power of the people, which no power is, like, and drop him out of the White House. Such a criminal is not eligible to rule a great

country that has acquired in its science and technology, It is time to tell the White house to change its ancient policies towards the Middle East, the whole world is changing and I am sure that America would find its benefits when being peaceful towards the Middle East. I am sure there are thousands who can do better for America and for the foreign policy than Bush, it is such a "shame" for you people to let this man rule you. You have experienced death and fear during September 11th, which was a result to your President policy towards the Middle East. Imagine those people in Iraq, Palestine, and Lebanon who are facing the feeling of fear, insecurity and children seeing their parents shot before their eyes and a child is shot before his mother's eyes. Does God gives you the right to live and gives us death. Unless you drop Bush out of the White House, and change the policy of your White House, we all Arabs will consider all Americans as participants with The Bush government in the killing of our brothers, mothers, fathers, children and in the destruction of our lands, houses, infrastructure, you will find suddenly this war has reached your country, I am asking you to do some thing before it is

Ashwaq al-Eriyani Zaid.Sultan@fco.gov.uk



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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

mong 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

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

Percent Who See Themselves as Muslims First 2005 2006

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.

Jordan

Turkey

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

Pakistan

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

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

Indonesia

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

"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

he 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

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.

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

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 coverage has an effect on attitudes. opinions and feelings is the media. In Germany the media conduct onesided and over-emotional debates on issues such as forced marriage or honour killings among Turkish families, over the last few months. This makes There is particular cause for con- or on the uncontrollable criminal it more difficult for people to become



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 Riitli school in Berlin), or on the introduction of attitude tests as in Baden-Württemburg, or over Turkish accession to the European Union. Such

Complexity is missing

Repeatedly, these debates have taken up centre stage in German awareness

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, nist 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 Panel of the German Institute for the German by Michael Lawton

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 opposed to the constitution, misogy- 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

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

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

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

Building bridges between different

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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Business 3 August, 2006

Moneer Saif:

"The domestic banking industry did not learn from the Watani Bank lesson"

It is a known fact that Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the Middle East region, due in part to the government's fiscal and telepathic spending policies but mostly because of the nature of its underdeveloped economy, which includes high levels of corruption and disorganization. In this Interview, the Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Moneer Saif, one of the intellects of the banking industry and asked him about his views on various banking and economic issues.

Interviewed by: Raidan Al-Saqqaf alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Can you start by briefing us on your specialization and area of expertise?

First, I would like to thank the Yemen Times, the leading English Newspaper in Yemen, for giving me this opportunity to talk about some very crucial subjects in the Yemeni economy.

I have been an Assistant Manager and Director of the Dealing room Since July 9th 2002 in Tadhamon International Islamic Bank (TIIB). I worked as an FX and stocks trader and speculator in the market which gives me a chance to be an economic and market analyst whose responsibility is to study the market, mapping the trend, surveying and forecasting what comes next in the international market based on market data and sentiment to make the right decision.

How do you view the growth and development of the domestic banking sector compared to its counterparts internationally and in the region?

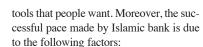
In recent years, the banking industry has been undergoing rapid changes, reflecting a number of underlying developments. This trend has created new competitive threats as well as new opportunities. To look at Yemen's banking system, it still suffers from a large volume of non-performing loans, inadequate loan provisioning, low bank capitalization compared to foreign banks, and weak enforcement of prudential Standards. Nowadays, some banks have started to raise their capital to reach the CBY regulation 10 bln YER.

The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) could create a good atmosphere to hasten the development of local banks that surely will lead to robust growth in the banking sector by giving them more facilities regarding investment and legal fields. CBY can play a very important role, for example, to promote the banks' international finance performance by distributing the finance lines given by foreign banks to the local banks to expand their financing activities and thus develop reli-

The Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) could create a good atmosphere to hasten developing local banks, which surely will lead to robust growth in the banking sector by giving it more facilities regarding investment and legal fields.

Why do Islamic banks achieve higher growth rates compared to traditional banks? And does it have anything to do with the current trend of political cor-

Islamic banks become an essential part of the country's development as they offer proper solutions to some problems people suffer from by creating new investment methods like musharka, murabaha, estisnaa ...etc. these methods enrich investing



- In an Islamic environment, people prefer to deal with Islamic banks that attract so many depositors and investors who are seeking such kinds of banking

- Some Islamic banks represent wellknown commercial groups that have an excellent profile in the Yemeni market.

- They are competing to satisfy their customers' needs with good financial and investment services.

Yemeni banks should reshape themselves to adapt to this new competition, as these newcomers surely will create a new type of competition in the market.

Regarding the current political trend of correctness and Islamic banks, one can expect a good role for Islamic bank especially in supporting the political and economic process of reforming all aspects of Yemeni life. They are part of the economic and political development. Furthermore, they can offer banking and economic solutions and share their concern with the government on how to develop the country alongside their partners (commercial banks).

What criteria do banks follow in reinvesting the funds of their clients, considering the failure of Watani Bank in protecting its clients' funds and invest-

Nothing has changed. All banks still follow the same approach to investment. Banks try to build themselves up by meeting the Central Bank's requirement to raise their capital to reach YER 10 bln. To be honest, I wish that Central Bank could solve the problematic predicament of Watani Bank and it was a mistake to ment facilities to help them establish their announce the bankruptcy of Watani Bank. They could have avoided that by chang ing the management responsible for the failure and put the new management under direct control of CBY. The regulations made by the CBY was not activated properly to keep away from such dilemma that led Yemeni banking activities to be in a sticky patch and shake the trust of foreign banks especially that we are in a country of 100% Risk.

How efficient is the central bank of Yemen in monetary regulation especially with regards to stabilizing the value of the Riyal against foreign currency?

First, I would like to indicate that the fixed system is held at a constant or allowed to fluctuate only within a range of boundaries while the floating system is when rate values are determined by market forces without intervention by the government. It is noticeable that whether our market is fixed or floating is unclear. In a floating system a country becomes more insulated from the inflation of others although it can adversely affect the country with high unemployment. As is



clear, CBY followed a managed float system which is not restricted by boundaries but is subject to its intervention. Therefore, I prefer the floating system with indirect intervention by influencing the economic factors that affect equilibrium exchange rates.

The Central Bank of Yemen must take a practical step and set up a committee to monitor and control the monetary policy in the market. It has a good amount of reserves that can be offered in the market to affect the value of the USD against the YER. There should be a concern about interest rate, inflation, budget deficit and cash flows into the country by creating policies to monitor all these factors which influence the fluctuation of the currency.

Confirmed news indicates the desire of several large regional and international banks to enter the Yemeni market. How would the entry of such banks affect domestic banks?

If Foreign Banks enter the market it will face some challenges such as the follow-

• The Yemeni market is too small in investments to attract more banks to

It is a known fact that Yemen is one of the poorest countries in the Middle East region, due in part to the government's fiscal and telepathic spending policies but mostly because of the nature of its underdeveloped economy, which includes high levels of corruption and disorganization. In this Interview, the Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Moneer Saif, one of the intellects of the banking industry and asked him about his views on various banking and economic issues. Interviewed by Raidan Al-Saqqaf They will be badly in need of getting some attractive legal and investbusiness properly.

A stock market exchange is a good way to promote economic growth in countries. Financial markets constitute an important part of the total infrastructure for every economy that has passed the domestic production stage.

• There should be strong support for attracting a lot of investment firms to expand and vary the basement of investment environment that will widen the market share for banks.

Yemeni banks then should reshape themselves to be adapted to this new competition as these newcomers will surely create a new kind of competition in

For local banks, CBY has to support them by allocating most activities of international finance (given to it by for-

eign banks) for the local banks so as to raise their positions and enable them to have a good market share among the newcomers. Additionally, the government should redirect all payrolls of Government employees to the local banks that will give banks new and large liquidity and increase banks' accounts. It will back up the confidence of people in local banks and share out the banking awareness among them.

To tell the truth, newcomers generally come in great variety of shapes and sizes that can put our banks in virulent competitive threat.

Minister of Finance Dr. Al-Asali expressed plans to establish a stock market in Yemen before the end of the year. Would the existence of a stock market divert funds away from bank deposits?

Generally speaking, the stock exchange market is a good way to promote economic growth in countries. Financial markets constitute an important part of the total infrastructure for every economy that has passed the stage of domestic production. In view of the immense importance of establishing a stock exchange (financial market) in the life of a country and its effect on the quality of life, success in this field, whether in the national or international sphere, is of crucial importance in a country like Yemen and it is important that the stock exchange should start to work as soon as possible. But we have to reduce the risk of financial market imbalances, it is important that we have a well thought-out legislative, regulatory and supervisory infrastructure that functions properly and follows changes in the rest of the world. Then it will be a successful step towards the economic development of our country.

When a stock exchange is established, it will create a new kind of investing for people's savings. Many people, instead, will invest in the stock exchange market rather than keeping money in banks for the following reasons:

- It provides an additional channel for encouraging and mobilizing domestic
- It improves the efficiency of capital by providing market measures of returns
- It improves gearing and helps to reduce dependence on borrowing.

Still, a new role can be given to banks to be lenders and brokers in the market. Therefore, banks and other financial institutions should become more consumeroriented, instead of today's greater focus on products.

How would Yemen's accession to the World Trade Organization change the overall balance of payments of the

Yemen accession to WTO has advantages and disadvantages. One advantage is that Yemen will be open freely to the foreign markets without any restrictions. It will bring much investment and industry to the country. On the other hand, the disadvantage is that the local business environment will be hit by a free open market because the local manufacturers have the burden of a high taxation system that can make them fail to meet the requirements of their international counterparts. This will lead them to unfair competition with

The Economist intelligence Unit indicated that the US\$ will reach 204 Riyals by January 2007. How do you view the impact of inflation on the performance of banks in the country, and if that is relative to the bank's decision to invest in Yemen or abroad?

If YER continue to depreciate more than

Business in brief

New electricity and power projects in Aden and Abyan

Yemeni Vice President Abdu Rabo Mansour Hadhi has inaugurated a 70megawatt power generation and electricity expansion project in Aden's Al-Mansora district to meet increasing demand, especially during the hot summer season. Additionally, Hadhi also inaugurated a five-megawatt power plant in Abyan's Jeear district and another in Abyan's Mukayras district, with a capacity of 20 megawatts.

Saleh re-election committee refuses transferring donations to GPC

The private sector committee to support financing President Ali Abdullah Saleh's re-election campaign in the upcoming presidential election has refused to transfer amounts collected so far - more than YR 510 million - to the General People's Congress on the grounds that the GPC suffers high levels of corruption and the funds will be used for purposes other that what the donor businessmen originally decided, thus indicating that the committee is working to launch its own campaign for Saleh parallel to the GPC's official campaign.

Micro-financing workshop concludes

Social Fund Development's Small Enterprise Unit recently organized a micro-financing workshop to enhance links between the unit and its micro-financing partners. In the workshop, Mohammed Al-Laye indicated that micro-financing is an important tool for poverty reduction, as evidenced by 12 microfinancing schemes currently operating in various parts of the country, thanks to generous support from President Saleh, who allocated YR 20 billion for the schemes.

Money laundering and terrorism discussed

In a workshop arranged by the Yemeni Bank for building and construction, 30 participants from various banks discussed the current problem of money laundering, how to detect susceptible transactions and inspecting client documents, as well as various dealings and banking transactions. Bank sources noted that the workshop is one of a series aimed at discussing new developments in the banking sector.

Traditional fishing regulated in Hadhramout

Under the chairmanship of Governor Abdulqader Hilal, Hadhramout governorate's municipal council has approved a set of rules and regulations aimed at regulating traditional fishing activities in the governorate in order to maintain the sustainability of fisheries and limit damage to marine wealth. The new regulations include strict punitive measures governing the practices of traditional fishermen.

Kuwaiti investors eye **Aden Free Zone**

The Kuwaiti General Storage Investments company has expressed a desire to invest in Aden Free Zone, especially in areas of storage and warehousing facilities. A delegation of four Kuwaiti investors recently visited Aden Free Zone to learn about investment opportunities and existing procedures to facilitate their investment in the Free Zone.

Summer 2006 exhibition at **Apollo Expo**

SANA'A, July 25 — Apollo Exhibitions is organizing a 10-day exhibition with the participation of more than 40 domestic and international companies selling various products, including electronics, home and office furniture, clothing and apparel items, etc.

what is now, many investors will surely run away and invest their money in US Dollars. Accordingly, many cash flows will leave the country to be invested abroad for high yields sake. Then CBY has to raise interest rate to overcome this trouble to attract those who are investing

If the YER continues to depreciate more than it is now, many investors surely will run away and invest their money in U.S. dollars.

Any other comments?

Yemen stock exchange founding is linked to some factors to make a successful pace towards developing the country's econo-

my. The government should adopt, seriously, stable and balanced economic and financial policies to create a good atmosphere for investments. They should eradicate all obstacles that hinder the country's development and economic growth such as mismanagement and corruption. There is a need to do the following:

- Reforming of the judicial environment to play their role in settling disputes.

- Developing and modernizing of the banking system in Yemen thus compelling them to raise their capitals or

- Reforming all investment, economic, financial, and commercial regulations to build up new environment of high confidence for investors.

- Companies must to convert to be open shareholding ones.
- Careful handling of the privatization of the government institutions.

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Yemen is more precious



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The national campaign for raising anti-corruption awareness

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

The escaping

By: Barkatullah Marwat marwat@kuwaitnet.com

here 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 Compensation Nations 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

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

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 socalled democracy is in practice. Regarding Kuwait, let us take for example, those who are contesting the polls. If vou 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 abdulkreem_h_alawage@yahoo.com

ife nowadays has its idiosyncratic features and characteristics. It is characterized 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

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

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

breath. 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,

When pulsing hearts

By: Al-Naggar Tariq

are two bodies in one heart are not we? Your love is more than mine

You and me

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

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 Pearl's grain's falling down Heart praying! I wonder if you are still soaring up!

Still delving in love and dream?

With no more pain, no more grieve.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

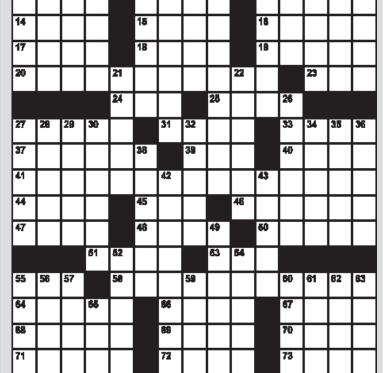
- 1 "Gorillas in the Mist" role
- 5 Word with indigestion or test 9 Big Three conference site
- **14** Therefore
- 15 Like an Adamite 16 Festoon
- 17 Addle-head
- 18 Russian metropolis
- **19** Group of witches 20 Bona fide
- 23 A really big shoe?
- 24 Center of Japan? 25 Woman in a Beatles' song
- 27 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

- 53 Snake in the grass
- 58 Carpe diem
- 67 Venomous "monster"
- 68 Novelist Cather
- **70** Multiply

- **72** "Happy Days" mom

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

"LATIN LOVER" by Amy Greene



47 Farsighted one?

- 48 Mirrored
- **50** Of the kidneys
- 51 Weight room units
- 55 On the authority of
- 64 "Hasta la vista"
- 66 Wheel partner
- 69 Humorist Bombeck
- 71 Underprivileged
- 73 "Have You Ever ___ the Rain?"

- 2 Nutritive mineral

- 43 Train sleeper 49 Ambitions
 - **52** History homework, sometimes

7 Inkling

8 Hysteria

9 Spinnaker's setting

10 Hue and cry, e.g.

12 Catbird seat?

11 Torch song subject

21 Noted book reader

27 Petermen's targets

28 Slowly disintegrate

30 Crosses the threshold

32 River, valley or wine

34 Cuban in 1999 news

35 Year-end temp

42 Sailor's sneaker

36 Show backer

38 Composed

29 Threshold

22 Giggle nervously

13 Last Stuart of the monarchy

26 One coulomb per second

- 55 Certain board member **56** Emmy winner Falco
- 57 Raise the hackles of

54 Topmost cervical vertebra

- **59** Celsius ice point **60** They're sometimes coddled
- **61** Calamitous 62 Burn balm
- 63 Demonstrate boredom, perhaps **65** Medieval

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Showing

I deeply feel your sighs

Hopes flowers still awaiting you

FLATTA CHA CHT





























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A trip to Sayoun

By: Moiz Ali 14 years old

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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



ancient language written on the stones. After seeing the palace thoroughly we

excavation. I had never seen an under Handicrafts in the museum. 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

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 Yemen.

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