

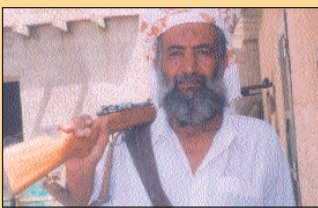
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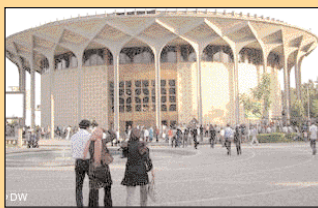
Monday, 14 August 2006 • Issue No. 972 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf www.yementimes.com

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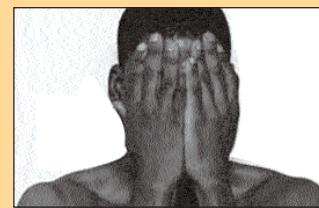
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"The law applies to only the common people"



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The double suffering of AIDS patients in Yemen

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
Do you think businessmen paying 1 billion Yemeni Riyals to support the electoral campaign of President Saleh has caused the ongoing price increase?

I don't know (8%) No (2%) Yes (80%)

This edition's question:
Do you think both parties in the Lebanon war will abide by the U.N. cease-fire resolution?

- Israel will but Hezbollah won't
- Hezbollah will but Israel won't
- Both will
- Both won't
- I don't know

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

Opposition accuse GPC and SCER of election forgery

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Aug. 13 — In a Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC) symposium on Saturday entitled, "The agreement of principles and the chances of conducting free and fair elections," political figures and opposition leaders accused the ruling party of attempting to fortify the upcoming presidential and local elections.

JMP leaders assured their determination to participate in the elections, whatever difficulties they might face. They also reaffirmed their intention to unveil the ways and techniques of the ruling party, the General People's Congress (GPC), in order to counterfeit the elections and bend the law and constitution.

Dr. Yassin Sa'eed Noman, Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), accused the authority and the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) of attempting to counterfeit the forthcoming presidential and local elections. Noman further pointed out, "There are indicators of advance insistence on the part of the GPC and the SCER to counterfeit the



Sultan Al-Barakani



Yassin Noman



Hamid Al-Ahmer

elections and force the opposition to take a passive attitude toward it.

"The JMP will participate in the elections because it's standing before a historic moment from which it could shape the future," Noman affirmed, "The authority is working against the agreement of principles and the existing situation is no different than the situation in the past.

"Responding to some agreement items is formal. We're before an authority whose main qualification is forgery, as well as acting to divide and exploit the parties," Noman added, "The authority misinterprets the law, public jobs and public funds. For them [the

GPC], job and media neutrality mean nothing except to exploit them for the GPC candidate." Additionally, Noman described the SCER as a doll in the authority's hands in order to discipline the JMP.

For his part, Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmer declared, "The ruling party's policies are great failure — they pushed people into this bad situation. These failing policies will turn against them with negative results in the elections. Attempting to cling to power, the ruling party will tread over all the rules, laws and principles whereby individuals treat each other."

Continued on page 2

Saleh confirms Iran's right to possess nuclear energy

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 13 — While receiving Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mano Shaher Muttaqi, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh stated yesterday that Iran and any other Islamic country has the right to possess nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

During their meeting, Muttaqi con-

veyed a message from Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to President Saleh regarding relations between the two countries and ways of strengthening them. In his message, Ahmadinejad also referred to regional developments, especially the Israeli attacks on Lebanon and Palestine.

The Iranian president also praised President Saleh's stance in upholding Islamic nations' issues and affirmed Iran's concern for strengthening relations and interests serving the two countries.

In their meeting, Saleh and Muttaqi discussed developments at the regional and international level, referring to Iran's nuclear file and the Iraqi situation. Saleh also asked Muttaqi to convey a message back to his counterpart, President Ahmadinejad.



Iranian Foreign Minister in a meeting with his Yemeni counterpart.

Continued on page 2

U.N. contributes \$5 million to Yemeni elections

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'a, Aug. 12 — In a Saturday press statement while attending a Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC) symposium, John Landry, Chief Technical Advisor for the Electoral Support Project, asserted that the United Nation's role lies in supporting Yemen's upcoming elections via two different methods.

The first is re-establishing peace and the process to protect it, which is applied

in the case of countries that have come out of wars, like East Timor. The second type of U.N. support is in the form of supporting democratic experiments, as is the case with Yemen.

Landry affirmed that Yemen requested the U.N. provide technical assistance to hold and implement the upcoming elections. "We've been offering help since 2002 and this support is related to the elections process," he said. Such support has been offered to the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) as the U.N. office in Sana'a works with the SCER continuously and closely in determining the type of things the SCER desires from the U.N. office in conducting the elections.

Among the results of the U.N. office in Yemen is providing a \$5 million contribution to support the Yemeni electoral process. The fields wherein the assistance is to be expended include training and nominating women, so a special section has been established within the SCER for this purpose. The support also includes offering information technology in this regard. Landry noted that this is a very short explanation of what the U.N. office in Yemen is offering to support the electoral process to guarantee it'll be free and honorable.

He stressed that the U.N. office can't confirm that the elections will be free and decent because "We haven't the power in this respect. Holding free and upright elections comes from Yemen's desire to work for such. The U.N. office can offer advice and suggestions to the SCER for ensuring the upcoming elections are characterized by transparency and justice, but we as an international organization can't force Yemen to have free and decent elections.

"Free and decent elections must have the political and social will of Yemenis themselves. In this regard, civil society organizations must be active and work with every possible effort in the process of enlightening voters because it's important to hold free and upright elections. Also, journalists covering the election process must play a constructive role, not a destructive one," he added.

Additionally, Landry said political parties must teach their electoral committee members to behave in a neutral, open and transparent manner. He emphasized that Yemen has achieved much in the field of developing the democratic process but



John Landry

there remains more to do, stressing that "there is no 100 percent complete electoral systems in any country."

"Every democratic country continually works to develop and improve the democratic process. Yemen isn't the only country that is effecting changes in the election process for the purpose of improving it, as this is something normal in the democratic process," he noted.

Landry expressed his wish that Yemen's upcoming elections would be successful, describing them as among the most difficult and complicated. Here the voters are requested to fill three electoral cards; therefore, it's the responsibility of all to work to enlighten the importance that the elections must be free and just."

He also wished that all would conduct their duties in a transparent manner to better assist Yemen to hold free elections, as it'll be an experience from which Yemen will learn, and hoped that the nation will benefit from these elections.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 13 — Due to publishing news in the last issue of Al-Diyyar, a private political weekly newspaper, of an alleged plan to kill President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Ministry of Information confiscated it from the market.

Al-Diyyar Editor-in-Chief Abed Al-Mahdhari confirmed the incident, explaining, "The last issue of Al-Diyyar, published Aug. 6, was removed from markets because it contained a report of an attempt to assassinate President Saleh."

According to the newspaper's report, sources mentioned a plan targeting President Saleh, which was discovered at the last moment. The planners were connected to regional and international intelligence forces, who tried targeting the Yemeni head of state and abolishing his regime in order to gain control of Yemen's political resolve to carry out their plans for the area.

The report went on to say that the plan aimed to assassinate Saleh in order to replay former scenarios from a



The last issue of Al-Diyyar, published Aug. 6.

divided Yemen, during which the lives of presidents from both parts of Yemen were claimed, including North Yemen's Ibrahim Al-Hamdi and Ahmed Al-Ghassmi and South Yemen's Salim Rubia Ali and Abdulfatah Ismail, as well as several military leaders and political figures prior to Yemen's 1990 reunification.

Al-Mahdhari was attacked last month in Sana'a for publishing news about President Saleh's son, Ahmed, possibly turning against his father. He also previously published news about arms dealers in Yemen and demanding their trial.

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A man attacked after defaming Hezbollah

By: Hamdan Dammag

SANA'A, Aug 12 — Hezbollah supporters in Sana'a attacked a man as he was opposing them in a dispute regarding the current war in Lebanon. According to media sources, eye witnesses said an individual, who is a follower of Salafi doctrine, was attacked in Al-Qiyada Street, after he protested against Nasrallah and Hezbollah, which he described as a Rafidhi party, and calling people neither to support Hezbollah nor to stage sit-ins for its sake.

It is known that Al-Rufidhis are those who have the belief it was Imam Ali who has the right over Prophet Mohammed to carry the divine message. In addition, they refuse to recognize Al-Sahaba, the Prophet's comrades, and abuse them according to Wahabi doctrine followers.

According to Al-Shoura.Net, citizens expressed "their anger over the mas-

sacres of Israeli forces in Lebanon and Palestine" and consider Hezbollah as the only Arab entity that manage to fight the Zionist racist regime. Also, Hezbollah was able to "invalidate the saying that Israeli army is undefeatable, after inflicting heavy losses upon its army and hardware."

On the other hand, Al-Thawri weekly revealed that the Endowments Ministry has granted more than 100 licenses to graduates of Wahabi and Salafi centers over the past two weeks. According to the Yemeni Socialist Party's weekly, such centers are known to be linked to extremism and have relations with influential people. The paper listed Dammaj center in Sa'ada and Sheikh Mohammed Al-Imam's center in Ma'aber, Dhamar, among those centers where graduates were given licenses to work.

Contrary to disputes and attacks, Mohammed Al-Daghshi, Associate pro-

fessor of Education in Sana'a University, said there was a radical change in Ayman Al-Dhawahiri address where he disregarded the differences between Sunnis and Shiites. The second man in Al-Qaeda declared "Al-Qaeda will not be silent for what is going on in Lebanon and Palestine."

For his part, Hadramout Scholar, Ali Al-Jafri emphasizes that the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon and Palestine can play an important role in unifying the Islamic factions and peoples saying, "If we can get united only when facing the enemy, our unity will be a fantasy." Al-Jifri speaking to Al-Shoura.Net "What will happen if the war with this enemy ends, will we fight each other like the Afghan Mujahdeen?"

In the issues to come, Yemen Times is going to have a special interview with Al-Jafri.

Somalia refugees demand relocation

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Aug. 13 — Somalia refugees in Yemen have threatened to restart a sit-in near the office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Sana'a, if their demand of resettlement in another country was not accepted, said a website on Tuesday.

The Somali Protesters Committee issued a declaration to marebpress.net criticizing Yemen for not enacting a law to arrange the refugees' settlement on the basis of the 1951 international treaty relating to the Status of Refugees that approved by Yemen in 1980.

The delegation pointed the bad circumstances the Somali refugees live in Yemen, as they cannot attend higher education or universities. And the students who are joining the primary schools do not get any aids such as books, pens or uniforms from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which they accused of negligence.

The statement referred to the poor medical state they suffer, particularly those who undergo incurable diseases and need to travel abroad to get treatment.

The statement also mentioned the difficulties facing the refugees who look for jobs.

"There is no job opportunity for the Somali refugees except the jobs that Yemenis considering humiliating jobs like car washing, and shoe shining. Besides that many Somali women work as housemaids or beggars which subject them to molestation or sometimes to rape," according to the declaration.

The refugees are undergoing discrimination by some citizens who consider them as lower class and that expose them to many risks like killing, torture, and offensive situations, mentioned the statement.

The refugees can't freely move in



A view from the 2005 Somalia refugees sit-in.

Yemeni cities so they are forced to migrate to major cities.

The statement ended by holding accountable the UNHCR's delegate and the UNHCR officers for what's happened and what is going to happen.

During the 1991 Somali Civil War, many Somalis fled to neighboring countries including Yemen and they were automatically granted refugee status by the government.

At the end of October, there were some 79,000 refugees registered with the UNHCR in Yemen, more than 68,000 of whom were from Somalia. Most Somalis live in urban areas, with only roughly 7,500 staying at the Kharaz refugee camp in the Lahj governorate in the country's south.

In 2005 a month-long sit-in staged by about 500 Somali refugees in front of the office of the UNHCR turned violent when security forces clashed with demonstrators who were expressing their demands for improving their current legal, economic and social living conditions, as well as, their forsaken human rights. They complained that they have been badly treated and still they have not received their financial allocations, and they asked for resettlement in a third country where they could have better living situations.

The clashes began on Dec 16 when

the refugees were still camped out along the street behind the UNHCR offices from the sit-in that began on Nov 13. Local police intervened to disband the demonstration using water and tear gas, with protesters responding by throwing stones at police. The clashes ended when five Somali refugees and one child were killed, and four others injured. Human rights organizations condemned the incident blaming the UNHCR and the police officers.

A spokeswoman for the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in Geneva, Astrid Van Genderen Stort, told the media that the demand for resettlement of all the refugees in western host countries was impossible to meet.

"We've explained that we can meet certain demands and certain ones we cannot," she said. "It's not in our power and not in our mandate." She noted that the agency was looking into providing greater access to healthcare, but would be better positioned to offer assistance if the refugees moved into camps.

Van Genderen Stort went on to note that the agency would look into cases where refugees met the criteria for resettlement. But while UNHCR can make recommendations in such cases, it is the countries to which refugees are resettled — which have stringent quota systems — that ultimately decide.

Massive Rains flood 11 governorates

SANA'A, Aug 12 — Reports from 11 governorates indicated unprecedented heavy rains and thunderstorms especially in ceaantral and northern midlands of the country.

The governorates of Saada, Amran, Mahweet, Sana'a, Hajja, Dhammar, Raima, Hodieda, Ibb, Al-Dhale and Taiz have seen flooding many regions blocking roads between governorates and freezing means of transportation between rural villages in these governorates which host to over 70 percent of the population.

The agriculture in these areas has been damaged too by the irregular rainfall, drafting mud away from many agricultural lands and increasing the amount of absorbed water in the land resulting in



In many areas, agriculture lands have been damaged by the recent heavy rains thunderstorms.

damaged the crops and various.

Qat farmers have expressed their frustration as large amounts of rainfall dam-

ages the qat as the tips of the tree which are routinely cropped to be sold in urban centres become stiff and inconsumable. Nearly 40 percent of the rural workforce is involved in growing, harvesting and retailing qat, and these rains could put many out of a job until seasonal change.

Deaths by lightning resulting from thunder storms have also substantially increased with reports of 17 casualties in the governorates of Hajja and Al-Mahweet.

At Mount Yawsoub in Yarim district, Ibb governorate, heavy rains resulted in the collapse of several parts of the mountain especially in the village of Upper Mishnaqa causing several incidents of falling rocks.

Yemeni children voice their support

By: Walid Al-Boks

SANA'A, Aug. 8 — UN Resident Coordinator in Yemen, Ms Flavia Pansieri declared the "UN's role should be of much importance as for the critical situation in Lebanon, but the task is not easy."

Pansieri was addressing children who participated in a demonstration to support Lebanese children organized by Shuthab Foundation for Childhood and Development (SFCDD). The demonstration set out from Al-Sateen Street and headed to UN headquarters in the south of the capital.

The participants lifted photos of the destruction left by war and photos of children whose lives were claimed by Israeli raids on Lebanon. The posters written in Arabic and English said, "Thanks for your closed eyes, absent justice, who stops this crazy war."

In response to a UN resolution of 2006 which dictates that "children should not be subject to danger," children tendered a protest statement in which they asked the UN for quick interference to halt the



A view from the demonstration.

Israeli massacre against Lebanese children. The statement added that there should be "an immediate halt of the children's blood-shedding."

The statement was read by children Aya Safwat and her friend Imad Ali, saying, "What Lebanese children suffer has nothing to do with the world announcement for human rights and relative international charters."

"With a month of brutal war on Lebanon, tens of our brother and sister children, not exceeding 10 years and some of them infants were killed," added

Safwat.

The children, during the demonstration, sang along to a cassette of the Lebanese artist Julia Butrus, "We cry at the face of all, we refuse to die at the face of suppression and humiliation."

Pansieri praised those children who took part in this demonstration saying, "Your coming here confirms this generation's intention to live in peace. Our responsibility as elderly people is to support you with security and I am sure that you will be exemplary for creating peace and keeping it."

Electoral nominations commence

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Aug. 13 — Those wishing to run in the local elections have until Aug 21 to nominate themselves.

The primary committees across the republic will receive the applications for the local elections on Sep 20, decided simultaneously with the presidential elections.

The process of receiving application is conducted by 333 primary committees at the district level and 5620 at the level of the local constituencies

According to the law of general elections and referendum, every voter has the right to nominate himself for assuming the membership of the local council in his own local constituency after the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum called all legally eligible

voters to submit their documents.

Al-Janadi: Upcoming elections will be more open

During a news conference on Tuesday, Abdu Al-Janadi, member of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) and Chairman of the commission's media sector said the upcoming presidential and local elections will be more transparent, said,

"The upcoming elections will be the best ever seen throughout the democratic experience in the Arab world, as the components of competition are available and there is equality between those in power and opposition candidates," Al-Janadi stated.

His commission has played an integral role in preparation for the democratic process scheduled to take place on Sept.

20.

The SCER's work is based on achieving transparency and neutrality and creating a balanced election structure. The upcoming local and presidential elections will be monitored by many international organizations wanting free elections and some countries including the U.S. and Canada as well as party observation.

The SCER was formed according to a previously-signed agreement stipulating that 46 percent of the commission members must be from Joint Meeting Parties and 54 percent from the General People's Congress.

The SCER also mentioned that 164,000 repeated names and 80,000 minors were dropped from the voters' registers and were referred to courts to stand trial.

Continued from page 1

Opposition accuse GPC and SCER of election forgery

organizations working in Yemen, describing their attitudes as slack, particularly at the present time, as seen in their media addresses, wherein they attempt to justify the authorities' breaches.

He further put forth several questions before these organizations, such as what their attitude will be if the opposition candidate wins the election while the authority doesn't admit or announce that individual's victory? What if Yemenis elect Faisal Bin Shamlan? Will they deal with him if the authority doesn't admit such results?

Additionally, Al-Ahmer hinted, "The GPC can fortify the elections, but it can't force us to approve the results. It'll be held accountable for the unfavorable consequences if it breaches and violates the elections."

Concluding his remarks, Al-Ahmer declared that Yemen urgently needs

modernizing and reform at all levels, saying, "They [the ruling party] are exploiting public funds and jobs, as well as state resources, thus adding more poverty and dictatorship from which Yemeni citizens suffer."

In related news, Sultan Al-Barakani, head of the GPC parliamentary bloc, stated to NewsYemen, "The JMP has the intention of delaying the elections and this is unjustified."

Regarding voter registry violations, Al-Barakani pointed out, "This process took place during checking and correcting the registries, not afterward. Such violations are decided upon by the judiciary, which actually has judged a large number of cases referred to it."

"The voter registry issue was raised earlier and the registry was corrected at that time in 2001-2002, in addition to the following corrections. The judiciary will settle any disputes," Al-Barakani

added, "There's no reason to delay the elections because they weren't delayed in 1993 or 1997 when the YSP boycotted them."

Regarding breaching the agreement of principles and exploiting public media for the sake of the ruling party candidate, Al-Barakani responded, "Opposition will continue accusing the ruling party, even if they gain power, because they have nothing before them except to make accusations."

"The agreement of principles wasn't imposed upon the GPC. It's the president who's cautious about making all participate in order not to have further pretexts. He gave the JMP more than they actually deserve," Al-Barakani added. "The GPC maintained its obligations as to the agreement of principles, including adding two JMP members to the SCER, though the commission was about to complete its tasks."

Conference for young leaders

By: Saeed Al-Batati

Mukalla, Aug. 12 — Over 130 youth leaders from different governorates of the republic are meeting in Mukalla city for five days with the theme "Hand by hand to build our country."

Organized by Youth Association for Development and Creativeness (YADC), the conference is funded and sponsored by the Ministry of Oil, the Local Council of Hadramout, Yemen LNG company, UNFPA, Canadian Nexen, KNOG and Schlumberger.

Over the period of Aug 12 to 16 there will be workshops, plenary sessions, focused group discussions and field trips as well as panel discussions. The main objective of the conference is to create a venture where young people share their ideas, experience and goals with one another.

In the first day morning, Dr. Adel Bahumead, a leading activist in youth-related subjects, gave the participants a lecture about the concept of leadership aimed at the young leaders to help them managing their projects and fulfill their desired goals.

In the evening of the same day, the conference was inaugurated officially by the Minister of Oil, Mr. Khalid Bahah, who in his speech eulogized the efforts of the high-flying young organizers.

"I see inner determination in the soul of the organizers to achieve the impossible and that what we miss in most of today's youth," said the minister.



Officials at the opening ceremony.

The minister's speech was dominated by the soul-stirring words, "Not all Yemenis will be leaders, exempt the cream of the crop. You'll be everything, Presidents and ministers nothing is impossible."

On the behalf of the local council in the governorate, the governor of Hadramout Mr. Abdulgader Hilal expressed his great admiration for the courage and the willpower of the organizers saying, "I admire them for their tenacity and their courage in confronting problem and coping with difficulties."

Mr. Mohammed Hassan, the head of YADC gave a speech in which he welcomed the guests and the participants. He gave them a brief account about the objectives and the activities YADC. Mr. Hassan concluded his speech by saying thank you to the sponsors of the

conference.

Among the distinguished speakers were Mr. James Kordol from the Canadian Nexen Copmany, Mr. Faisal Haitham, the deputy head of the Yemen LNG Company along with other representatives of the sponsors.

The YADC is non-governmental organization based on six objectives,

-Developing youth skills.

-Exchanging experience between individuals and groups to create young leaders.

-Adoption and publishing youth opinion about development problems.

-Implement and publishing research and studies about youth problems.

-Engaging youth in society-related activities.

-Helping Government, and the other organizations implement millennium goals.

Around the world: Peaceful protests against the war in Lebanon

Amnesty International around the world organised peaceful gatherings in protest against the war in Lebanon. The crowds gathered around banners with slogans calling for, 'Ceasefire', 'Stop supply of Weapons' and some declaring that, 'War - an atrocity against humanity'. Executive Director of AI Malaysia Josef Roy Benedict commented on the AI Malaysia's Vigil last week: "We must show that we feel strongly, that the war resonates with us here...as private citizens, people should have a stake in influencing government's decision".



Hong Kong



Korea



Belgium



Turkey



Italy



Raids continue as Lebanon truce nears

Israeli forces have continued to strike deep into southern Lebanon, less than 24 hours before a ceasefire agreed by both sides is due to take effect.

In overnight raids by Israeli forces, Lebanese officials say at least seven civilians were killed and several more injured.

Other attacks have continued into Sunday morning, hitting homes, bridges and petrol stations, as Israeli troops clashed with Hezbollah fighters near the port city of Tyre.

The expanded Israeli ground assault involves as many as 30,000 troops dropped into southern Lebanon in what military officials say is Israel's largest ever air operation.

The Israeli raids were followed on Sunday morning by a series of rockets fired from Hezbollah positions into northern Israel. Local reports say at least one Israeli was killed and six injured.

The rocket attacks came as the Israeli cabinet met to give its approval to the ceasefire plan. On Saturday Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary general, announced that the prime ministers of Lebanon and Israel had agreed to a cessation of hostilities at 0500 GMT on Monday, August 14.

The agreement reached appears to offer hope of an end to a four-week old conflict that has killed over 1,000 Lebanese and more than 130 Israelis.

"I am very happy to announce that the two leaders have agreed that the cessation of hostilities and the end of the fighting will enter into force on 14 August, at 0500



Israel's offensive is continuing to push into southern Lebanon.

hours GMT," Annan said in a statement.

He urged both sides to halt the fighting immediately, and assured them that the United Nations force on the ground would work with them to monitor compliance of the Security Council resolution approved Friday to stop the hostilities.

The agreement paves the way for the UN to prepare for the deployment of up to 15,000 troops to help enforce the ceasefire.

'Pain and suffering'

"Preferably the fighting should stop now to respect the spirit and intent of the Council decision, the object of which was to save civilian lives, to spare the pain and suffering that the civilians on both sides are living through," Annan said.

Overnight on Saturday, at least seven civilians were killed and nine wounded as Israeli forces staged a series of attacks across Lebanon, officials said.

The dead included a mother, her three young children and their Sri Lankan maid, killed when Israeli bombs hit their home in the southern village of Burj el-Shemali.

Israel meanwhile said that 19 of its soldiers had died in fighting on Saturday - its heaviest losses in a single day since the start of the conflict.

Another five Israeli soldiers, missing after their helicopter was shot down, are also presumed to have died.

Bush speaks to leaders

Following the ceasefire agreement George Bush, the US president, spoke by

telephone with the leaders of both Israel and Lebanon.

He spoke to Lebanese prime minister Fuad Siniora on Saturday, shortly after receiving a call from Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert late Friday. It was Bush's first direct contact with either leader in several weeks.

The White House said Bush pressed Siniora on the importance to "dismantle Hezbollah's state within a state" after the unanimous UN resolution called for a 15,000-strong UN-approved force in the south of the country, to be positioned alongside a proposed Lebanese force of the same number.

Yet the resolution does not call for an immediate Israeli withdrawal - and the White House said Olmert in his call to the White House "thanked President Bush for the work he had done on the UN resolution on the Lebanon crisis."

Israel has said that it will continue its offensive against Hezbollah fighters in Lebanon until the ceasefire begin on Monday.

Earlier on Saturday, Hasan Nasrallah, head of Hezbollah, said that his organisation, which has two cabinet ministers, would abide by the UN-brokered truce.

"We will not be an obstacle to any [government] decision that it finds appropriate, but our ministers will express reservations about articles [in the UN resolution] that we consider unjust and unfair," he said in a speech broadcast on Hezbollah's Al-Manar television on Saturday.

Source: Al-Jazeera



With the ceasefire imminent Israel has stepped up raids

الإجابات النموذجية .. لأسئلة المستقبل

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الجامعة اليمنية
الكلية الهندسية
الهندسة المدنية
العام ٢٠٠٥ - ٢٠٠٦

الرقم: (١٠٠)
المادة: العلوم الحديثة
الزمن: دقيقتان

أجب على الأسئلة الآتية:

- ١- هل اخترت الجامعة التي سنستكمل تعليمك الجامعي فيها؟
- ٢- بالظلم نعم، أخوت جامعة العلوم الحديثة هلص لدي بديل آخر.
- ٣- ما هي الميزات التي جعلتك تختار جامعة معينة؟
- ٤- قيادة الجامعة وطاقتها، موقعاها الجيد، المناهج المتطورة، التعليم بالذمة والانجليزية، والحرية، والاهتمام الدولي بالجامعة، التطبيق العملي، الوسائل التعليمية المتنوعة المعامل الحديثة الفصول المريحة، تخصيصات نوعية.
- ٥- ما هي أفضل جامعة في اليمن تميز الطالب لمستقبل وتطيق من ناحية المهارات العملية واللغة الانجليزية؟
- ٦- جامعة العلوم الحديثة UMS.
- ٧- أذكر أبرز أنواع التعليم الرئيسي في الجامعة؟
- ٨- التعليم من بعد، ويقصد به استخدام وسائل التعليم المختلفة ومنها الإنترنت، والكنت والأقراص المرئية للتعليم عن بعد ومن دون الالتزام بالفضور على الأطلاق، لا عند الامتحانات.
- ٩- ما هي الجامعة اليمنية التي تركز تركزاً نوعياً على تخصصات موجهة لتطلبات سوق العمل؟
- ١٠- جامعة العلوم الحديثة UMS كونها تضم كلياتين فقط وهما كلية تقنية المعلومات وكلية العلوم الإدارية.
- ١١- كم عدد الجامعات اليمنية التي حصلت على الاعتماد العام والخاص لها وقرار الاستمرارية بعد صدور قانون التعليم العالي الجديد وهل جامعة العلوم الحديثة من ضمنها؟
- ١٢- ٩ أحلهم كم جدها، ونعتبر جامعة العلوم الحديثة UMS من التي تصدرت الجامعات اليمنية.

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Al-Marwani:

“The law applies to only the common people”

In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times, Abdul-Rahman Al-Marwani, Chairman of Dar Al-Salaam Organization to Combat Revenge and Violence, stated that absence of confidence in the judiciary and security and absence of awareness are the main reasons for armed fighting and revenge among Yemenis.

Interviewed by: Mohammed Al-Jabri

How do arms enter the country?

There are known local arms dealers. There also are local markets that sell arms openly. Perhaps every city contains a weapons market; if not, there are shops for selling arms and the state knows this. Even southern Yemeni districts, which didn't use to be this way, now have many arms. It's said that owning arms has become part of Yemeni citizens' importance.

Does the ease of getting arms in Yemen help terrorist groups?

Yes, even in neighboring countries.

What about the law regarding bearing and owning arms?

Such a law still is incomplete, as Parliament still is studying it. Some powers in Parliament are fighting against the existence of such a law. Every now and then, the state launches campaigns to stop arms bearing/usage. However, such campaigns only target the weak, while those powerful individuals ignore and care about no

such campaigns. In most cases, the law is applied only to common citizens and the weak.

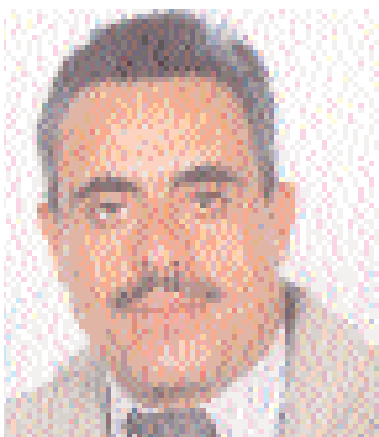
Some justify that they accompany armed individuals to provide protection from revenge consequences. However, it has become the norm that the more armed companions you have, the more distinguished position you receive. I experienced this myself, as I once used to have armed companions. I had the sense of being in an important position, but I didn't really serve the country.

The state sometimes resorts to using force against tribes. Does this beget violence?

The practice of resorting to force costs the state much. After using force against a tribe, it then must handle the problem and pay much expense to fill the gap.

What are the reasons contributing to the spread of revenge in the country?

The availability of small arms among citizens, lack of awareness, citizens'



Abdul-Rahman Al-Marwani

lack of confidence in the state, which is unable to resolve revenge problems, lack of confidence in judiciary and executive powers, the indifferent role of social figures and sheikhs and, in some cases, rational figures are displaced by those known for being irrational.

Between 1,000 and 1,200 individuals annually become victims of revenge and arms misuse – both deaths and casualties.

Some citizens resort to revenge due to feebleness in both judiciary and security. What's your comment on this?

Humans didn't reach outer space by means of words, slogans or speeches – they succeeded because of working seriously. Things begin with the state, which has tremendous facilities entitling it to handle the reasons behind the revenge phenomenon, especially by improving judiciary and security authorities. Official media should be a tool to change negative concepts; instead, 40 percent of official media is allocated to commercial advertisements, so official media plays no role at all.

Some influential state figures, especially those in the army, participate in tribal conflicts. Can you elaborate on this point?

Answering that question would raise problems for Dar Al-Salaam Organization and lead to its shutting down. I'm sorry, but I can't answer that question.

What are the reasons for tribal conflicts?

Shortage of natural resources, huge

populations, absence of development, unemployment, fighting over land and absence of social conciliators, sheikhs and religious scholars, who are more loyal to their parties than to stopping bloodshed. Last year, more than 21 conflicts occurred among tribes and families.

In which areas of Yemen does revenge seem rampant?

Previously, revenge was confined to certain areas of Yemen. Unfortunately, it has spread to include many governorates like Sana'a, Dhamar and Al-Beidha, listed in order of priority. No Yemeni hospital is without deaths and casualties resulting from revenge and/or misuse of arms.

Does Dar Al-Salaam have statistics on the number of deaths and injuries?

Between 1,000 and 1,200 individuals annually become victims of revenge and arms misuse – both deaths and casualties. During 2001-2003, 35,000 crimes occurred due to misuse of arms. No one, not even the state, has accurate databases. Such incidents incur tremendous costs.

Do you think revenge-related problems will end in Yemen?

Such problems can't end in the current situation because there are factors upholding revenge. These factors include the weak role of judiciary, absence of religious scholars in raising awareness and absence of sheikhs' role for the same purpose. You see, Dar Al-Salaam Organization is the only one concerned with revenge issues, despite the fact that there are numerous civil community organizations and associations.

Official media should be a tool to change negative concepts; instead, 40 percent of official media is allocated to commercial advertisements, so official media plays no role at all.

What is the organization doing to help hold a weapons-free election day?

We began a national campaign in May under the slogan, "Together: A day free of weapons," targeting 5,620 electoral centers, i.e., 301 constituencies. In the beginning, 21 tribes signed an honor agreement whereby they agreed to not bear or use arms on election day. In

cooperation with non-governmental foundations, we printed 250,000 awareness posters.

How did the idea come about?

We launched the national campaign earlier because we observed some instances of arms fire during the last election. Of course, arms bearing frightens observers and voters alike, with some citizens even deciding not to vote that day for this reason.

How cooperative has the state been with you in this campaign?

The state is very cooperative and has

If the law is issued and implemented fairly, citizens will find themselves in a position to stick to it.

arms. You won't see Afghanistan in Yemen. Citizens will have time to develop and revenge gradually will vanish.

What are the bases on which Dar Al-Salaam Organization was founded?

Dar Al-Salaam aims to handle issues



Owning and bearing arms has become part of 'Yemenis' tradition.

responded positively to this campaign. President Ali Abdullah Saleh met with the National Defense Council and they declared voting day a day without weapons. This is a sign of Dar Al-Salaam's influence at the official and public level.

So, will armed companions not be allowed to accompany officials and sheikhs?

As I mentioned earlier, only common citizens will be forbidden from bearing arms, so we expect this from what we see. If the law is issued and implemented fairly, citizens will find themselves in a position to stick to it. Only then, will you see no one bearing

related to resolving disputes, often those among tribes and/or families, by calling organization members, who include sheikhs and other volunteers. We then seek to settle disputes according to tribal traditions. We also seek to clear up other problems before they run wild, with such problems usually ending in reconciliation, as well as try to contain other problems of a revenge nature using our simple facilities. The organization has 3,200 members divided among 11 branches and all of them are volunteers. We receive government funding, say \$2,000 annually, but it's not enough to cover the problems we resolve.

Dar Al-Salaam Organization was established in 1997 under the name Dar Al-Salaam for Arbitration. It then intensified its activities and changed its name to Dar Al-Salaam Organization to Combat Revenge and Violence. Including 11 branches divided among nine governorates, the organization has settled 197 revenge cases and armed tribal conflicts. It also has conducted nine training courses targeting numerous tribesmen to inculcate them with values to help create a generation able to develop Yemen.



Dar Al-Salaam Organization has distributed thousands of awareness posters throughout the country.

Report: Internet addiction' is ruining some people's lives

By: Patrick Barnard

According to a Reuters report, surfing the Web has become such a strong addiction for some people that it is literally ruining their lives. Though not yet formally classified as an "addiction," the report finds that spending excessive amounts of time on the Internet can lead to obsessive behaviors which can have a profound and often negative effect on real, everyday relationships, as well as a variety of health problems.

According to the report, symptoms of Internet addiction can include "a general disregard for health and appearance; sleep deprivation due to spending so much time online; and decreased physical activity and social interaction with others." Physical injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome can also result from spending too much time at the computer keyboard, the report states. Plus there's the fact that those who spend too much time online frequently aren't getting enough exercise, which in turn leads to obesity and

a variety of other health problems.

The report also states (and this is really bizarre) that some people may become so addicted that they get the "cyber shakes" when they are off line, "exhibiting agitation and typing motions of the fingers when not at the computer."

The Reuters report includes an interview with Dr. Diane M. Wieland, a psychiatrist with a private practice in Lansdale, Pa., who treats patients for Internet addiction. Wieland, who is also an associate professor at the La Salle University School of Nursing, is the author of an article published in the journal "Perspectives in Psychiatric Care" which explores the topic of Internet addiction. She claims that some people are having such a hard time controlling their obsession with the Web that it is leading them to divorce. Helping to fuel this, she said, are the various types of "pseudo-intimate interpersonal relationships" which people often initiate when visiting on-line dating services and chat rooms. These "cyberspace relationships," she claims, can actually distort

one's perception of "real life" or "off-line" relationships.

While the prevalence of Internet addiction is hard to gauge, Wieland estimates that it anywhere between 5 and 10 percent of users. Interestingly, her research into the area finds that many Internet addicts have a history of depression, alcohol or drug abuse, as well as anxiety disorder.

One indication of Internet addiction which many of us can probably relate to is the "one-more-minute" phenomenon, where a user is about to shut down his or her machine, but then decides to go and check out one more website, or check email one last time. The "one-more-minute" response, she said, is similar to an alcoholic who says they will quit drinking after "one more drink."

According to the Reuters report, treatment for Internet addiction typically involves cognitive behavioral therapies combined with psychotherapy and medications such as antidepressants. Family and marital counseling is also indicated when online marital infidelity is involved.

The prevalence of Internet addic-

tion - and those seeking treatment for it - might be many times higher than the Reuters article indicates. A search on Google (News - Alert) using the term "Internet Addiction" calls up nearly 900,000 websites which touch on the topic, many of them "self-help" websites (including netaddiction.com) offering assistance for Internet addicts.

Some reports indicate that many of these "addicts" have an unhealthy infatuation with Internet pornography.

Patrick Barnard is Associate Editor for TMCnet and a columnist covering the telecom industry. To see more of his articles, please visit Patrick Barnard's columnist page.



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1. Finance / Administrative Associate

Unit: Operations
Level: G7*

We are looking for candidates who have:

- The necessary business acumen for the position.
- A client oriented approach to their work.
- A capacity for implementing modern management systems, including IT.
- Integrity, commitment and respect for diversity.
- Interpersonal and communication skills.
- An ability for analytical and strategic thinking and results orientation.

The finance administrative Associate:

- Anticipates and assists in managing operational requirements of program projects and office inputs in terms of personnel, sub-contracts equipment, fellow ship study tours;
- Assists in managing recruitment, selection contracting modalities performance review and training processes of national staff applying best practice HR tools and policies and procedures;
- Supports the monitoring of program financial performance for all core and non-core resources by providing necessary financial information and analysis, including implementation rate against indicators/results;
- Prepares and monitors the administrative office budget and develops tools and mechanism for efficient monitoring of program and project budgets, coordinates compilation of financial data and provides accurate and up-date financial information;
- Reviews procurement request and initiates procurement procedures for office and project equipment supplies and services;
- Proposes policies to improve internal controls and efficiency and responds to audit issues. Interprets financial policies and procedures particularly relating to national execution and provides guidance and training to staff and project managers;
- Ensures the effective day-to-day financial recording accounting and reporting system internal control and audit follow -up and processes financial transaction in an accurate and timely way;
- Implements corporate systems and applications in support of finance and human resource management, finance and country office operations;
- Assists in reviewing and monitoring for common UN system activities related to common services cost recovery, privileges and immunities, security and represents UNFPA's interest in related inter-agency meeting and working groups as instructed by supervisor.
- Under the guidance of the head office and direct supervision of the Operations Manager, the Finance/ Administrative Associate ensures the effective functioning of administrative and financial operation and

systems in support of the program and office management. He / she works closely with program and project staff and delivers quality services to internal and external clients mastering relevant rules processes and procedures.

2. NPPP- Gender

Duty Station: UNFPA Country Office Sana'a and possible part-time presence at MoPHP

Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the guidance of UNFPA Representative and in collaboration with the Assistant Representative and the National Programme Officer, the incumbent will be responsible for the following:

I. Technical Advise

- 1) Assists in the review of gender strategies and the review of other strategies regarding gender sensitivity (i.e youth, advocacy etc);
- 2) Assists in ensuring that the concept of gender is mainstreamed in UNFPA supported programmes;
- 3) Assists in the design and implementation of operational research rapid assessment and evaluation related to gender and cooperates with the county office and concerned national and international experts/institutions as may be required;
- 4) Prepares and presents position papers, briefs and notes on gender and women empowerment for relevant forums and contributes to special events related to UNFPA.

II. Programme Management

- 1) Participates in updating computerized system to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the work plans and activities with regard to National Women's Committee, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Women Union and relevant women NGOs;
- 2) Contributes/takes charge of the gender programme components as assigned by the office;
- 3) Undertakes monitoring field visits to the targeted governorates and districts agreed upon and according to coordinated plans;
- 4) Contributes to preparation/organization and participates in the APRs, MTRs, Subprogram and Country Programme Reviews, evaluations and assists in completion of the relevant reporting;
- 5) Assists in financial management and follow up of audit recommendations for project activities concerning gender and women empowerment.

III. General

- 1) Liaison between UNFPA Country Office and concerned national sub-programme and component project management on technical, financial and administrative matters of gender related activities;

- 2) Keeps abreast with UNFPA Policies, programmes and apply them to the given conditions;
- 3) Keeps abreast with conceptual and methodological developments. As to ensure streamlining of gender issues and women concerns at all levels, as well as other emerging population issues;
- 4) Participates in interagency theme or taskforces related to gender;
- 5) Assists in preparation of reports to Headquarters on gender related activities and performs any other functions in the field of gender and women empowerment as directed by the Representative.

IV. Working Environment

- 1) The incumbent will work at UNFPA premises. He/She should move between centers and sites of the component projects as appropriate and agreed upon with Representative and project management;
- 2) She/he reports on all above-mentioned tasks to the UNFPA Representative. The UNFPA Representative will supervise the performance of the incumbent. He/She will be subject to an annual Performance Appraisal (PAR) that will be completed by the UNFPA Representative in consultation with national sub-programme and projects management;
- 3) Works closely with UNFPA National Programme Officers, UNVs, NPPPs, CST advisors and mission fielded by UNFPA as may require.

Qualifications and Experience Required

- Post graduate degree in social sciences with specialized knowledge in the field of gender analysis, gender and development issues;
- At least 5 years of experience in gender or women empowerment programmes/ projects;
- Academic background to support research activities;
- Excellent professional knowledge of English, the ability to clearly communicate and report Knowledge of Arabic is an asset;
- Adequate computer skills, good interpersonal communication and learn building skills.

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Deadline for application: 27 August 2006

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* UNFPA Management reserves the right to give a lower Grade to the candidate.

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The Road to a Better Future

Words of Wisdom



The Government has been dished out a lot of talk on how important is the economic reform program it is implementing. That is actually true. The reform is very important, and its success is quite vital for the future well-being of the nation. Yet, in my opinion, the present reform and the people managing it will not lead us to the results we want.

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



OUR OPINION

First, say you're sorry

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the cease-fire won't go into effect immediately and that United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan will consult Israel and Lebanon in the coming days to set a date for the cessation of hostilities. More than 1,000 Lebanese and 124 Israelis have been killed in this war while the international community still is taking its time in enforcing the cease-fire. No wonder Annan acknowledged that world faith in the U.N. has been shaken badly. "I'd be remiss if I didn't tell you how profoundly disappointed I am that the council didn't reach this point much, much earlier," he said.

The resolution doesn't include an immediate end to the attacks, it doesn't ensure transportation of supplies and medicine to troubled areas in Lebanon and, most of all, it doesn't carry any consolation for the victims and their families on either side.

As children, when we got into fights and then were caught by our guardians or parents, the first thing we were asked to do is to say we're sorry. It was so much harder to confess the mistake than be punished for it. It used to take a lot of convincing and an iron grip on my arm for me to admit my mistake and say sorry to my opponent before anyone even began thinking about the problem, who was wrong and what was the suitable punishment. I was told then that I was apologizing for getting into the fight and causing trouble. Perhaps it's the lesson I learned in childhood because although the Security Council finally came out with a resolution to intervene in Lebanon, I would like an apology first.

I believe all the parties involved in the war – even those in power who remained idle while the massacres took place – owe us an apology. They owe it to the whole world and to Lebanese and Israeli civilians especially.

The problem is that, although a simple press conference wherein the concerned governments and authorities could declare their regret isn't very difficult to achieve technically, it sounds far-fetched, considering the egos involved.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

Arab rulers' ever defeatist stands

When an Arab or Islamic country comes under crisis we find our Arab rulers clinging to their power with fear of departing their seats, thus adopting a defeatist and submissive stance. They are unlike their peoples stances in such situations. Arab rulers do not demonstrate anything honorable by protecting what remains of their dignity and sovereignty. They, as usual, suffice themselves to repeating phrases of denunciation and condemnation, as they have been doing with respect to the current American-Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

With the present developments taking place in the war in Lebanon these rulers have not stopped at being spectators but rather adopted a disgraceful reaction siding with the American-Israeli aggression on the Arab and Islamic region. Their love of power makes them blame the resistance movement defending Lebanon and holds it responsible for the destruction and massacres perpetrated by the Israeli state against the Lebanese children and women and destruction of Lebanon. They began attacking the leader of the Lebanese resistance Hassan Nasrallah instead of Israel. Most of the Arab and Islamic regimes have held Hezbollah responsible for the war because of kidnapping and detaining the two Israeli soldiers, claiming the Israeli war as reaction to the Hezbollah "aggression on the Israeli people."

Those regimes have gone further in their disgraceful stance and thus refused the call by President Ali Abdullah Saleh for holding an emergency Arab summit to study the current situation in Lebanon and Palestine and come out with decisions and solutions, even if they were on paper, to save the situation. The regimes appear incapable before the whole world, not just the Arab and Islamic world, announcing to all that Israel is the one that governs and not themselves. The Arab and Islamic peoples appear unable and suppressed under regimes whenever they raise their voices in the face of the tyranny. These peoples are no longer capable of anything but hoping for salvation and praying to have leaders who had adopted courageous and decisive positions in such situations.

Such leaders who used to stand by their peoples out of their belief and faith are the essence of governance such as the late Gamal Abdulnasser who had declared the war on the tripartite aggression of 1956. Even after the so-called June 1967 setback he did not surrender, but rather declared clearly that there would be no negotiation, reconciliation and surrender. In his strong position he was not waging on his weapons and power rather than on the Arab people of Egypt who supported him to the end.

The excuse of interest has always been the slogan raised by the Arab regimes in the face of their peoples whenever they demanded them for an Arab issue, beginning with Palestine and then Iraq and more recently Lebanon. Some Arab rulers take advantage of these tense situations in the Arab



By: Mazin A. Al-Saqqaf

homeland for their interest in an attempt to gain support of their peoples.

When President Ali Abdullah Saleh proposed holding an emergency Arab summit to discuss the ongoing developments in Lebanon he knew well beforehand his initiative would not receive the wanted response. His stand was taken due to the Yemeni domestic developments with the approach of the presidential and local elections scheduled in September.

The resentment of the Yemeni street towards the regime comes throughout 28 years of rule because the Yemenis have experienced more poverty, ignorance, bad health conditions and corruption that crept to all institutions. In addition, there is a strong rival in the coming vote from Faisal Bin Shamlan, described as someone difficult to overlook or disregard. He enjoys a decent pedigree he acquired during his assumption of various posts in the former southern government and in the unity state later after 1990 in addition to many characteristics qualifying him to lead the country. Shamlan forms a stumbling stone for the ruling regime as the parties of the JMP have selected him as their candidate.

The Saleh regime has thought it has to restore the people's confidence by gaining people's satisfaction and reducing their anger against the regime. Though the people have reacted coolly to the call for the summit, however that did not weaken the determination of President Saleh. The president resumed the call for holding the Arab summit, taking advantage of the massacres in Lebanon and Palestine, after his withdrawal of the first invitation. In his interview with al-Jazeera satellite channel on July 31, President Saleh appeared very enthusiastic and angry at the Arab and Islamic regimes that refused his first call for the summit. The president shows a contradiction in his stances in the same interview. At the time he reiterated his call for holding the Arab summit to reach a ceasefire, he hoped that the war would extend to include Syria justifying that such development would place Israel in an impasse it could only solve by leaving the region. President Saleh attacked the Shimon Peres describing him as a "lover of authority" and seemingly forgetting he himself has been ruling Yemen for 28 years during which his people have suffered injustice and corruption and experienced war beginning in the first months of his assumption of power right up until today.

This type of policy followed by the authority along all the period of its government could have succeeded for sometime to deceive the people with its foreign policy and international stances. However those policies have been no more than a statement in a newscast or an interview with a satellite channel. This policy is exposed and no longer can deceive the public. The authority now has to fix its image and leave the peoples to rule and determine their destiny so they may manage to preserve what is remaining of their humanity and destiny.

Mazin A. Al-Saqqaf is a young Yemeni writer.

SILVER LINING

Hypocrite UN... hypocrite clergy

Two weeks ago, I wrote in this column about the devastating attacks by Israel in Lebanon. I criticized the paralyzed stance of the international community towards what is happening, mainly the position of the US president, as the leader of a superpower, who has done nothing to stop the destruction of a country and the killings of its helpless citizens. I also criticized the Arab regimes and the Arab and Muslim citizens who broke all hell loose over the Danish newspaper cartoons, but are doing nothing now.

I do not know why this opinion upset one of my readers; he was angry and even sent me one of the cartoons of the prophet Mohammed made by the Danish newspaper. He wanted to wind me up. He didn't upset me because of the cartoon but because I realized mad and fanatic people do not only exist in the Arab and Muslim world but also in the West. What a pity!

Fanaticism, whether religious or political, brings about more counter fanaticism and hatred in the world. Such an environment of hostility will not make the world a better place to live.

Personally, when we criticize the war in Lebanon, it does not necessarily mean we side with Hezbollah. It means we are with Lebanon and denounce the destruction of its infrastructure and killings of its citizens as we denounced the September 11 attacks in the US. I was shocked and horrified by the destruction of the twin towers in New York. I described the attacks as black infamy. We all felt sorry for the US people. Similarly, we are panic-stricken by the vicious and evil acts the Israeli aircrafts are committing in Lebanon. I will be moved by any acts of killings and destruction in any part of the world. My dream is to see the world community in peace.

I do not have any religious or ethnic problems. I have friends in different corners of the world and I feel I belong to the whole world for I believe in human relationship as the most important religion or dogma in the world.



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

I know sometimes it is ridiculous to demand firm positions from the Western governments to the war on Lebanon while the Arab regimes have kept mute. However, we most of the time rely on the position of some Western governments more than the Arab regimes which never line up with their peoples. This time the whole world is paralyzed.

However, what really stir my anger are our religious citizens who made a big fuss about the Danish newspaper cartoons and the destructions of holy shrines in Iraq. But when it comes to the killings of innocent citizens in Lebanon, they have said nothing. Where is Sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani? He collected YR5 million to finance a group of hypocrite advocates to sue some of our colleagues for reproducing the cartoons.

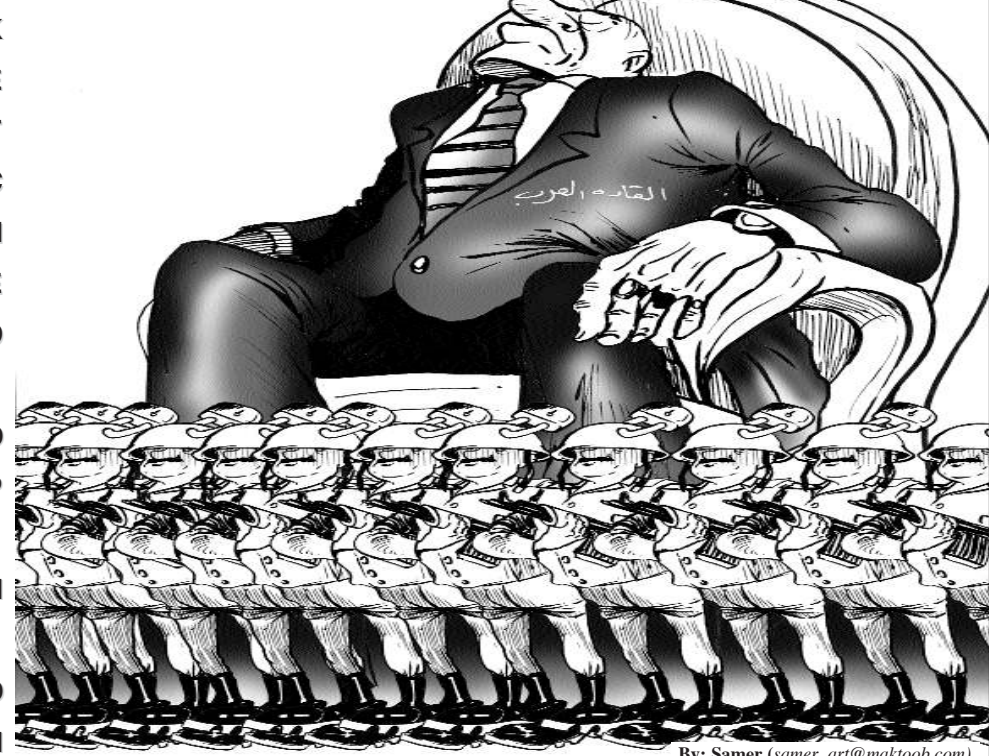
I also remember when the US forces entered al-Najaff city in Iraq in 2003 the former leader of the Iraqi Islamic Revolution Movement Mohammed Baqer al-Hakeem warned the US forces against attacking the holy shrines. He never talked about the killings of citizens at all. This view is ridiculous and nonsense. I wonder which is more disturbing the cartoons, the shrines or the massacres we see these days in Lebanon.

The human being has no value in the thinking of such clerics. I am not asking them to make a similar reaction to the cartoons where we saw fire and destructions in some parts of the world, but at least to take to the street and condemn. Maybe they have followed the UN Security Council model in just expressing concerns and not condemning the massacres.

The UN condemned the Israeli attacks against the international peace forces in Southern Lebanon when two soldiers were killed. Killing two soldiers deserves "condemnation" while killing thousands of innocent civilians deserves expressing "worry." Both the two institutions are driven by hypocrisy. It is a hypocrite clergy and a hypocrite UN, isn't it?

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

S K E T C H E D O P I N I O N The Arab leaders



By: Samer (samer_art@maktob.com)

Letters to the Editor

Mercenaries can't build a nation
After Siad Barre's ruthless and tyrannical regime was uprooted in 1991, most Somalis expected a new democratic government able to control all of Somalia and pave the road to creating a sustainable economy. Unfortunately, all of these ambitions and predictions were like a fish taken from the water because a bloody tribal civil war erupted among Somalis, causing a quarter of Somali natives to emigrate hopelessly around the world to gain refugee asylum.

New warlords seized authority in the capital, Mogadishu, and used it to inflict various types of brutality and barbaric actions upon their innocent Somali citizens, who were suffering terrible poverty and famine.

Killing, looting and abducting were habitual in Mogadishu life and chaotic situations prevailed in every aspect of life. These shameful human violations and repressive iron-fist actions by the warlords over vulnerable Somalis caused Somali religious scholars to establish Islamic courts in Mogadishu to restore the city's security and stability. The Somali Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) began to impose Islamic sharia law in Mogadishu.

Local warlords didn't like to see such

progress and developments in their city and established a so-called counterterrorism group under the patronage of the United States so as to prevent and destroy Islamic sharia. The U.S. financed and armed the so-called counterterrorism group, claiming that Mogadishu was a safe haven for Al-Qaeda insurgents. The counterterrorism group launched severe attacks against the UIC, which is gaining civil society's confidence day after day.

The UIC now controls Mogadishu and other southern Somali provinces, restoring security and stability. It's the first time Mogadishu citizens have enjoyed complete security and peaceful tranquility since Barre's regime was removed. Residents move everywhere in Mogadishu, doing their work without restrictions and barriers.

The UIC disarmed Mogadishu's armed militia, which was loyal to the defeated warlords, and opened Mogadishu's port and international airport. The people of Mogadishu and the southern provinces have strong and transparent confidence in the UIC. The fragile interim Somali federal government released joint statements by the president and prime minister condemning the UIC's victories and alleging that they are terrorists acting for foreign interests.

In my view, the UIC are real Somali patriots, doing their best to restore sovereignty and solidarity to Somalis, whatever it costs. Interim federal government officials are mercenaries who don't care about their homeland's dignity and reputation because thousands of Ethiopian troops deliberately crossed Somali borders and entered the provincial town of Baidoa, where the warlords have relocated, claiming they are defending the interim government from the UIC.

Reliable Somali sources have revealed that the president and prime minister have requested Ethiopia send and defend their government from advancing UIC forces. I'm expressing here that the interim Somali federal government is independent of Ethiopian political interference by prominent officials, who are pro-Ethiopian stooges and mercenaries who can't build a nation.

The best solution for Somalis is in the hands of the UIC, so I'm requesting Somali nationals throughout the diaspora support the UIC to verify our common interest – building a new Somali.

Abdurahman Nageye
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P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Yemen

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As-Sahwa weekly, 7 Aug 2006.

Main headlines

- Bin Shamlan: The ruling party employment of official media in propaganda for its candidate a disgraceful practice
- Anti-corruption MP resigns from the General People's Congress
- Sheikh Al-Ahman reiterates his support for the resistance in Lebanon
- A GPC local council member bites his colleague and cuts his ear
- JMP press conference defines the stance versus violations of the Election Supreme Commission

Writer Ahmed Uthman says in an article the Islamic countries summit succeeded despite of the group of Arab rulers who had on purpose failed to attend it. Those rulers have been causing us a headache with their wishes that no open war would break out with which to give Israel a lesson in respecting others. According to observers the Islamic appeared serious and void of demagogy and ended with a noticeable success that would not have been achieved had the Arabs attended it. Thus the leaders of non-Arab Islamic countries have dealt a scolding slap to those slaves.

In an answer to a question regarding the reason why the Arab rulers were absent from the Islamic summit conference, an Arab foreign minister replied that their absence was because they were busy with the war on Lebanon. The minister did not specify with what those Arab rulers were busy or with whom, but the excuse was worse than the Arab rulers.

The other slap came from the Venezuelan president Chavez who had summoned his ambassador from Tel Aviv

in protest to the massacre to which the Arab people of Lebanon are exposed at a time Arab ambassadors were still in harmony with Israel and busy in defending Israeli prisoners with Hezbollah and Hamas.

Chavez and leaders of the Islamic countries all represent their peoples and democratically elected and each of them will leave power after the end of their presidency tenure without tumult, handing over the power to those who will continue the task.



Al-Wasat weekly, 9 Aug 2006.

Main headlines

- While the GPC prepares for facing the JMP, Dr Yassin accuses the authority of attempting to dissect the YSP unity
- GPC prepares for confronting plans of those making a bloc against it in the elections
- Asked the Azhar Sheikh to resign and repent, Ibrahim Al-Wazeer describes Bin Jabreen as a Satan follower
- Differences escalate between the JMP and the ruling party
- Al-Wahdawi newspaper journalists continue their strike and its board of directors threaten of cutting their salaries
- Landslides in Taiz cause collapse and cracking of houses

The newspaper editor in chief writes a front-page article mentioning that he political forum of for democracy has discussed in its recent symposium the role of independent press in the upcoming presidential and local elections. The discussion represented an opportunity for submitting a subject like this which has been a topic of controversy between opposition parties and the ruling party.

What is wanted from the independent press is either to follow the opposition and be an expression of its stands and adopt its goals or to adopt the line of the authority and its ruling party, and thus becomes a mouthpiece against the opposition. In this case the independent press would be a media instrument for numbering and counting achievements of the state, the apparent and the hidden. The two options are far from the role of independent press that is supposed to be committed to the fact free from any tendencies except objectivity and impartiality.

The talk here is meant not to be misunderstood. It is about the relations of the political parties among themselves end this is not applied to issues of the people and exposing and facing corruption. In this regard the impartiality is considered betrayal of those ordinary people who are victims of growing corruption. This issue aroused by the forum acquires its importance in this very stage because it is a period of elections and dictates on the press to be the eye of the truth and carrier of reality as it is not as the opposition or the ruling party wants. The both parties possess their own newspapers and other media with which they can express their own ideas and viewpoints.



Al-Wahdawi weekly organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization. 8 Aug. 2006.

Main headlines

- Ghost of failure overshadows leaders of the General People's Congress
- Open option open before the JMP after the ruling party back down from implementing the agreement of

- principles
- Bin Shamlan platform, a package of treatments to torpedo despotism and corruption
- A decayed dead body discovered in Banushaish
- Campaign of accusations against teachers demands, Tuesday to witness physicians and pharmacists sit-in
- Army helicopter crashed north of Sana'a

The political editor of the newspaper writes that in the early days of the Zionist aggression on Lebanon and after the meeting of Arab foreign affairs in Cairo the Arab League secretary general Amr Mousa announced the death of peace process demanding the return of the Palestinian issue to the United Nations again. The strange thing is not the death of the peace process because that is expected by all the world and not our Arab region alone and that is because the Americans would not solve anything and the Zionists would not commit themselves to a thing they don't believe in. The strange thing is that the announcement did not receive any response from the Americans or the Zionists. The reason is also clear because the Arab rulers when they accepted to enter the process of peace, they did it after they conceded and squandered a group of options and stands of the nation's resistance of the Zionist aggression and occupation. That package of options made those rulers obliged to make peace their strategic choice instead of the option of resistance. The peace option also made them committed to end the boycotting, recognizing the Zionist enemy, establishing diplomatic relations with the enemy and attending activities where the enemy takes part such as the world economic conference held in Jordan. Now when they wanted to come out of it by announcing its death in the person of the Arab League secretary general, that announcement did not include the retrieving of the package of

choices and stands regarding resistance by the nation to this aggression and those supporting it or standing behind it this means we have entered with losses and came out with losses, it is the Arab nation does not exist and its rulers can squander its rights and abandon them for the interest of its enemies for free and to keep its rights and issues suspended without any solution either through peace or war because America and the Zionist gang want it that way.



Al-Nidaa weekly, 9 Aug. 2008.

Main headlines

- Sultan al-Barakani: The talk about Libyan funding of the president's campaign, exaggerated
- The president gives directives for the release of Judge Lukman
- ! 20 thousand soldiers to protect the elections, JMP waves with political bombshell and the president intensifies his visits to military camps
- Al-Wajieh: I resigned before being suspended, I demand the GPC to offer evidence and account the accused
- Despite of its commitment to the right of response, Al-Wasat newspaper wanted before the press prosecution
- Fifth assassination attempt against sheikh Al-Shahari
- Hunan Rights Information and Qualification Center watches 13 media instruments during the election propaganda period
- Child parliament elects its permanent committees from members of various affiliations

Writer Mohammed al-Ghubari says there is no need to prove that there are thousands employees who have been victims of texts of the wages and salaries

strategy and arbitration in implanting it. The teachers come at the forefront of the social segments whose rights have been confiscated for bad intention, the majority of the employees of former Republic of Democratic Yemen and the journalists as a segment that lived with the reality of not recognizing it for decades.

Until recently, thousands of teachers were gathering in the Tahrir Square in Sana'a demanding for their rights that the government has committed itself to and then disavowed from it the following day. This is a heroic stand that needs from other social segments to follow suit, especially the journalists working in the information sector who until now the government official documents do not approve their professional status.

There in Aden, Lahj, Dhahli and Sana'a are thousands suffering victims after the article of the wages strategy came on their heads like thunder to destroy whatever hope they have that its just an exceptional case which they reached after the destructive war of the summer of 1994.

It is not a question of skepticism in abilities of the ministries of civil service and the finance, but the agreement the government signed with education unions highlighted the ridicule towards issues and problems of the people and emphasized that junior employees are the victims recognized in this strategy of wages.

The victims are very many of researchers at centers of research and studies, who are more productive and higher in education in the scientific and research areas. They claim understanding of laws and keen on reforming the administrative and political situations in the country. Those have for many months become legal experts and advisor to the civil service ministry officials who want to pension them without settling their profession conditions according to decision of the cabinet in this regard.

An open letter to Mr. Olmert

Casablanca - It is in my capacity as a peaceable man, seeking to promote life in a world free from conflicts that I hereby approach you through this letter.

By: Ahmed Charai

The war staged against Lebanon, the untold damages caused, the lives broken up by the thousands, all this is in my opinion not only unjust but also contrary to the strategic interests of Israel.

It is therefore not with the intention to state the case for Lebanon that I'm writing this letter, rather it is with the aim of giving you and your fellow countrymen food for thought on the global changes underway. These changes are occurring on two fronts: one visible, given that it bears on the organized forces, the other one invisible, crossing the societies of the so-called Arab and Muslim sphere.

What is now occurring in your region has strengthened Iran as a regional power, probably soon to have a nuclear potential. Syria, hitherto weakened, will surface as the only recourse possible to maintain the stability of Lebanon when your war is over; by so doing it is your two worst enemies you are strengthening. The Shiite arc is in the making and it has the power to sweep out all the regimes in the region and impose mullah-ruled republics.

By weakening the Palestinian Authority, you are faced with Hamas of which your policy is only impeding any political evolution. In attacking Lebanon you are simply making the Iranian-Syrian alliance even stronger along with its satellite organizations. It does not take much insight to realize this; in fact it is quite visible to the naked eye.

The very moment canons will be brought to a halt, Israeli society, after the necessary support of the Tsahal (Israeli military), will be asking itself these same questions. Everything is happening as if Israel — obsessed by the immediate gains that the war against terrorism may create — is caught in the worst trap: that of inconsistency between its politics and the best strategic choices.

The attack on Lebanon is taking place at a time when Lebanese democratic forces were about to secure the disarmament of Hezbollah. This internal process was in a very advanced stage, but now it has become obsolete.

The invisible process bears on Arab and Muslim world societies. These societies are going through a regression, which extols the rise of a disquieting nationalist upsurge in the form of an identity fallback. This movement is further strengthened by the sense of grievance and powerlessness, this time not only in relation to Israel but also to the Western world as a whole. Each picture of a child's body under the rubble can be made to serve as the best recruiting-sergeant possible for extremist movements. These societal movements invalidate the democratic idea and refuse access to modernity.

To disregard your military actions' induced effects would be tantamount to assuming the quasi-certain risk of being faced with almost one billion people under the control of fundamentalism, with nuclear weapons at hand, with the consequences not only for Israel, but for peace and stability in the world. You should not become intoxicated

by your military strength. A surviving Israel is not a Western state in the East but an Eastern state.

The people of goodwill who have drafted the Geneva Charter have pointed the way to peace. Two nations, two states of course, which means on the one side, the clear and unambiguous acceptance of the right of Israel to exist within its recognized borders, as well as its right to security and stability.

On the other side, the establishing of a democratic and viable Palestinian state, really independent and sovereign in its un-imposed, yet bilaterally defined, borders. Humanity will be most grateful to you if you could bring your present policy in line with this strategic choice.

The toll of victims, counted in the thousands so far, will bring no strategic gain to Israel. Hezbollah is born out of the very womb of the 1982 invasion; all this current escalation will bring about is another organization. This is a lesson that history teaches us and we should never forget it.

If I took the liberty to present you with some of my thoughts on this situation, it is with the aim of reminding — through your person — all Israelis that the supporters of a just and lasting peace between the sons of Abraham do exist on both sides, and that it is these women and men who represent the future.

It is not enough to have good intentions; one must be able to make reason prevail so that these intentions are turned into tangible and audible acts.

Ahmed Charai is President of the Moroccan Weekly 'LA VERITE' as well as Director of the electronic journal www.lobserveur.ma. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).

No winners, just broken hearts

By: Robi Damelin

Tel Aviv - Listening to the rhetoric of this war reminds me of a sports tournament. We beat them by however many points, or they beat us by however many points. But it is not points we are talking about and there is no trophy. The points are human beings with families and loved ones fleeing their daily lives, sometimes succeeding and sometimes not. Whose side shall we take in the tournament? After all, we feel very good about ourselves when we have a side to back. Will we pick the green in Lebanon — they are the underdogs — or shall we pick the blue in Israel? We would perhaps feel better about the blue if they lost more men. Is this how the world looks at a conflict, as a glorified tournament?

In this tournament we must of course have a winning side, otherwise how can we ever sit down and talk to each other? So the green and the blue will go on claiming victory until the very last man, or until they realize that no one wins. And then what? Shall we all leave the battle to lick our wounds? Shall we go back to life? For some, a life after that will never be the same. What about all the loved ones we will never see again? For what did they give up their lives? A further status quo? A life of uncertainty, a roulette of survival. My heart aches for every picture of the victims I see in the paper. I understand what is waiting for the mother and father and all the family and friends. I know the longing, the pain and the eyes constantly brimming with tears, anguish and hurt.

There is no winner, only a greater collection of broken hearts.

Mothers of Israel, Lebanon and Palestine: How many more graves until we shout *stop*? How much collective mourning until we shout *stop*? Let us look into each other's eyes and recognize each other's pain with empathy; let

us see the human being behind the green and the blue. Let us force all to come to the table and not to a grave to talk. How many more of our children need to die before we realize there is no revenge for a lost child? We cannot let them take our children away without a word. Where is our voice in all this madness?


Mothers of Israel, Lebanon and Palestine, we must join together in a sense of understanding, and scream *stop the killing, stop the killing*. For so many years we have repeated the tournament of violence, it is time to look for another way, not the narrative of winning but rather a way of dialogue toward reconciliation, a way to see the human being behind the stigma — in other words, a way to recognize our joint pain.

To those in Lebanon who have lost loved ones in the conflict, we invite you to be in touch with our Palestinian and Israeli members at the Parents' Circle Families Forum. We invite you to work with us in a dialogue with a long-term goal of reconciliation. We who have

paid the highest price understand the consequences of a never-ending rhetoric of winning. We invite you to look at a future of some hope for the children of our area. A future free of violence, a future free of fear.

Can we not appeal to the world and say: "Stop taking sides in the tournament. You are not helping, the Israelis will not disappear in a puff of smoke, nor will the Palestinians and indeed not the Lebanese. You are not helping anyone. Perhaps it is time for you all to support a dialogue toward a long-term process of reconciliation. Let us give up the green and blue and create a joint neutral colour."

Robi Damelin is the mother of David Damelin, who was killed in March 2002, and a member of Parents' Circle - Families Forum of Bereaved Israeli and Palestinian Families supporting Peace, Reconciliation and Tolerance. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews).



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The Embassy of India, Sana'a cordially invites all Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen, along with their families, to join the celebrations of 60th Independence Day of India on Tuesday, the 15th August, 2006 at the Embassy premises (Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off-Haddah Street, Sana'a). They are requested to assemble at the Embassy at 0800 hours.

PROGRAMME

0815 Hours

- Flag Hoisting
- National anthem
- Reading of the President's Address
- Patriotic Songs/Cultural Events organized by the Indian Embassy School, Sana'a
- Refreshments.

To all members of Indian Community
In the Republic of Yemen

PS: (i) The recipient of this circular may kindly circulate the information to other Members of the Indian community known to him/her.
(ii) It is requested that cameras/bags etc. should not be brought inside the premises, Otherwise these will be kept at checking-point at owner's risk.

German-Iranian Theater Exchange Program

Talking in Difficult Times

Despite ongoing tension between Iranian and European leaders, a new theater exchange project aims to bring Iranians and Germans closer together. Arian Fariborz reports. The three-year University Dialogue program brings together Iranian and German professors, students, actors and directors to look at various aspects of theater, from using it as an educational tool to taking a combined theater piece on tour.

The first six Iranian lecturers from the University of Tehran's College of Fine Arts, Azad University and the Tehran's Theater and Film School are due to arrive in Germany later in July. They will visit the Institute for Theatre Studies at Osnabrück's Technical College in northwestern Germany.

University lecturer and exchange representative at Osnabrück, Andreas Poppe, said that the project initially focused "on technical and scientific exchanges in the field of theater pedagogy."

"That means learning with theatre," Poppe said. "We want to know about their experiences in Iran, how theater is used as a learning tool, what kinds of tools are available both here in Germany and in Iran, and how the field can be expanded."



Germans on exchange hope to see as many performances as possible: Tehran's City Theater.

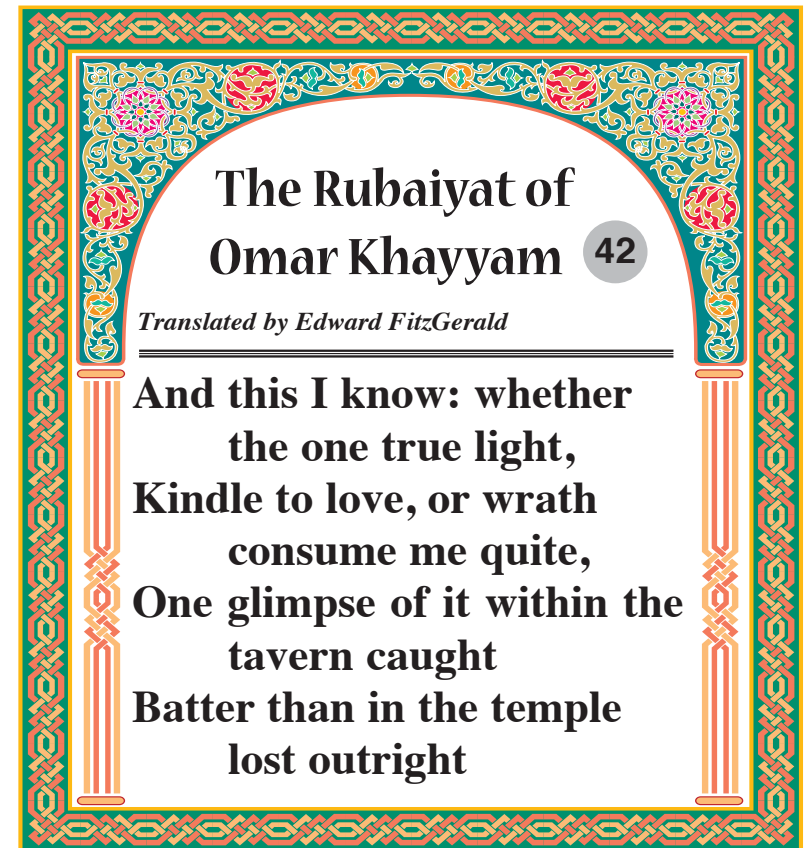
Excursions and theatre visits on the program

The exchange participants will take part in excursions and visits to cultural events in Germany, such as

the International Children's theatre festival in Lingen, near Osnabrück.

The program developers have also planned a combined tour with the German and Iranian participants.

Poppe said he wants the students to work together on the project and to deal with diverse issues. One topic that will be included, he said, was respect for women.



The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 42

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

And this I know: whether
the one true light,
Kindle to love, or wrath
consume me quite,
One glimpse of it within the
tavern caught
Batter than in the temple
lost outright

The program, which is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), also aims to develop a mutual research project. This could be, Poppe said, something like the question of how Islam and Christianity approach theater.

The German participants, who will visit the Iranian capital Tehran in a few months time, see the exchange program as a way of gaining hands on experience of Iranian theatre.

Limitations to theatre as learning tool

The strict religious rules in the Islamic

Republic affect how male and female actors can interact on stage. Iranian actor and co-author of the Dialogue program, Mahvash Firouzzadeh, said this makes for an "especially subtle and circumspect manner on stage."

But the religious rules can limit theater's use as an educational tool, she said.

"The problem with Iran is that the body work is very limited, and theatre pedagogy works very intensively with body work."

Arian Fariborz © DEUTSCHE WELLE 2006.

Afghans pin hopes on resurrected Buddha

By: Rahim Faiez

BAMIYAN, Afghanistan (AP) - Five years after the Taliban blew them up, Afghan laborers are picking up the pieces of two once-towering Buddha statues, hoping they will rise again and breathe new life into this dirt-poor province.

While they wait for the Afghan government and international community to decide whether to rebuild them, a \$1.3 million UNESCO-funded project is sorting out the chunks of clay and plaster—ranging from boulders weighing several tons to fragments the size of tennis balls—and sheltering them from the elements.

Progress is slow in the central highland town of Bamiyan where the statues were chiseled more than 1,500 years ago into a cliff face about a quarter of a mile apart.

They were originally painted in gold and adorned with wooden faces and ornaments. Mural paintings of Buddha images covered cave rooftops flanking the niches from which the statues were hewn. Fragments of the murals are also being collected.

Rebuilding the statues, one 174 feet

tall and the other 115 feet, will be like assembling giant jigsaw puzzles.

The town of Bamiyan, so poor that dozens of its people live in caves, has high hopes.

"We can change the local people's lives from being dominated by poverty if we rebuild one of the Buddha statues," said Habiba Surabi, governor of Bamiyan province. She is Afghanistan's first female governor.

The province, on the ancient Silk Road that linked Europe to East Asia, was once a center of Buddhism. Today most of its 400,000 people are Hazaras, a largely Shiite Muslim ethnic group that was persecuted by the Taliban during its 1997-2001 rule.

The Taliban dynamited the Buddha statues in March 2001, deeming them idolatrous and anti-Muslim. It was one of the regime's most widely condemned acts.

UNESCO, the United Nations cultural organization, has since placed the entire Bamiyan Valley region on its World Heritage in Danger list.

"Our job is to safeguard the pieces left from the Buddha statues and put the fragments in a shelter," said Ernst Blochinger, a German expert with the International Council on Monuments and Sites. The Paris-based group is



The destruction of Buddhist statues in Afghanistan.

(PHOTO BY A FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER CNN).

working with UNESCO on the project, which began in 2004 and is due for completion in 14 months.

The project relies heavily on Japanese funding. Rebuilding the

statues would cost some \$30 million each, scientists say.

"Whenever UNESCO finishes its work, we will appeal to the international community to try find the

funds to rebuild at least one Buddha statue," said Surabi, the governor.

Bamiyan Valley is a starkly beautiful region. Dominated by mountain ranges, it includes the vast

Band-i-Amir lake and the red stone ruins of the once great city of Shahr-i-Zuhak. Tourists still trickle in despite a lack of amenities and a road from Kabul that is in such bad shape that the 80-mile journey takes nine hours.

Mohammed Abraham, who earns \$5 a day working on the UNESCO project, remembers when hundreds of tourists came to marvel at the Buddha statues and buy handicrafts.

"Everyone here was very happy and rich compared to now," said Abraham, who lives with his eight children in a cave, without power or water, near where the larger statue stood.

"Now Bamiyan's people are very poor because we lost everything when the Taliban destroyed the Buddha. I hope our government rebuilds them so our people become rich again."

The province's sole export is potatoes. Its land isn't sufficient to grow wheat to feed its own people.

Another cave-dweller, Mohammed Ayub, 34, walks more than half a mile daily to fetch water for his family.

"I hope for the Buddha to be built again," Ayub says. "We don't have power, we don't have running water, we don't have jobs. We are living inside these caves like wild animals."

Source: The Associated Press.

Romance and love in Islam

By: Ihsan Al-Rab'i

It is no doubt that family is one of the units of the ummah (nation), which consists of a group of interlinked families. Naturally, a structure's weakness and strength depends on the weakness or strength of its constituent parts. The more these units are strong, solid and coherent, the more the ummah becomes stronger and stronger with solidarity and invincibility. But if such units are frail and incoherent, the ummah similarly becomes weak and degraded.

This is why it's essential to take care of the family, which has been among the priorities of social reformers. Family well-being can't be achieved only by means of strong principles on which the family is based. Such principles ensure the family's existence, viability and fruitfulness.

As family is the unit of the ummah,

marriage is the pillar of the family because with marriage, the family is formed and grown.

Therefore, marriage takes the importance inherent in the family, if not more. There are no heavenly religions that don't place a high price on marriage and there isn't any ummah that knows the real value of life, including love and romance, which doesn't hold marriage in high respect. This not only is because marriage is the pillar of the family, but also because it's a matter of instinct and necessitated by nature.

A marriage based on love, honesty, infatuation and intimacy is a romantic marriage exemplifying the purity of a Muslim's soul.

Marriage actually is a phenomenon of regulated instinct inherent in man as in other animals. If there wasn't pure love, marriage, which regulates that very instinct, wouldn't be viable and man would be on the same par as other animal species in gratifying this

instinct disorderly and lawlessly.

In such a case, humans wouldn't be human and love and romance wouldn't exist because man is that creature Allah created, breathed into him from His soul, bestowed upon him the faculty of reasoning and thinking and made him better than His other creatures.

Allah entrusted to man His vice regency on earth and made everything in the universe available to him. He then guided him to the right principles of mating, thus enabling man to transcend sheer bohemianism and inviting him to cooperate with his fellow men in building the world, managing their affairs and exchanging profits.

In the Qur'an, Allah explains the prestigious status of marriage in the life of the individual, the family and the ummah. The Qur'an points out that marriage isn't a mere contract whose terms apply following offer, consent and testimony of witnesses;

rather, it describes marriage as a charter.

Thus, people who sense the weight of responsibility will exert themselves to preserve marriage and protect it from perils along the way. The Qur'an doesn't label it a lightweight charter that can be repealed whenever an irresponsible person wishes; however, it describes marriage as a heavyweight charter and a strong pledge that is difficult to break.

Marriage is a bond that links hearts, preserves interests and merges both parties, as the couple has their feelings united and their desires met. The image of each party is present unforgettably in the mind of the other. This is romance and love in Islam, which builds families with strong pillars and structures surviving all challenges and obstacles. Each family member sacrifices himself for the sake of the other without grudge or remorse.

Culture News

Preparations are underway for staging the Al-Qumondan Festival, named for the late Yemeni poet and prince, in Lahj province. Held annually, the festival is expected to launch within two months and will include a host of cultural and artistic activities and performances, as well as a traditional village showcasing a variety of Lahj art styles.

The first phase of restoring and documenting the Old Sana'a Grand Mosque is due for completion in September by a number of Italian experts working with Yemeni personnel. The entire project is meant to maintain the mosque's buildings and annexes, thus restoring it to its previously gorgeous shape. The Grand Mosque is one of the oldest in the Muslim world.

Some 40 artists are participating in an art gallery on the capital city streets of Sana'a in a gesture denouncing Israeli aggression against Lebanon. Depicting the bloody atrocities against Lebanese civilians, the paintings being displayed are meant to show solidarity with Lebanese people.

The Ministry of Culture is preparing for the play, "Go Ahead," in which a number of Yemeni theater actors are taking part. The play is based on a poem by Palestinian poet Sameeh Al-Qasim. The poem is centered around aggressions against Palestinians and Lebanese by the Israeli occupation. The poem addresses the aggressors, with an excerpt reading, "Go ahead / Go ahead / Every firmament above you is inferno / Inferno is every land beneath you / Go ahead / Go ahead."

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- تأمين إصابات العمل ومسئولية أرباب العمل.
- تأمين المعلم اليمني.
- تأمين النقل البحري والجوي والبري.
- تأمين هياكل السفن.
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- تأمين نقل النقود وتأمين النقدية في الخزينة.
- تأمين الحجاج والمعتمرين.
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- تأمين الطاقة (النقط والغاز).
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- التأمين المصرفي الشامل.
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A discarded nurse

The double suffering of AIDS patients in Yemen

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

Adel never suspected how much his family life was about to change when he received a telephone call five months ago from Aden's Al-Jumhuri Hospital telling him his brother, Khalid, was sick.

One word shaped that conversation and is shaping Khalid's life now – AIDS.

"I was shocked to the extent that I couldn't say a word," Adel said, still trying to hide his emotions.

Shortly thereafter, Khalid's wife and 2-year-old daughter tested positive for HIV. "In the beginning, Khalid's wife collapsed emotionally. She cried and shouted, not believing that she, her daughter and even the baby in her womb, as she was pregnant, all were infected with this fatal disease," Adel related. "But she later realized she must face her fate and she consented to remain with her husband."

According to Adel, Khalid has volunteered at Al-Jumhuri Hospital for 13 years. "He began working at the hospital in 1994 as a nurse. During that time, he worked in many departments such as the emergency room, surgery and the labs."

Khalid married at the end of 2004 and his daughter Naseem arrived a year later. "Shortly after Naseem's birth, Khalid wasn't feeling well. He suffered stomachaches and lost weight. Doctors at the hospital diagnosed his state as a pancreatic tumor and asked him to undergo an operation to remove this tumor," Adel explained.

The number of AIDS infections in Yemen has reached 1,821 cases, 437 of which are AIDS patients and others carrying the virus. The study indicated that 55 percent of patients are Yemeni nationals, 60 percent of whom are men, and also found 44 infections among children.

Khalid had many routine pre-operative tests, one of which was an HIV test. He wondered about the unexplained delay in his operation, so he decided to look at his test results, discovering for himself his own disease. He emotionally collapsed, escaping to a room in the hospital, closing the door and refusing to talk to anyone.

One of his colleagues called Adel, informing him that Khalid was sick.

Khalid's suffering didn't end with discovering his AIDS infection; rather, it was just the beginning. According to Adel, Khalid was fired from the hospital when administration learned about his infection, but luckily, his colleagues arranged a strike against this decision, asking administration to act responsibly toward Khalid, who was an active member of the hospital medical staff.

Besides that, the medical syndicate and the Aden medical office forced hospital administration to help Khalid. Under this pressure, the administration agreed to give him his YR 19,000 monthly salary, as well as a medical clearance so he could travel to India for more medical tests. However, Khalid's journey to India was short because he couldn't cover the \$2,000 weekly costs.

Adel stresses that his brother became infected with the HIV virus



HIV-positive individuals experience stigma and discrimination.

while working at the hospital. "My brother and his colleagues worked in very difficult circumstances. Hospital medical staff lacked basic protective means like gloves and masks. They dealt with patients without any protection, exposing themselves to infection.

Additionally, Khalid had hemorrhoid surgery at the end of 2005 at the hospital and donated blood the same year. At that time, nobody said Khalid had AIDS. For this reason, either Khalid's blood wasn't tested before these two procedures or he contracted AIDS afterward," Adel concluded.

Al-Jumhuri Hospital general manager Dr. Khalid Al-Jaradi denies firing Khalid, noting that the hospital offered what it could to support Khalid, even sending him to India to complete his testing. "He's one of our staff and we will support him as we can."

Al-Jaradi confessed that the hospital didn't test the blood of hospital medical staff before Khalid's case. "However, we've learned a lesson from this and we now test medical staff yearly. Besides that, we've arranged many workshops providing medical staff with information about AIDS."

However, he pointed out that many medical personnel ignore protection standards they must follow to avoid any type of infection. He didn't deny or confirm the possibility that Khalid was infected at the hospital.

Dr. Al-Khadher Nasar, director of the Ministry of Health and Population's medical office in Aden, believes Khalid was infected at the hospital, noting that AIDS can be transmitted in many ways.

Khalid's condition was so bad and in its last stage that Nasar believes he carried HIV at least five years ago. While admitting that medical facilities don't test medical staff, he agrees that such tests are important, particularly for medical staff in direct contact with patients.

Khalid refuses to speak to the

media; however, his brother insists on telling his story. "I exposed this story, because I realized my brother isn't the only one suffering with AIDS but rather, he and many others suffer from governmental ignorance and social disgrace," Adel says.

Khalid's case isn't unique. According to a Ministry of Health study from 1987 to 2006, the number of AIDS infections in Yemen has reached 1,821 cases, 437 of which are AIDS patients and others carrying the virus. The study indicated that 55 percent of patients are Yemeni nationals, 60 percent of whom are men, and also found 44 infections among children.

The National Strategic Framework for Controlling and Preventing HIV/AIDS reveals that most HIV-infected Yemenis are married with children and their needs and rights haven't been addressed. The study also addressed Khalid's situation, pointing out the potential for the spread of HIV through health care settings due to lack of infection control. For instance, the poor state of hospital waste management is a serious predisposing factor for rapid spread of blood-borne infections among health care providers as well as the community.

Many medical staff have wrong thoughts about AIDS. For example, they don't know that there are differences between and HIV-carrier and an AIDS patient.

Dr. Fouzia Gharamah, executive manager of the National AIDS Program, commented that it's difficult to prove such infection really occurred at the hospital. She referred to the three ways HIV infections spread: sexual contact with an infected individual, contact with contaminated blood (for example, involving transfusions with infected

blood or wounds from contaminated sharp instruments) and transmission from an infected mother to her child, either before or during birth or through breastfeeding.

"We must consider all of these ways when we talk about any AIDS infection. For instance, using contaminated shaving instruments may cause infection," she explained.

However, this isn't the only place where ignorance about AIDS comes into play. Abdulrahman Al-Shamiri, coordinator of the AIDS awareness program, confirmed that many medical staff have wrong thoughts about AIDS. "For example, they don't know that there are differences between and HIV-carrier and an AIDS patient."

HIV infection doesn't necessarily mean that an individual has AIDS. Some HIV-infected individuals may not develop any of the clinical illnesses defining full-blown AIDS for 10 or more years. According to Al-Shamiri, experts prefer using the term AIDS for cases involving a patient who has reached the final, life-threatening stage of HIV infection.

Regarding medical care that should be provided to both AIDS- and HIV-infected patients, the strategy mentioned that health care providers haven't yet been trained in AIDS care, neither in treating opportunistic infections nor in using Anti-Retroviral (ARV) drugs. Many harbor an exaggerated sense of personal risk of infection from their patients.

Gharamah stresses the importance of raising awareness among the public as well as medical staff. She confirmed that HIV-carriers can work, produce and perform their domestic and social duties, but AIDS patients require medical, social and domestic support.

HIV-carriers can work, produce and perform their domestic and social duties, but AIDS patients require medical, social and domestic support.

"Yemeni society views HIV/AIDS patients as criminals, even by his or her family members, who may discard and isolate the patient, refusing to deal with him and assuming that the patient became infected due to sexual transgression," she stated.

Wide-ranging misconceptions about the mode of transmission also share in creating such discordance, as many believe they could become infected by sharing a meal with an infected individual. Other misconceptions include the belief that HIV can be transmitted through touching a patient or his clothes and from mosquito bites. "So, many people begin to react against HIV-positive individuals, who experience stigma and discrimination," Gharamah added.

Adel confirmed that his brother's family didn't receive any type of support. On the contrary, they were ostracized, both among their family and their friends. "They were afraid to visit or talk with them," Adel recalled. "Therefore, we decided to hide the truth, even from our relatives. Khalid and his family decided to go to Sana'a to avoid meeting these relatives. He now is without a job, but living on a salary he receives from the hospital."

Gharamah talked about the importance of counseling and

psychological support for those with HIV and their families. "When we [in the program] are informed about HIV cases, we ask to meet the patients, first giving them information about the disease, the stages they'll go through and instructions to avoid any medical problems. For example, we ask them to care about their nutrition

"Yemeni society views HIV/AIDS patients as criminals, even by his or her family members, who may discard and isolate the patient, refusing to deal with him and assuming that the patient became infected due to sexual transgression,"

and to avoid smoking and coldness.

"We inform them about methods of transmission. For example, the HIV patient is supposed to inform the program or his doctor about his condition before any surgery. Additionally, he or she is forbidden from donating blood. We also address the family with the same information, educating them on how to deal with the patient. Such information educates the patient, the family and protects society," she explained.

Although there's no cure for AIDS, new drugs are available that can prolong life spans and improve quality of life for infected

individuals. In this regard, Yemen has received a grant from the Global Fund to Fight Malaria, TB and AIDS and the Ministry of Health and Population is committed to providing free drugs to AIDS patients. "Regarding HIV patients, we provide them with drugs according to World Health Organization (WHO) standards," said Gharamah, who gave no further explanation.

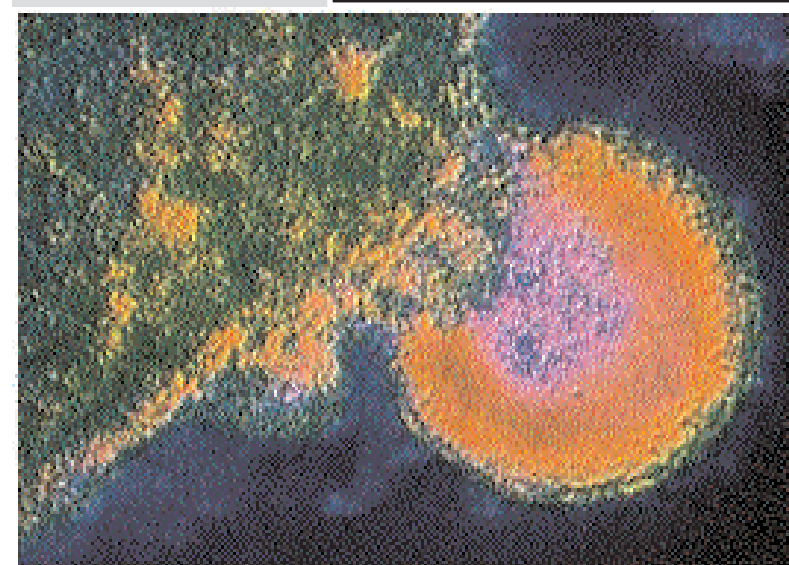
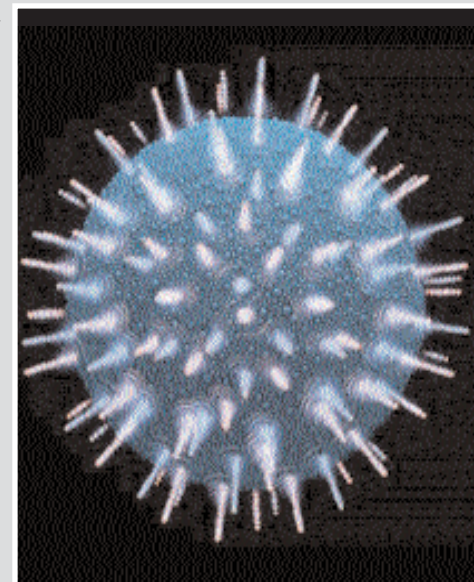
"When my father learned about Khalid's condition, he had a stroke. He's now unable to leave the house," said Adel, referring to how his brother's infection has affected the entire family. "Khalid's wife has cut her relationships with most of her family just to avoid any questions that may be asked," he added, confirming that neither his brother nor anyone in the family received any psychological support enabling them to face "this disaster."

He also confirmed that his brother is suffering dire financial straits due to expensive medication and testing to which he and his family must be subjected. "I'm wondering where are the policy guidelines and legislation to protect those with HIV and their families from discrimination? Where are their rights to all basic social services?" Adel asked.

For her part, Gharamah insisted that the Ministry of Health is committed to raising public awareness regarding AIDS. However, she called on all relevant authorities and organizations to contribute actively to insure such patients' rights.

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), human viral disease that ravages the immune system, undermining the body's ability to defend itself from infection and disease. Caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), AIDS leaves an infected person vulnerable to opportunistic infections. Such infections are harmless in healthy people, but in those whose immune systems have been greatly weakened, they can prove fatal. Although there is no cure for AIDS, new drugs are available that can

prolong the life spans and improve the quality of life of infected people. Infection with HIV does not necessarily mean that a person has AIDS. Some people who have HIV infection may not develop any of the clinical illnesses that define the full-blown disease of AIDS for ten years or more. Physicians prefer to use the term AIDS for cases where a person has reached the final, life-threatening stage of HIV infection. By 2005 the United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that worldwide 40.3 million people were living with HIV infection or AIDS, an increase from an estimated 37.5 million in 2003. A joint report issued by the two agencies estimated that from 1981 to November 2005 more than 25 million people died as a result of AIDS. About 3.1 million people died in 2005 alone, and more than half (1,570,000) were children under the age of 15. About 5 million new cases of HIV infection were reported worldwide in 2005, according to the joint UNAIDS/WHO report.



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Diplomatic Club celebrates new batch of graduates



New batch of graduates.

SANA'A, Aug. 8 — The Yemeni Diplomatic Club celebrated last Sunday a new batch of graduates who have received training courses on taekwondo.

At the celebration, attended by many interested people including Ali Saleh Musa, appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, parents of graduates and lovers

of the game.

Manager of the Club, Captain Mutahhar Al-Edhari gave a speech in which he mentioned that the club is due to open special courses in the areas of tourism, horseracing and mark shooting.

According to Al-Edhari, specialized trainers will supervise these courses.

He confirmed that such courses are held as part of the youth's interest in different sporting activities to engage themselves during leisure time.

Al-Edhari indicated the club graduated several batches, some of which participated in international championships and received prestigious awards.

20th Arab Table Tennis championship concluded Yemen wins the bronze after 20 years

SANA'A, Aug. 8 — Yemen hosted the men's and women's championship during the period of August 3 to 9. The championship concluded with the final match of men grouping the teams of Egypt and Saudi Arabia and ended by Egypt's winning 3-nil to take first place and Saudi Arabia second.

In the match for the third and fourth places between Yemen and Tunisia, the Yemeni national team managed to gain the bronze medal defeating Tunisia by 3-2 placing the Tunisian team in fourth place. It is worth mentioning that securing the third position and winning the bronze medal is the first achievement for our national team through the last twenty years.

In the match of the fifth and sixth places the Algerian team won fifth place after defeating the team of Bahrain that came as the sixth with the score of 3-2. The Emirates team finished in seventh place after defeating Kuwait 3-2, leaving Kuwait in eighth and Qatar in ninth position. It is worth mentioning that Yemen won the bronze after 20 years according to Nabil Al-Faqeh, chairman of the Yemeni Tennis Union.



Picture from the Tennis championship.

bronze medal of the championship by defeating fourth-place Saudi Arabia by 3-2. Yemen's juveniles won the fifth place after winning over Tunisia by 3-1 and the Emirates team took the seventh post after defeating Bahrain by 3-1 and Algeria occupied the ninth place.

Women's grouping

Tunisia snatched the gold prize of the

championship after leading the group, Egypt took the silver and Syria the bronze. Algeria came in the fourth, Bahrain the fifth and Yemen trailing in sixth.

Group of the female juveniles

These juveniles of Egypt won the championship's gold, Tunisia the second, Jordan third and Yemen fourth.

Group of cadets

Egypt's cadets team snatched the first position, Tunisia the second, Jordan third and Yemen fourth.

Final score of men teams

Men: first Egypt, second Saudi Arabia, third Qatar
Juveniles: Egypt, Emirates and Qatar
Cadets: Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait

After six years and 113 races, Jenson Button has ended the wait for his first Grand Prix win

Button's victory at the Hungarian GP finally delivered what British Formula One fans had long hoped for - but almost given up hope of seeing this season.

While top contenders Fernando Alonso and Michael Schumacher fell by the wayside, the 26-year-old Englishman held his nerve in the tricky wet conditions at the Hungaroring.

BBC Sport looks at the man once touted as Britain's next F1 champion, who may have revived those predictions with his charge from 14th on the grid to victory.



Button rivals Michael Schumacher and Fernando Alonso move up the field with ease after starting 11th and 15th on the grid

Hungary in 1993.

Defending world champion Fernando Alonso of Spain also secured his maiden Grand Prix triumph at the Hungaroring three years ago.

But Button, be warned, no driver has taken so long to win a race and then gone on to win the world championship.

What now for button?

Much of the pre-season saw F1's high and mighty doggedly quizzed by British journalists, asking when Button was going to win his first Grand Prix.

After a promising start to the season, with fourth in Bahrain and third in Malaysia, Button's season seemed to peter out with technical problems and poor qualifying results.

However, the German GP seemed to mark a turning point for Button and Honda as the driver secured his first points since finishing sixth in Spain in May.

The Englishman started on the second row in Hockenheim and just missed out on podium place with fourth, but even Button admitted it was a massive "step forward".

The Hungaroring witnessed another strong qualifying performance, soured by being dropped 10 places to 14th on the grid after an engine blow-out in practice.

Now with a win under his belt, clearly some of the pressure has been lifted off Button's shoulders.

He has proved he can compete with the big boys and Honda have the package to let him do just that.

The question of his first Grand Prix has now become a case of when Button will win his next. Surely much sooner than another 113 races...

Source: BBC

Button stat attack

Button became the first British winner in 63 races since David Coulthard at the Australian Grand Prix in 2003.

But you have to go back another four years to find the last time an Englishman topped the podium, with Johnny Herbert at the Nurburgring in 1999.

The 26-year-old from Frome, Somerset, also gave Honda their third win, following victories in 1965 and 1967 - though it was the first for the team which began as BAR seven years ago.

And Button's 113-race wait for glory pips team-mate Rubens Barrichello, who grabbed his maiden win in his 124th race.

The Honda driver can also claim to be the 18th British winner in F1 and 96th overall.

Winning in style

It was not so long ago that Button was in the middle of a five-race points drought and looking unlikely to clinch that elusive first win.

But two weeks is long time in F1 and, after narrowly missing a podium in Germany last weekend, the Briton finally lived up to the pre-season hype.

Cynics may award his victory to the pit-stop strategy of Honda or the manufacturers of Fernando Alonso's failed drive-shaft.

But Button's achievement of clinching victory after starting 14th on the grid speaks for itself.

While many drivers floundered in the wet conditions, Button consistently clocked fast laps and was pushing Alonso hard before the Renault driver was forced to retire.

Following in the footsteps...

At 26, Button can now claim to be the sixth youngest Briton to win a race.

Red Bull's Coulthard grabbed his maiden victory aged just 24 at Estoril in 1995.

But that does not take anything away from the fact Button has succeeded at an age when many of his British predecessors were not even close to such heroics.

Nigel Mansell and Damon Hill were both 32 when they claimed their first wins.

Mansell notched up his first win in 72 starts at the European Grand Prix in 1985, while Hill offers a striking parallel to Button by also winning his first in

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Otoma: A major natural conservation in Yemen

By: Ismael Al-Ghaberi

One of Yemen's most diverse regions lies only a few hours south of Sana'a. Otoma natural conservation is approximately 50 kilometers west of Dhamar, situated within the western parts of Dhamar governorate's central mountainous area.

In 1999, Otoma district was confirmed as Yemen's main natural conservation due to the area's diverse environmental systems and rich natural resources. Its diversity mainly is due to altitudes ranging between 920 and 2,700 meters above sea level, which creates distinct



The protected area of Otoma.

climates. The weather is cold in winter, moderate in spring and at the beginning of summer and generally warm in summer, especially in the valley areas. Average annual rainfall is quite high, at up to 800 millimeters in spring and summer.

The five sub-districts of Samah, Himyar, Sahal, Bani Bahar and Razeq form an approximately 460 square kilometer area, linking volcanic mountain ranges and rocky hills, interrupted by several deep valleys rich in waterfalls.

With all of its natural resources and biodiversity, the area has remained intact over the ages, despite the fact that population activities such as agriculture and grazing have in some way or another developed and expanded as a result of available water resources and climatic diversity.

According to a 2001 UNDP report,

Otoma district has its own specific environmental features. The preliminary study confirmed 70 types of mammals and one-third of the large animals found in Yemen. At least 10 mammals have been discovered in Otoma conservation alone.

Likewise, is the case with the area's birds, as seen in a survey conducted by the Bird Protection International Organization. There are 48 birds recorded to be living in Yemen and 10 types inhabit Otoma.

Flora also is exhibited within this diversity, with 800 plant types - 16 are in danger and six are threatened with disappearing on a global level. Major crops harvested in summer are durra (sorghum) and Indian corn, besides the spread of planting grasses, fruits and vegetables.

Otoma conservation is famous for year-round breathtaking views of its evergreen lands, consisting of grazing fields, forests and woodlands, in which various trees, medicinal plants and rarely-found fragrant plants grow.

Such vegetative diversification creates biological importance for Otoma and its diverse wildlife contributes as well, with area sightings of hyenas, foxes, wolves and spotted Arab tigers, as well as smaller rabbits, hedgehogs and reptiles. The area's domestic animal life also is very rich, as residents breed cows, sheep, goats, donkeys, chickens and other animals.

There is an importance for Yemen to protect Otoma and exert all efforts to safeguard its diverse biological life and protect its plants, animals and natural attractions.

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