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Readers' Voice
Last edition's question:
Yemen Times just celebrated its 1000 issue. Do you think so far we have lived up to our mission in promoting democracy, human rights and freedoms?
No, because of constraints on the press (14%)
Yes, but modestly (43%)
Yes, to a great extent (45%)
Not at all (3%)

This edition's question:
Is it right to jail Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper's editor-in-chief for republishing the Prophet Mohammed cartoons?
- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

Al-Rai Al-Aam editor receives jail time for republishing Prophet Mohammed cartoons

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Nov. 26 — The Capital's West Court sentenced Kamal Ali Aalafi, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Rai Al-Aam weekly, to one year in jail and shut down his newspaper for republishing the Prophet Mohammed cartoons, which were first published by a Danish newspaper, thus arousing tensions and rage among Muslims worldwide.

Under the verdict, Al-Aalafi also is banned from writing for six months. The court justified its verdict against the newspaper and its editor for disgracing the prophet by republishing the cartoons.

Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) president Nasr Taha Mustafa denounced the verdict, saying the Supreme Court must reconsider the verdict as soon as possible. He noted that the court should have examined the newspaper's writings, which defended the prophet, and that republishing the cartoons was meant to show

them to Muslims, not insult the prophet.

Mustafa regretted the issuance of a verdict of this kind, particularly after the Yemeni government has taken serious measures to abolish imprisoning journalists for opinion writing.

YJS council member Ali Al-Jaradi agrees that the verdict is unjust. "It's a violation against journalists and public opinion. Other newspapers, such as the Yemen Observer and Al-Hurriya, are anticipating oppressive rulings," he noted.

He commented that the verdict pushes Yemen and press freedoms backward, especially after imprisoning journalists was abolished by presidential directive. However, such directives weren't made into law or legislation.

According to Al-Jaradi, today's Yemeni judiciary behaved like the inspection courts of medieval times. Both Al-Rai Al-Aam and the Yemen Observer sought to defend the Prophet Mohammed, whereas penalties seem to be imposed upon those who defend



Kamal Al-Ulefi, Nasr Taha Mustafa, Ali Al-Jaradi, Jamal Amer

their prophet.

Regarding Yemeni laws and how they violate press freedoms, Al-Jaradi affirmed that Yemeni legislation restricts the nation's press freedom, noting that such laws contain clauses banning talk about heritage, civilization and the concept of national unity.

"A judge can interpret the legal clauses as he wishes in order to restrict press freedom and impose penalties

upon journalists," Al-Jaradi opined, "Yemen has committed itself to expanding the scope of press freedom and democracy, but none of this has happened."

Al-Jaradi ascertained that the syndicate called on its members to stage a sit-in at its premises in order to express solidarity with journalists who face penalties and protest unfair legal rulings against the press.

Al-Aalafi commented, "The verdict is a scandal. It harms the reputation of Yemen and its judiciary. By all means, the verdict is unjust. It contains three sentences: the first jails the editor and the second suspends the newspaper for six months, while the third bans the editor from writing for six months, beginning from when he leaves prison."

He added, "I appealed against the verdict, since it's the climax of fighting the newspaper, which criticizes corruption and corrupt officials. The verdict contradicts the state's moves toward expanding the democratic scope and is a massive crime against journalism and press freedom."

Al-Aalafi confirmed that he invited his colleagues to hold a sit-in at the YJS to support abolishing the verdict. He noted that his life has become endangered, as extremists consider the verdict a condemnation, as well as a legitimacy for them to exercise misdeeds against press freedom.

Mohammed Naji Allaw, the newspaper's defence advocate, agrees, "The verdict is wrong and part of a series of violations against press freedoms."

Yemen's Ministry of Information filed suit against the Yemen Observer, Al-Hurriya and Al-Rai Al-Aam newspapers and suspended them last February for republishing the Prophet Mohammed cartoons. Additionally, the newspapers faced harsh criticism from official newspapers and mosque preachers for republishing the images. Some religious scholars even conducted fundraising campaigns, collecting YR 5 million in donations to sue the three newspapers.

As a side note, the state-run Al-Thori daily attacked Al-Wasat independent weekly and its Editor-in-Chief, Jamal Amer, accusing him of hindering development of Yemen's ties with Saudi Arabia and working for U.S. intelligence agencies. The independent newspaper published an article insulting Yemeni relations with Saudi Arabia.

Al-Thori charged Amer with receiving support from U.S. parties and said the articles Al-Wasat published about Saudi Arabia reflect the newspaper's unwise and irresponsible policies.

The government-affiliated daily reported that Yemenis denounce Al-Wasat's articles, as well as its editor's behavior, saying his conduct is expected to expose both him and his newspaper to questioning because they violated the Press Law and harmed national interests and press freedoms.

Al-Wasat published several articles and stories criticizing Saudi Arabia, including an article by a U.S. writer attacking and criticizing the Saudi royal family.

Student union calls for investigating death threat against pop singer

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

SANA'A, Nov. 26 — Sana'a University's General Union for Yemeni Students is calling for investigations into a death threat leveled at Yemeni pop singer Mohammed Al-Adhroei' during a reception last week at the university's Faculty of Commerce.

Head of the union, Ridhwan Masoud, said Al-Adhroei' was threatened to be

killed if he attended the celebration, to which the student union had invited him to perform a sketch.

Masoud recounted, "At the directive of Sana'a University President Khalid Tamim, several soldiers stopped me at the university gate and took me to Doctor Tamim, who refused the idea of hosting the pop singer." Although surprised by Tamim's position, he noted, "He is the president of the largest Middle Eastern university."

According to Masoud, Tamim's response was, "Al-Adhroei' isn't allowed to attend because he criticizes the state. If either you or Al-Adhroei'

attend, then we will fight."

The union head went on to say that Tamim thereafter would hold university security responsible if the pop singer managed to attend the celebration, demanding strict measures be taken. "Upon hearing Tamim's orders, a security official named Yahya Al-Azaki told me he'd kill Al-Adhroei', repeating that sentiment three times," Masoud pointed out.

Taking no action, Masoud headed for the hall where hundreds of students were awaiting the celebration. There, he was surprised to see approximately 40 heavily-armed soldiers with grenades and guns spread around the hall. "I asked the reason for their presence and one soldier replied that they were ready to fire should Al-Adhroei' attend," Masoud added.

Seeking to avoid such a clash, the student union head telephoned Al-Adhroei' and asked him not to attend the event.

Masoud now is calling for an investigation of Al-Azaki and demands that university president Tamim apologize for his behavior. "Otherwise, we will resort to the judiciary system," he concluded.

Known for songs lampooning official corruption in Yemen, Al-Adhroei' was invited to perform a sketch during the university's celebration to receive a new batch of students, as well as reward prominent Faculty of Commerce students. "Fearing clashes with university



Mohammed Al-Adhroei'. YP PHOTO ARCHIVE

security, Masoud asked me not to attend, telling me that if I did, they would kill me," Al-Adhroei' stated.

The pop singer explains that he doesn't know why state officials fear his songs. "I tackle corruption issues. We should call for reforms and see improvements in our country," he says.

The Yemeni government recently has shown concern over the pop songs of Al-Adhroei' and fellow pop singer Fahd Al-Qarni because the two artists tackle themes related to disclosing corruption and their work appeals to the Yemeni 'everyman.' Hundreds of their cassettes and CDs were confiscated during the most recent elections.

Members of the political security apparatus detained Al-Adhroei' June 13, reportedly for mimicking President Ali Abdullah Saleh in one of his songs, but released him three days later.

Finance Minister apologizes for government accounting delay

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Nov. 25 — Parliament held a session last Wednesday to discuss the delay in the state budget's final statements, emphasizing the importance of making the Finance Ministry and the Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA) submit their reports on the state budget's final accounting to Parliament in due time and according to law.

Addressing the members of Parliament, Minister of Finance Saif Al-Asali declared his ministry's intention to meet the deadline and not delay the final statements, promising to avoid such a shortcoming in the future.

He also declared that dealing honestly and objectively is an important condition for success in any work, particularly when that work relates to Parliament and the government. According to Al-Asali, such work is necessary to ensure trust between both sides because a low estimation of any party neither favors that party nor the nation.

Additionally, Al-Asali apologized to MPs for the final accounting's delay,



Minister Al-Asali

noting that it occurred for reasons outside of his ministry's control. According to him, the principal reason for the delay is partially due to delay by other parties, who failed to provide their accounting at the due time, in addition to adopting a new technique to prepare the accounting.

Both Al-Asali and the chairman of COCA attended last Wednesday's session by parliamentary request to explain the reason for the final statements' delay.

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Baghdad enters day three of curfew

By: Claudia Parsons

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Baghdad endured a third day under curfew on Sunday as the government sought to keep on a lid on seething anger that has killed hundreds in the past three days.

A U.N. envoy urged the government on Saturday to stop the "cancer" of sectarianism from destroying the country.

As a curfew on Baghdad was extended until Monday, derailing a trip to Iran by Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, the United Nations' representative said car bombs on Thursday that killed more than 200 Shi'ites and "blind acts of revenge" were "tearing apart the very political and social fabric of Iraq".

"No country could tolerate such a cancer in its body politic," Ashraf Qazi said in a statement.

Talabani was to have flown to Tehran on Sunday, but his spokesman, Hiwa Othman, said it was now hoped the trip could go ahead on Monday.

The president met government leaders again on Saturday evening to discuss how to resolve the current crisis and avert a worsening of violence. An official said a joint statement on security measures would be made on Sunday.

Talabani's visit to anti-American Iranian President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad, whom Washington accuses of backing militant fellow Shi'ites in Iraq, is part of efforts to involve Iraq's neighbours in efforts to prevent civil war. Othman said that contrary to some speculation, Syria's president would not join the meeting.

Stability in the region

U.S. President George W. Bush appears sceptical of what his adversaries Iran and Syria are willing to do. However, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney made a brief visit to Saudi Arabia on Saturday to discuss security in the Middle East.

A Western diplomat said the United States wanted to counter the threat from Iran and Syria by co-opting moderate Arab nations on both Iraq and the Palestinian-Israeli issue and the current diplomatic push was proof of this.

Bush is expected to meet Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in Jordan on Wednesday, despite a threat by a key Maliki ally, radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, to boycott the government if it goes ahead.

The Shi'ite-led government has called for calm. But mortar rounds hit Sadr City and other districts after dark on Saturday, causing a number of casualties, police said, and several blasts echoed around the city early on Sunday.



A woman carries her wounded baby for treatment in a hospital in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Nov. 25, 2006. A baby and four other women were wounded by crossfire during clashes between soldiers and insurgents in central Baquba, police said. REUTERS

An Interior Ministry source said the bodies of 30 victims of violence were picked up in Baghdad on Friday and 17 on Saturday. Yarmouk hospital in west Baghdad said it took in 33 in the two days. Hakim al-Zamily, a deputy health minister from Sadr's faction, said 33 Shi'ites were killed in west Baghdad in sectarian attacks. Police and the hospital could not confirm it. Police found the bodies of 21 men

and boys from an extended Shi'ite family on Saturday in a mainly Sunni Arab village in Diyala province northeast of Baghdad, security sources said.

The U.S. military said a suicide car bomber killed three Iraqi civilians, including two children, and one coalition soldier at a checkpoint in Khaldiya, 83 km west of Baghdad on Saturday. Nine more civilians were wounded.

Cheney returning to U.S. after talks with Saudis

By: Patricia Zengerle

SHANNON (Reuters)- U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney met on Saturday with Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, who expressed concern about the security situation in the Middle East, but neither side gave specifics about their discussions.

The two men were together for about three hours during Cheney's brief visit to the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Cheney made no comment after the meeting before boarding his plane and flying back to the United States, stopping over briefly in Ireland.

"They covered a range of regional issues," said Cheney's spokeswoman Lea Anne McBride. "It was a good visit with someone the vice president has known for going on 17 years and is a great friend and ally of the United States."

Cheney and the Saudi monarch put in an appearance for reporters before their private session. "Now truly the security situation is really becoming very serious," King Abdullah said through a translator.

Cheney has visited Saudi Arabia at least three times before, most recently in January, when he met King Abdullah to discuss Iraq, Iran's nuclear ambitions, Syria, the Israeli-



U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, left, is greeted by Saudi Crown Prince Sultan upon his arrival in Riyadh. REUTERS

Palestinian conflict and Lebanon.

With Iraq on the brink of all-out civil war, the Bush administration has begun a new push to break the cycle of violence by enlisting the help of moderate Arab nations while also tackling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In what is shaping up to be a crisis summit, President George W. Bush will meet Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri

al-Maliki in Jordan on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss the security situation in Iraq.

The United States wants Saudi Arabia to use its influence with Iraq's Sunni minority to help stabilise the country after more 200 people were killed in a Shi'ite stronghold near Baghdad on Thursday in the worst single attack since Saddam Hussein

was overthrown in April 2003.

The Bush administration has also stepped up its efforts to seek help from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan in breaking a deadlock in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

"All of these issues of the Middle East are interrelated and you can't solve any of them without looking at others," said one Arab diplomat.

There is strong pressure for the United States to meet with Iran and Syria over Iraq but Bush administration officials have said there are no such plans yet.

A Western diplomat said the United States wanted to counter the threat from Iran and Syria by co-opting moderate Arab nations on both Iraq and the Palestinian-Israeli issue and the current diplomatic push was proof of this.

"They also want to allay regional fears that the United States is going to leave Iraq too soon. The big concern is about stability in the region," said the diplomat.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will be with Bush for the Maliki meeting, and go on to attend an annual Middle East democracy conference at the Dead Sea where key Arab players may meet in the sidelines to discuss Arab-Israeli issues.

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China coal mine gas explosions kill dozens

BEIJING (Reuters) — Gas explosions in two different regions of China have killed more than 50 coalminers, the Xinhua news agency reported on Sunday, the latest fatalities to hit the world's deadliest mining industry.

An explosion on Saturday in a privately owned mine in Fuyuan, in the southwestern province of Yunnan, killed 32 men and injured 28, local officials told the news agency.

Earlier that day, at least 21 died in a blast at the Yuanhua mine in Jixi, in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang.

Four miners managed to escape and rescuers were searching for six who were still missing, the reports said.

The Yuanhua mine is privately owned with an annual production capacity of 30,000 tons, Xinhua said.

It said the causes of the explosions were being investigated.

A total of 3,726 miners died in more than 2,300 floods, blasts and other accidents in the nation's coal mines in the first 10 months of 2006.

The cold statistics highlight China's struggle to clean up the industry while trying to meet booming demand and high prices for coal, which fuels about 70 percent of its energy consumption.

An official Communist Party report released this month noted that coal min-



A miner injured in a gas explosion in a coal mine in Fuyuan county receives medical treatment at a local hospital in Fuyuan, southwest China's Yunnan province, Nov. 26, 2006. An explosion on Saturday in a privately owned mine in Fuyuan, killed 32 men and injured 28. REUTERS

ing safety had worsened since the beginning of the winter heating season. It said the sharp increase in demand for coal often caused mine managers to breach safety laws.

Xinhua said on Friday that authorities had sacked two local government chiefs and their deputies after a series of coal mine accidents in the northern province of Shanxi in the past month that killed 55 people.

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- All this to be performed with respect to Company HSE rules.
- Legal background + minimum of 5 years experience in similar jobs required
- Good understanding of contractual English

PROCUREMENT OFFICER: (position based in Sana'a)

- Receive from the head of department a number of requests of purchase for the Subsidiary and process them. Perform the purchasing activity as per set Company rules. Have complete files properly documented and auditable at time of submission for commitment approval. Prepare contractual part of Subsidiary Contracts based on Standard Group Contracts and participate on the official bids opening and recommendations.
- Perform other activities as and when requested by head of department.
- Understand the need, request for quotation, evaluate, clarify and recommend to hierarchy the supply of material/service based on a valid requisition.
- Promote local vendors whenever possible as per Company policy & the PSA.
- Build the purchasing file in a manner to retrieve all documents required and to justify final commitment before transferring the file to the Expeditor.
- Process related invoices without delay to maintain a good business relation with vendors.
- Prepare official Call for Tenders based on head of department guidance and technical departments requirements as per the internal procedures.
- Monitor reception and keep tenders in safe custody until the bids opening.
- Participate in the evaluation of tenders and recommendation.
- Prepare the contractual document and follow-up the file till final issuance and signature.

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Reports to the Telecom supervisor, the job holder is responsible for responding to all IS/IT Users requests and to monitor the international leased circuits (Main Links and VSAT back up links) between Total E&P Yemen offices in Sana'a, Head Quarter in Paris & Pau and Production site (Kharir). The job holder is responsible for ensuring the continuous operation of PABX, PSTN Lines, ISDN lines, mobile Telephone systems including GSM, internet Access lines(ADSL), VPN encrypted links, videoconferencing systems, VHF/ UHF radio systems, multiplexers, Routers, Firewalls in the Total E&P Yemen LAN / Wan. He/She will also be responsible for liaison with Government agencies on the provision and maintenance of frequency licenses, design, implement and maintain local area cabling from IS/IT equipment rooms up to and including office outlets. The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge of the following technologies: optical Fiber Transmission Systems, Very Small Aperture Satellite Transmission Systems (VSAT), Microwave, VHF, UHF and HF radio systems, ALCATEL OmniPCX PBX, VPN encryption, videoconferencing, dynamic routing protocols (RIP or OSPF), Cisco Catalyst switches, Cisco Router 2600 series, Cisco PIX Firewall. The job holder must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems as they call and must be able to clearly specify any new requirements and negotiate the supply of these needs effectively with our suppliers. He/She must be able to ensure that services provided by external suppliers are supplied as per the agreed contracts and that any deficiencies are rectified or reconciled. The successful candidate will have a University degree (B.Sc or M.Sc) in Telecommunications or Electronic Engineering and **minimum** of 5 years experience on Telecommunication Operations.

IST USER SUPPORT ENGINEER: (position based in Sana'a)
Reports to the IS supervisor and is responsible for Installing and supervising external services with the installation of personal computers (PC's) and or peripheral devices for Total E&P Yemen users and ensures that inventories of such equipment are kept fully up to date at all times. The job holder is also responsible for maintaining or supervising external services with the maintenance of personal computers (PC's) and or peripheral devices for Total E&P Yemen users, installation of software on PC's when software is not distributed by GPO, he ensures that inventories of such software are kept fully up to date at all times. He/She will provide support of common office software, technical systems software, business applications software. The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge of the following common office software such as Windows XP Professional & IE 6.0, MS Office 2003 Inc Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, MS Visio 2003, MS Project 2003. In addition, the job holder should have detailed up to date knowledge of the Networking system MS Win2K3 administration, Win2K3 directory services (Active directory). The job holder must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems as they call. He/She must be able to clearly specify any new requirements and negotiate the supply of these needs effectively with our suppliers and ensure that services provided by external suppliers are supplied as per the agreed contracts and that any deficiencies are rectified or reconciled. The successful candidate will have university degree (B.Sc or M.Sc) in Computer Science and **minimum** of 5 years experience on Information Systems user's support.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES: (position based in Sana'a)

- The job holders will assist the Managers in the current secretarial tasks, organization of meetings, and preparation of missions.
- Applicants must have good computer skills, with particular emphasis in word, Excel and Power Point, and a minimum of 5 years experience as Secretary.
- Used to confidentiality, applicants must be very good in English, spoken and written, well organized, rigorous and be able to work within a team.

Application Criteria

- Applications must be submitted **no later than 15th December 2006**
- Handed-in CVs will not be considered
- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Total E&P Yemen
- If you meet the above requirements, please send your CV in English with a short covering letter explaining your qualification and motivation only to this address:

Recruitment.ep-ye@total.com

The Yemen Times through its readers' eyes

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
fatimajfr@yahoo.com

The Yemen Times took its 1,000th issue celebration to its readership, finding out what they think of the newspaper after 15 years of achievement and what they want to read in its future pages. Many congratulated the Yemen Times and wished the best for its staff as they expressed their viewpoints for this report.

YALI level 5B student readers' comments



Jamal Mohammad Al-Ajel, a level 5B student at the Yemen American Language Institute (YALI), comments, "Firstly, I congratulate the Yemen Times on its achievements - keep up the success. I consider the Yemen Times a guide for those who want to improve their reading skills because it's the easiest way to take topics and discuss them with friends, as well as learn different styles of writing."

He adds, "I hope to write opinion articles for the Yemen Times and publish them on the Youth page, which is especially for youth."



Ismail Yahya Taj Al-Deew hopes for more such successes in the future. "I consider the Yemen Times one of the most trustworthy newspapers. I read

every issue because they're rich in vocabulary, which provides us many advantages and improves our English speaking skills. Because I like to read about sports in English, I wish the Yemen Times would report weekly sports news."



Ibrahim Al-Mabishi sends his best wishes to all Yemen Times employees, who have achieved this amazing work. "I sometimes find interesting topics and use them in our presentations and studies. However, some topics are untouched in Yemen Times articles, such as news about technology and software programs, so I hope you'll publish something about these in the future. Also, I hope there's a chance for us as teenaged readers to express ourselves in your newspaper regarding political issues." [Ed. note - Youth readers and writers may do so on the Yemen Times' Youth page.]

Sana'a University Faculty of Languages, English department student readers

Khalidoun Al-Sharjabi, a fourth-year English language student at Sana'a University, says, "The Yemen Times is my favorite English newspaper. I think it's a good source for those interested in reading it. As a reader, I'd like to see more about sports and politics."

Fellow seniors Na'eem Ahmad and Salem Hatim highlight that the Yemen Times helps increase students' vocabulary and knowledge of English and hoped the newspaper would continue

on the same path for a long time.

Senior Lu'ay Zahaeh says of the newspaper, "It's not a bad attempt at creating a new order in the Yemeni press because it's one of the main references in the current Yemeni English press. Frankly, the Yemen Times is one source to read English; however, there are several newspapers, so it's hard to make a real contrast among them because they're similar."

"The Yemen Times absolutely gives a clear way of writing the English language and, in general, newspapers are useful to those concerned. Many topics are interesting to read. I'm concerned about international political news and I always search for European sports, especially football."

Zahaeh adds, "I wish this outstanding newspaper would be more objective toward those affairs regarding Yemen's domestic circumstances because your newspaper is more concerned about presidential news than other important affairs. I mean, let's not waste newspaper space by showing the president's picture all the time!"

Sana'a University Faculty of Education, English department student readers

Third-year student Aisha Al-Bashiri congratulates the Yemen Times her source for information, noting, "You present various topics, which are good for us as students and from which we can benefit."

Fellow junior Khoulood Saleh congratulates the newspaper on celebrating issue No. 1,000. "I consider the Yemen Times my teacher and it teaches me a lot. I read it to improve my reading skills, as well as for entertain-

ment," he remarks.

Shahama Zedan, another junior, wishes the best for the Yemen Times and expresses, "The Yemen Times is an important friend to me that I can't live without. It has a lot of information and its writing styles are simple so that all students from different levels can read and benefit from it."

Junior Raghda Jameel comments that she always depends on the Yemen Times when researching information or new topics, noting, "I turn to Yemen Times subjects whenever I must research."



Ahmad Al-Qiyadi, assistant professor of applied sociolinguistics in the department, emphasizes the Yemen Times' importance as an information source for Yemeni students

because it helps them develop their reading and writing skills. "The Yemen Times should keep the same level of development and progress and always try to be as close to the people as possible," he adds.

Sana'a University Faculty of Arts, English department student readers

While sophomore Nashwa Al-Laithi congratulates the Yemen Times, she also criticizes its staff members, who don't make field visits to observe student problems or cover their activities. "We have many activities, but no one cares about our problems or activities," she laments.

She suggests the newspaper publish a series of issues relating to the Yemeni community, such as Yemeni proverbs and phrases used on special occasions, which she notes, "will help us as students to practice real English communication in society."

Fellow second-level student Lina Abdulrahman wishes the newspaper the best, but notes, "The Yemen Times' language is difficult for beginner students studying English. I also hope you will publish horoscopes, which are entertaining and funny."

Yusra Al-Mutawakil considers the Yemen Times an ideal newspaper, commenting, "Its topics are varied and



Beside being a source of news and information, youngsters find Yemen Times a great help in learning English. YT PHOTO BY JAMAL AL-AJEL

interesting. Generally, it's attractive and famous to its readers."

Other readers' comments

Sana'a University engineering graduate Rafeeq Ali is interested in reading national and world news. "I like the news writing style and I always follow Al-Qaeda news," he states, adding, "I wish the Yemen Times was a daily newspaper."



Ali Aziz, a student at Al-Kuwait Secondary School, is proud of the Yemen Times newspaper for being Yemen's first English newspaper. He often visits the online version to search for topics, especially those related to the Yemeni community.

"I select most of my research topics from the Yemen Times online. Also, if one of my friends can't find a Yemen Times issue, I help him find what he's looking for. I hope the Yemen Times will develop its web site further," he adds.

Foreign readers' comments

Sana'a resident Abu Daoud says, "I really enjoy the online version, since it's so easy to open up things and save them for reference later. When the Yemen Times started up, it was really great to start getting news in English."

An American mother whose son proofread the Yemen Times several years ago notes, "Our son really enjoyed working with Dr. Saqqaf as well."

Sana'a resident Umm Yahya says, "I've read the Yemen Times on a semi-regular basis since 1993. I used to like the paper, but I felt it took a nosedive after Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf died. I always appreciated his bravery in presenting government corruption. Since his death, the Yemen Times has been much more cautious in publishing what's really happening in the government."

She adds, "The quality of the paper also has taken a down-turn in the past several years. Before your recent proofreaders, the English was pretty pathetic as well, but it's now much better. I still buy the paper because I like to read the front page, as well as the health section, but the opinion section isn't worth reading."

The increasing and developing styles of beggars in Yemeni cities

By: Mahmoud Al-Harazi
mahmoud_22@hotmail.com

Beggars can be seen flowing into cities around Yemen. Such cities appear to be occupied by these beggars, who walk the streets passing every business and amid the city's endless rounds of traffic on crowded streets. Various types of beggars have become numerous and doubled in Yemen's cities, most noticeably during special months of the year.

Nowadays, begging has taken various organized methods and styles to the extent of organized professionalism. Beggars often do so by reading the Qur'an in public places or using girls to beg in an effort to arouse greater sympathy. Additionally, beggars sometimes present documents signed by a judge or an area leader attesting that they need the money.

One neighborhood leader confirmed that such people suffer poverty. Some women use children to attract sympathizers in public places by carrying one or more sometimes visibly impaired children. Some beggars also have been observed using a blood bag to show that they left the hospital because they couldn't pay expensive hospital costs. Shopkeeper Mohammed Abu Rijal says beggars of both genders sit near mosque doors before and after each prayer time.

A Sana'a University study found that begging increased 40 percent in Sana'a during Ramadan, whereas approximately 3 percent of beggars in Yemen are employees forced to take unpaid leave from their jobs.

Some studies also estimate that Yemen has more than 1.2 million beggars, while other researchers confirm that the nation's high begging rate is increasing steadily due to continually deteriorating living allocations for the majority of disadvantaged citizens, as well as the widespread problems of poverty unemployment, illiteracy.

Some countries are famous for a particular characteristic, such as Algeria, the nation of a million martyrs, or Mauritania, the nation of a million poets. Likewise, Yemen can be considered the nation of a million beggars.

For some, begging has become a career and an easy path to wealth. "It's not surprising to hear of a beggar instituting legal proceedings against a bankrupt national bank before the Sana'a commercial court, claiming something like YR 6 million from the bank," Maisa



Some beggars use children to arouse greater sympathy.

Shuja'a Adeen says.

Researchers have classified today's beggars into two types: the first do so because of poverty, inability to work or lack of adequate sources of income. Thirty-year-old Ammar Abdullah Omar, who has been disabled since birth, is an example.

"We're six brothers who beg in Sana'a because we receive just YR 1,000 from the Ministry of Social Affairs, which isn't enough for us," he explains. "This is my big brother and you can see that he can't move." Originally from Hajjah governorate, younger brother Mohammed, 15, notes that they now live in Sana'a.

Mohammed Saleh Al-Nehmi of Taiz has been begging in Sana'a for more than four years. "My parents died two years ago. I don't receive any aid from the Ministry of Social Affairs," he adds. However, a generous man has given him a room to sleep in while his meals come from any restaurant.

The second type involves seasonal begging, which is a new phenomenon appearing among Yemen's middle class. Some middle class citizens beg seasonally and then gradually disappear. Yemen's financial situation has deteriorated in recent years due to low income levels and devaluation of the local currency.

Sa'adia Hamoud sometimes begs with two of her daughters. "I beg when I don't have money to pay the rent. My husband is a military soldier in the army, but he never sends us any money. I don't want to ask people for money, but what can I do and how can I feed my children when the house rent is YR 10,000 per month?"

Many of those seasonally begging seek money to pay electric bills or treat sick patients. Among Yemeni beggars are those who do so upon request of the head of the family - the father or husband. "Some husbands force their wives to beg to cover the family's needs, but often to cover his personal needs or his fun day, which involves abusing qat or alcoholism," Sana'a University sociology professor Abdul Rahman Al-Khatib notes.

A nationwide government project will be implemented on a group of beggars to study their situations and their motives for begging. Undoubtedly, there are many poor people who obtain money by begging, but don't renounce the profession because it's fun, often doing it because they've become accustomed to it, even though they no longer need the money. How can they renounce the profession when they collect a lot of money?

There's a close link between where cars stop and where beggars collect money, as well as between banks and beggars, who may go so far as to take legal action against the financial institution. An additional connection exists between apartment buildings and beggars, who seek only YR 5 from each person, working hard to raise YR 5,000 to pay their rent. There's also a close connection between beggars and rounds of traffic, public squares, streets and shops.

Are these beggars hard workers, standing on the street - rain or shine - and in various climatic conditions, weaving between pedestrians and cars, asking this and that, often troubling people? Sheikh Taha, imam of Zahra Mosque, describes begging as a bad habit, especially in mosques, because it bothers those who are praying and has given Yemen a bad reputation abroad. "It's immoral and ignorant of religion, especially in the mosques. We tried to prevent begging in mosques, but many people criticized us, saying we don't have to prevent them. However, we no longer know whether the beggar is honest or a liar," he explained.

According to Taha, begging has become a trade behind which are invisible hands teaching others how to beg; therefore, "I ask the Ministry of Social Affairs to put an end to this phenomenon, especially in mosques," the sheikh concluded.

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Specialists Required

For the execution of the project "Support of Yemen's Accession to the WTO" funded by the European Commission, GTZ International Services (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, International Services) will hire two additional specialists up to the end of 2008. The posts are described as follows:

1. Expert Specialised in International Trade Issues – Trade in Goods, with a focus on agricultural goods as well as sanitary and phytosanitary measures

Qualifications and Profile:

- University graduate, ideally with a post-graduate degree in MBA, Economics, Foreign Trade, International Law or related field;
- Ideally practical and/or theoretical experience in Yemen's import and/or export trade, with a distinct focus on agricultural production and related topics;
- Proven understanding of Yemen's import/export regime (laws, regulations, policy, economics);
- Understanding of WTO agreements relating to trade in goods (GATT1994), in particular the Agreement on Agriculture, The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, and
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both Arabic and English.

Description of Work

The candidate will assist the key experts and short-term international and local experts in all activities related to trade in agricultural goods (law, economics, policy) covering virtually all related sub-activities of the project. The work will in particular involve research, analysis and editing activities, as well as low-level communications with government agencies and other stakeholders, especially private sector representatives. Focus on the work will be the agriculture-related TWO-Agreements, especially the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) and the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and related tasks stemming from the accession process to WTO. The candidate will prepare briefs and training materials, assist in and supervise translation activities and liaise with various parties.

2. Expert specialized in target-specific research and the fast and reliable provision of requested background material pertaining to Yemen's WTO accession

Qualifications and Profile:

- University graduate, ideally with post-graduate degree in MBA, Economics, Foreign Trade, International Law or related field;
- Ideally practical and/or theoretical experience in Yemen's import and/or export trade;
- Proven understanding of Yemen's import/export regime (laws, regulations, policy, economics);
- Understanding of the multilateral trading system of the WTO;
- Proven record of conducting independent research in a short time period;
- Proven record of compiling and aggregating diverse data and their analysis and solidification into a presentable form;
- Ability to investigate multi-layered economic interrelationships and to extract viable policy conclusions from aggregated data and findings;
- Ability to translate the findings into easy-to-read briefings for key government officials;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both Arabic and English;
- Proven excellent research skills in both Arabic and English; and
- High Level of Self-Organization and Self-Management

Description of Work:

The candidate will assist the PMU-Director and Chief of the Office by providing him with specific ad hoc research results and the presentation of the evaluated findings on an aggregate level. Research activities will cover any topic related to Yemen's accession to WTO, but might also cover interfaces between the accession process and Yemen's involvement in bilateral or regional trade agreements. The work will focus on highly target-oriented research, analysis and the appropriate presentation of the results of the office. The candidate will also be tasked with the preparation of briefs and training materials.

- Employments will start 1 February 2007 (or earlier), depending on ongoing procedures.
- Yemeni Nationals of suitable qualification are invited to present their meaningful applications in English (not Arabic) prior to 15th December 2006 to:

Coordination and Communication Office with the World Trade Organization / Project Management Unit,
c/o Dr. Achim Seiler, GTZ, P.O. Box 8278, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel: (01) 561 114 118, Mobile: 733 777 398, Fax: (01) 252456

- Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interviews in early January

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- دبلوم ORACLE.
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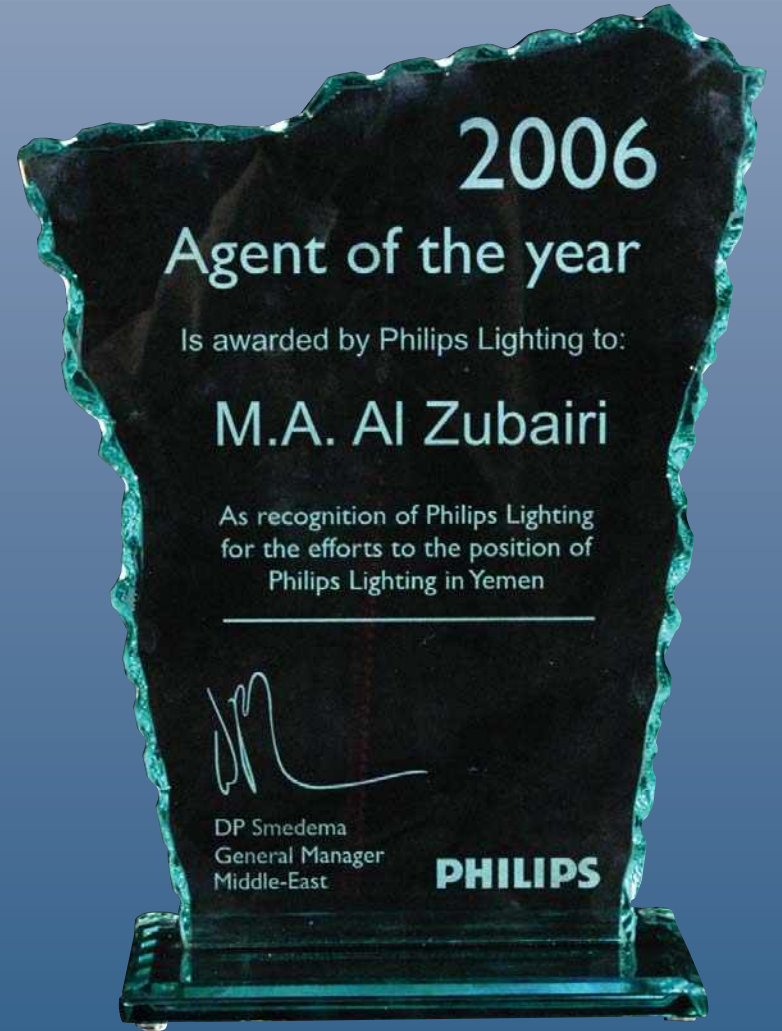
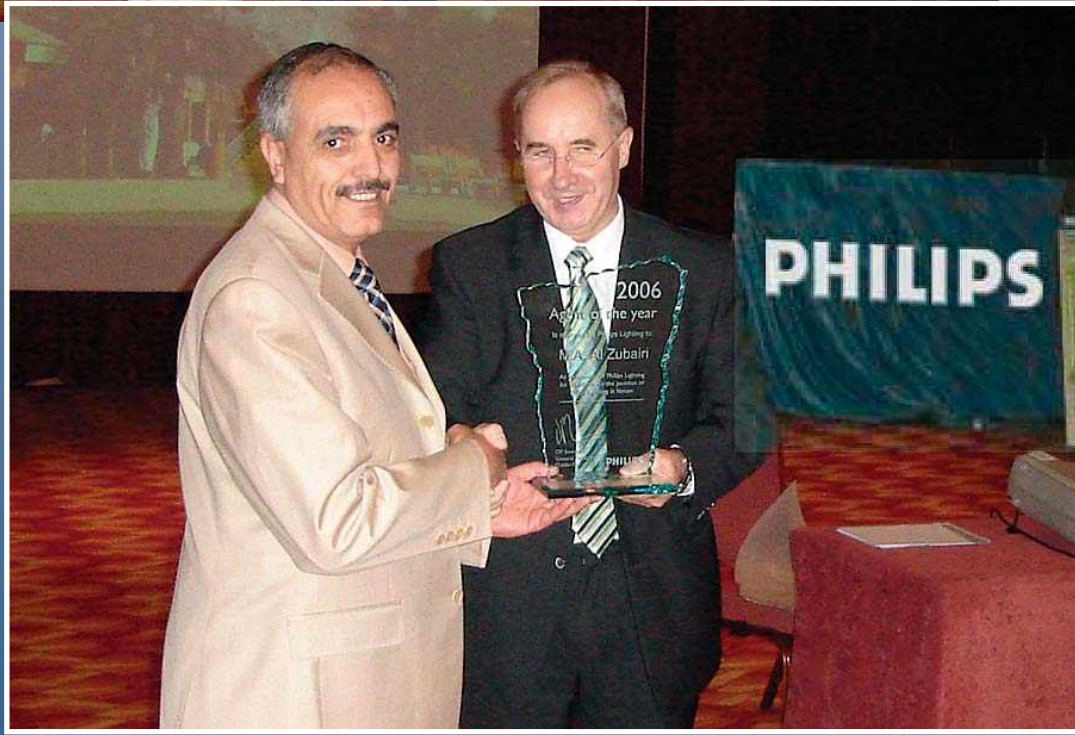
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AL-ZUBAIRI FOR TRADE: Best Agent of the Year 2006

Mohammed Abdulwahab Al-Zubairi & Bro., the sole agent of Philips Company in Yemen, has won the Philips International Award for the Best Agent. Al-Zubairi was selected as the best agent of the year 2006 and honored in a conference held by Philips Lighting B.V. in the French city of Lyon from 13th-15th November 2006. Mohamed Abdulwahab Al-Zubairi, honored as the best agent of

the year 2006, was awarded by Mr. Stanislaw Kozlowski, Executive Director of Philips International Sales. It is not the first time that Philips agent in Yemen wins the company award, as Al-Zubairi had already received similar award in 1997 in Dubai. Philips Lighting B.V. holds a conference every two years during which best agent worldwide is honored and awarded.



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 The expiry date for all scratch cards will be in 31st of July 2007 so you must use your cards loaded and claim your prize during this period by this date.
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 - You have the right to dedicate your reward bearing card to anyone you wish.

- Once the offer is over, the remained quantity of scratch cards in the market will be invalid to win any more prizes only.
 - Sabafon has the right to announce the names of the winner in media.
 - Sabafon will not offer after sale guarantee or maintenance for prizes once handed over to you.
 - You may have to wait for up to 8 days to collect your reward.
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 - Sabafon employees or their families, can not participate in this promotion.
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 - If you got the scratch card without a prize, you must keep it during this promo in order to claim another grand prize in August 2007 which Sabafon may offer.
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Dr. Yassin Al-Qubati:

Modern medicine isn't regulated, let alone alternative medicine

By: Salem Al-Majeedi

He's a doctor different from all others. He's a warrior, but on the medical front rather than the battlefield, having fought and defeated leprosy through his personal efforts.

He has represented Yemen at numerous international medical conferences and received both national and international honors and awards in return for his efforts and distinction.

He's Dr. Yassin Abdulleem Al-Qubati, one of Yemen's most famous dermatologists. Our dialogue at his clinic yielded good news for dermatology patients, as can be seen in the following:

How did it happen that Yemen, specifically Taiz, was selected from among many famous Arab towns to host the Arab dermatologists conference?

Yemen has been an active member in the Arab Dermatologists Association since it was formed in 1983. The association is for all Arab doctorate and master's degree holders in dermatology and skin-related diseases. It launched its activities in Damascus in 1982 and held its second meeting in Amman in 1986. I've been a member of its administrative board up until now.

There are no constraints on modern medicine, so how can we speak about alternative medicine?

So far, the association has held nine conferences, the last of which was in Morocco. At that time, I took brochures of Taiz. Many Arab towns applied to host the conference; nonetheless, Taiz won the competition.

What's new in dermatology is hair transplants, liposuction, fat injections, facelifts and other cosmetic surgeries employing modern techniques. The aim is to help Arab dermatologists cope with new techniques in the field worldwide. For the first time in Yemen, there have been leprosy surgeries involving transferring cells from black spots to white ones.

What are Yemen's most common skin diseases and have some diseases started fading away?

The most common skin diseases involve allergies, which are the body's reaction to anything entering it. The immune system reacts violently to this foreign thing, thereby leading to psychological and physical damage inflicted upon the body via extracting substances that cause itching. Scratching causes more



Dr. Yassin Abdulleem Al-Qubati

histamine to excrete and increases the itchiness. Further, there are diseases like leprosy, scabies and psoriasis in Yemen; however, diseases like leprosy and scabies have begun waning.

Do you think psychological and genetic factors play a role in the spread of skin diseases?

Genetic factors undoubtedly play an important role because skin diseases transfer from parents to their children. Continuous sun exposure is another factor.

Are there statistics about the number of skin disease patients in Yemen?

Unfortunately, we've been asking the Ministry of Health for a long time to establish a database for all skin-afflicted patients, as is the case throughout the world, but it's been in vain because they only excel at speaking.

What role does the environment play in increasing or decreasing skin diseases?

As for the natural environment, we have a very beautiful environment, but the problem exists within the society itself. Backwardness is still dominating and it seems we are content with it and we need not to look for the better. The citizen is the cause of environmental problems he lacks in environmental awareness.

For the first time, there have been leprosy surgeries in Yemen.

Do certain foodstuffs cause skin diseases and if so, what are they?

Not all foodstuffs cause skin diseases. For example, certain foods like bananas, mangos, carrots, eggs or milk may aggravate an allergic person; however, we shouldn't randomly prevent people from eating certain foods because a

patient may avoid all of them and still suffer allergies. Everyone should observe his or her eating habits carefully in order to know what items cause allergies and then avoid them.

You've been running the National Program to Fight Leprosy in Al-Noor city (for lepers) for more than 20 years and at a time when lepers were outcasts. How do you see public awareness and views about this disease today?

Mother Teresa initiated this program in Yemen in 1974, but it was so limited then. Citizens' view of leprosy was distorted, so patients were isolated in special locations. The same view was dominant worldwide as lepers were isolated on islands or in churches because there was no medicine for them at that time.

The program's organized work began

I advise all colleagues to treat their patients honestly because they can profit more via such treatment.

in 1989, as prior to this date, it was only by personal efforts. Between 1982 and 1988, I sought support from international charitable organizations because governments didn't provide any support for lepers. Leprosy wasn't so common and further, it wasn't considered a fatal disease.

I found a German charitable society specialized in combating leprosy, which has been providing support until now. Moreover, we've received support from the World Health Organization and the Yemeni Society to Eliminate Tuberculosis and Leprosy.

What causes leprosy and what are its symptoms?

Leprosy is caused by a special type of bacteria and its symptoms include loss of sensitivity in a small area of skin, but without itchiness. Unless otherwise listed, any spot colored differently than skin color is leprosy.

Some skin diseases like psoriasis aren't infectious; however, they require lengthy treatment. What's new in this regard?

Leprosy involving loss of the skin's black color isn't infectious and there are many medicines for it. Treating it is a bit difficult; however, there are special operations for leprosy, some of which were performed during the Taiz conference, involving transferring chromosomal cells from the body to the affected areas.



The most common skin diseases in Yemen involve allergies (R) and leprosy (L).

Do you think herbal or alternative medicine has pulled the rug out from under modern medicine because patients no longer trust the latter?

In principle, there's no rug to be removed. Modern medicine itself isn't governed by medical laws. Further, there are no Ministry of Health regulations to determine who's a specialist and who isn't. Some may put up a sign to be an abdominal, surgical or heart specialist and no one prevents them from doing so. There's no control over laboratories, pharmacies or X-ray departments, nor any quality control.

Moreover, a license issued in Taiz is different than a license issued in Sana'a or Aden. What can we say about alternative medicine when there are no regulations for modern medicine? Now anyone can practice sorcery in the name of herbal medicine, but there should be regulations and laws to prevent exploiting citizens.

How do you assess the volume of cooperation and aid foreign governments and international

organizations provide?

The volume of aid granted by international organizations is too low. Some organizations provide more aid to developed countries other than Yemen because we're unable to specify our demands in order to express them to such organizations.

I advised the Ministry of Health to establish an information database; however, they haven't listened to me.

What's your evaluation of the Ministry of Health's role, as the party responsible for public health?

All hope is pinned on the present Minister of Health, Dr. Abdulkarim Rasa'. Yemeni health care witnessed no improvement at the hands of former ministers of health, except under Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Kabab and Dr. Abdullah Nasher.

You've received many appreciation and honorary awards and prizes from

national, Arab and international parties in recognition of your efforts. What do these mean to you?

What do they mean to me?! They mean many efforts, sleeplessness and exhaustion, as well as more hard work until life comes to an end.

What's your advice for dermatology patients?

I'd like to tell patients not to worry about skin diseases because they're visible, as opposed to internal diseases, which can't be seen. Dermatological diseases can be treated and some may disappear without medication.

Any final comments?

My final words are directed at my colleagues. I exhort them to exert further efforts to acquire more knowledge and catch up with new discoveries in the medical field. Further, I ask them to deal honestly with people, particularly their patients, because with honesty, they can profit more, whether materially or spiritually, by acting within the public's love and respect.

Global warming is a grave threat

By: Imran Khan

mimraan.khaan@gmail.com

K enya recently hosted the Nov. 6-17, 2006 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC), wherein the main issue was global warming, its impacts on the world and how to battle it.

"Global warming" is a term used to describe climate change caused by human influences, which results in raising the earth's average temperature. Global warming not only is associated with warming the earth, but also is a climate change that could cause it to be hotter or colder than normal. Global warming is caused partly by greenhouse gas emissions produced by deforestation and burning fossil fuels. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, hydro fluorocarbons, per fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride.

Today's atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are the highest in 650,000 years, as the earth's temperature has climbed 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.6 degrees Celsius) over the past century. Thus, global warming is leading toward serious destruction of the earth.

Finally realizing this, world leaders agreed to reduce greenhouse gas affects while meeting in Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital, in 1997.

Named the "Kyoto Protocol," the deal pledged industrialized nations to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5 percent by 2012, with each country having its own target according to pollution.

However, the treaty could come into force only if ratified by countries accounting for at least 55 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. It took seven years to fulfill the requirement as Russia finally ratified it in 2004.

The world's largest polluting nations for carbon dioxide emissions are: the United States - 24 percent, Europe - 14 percent, China - 13 percent, Russia - 6.2 percent, Japan - 5 percent and India - 3.2 percent.

The biggest problem is that the U.S. - by far the world's most polluting country - pulled out of the treaty in 2001 saying that implementing the Kyoto Protocol would damage its economy severely. Because China and India are developing countries, they aren't bound by any targets, which means three of the six largest polluting countries are out of the treaty. Australia is the only other industrialized nation that also hasn't ratified the Kyoto Protocol.

A few scientists still don't believe that humans have caused global warming, saying it's a natural phenomenon. However, in examining the hottest years in history, 10 have been recorded since 1983 and seven after 1990. A

summer 2003 heat wave in Europe killed more than 25,000 people, while 2005 was the second warmest year on record behind 1998.

Malaria, which kills more than a million people annually, is spreading to higher altitudes due to higher temperatures. The Sahara Desert is expanding, thus turning farmland into deserts. There are regular droughts, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, reductions in the ozone layer and the list goes on.

Such events must serve as an eye-opener to all. Whether one believes in global warming or not, it's absolutely clear that something very bad is happening on the earth. Scientists say that if we don't reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next 10 years, the world will be damaged very badly, which hasn't happened in millions of years. While not affecting any single country, the whole world will face very dangerous consequences.

Thousands of environmental experts (including government officials and activist groups) gather annually for a conference on how to fight global warming. The 2005 meeting was in Montreal, Canada. Such meetings are useful and provide a good platform to discuss issues in more depth as delegates from 189 countries present new and better ideas.

The outcome of these meetings so

far isn't what the United Nations had hoped, as Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed in an address: "While the Kyoto Protocol is a crucial step forward, that step is far too small. As we consider how to go further still, there remains a frightening lack of leadership." He added, "Climate change also is a threat to peace and security."

If global warming is such a big threat to the world and someone at such a top level in an organization - which represents the whole world - can say something like that, then it clearly shows lack of action. The reason could be that either nations don't take the global warming threat very seriously or they remain far from thinking that global protection is their first priority.

Another thing is that, unfortunately, countries like the U.S., which don't consider the Kyoto Protocol the best solution, in as many years still haven't produced any alternative or better solution. Therefore, it makes sense to follow the Kyoto Protocol because it's the best possible solution at hand.

The world still has time to heal the earth's wounds but swift action is required. While the economy of any nation is very important, the world's future is even more so. Some risks must be taken for the betterment of all humanity; it certainly requires thinking big and outside the boundaries.



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Qat keeps athletes at home

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

SANA'A, Nov. 25 — Many Yemeni athletes will not be competing in the Asian Olympic Games and most notably the football team is staying home.

The Yemen Football Federation decided to excuse the Olympic team from participating in the upcoming Asian Olympic Games in the Qatari capital of Doha.

The decision came after Olympics officials in Doha banned Yemeni athletes from participating in the event after the medical check-ups revealed some chew qat, considered a performance-enhancing drug prohibited by the International Olympic Committee.

The National Olympic Committee says there are not enough facilities to conduct check-ups on all the athletes to examine whether they chewed qat during the preparation period.

The committee says athletes must

undergo drug testing and it includes tests for qat.

"Fear of qat effects is the primary reason behind excluding Yemeni athletes from participating in the Asian Olympic Games," said Mohamed Al-Ahjiri, Olympic committee secretary general. "The International Olympic Committee labels qat among the prohibited stimulants and imposes sanctions on consumers of this substance."

The football federation's decision to excuse its athletes from participating in the Doha games enraged sport fans nationwide. Fans and critics held the Ministry of Youth, the National Olympic Committee, and the football federation accountable for denying Yemen the right to take part in the Asian Olympic Games.

The sport critics said authorities have to be serious in dealing with the problem of qat, which hinders the country from international sport participations. They said the problem

is persistent and is responsible for Yemeni athlete's failure to participate in other international events.

Observers believed the current high-profile of the issue will lead to firm procedures to deal with qat use among athletes. By doing so, the Yemeni football and participation in international competitions can improve.

The minister of Youth and Sports, Abdurrahman Al-Akwa'a, met the Yemen Football Federation Head and National Olympic Committee Secretary General and discussed with subjects related to qat chewing and Yemen's exclusion from the Doha games.

Al-Akwa'a blamed the football federation for the issue since the Olympic committee told it to prevent footballers from chewing qat. However, the football federation said there was no contact or correspondence between his federation and the Olympic committee.

Yemen prepares for Arab Cup

SANA'A, Nov. 25 — The football team's new coach, Mohamed Saleh, created the preliminary formation for the national football team. Saleh narrowed down the group to 38 players from which he'll select the main forma-

tion to play in Group A of the Arab Cup. Yemen is hosting the games for Group A and all matches will take place in Sana'a.

The national team is scheduled to start an internal training camp with the

current formation in Aden before the team shifts to Sana'a for two practice matches. Those final friendly matches will lead the new coach to his decisions for the main formation to play in the Arab Cup.

Covering disqualified women from judo

SANA'A, Nov 25 — The General Federation for Women Sports prevented Yemeni women from participating in the Sharm Al-Sheikh judo competitions that began on Nov. 24 because they wear hijabs.

The athletes were asked to take off their scarves by the organizing committee.

The competition, taking place in the

Egyptian city of Sharm Al-Sheikh, was jointly organized by both federations of women sports in Yemen and Egypt.

"The Islamic hijab, which female athletes wear during the games, led the International Judo Federation to ban Yemeni athletes from participating in the event," said Nadhmia Abdussalam, Head of the General Federation for

Women Sports. "We contacted with the head of the referees committee, who clarified that the hijab is banned under the International Judo Federation's bylaw."

Abdussalam said Yemeni women wouldn't compete without wearing the hijab and banning them from competing was the only option for the federation.

Rose breaks drought with Australian Masters title

By: Miles Evans

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Britain's Justin Rose won his first European Tour event for four years with a two-shot triumph in the Australian Masters at Huntingdale on Sunday.

The 26-year-old Englishman broke a title drought dating back to the 2002 British Masters by firing a final round one-over 73 to finish on 12-under-par 276, two ahead of Australia's Richard Green and Greg Chalmers in the event co-sanctioned with the Australasian Tour.

"I can't believe it's been four years," the world number 69, who became the first overseas winner of the title since Scotland's Colin Montgomerie in 2001, told reporters.

"It's been a big week confidence wise for me. I've had a few close calls this season but to win a tournament like this is great for my confidence."

Green and Chalmers finished on 10-

under, one ahead of Australian amateur Aaron Pike and two clear of compatriot Aaron Baddeley, who was on his own in fifth after a closing 71.

Rose, who led overnight by two, reached the sixth quietly at one-under for the day at 14-under when disaster struck.

His tee shot found the sand and his second squirted off the face of the trap into an unplayable lie in the bushes. He chipped out before finding the back of the green and three-putting.

He shook off the disappointment straight away with a birdie at the eighth before reaching the turn in one-over 37.

He was joined in the lead by Pike on 11-under when the burly Aussie holed his bunker shot for eagle at the par-five 14th, but birdies at 14 and 16 gave Rose breathing space.

He took an iron for safety at the 18th but found trouble on the right but a brilliant recovery allowed the Briton to par and secure his third European Tour title.

Green, the 2004 champion, had surged through the pack as the gusting wind and quickening greens made life difficult on the course in Melbourne's southern suburbs. CLUBHOUSE TARGET

He fired a rare bogey-free 69 to set the clubhouse target as Rose and Pike battled for the advantage.

Pike's eagle at the 14th brought him back into it but he finished bogey-bogey, the latter after his 50-foot putt for birdie trickled into a greenside bunker, as the 21-year-old amateur secured an admirable fourth.

Chalmers would have got closer to Rose but for his own nightmare at the par-four ninth, when he five putted -- four from less than six feet -- for triple bogey.

The challenge of England's Paul Casey, who started the day five behind Rose, collapsed after opening with a double-bogey six before completing a five-over-par 77 to finish on three under.

Vacancy

Improved Education Especially for Women and Girls (EQUIP1 Yemen), a USAID funded project working in the field of Basic Educational Development has the following position opening for Yemeni candidates only:

Educational Management and Information Systems Coordinator

She/he will be responsible for the following:

- Overall support and coordination of the educational management and information systems (EMIS) component of the project
- Liaising technical assistance between and among project staff, as well as with the Ministry of Education staff, partners from other supporting organizations, and vendors
- Supervising full-time staff and short-term consultants for the EMIS component
- Facilitating the implementation of and monitoring component activities
- Reporting on component activities in project documents
- Technical assistance for specific EMIS activities
- Improving access to and use of school records among school, district (DOE), and governorate (GOE) administrators
- Enhancing quality control for the collection and analysis of school data
- Training staff in governorate office of education in data analysis and interpretation
- Helping to develop data reporting formats to inform decision-making at different levels of the educational system
- Training educational planners and policy-makers at the central, governorate, and district levels in the use of information for decision-making

Qualifications required:

- Minimum of a masters degree in education, public administration, statistics, information communication technology, or a related field
- Minimum of seven years working in projects related to the management of large data systems
- Working knowledge of computer technologies, particularly the functioning of relational database systems, local area network systems, and statistical software packages
- Experience working with government ministries, non-governmental organizations, or donor organizations
- Experience in conducting rapid appraisals, generating and interpreting statistical analysis, and facilitating workshops
- Excellent writing and oral communication skills, including good written and spoken English

All interested candidates are urged to send their CV's with supporting documents of experience to the following address:

Attn: EMIS Coordinator
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- Supporting governorate offices of education (GOEs) in identifying linkages among existing databases
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- Advising in the procurement of software to support a user interface for integrated data systems
- Developing a user interface for data analysis
- Developing formats for the auto-generation of statistical and map-based reports for planners and policy-makers at different levels of the educational system
- Conducting workshops for database administrators, data analysts, and educational planners and policy-makers about the maintenance and use of the analysis system
- Monitoring the use of the integrated database system and supporting the development of a more comprehensive longer-term educational management and information system

Qualifications required:

- Minimum of a masters degree in computer engineering or a related field
- Minimum of seven years experience in programming large-scale relational database systems
- Advanced proficiency in the use of complex database development software using systems such as SQL server and Oracle
- Experience developing internet-based interfaces for database systems a plus
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Some of the important awards acclaimed by Yemen Times

IPI Media Pioneer Award 2006 which was awarded to the Yemen Times for its distinguished coverage and bravery especially in human rights and democracy issues. The International Press Institute handed Raidan Al-Saqqaf the Award in February 2006 in Edinburgh.

Al-Saqqaf established the Yemen Times, unified Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language independent newspaper, in 1991, and was the winner of the N.P.C.'s International Award for Freedom of the Press for 1995. He was awarded this because of his reporting on the civil war in 1994 among other critical reporting.

late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf won the Middle East Publishing Conference Lifetime Achievement award, which was handed over to his son Walid Al-Saqqaf in an official ceremony in Dubai. The awarding event was part of the second annual regional Middle East conference focusing on magazine, newspaper and online publishing held in Dubai during 5-6 March.

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