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Readers' Voice

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Does the escalating violence in Somalia mean that President Saleh mediation failed?

This edition's question:
Officials denied the existence of the Black Rust wheat epidemic in Yemen. Do you think that government sources are more accurate and reliable?

Yes
No
I don't know

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Focused on economic affairs and development Cabinet approves two-year government plan

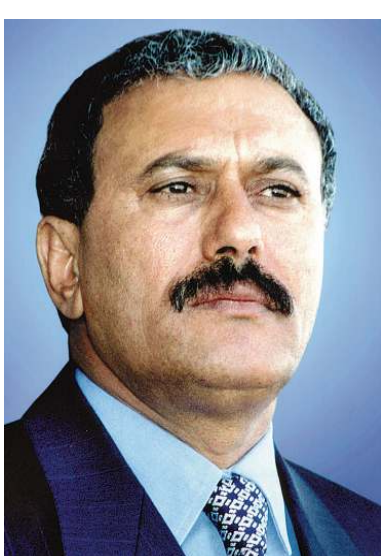
By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April 15 — At a special meeting yesterday, the Yemeni Cabinet approved a general government plan for April 2007 to April 2009. It was sent to Parliament for debate and approval as a continuation of the necessary constitutional procedures thereon.

After amending proposals introduced by Cabinet members, Prime Minister Ali Mujawar approved the final version of the draft submitted by the ministerial committee responsible for formulating the plan.

The newly approved government plan focuses on economic affairs and macroeconomic development, administrative and institutional reforms, promoting human rights and freedoms, developing the local governance system and decentralization, and expanding popular participation in local development following best practices.

The plan's orientation mainly reflects President Ali Abdullah Saleh's electoral platform and integrates components of the third five-year plan for economic and social development as well as the poverty alleviation strategy; specifically, developing an investor-friendly business environ-



President Saleh



Prime Minister Mujawar

ment and promoting investments that open the way for creating jobs, and a sophisticated, multi-layered economic strategy to provide employment and improve Yemeni citizens' living standard.

The first part of the Yemeni government's economic plan particularly addresses the problem of the land-for-investment scheme, as well as the importance of providing necessary infrastructure services for industrial zones and investment projects.

A second element of the plan focuses on institutional and legislative reforms to facilitate investment, as well as fighting corruption by coordinating with all regulatory and judicial bodies at various levels, in addition to other vital agencies and parties associated with comprehensive development.

The Yemeni Cabinet will submit its draft two-year government plan to Parliament today for deliberation, possible amendment and eventual parliamentary endorsement.

UN confirms Wheat Killer in Yemen... but Agriculture Ministry denies findings



The fungus can spread rapidly and has the potential to cause global crop epidemics and wheat harvest losses of several billion dollars.

By Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, April 15 — Abdullah Al-Siani, director of plant quarantine in the Ministry of Agriculture expressed his surprise at the press release that the UN food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) issued on Thursday, in which it warned of the spread of "new and virulent fungus" that can attack many varieties of wheat in Yemen. He insisted that there is no official warning, statement, or survey revealing such a wheat infection.

"The Ministry of Agriculture is the only official authority in Yemen that can confirm such diseases, and as we haven't yet registered any case of wheat stem rust, we can not confirm this information," he stated, adding that the Ministry is now carrying out a survey to record any plant infection.

The Rome based agency warned of the outbreak of wheat stem rust (*Puccinia graminis*), also known as wheat black rust, which is capable of causing severe crop losses. It said that the infection has spread from East Africa to Yemen. The agency also said that a new pathogen, which first emerged in Uganda in 1999 and is therefore called Ug99, has been found in Yemen. The FAO pointed out that Ug99 strain is more virulent than the one found in East Africa.

It is estimated that as much as 80 percent of all wheat varieties planted in Asia and Africa are susceptible to this new strain. The spores of wheat rust are mostly carried by wind over long distances and across continents, according to the agency.

"Global wheat yields could be at risk if the stem rust spreads to major wheat producing countries," said FAO Director-General Dr Jacques Diouf.

"The fungus can spread rapidly and has the potential to cause global crop epidemics and wheat harvest losses of several billion dollars. This could lead to increased wheat prices and local or regional food shortages. Developing

countries that are relying on wheat and do not have access to resistant varieties will be particularly hit," Dr Diouf added.

The FAO is urging affected countries, and countries at risk, to increase their disease surveillance, saying that Yemen in particular should be on the alert. Countries should step up field monitoring and training and prepare for direct control interventions in disease hot spots. "Most important, control measures in affected countries should include the introduction of more resistant wheat varieties and restricted planting dates to break the disease cycle," said the FAO, referring to the ability of wind currents to carry spores great distances.

In the late 1980s, a virulent strain of yellow rust, a wheat disease similar to stem rust, emerged in East Africa and crossed the Red Sea into Yemen. It then moved into the Near East and Central Asia, reaching wheat fields of South Asia within four years. Major yellow rust epidemics were recorded with wheat losses of more than one billion US dollars.

Mohammed Shikh Numan, director of the Plant Disease Residence Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture, did not confirm or deny the FAO information saying that it is too early to declare such an infection without referring to the result of the ministry survey. He did add however that Yemen's wheat is suffering from rust but not the Ug99 type "which is more dangerous". He also stressed that Yemen is awaiting results from samples of wheat rust disease it has sent to laboratories in the U.S. and Canada for further analysis. He said the "situation would be very risky if the tests show Ug99 infection". Regions like Marib, Siwan, Sa'ada, Hajjah, Ibb and other areas where wheat are planted could all be under the Ug99 risk" he said.

Yemen plants more than 85000 hectares and produces more than 110000 tons of wheat, according to agricultural statistics of 2005.

More volunteers, soliders to support army in Sa'ada

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 15 — Tribal sources reported on Sunday that the Yemeni army has begun reinforcing its forces with dozens of tanks, armored personnel carriers and Katyusha rocket launchers seen heading from Sana'a to Sa'ada.

The source added that army forces are being reinforced with thousands of soliders and other military personnel mobilized from camps and military units across Yemen.

Clashes between the two sides are ongoing on various fronts as the Yemeni army continues attacking Kittaf Al-Sama and Al-Rawnah highlands with tanks and mortars, in addition to other Houthi positions in Al-Masoud and Al-Uqm Mountain, which the army is attempting to retake after Houthis occupied it last week.

Other local sources mentioned fierce irregular clashes in some areas of Haydan district, while Dhahian city witnesses continuous fighting between Houthi loyalists and army forces. Last Saturday, fierce confrontations occurred, leaving dozens killed or injured.

Army forces resumed attacking Dhahian last Thursday from four points, using all types of traditional weaponry, including fighters, helicopters and Katyusha missiles. Aleshteraki.net reported that MiG-29 and Sokhoy fighters, as well as helicopters, participated in the attack on Dhahian city.

For the first time since this latest Sa'ada War began, Nashour and Al-Rizamat villages became involved in the ongoing clashes between the Yemeni army and Houthi loyalists. Informed sources reported that mortar attacks waged by the army from Ahsan and Um Ali Mountains on those villages believed to accommodate Houthis destroyed 10 houses in Nashour, while tank and mortar attacks destroyed seven houses in Al-Abqur near Al-Talh city.

Further, the Yemeni army last Friday waged violent attacks employing mortars and Katyusha missiles against Houthi positions in Wadi Al-Ghail east of Sa'ada city in response to a Houthi attack on a military site in Al-Ghail Mountain. Using tanks positioned in Al-Anad area northwest of Sa'ada, the army also attacked Houthi sites in Bani Mu'ath, destroying numerous homes there.

Ghamer district under attack
Earlier this week, Houthis attacked Sa'ada's Ghamer district, positioning themselves in the nearby mountains. They also took over numerous government facilities located in Badr city, the district's capital. Sources revealed that Houthis now are seizing the First Instance Court building and other local administration and security buildings, along with medical centers and schools.

The General People's Congress-affiliated Al-Motamar.net earlier reported that Yemeni armed forces managed to drive Houthis from Ghamer and its capital, Badr; however, recent news indicates the opposite.

Houthi fighters assaulted Badr, located in central Ghamer district, the middle of last week, firing the district chief and his soldiers and then recalling fighters to attack the area.

Continued on page 3

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In brief

HAJJAH

Water Corporation threatened of bankruptcy

April 14 — Officials in Hajja governorate's Local Water Corporation mentioned that the corporation, which is only two years old, is bound to collapse and threatened of bankruptcy due to the heavy loans it granted to social personalities in the governorate. Local sources said that the debts on social personalities to the corporation amount up to YR 120 million. They added that corporation hardly pay the salaries of workers and the operating expenses.

IBB

NUPO criticizes ruling party's policy

April 15 — The Ibb Branch of Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization (NUPO) expressed concern about obstacles posed to projects funded by the exceptional budget of Ibb Governorate. It said that the money is wasted and the projects are randomly implemented under the pretext that those in charge of works have limited time to complete them as the 17th anniversary of the National Unity is drawing nearer. In addition, the party's branch released a statement criticising the ruling party's policy with regard to transforming the development projects into seasonal ones.

ADEN

Ten new HIV cases in Aden

April 15 — The Anti-AIDS Program Director in Aden revealed that his program registered ten new HIV-infected cases in Aden governorate over the past three months. Dr. Nabil Saleh Abdurrah, Coordinator of the Anti-AIDS Program said the ten HIV-infected cases are younger persons. Also, he told Al-Sahwa.net that the authorities deported last month two of the ten-HIV-infected cases after medical checkups discovered that they are infected with the HIV virus. It is worth-mentioning that one of the two HIV patients is from Ukraine and the other one is from India. Actually, the two guys came to Aden to work for a foreign company.

SANA'A

Handicapped Symposium

April 15 — In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, and the Handicapped Fund, the Yemeni Foundation for Special Education and Solidarity is organizing on Monday the First National Symposium on handicapped conditions and comprehensive development disorders. As many as 50 representatives from different Arab and local organizations concerned with the handicapped issues are participating in the symposium, scheduled to last until April 18.

DHAMAR

Heavy rains destroy houses

April 15 — Several houses collapsed on Saturday night when heavy torrential rains fall on Maghreb Ans District. The floods ploughed over valleys and agricultural farms and blocked the roads connecting the district with Dhamar city. Major Fuad Al-Sanabani, Director of Maghreb Ans District, said that the heavy rains continued up for five hours, leaving great damages in houses and other property.

TAIZ

Influential person demolishes home with residents inside

April 15 — One of the influential persons in Al-Hasab area in Taiz, aided by a group of policemen, demolished a house, belonging to the citizen, Mr. Awadh Saif Al-Selwi while women and children were inside under the pretext that this person is one of the landlord's heirs. The mother of the children revealed that policemen, accompanied by gunmen, came aboard police vehicles and raided the house without giving them any chance to go outside.

Quran memorizers awarded

April 15 — Muadh Scientific Society for Quran Sciences hold on Saturday a rewarding ceremony, which is the ninth of its kind for Quran memorizers, who came from different Yemeni governorates. Some 335 Quran memorizers attended the awarding ceremony. At the event, Deputy Taiz Governor Mohammed Al-Hayajem delivered a speech in which he congratulated the outstanding Quran memorizers and praised the role played by the society.

COCA measures in fighting corruption are ineffective

SANA'A, April 14 — a report, submitted by the Education Committee at the Parliament concerning the periodic reports of the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) on the Ministry of Education and the performance of its governorate branches, pinpointed that the measures followed by the COCA are not effective in combating corruption. Also, it pointed out that those measures cause financial violations to accumulate. Thus, combating corruption seems impossible.

In its session held on Monday, April 10, the committee, in its report, mentioned that COCA does not make a comprehensive control as it just selects

samples from some education offices in the governorates and some sectors to audit. Additionally, most of the time, replies coming from the selected parties are not convincing or incomplete and the Ministry of Education claims it will follow such cases.

It also indicated that the COCA applied no measure but raising the financial and administrative notices and informing the Ministry of Education's leadership and its governorate offices about what's going on. On the other hand, the ministry of Education refers such notices to the concerned authorities to reply to COCA's notices and give the reasons for which the violations

were committed.

The report further elaborated on the notices posed by COCA as well as the replies of the Ministry of Education. In addition, it addressed the violations committed by ministry-of-education offices in some governorates such as the Capital, Sabwah, Mareb, Sa'ada, Taiz, and Hadramout.

Moreover, the Parliament discussed COCA notices on the final statements of the General Corporation for School Furniture and Equipments in Aden, of the General Corporation for School Book Printing Press, and of the Research and Education Development Center.

Trade Ministry calls Gulf businessmen to invest in Yemen

SANA'A, April 14 — In a press conference held on Saturday, Minister of Trade and Industry Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawkel pointed out that the Investment Opportunities Exploration Conference due to be held by the end of this month is a great opportunity to promote investments in Yemen.

Dr. Al-Mutawkel further indicated that his ministry specified more than 100 investment opportunities in energy, extraction and transformational industry, agriculture, animal and fish wealth, real estate, housing, transport, and tourism sectors. Also, he added that such opportunities would help minimize the volume of unemployment and enhance the economic growth of the country. Additionally, he called all the Gulf investors to come to Yemen and he promised that his ministry in collaboration with the concerned authorities will provide the required facilities.

The Ministry also announced that more than 167 Yemeni, Arab, and International companies will participate

in the conference, pointing out that more than 105 Arab and foreign companies have showed willingness to take part and will be represented by more than 211 participating companies. It is worth mentioning that 80 percent of the participants belong to the Gulf investors along with the participation of 62 Yemeni companies and the number is still on increase.

Prepared in collaboration with the General Secretariat of Gulf Cooperation Council, the conference is to attract more than US \$7 billion. It comes also within the economic reforms efforts aimed at integrating the Yemeni economy into the Gulf economy.

For his part, chairman of the General Investment Authority Mr. Salah Al-Attar declared that they signed an agreement with German Technical Cooperation, known as GTZ, to prepare an investment map for all sectors in Yemen, adding his authority is working for preparing long term strategies which will help draw investments and abolish all hindrances before investors. He also pinpointed that



Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawkel

his authority will keep serving and facilitating matters before investors even after granting them the licenses and the certificates required for investing so as to do away with all existing impediments.

Al-Mutawkel also denied that the new Cabinet reshuffle was conditioned by donor countries. Also, he assured that it is an internal affair and the relation with donors is that of partnership. He went on saying that the conference will review developing the investment environment and the economic reforms achieved so far.

Water-Sector Human Resources need to develop

By: Jamal Al-Najjar

SANA'A, April 15 — Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) is to start human resources development process in cooperation with the German Development Corporation (GTZ) so as to carry out the national strategy of water supply and sanitation sector. In fact, this came during a workshop held on Sunday 15 by the two sides to discuss the development of a framework concept related to human resources development in the urban water supply and sanitation sector in Yemen.

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Water and Environment Mr. Mohammed Al-Hamdi confirmed that qualifying the ministry staff is a key step to achieve the development goals of the sector and raise the standard living of people. Also, he pointed out that the staff training process doesn't receive enough support from the involved bodies in the government though such issue is of a vital importance as training, in its wide sense, includes raising the performance level



Yemeni - German Corporation represented by GTZ and MWE is likely to prepare a framework concept for human resources development in the urban water supply and sanitation sector by mid of 2009.

of all the institutions in the water sector. Additionally, he said that "The public budget often pays little attention to the training process. We mostly depend on donors particularly GTZ to help us carry out such training".

Mr. J. Ringer, Program coordinator of the institutional development of the water sector, indicated that a lot of activities have been done in the human resources development process in the water sector including training program courses. However, along-term strategy to cope with the present lack of personnel and to meet the future demands is

not yet in place.

The team-leader of the human resources development component in the Yemeni-German technical corporation, Dr. Peter Herrmann, affirmed that the development emphasizes the qualification and competence of the human resources according to the very detailed requirements and changing demands of the water sector institutions. He further pointed out that training should contribute to the dedicated purpose of improving the operation and management in the concerned sector, particularly in the local corporations.

Anti-polio campaigns kick off

SANA'A, April, 15 — The Ministry of Public Health and Population has begun today a three-day vaccination campaign against polio in Sana'a, Taiz, Baiadha, Aljawf, Sada'a, Marib, and Shabwa Governorates. The campaign aims at vaccinating children below five years old against poliovirus. Also, it comes as a part of the house-to-house immunization strategy which is arising to provide 90% coverage ratio in the targeted areas.

According to Ministry of Health, the last polio case was registered in February 2006. It also points out that Yemen is close to reach the international declaration of polio virus elimination through the extended immunization program that is currently carried out.

Dr. Hussein Al-Zeairy, regional director of WHO Eastern Mediterranean region,

expressed last the Wednesday the readiness of the organization to support

and cooperate with the government to enhance the organizations that support such programs especially the polio eradication national program and to help Yemen get the international declaration of the virus elimination. In addition, he confirmed that Yemen has become qualified to receive financial awards for its effort to improve the information system of the extended immunization Program that was carried out in 2006. Further, he indicated that the program has reached 99.9 percent of data preciseness with relation to anti-polio immunization campaigns.

As a matter of fact, in March, 2006, Yemen has received an amount of \$2,306,000 provided by the international vaccinations alliance for its achievement in this field of extended immunization against polio and measles and the results of last year's campaigns which vaccinated 2'300'000 children against polio and 9'5 million children against

measles are encouraging.

On the other hand Shara'ab 14th October police station in Taiz Gov. seized a big quantity of vaccines and drugs and detained the immunization personnel in Al-Taiz District, west of Taiz, while they were conducting an immunization campaign on children below one years in that area.

Abdullah Ali, the head of the district and chairman of the local council, and Ali Sadig sent a notification to the general director of health office in Taiz, asking the involved bodies in the governorate to consider the issue and deal with the police station officials according to the law. "The police station staff seized the children's vaccine and detained the immunization personnel while they were performing their national duties in the area" said the notification adding that this attitude will lead to the expiry of the vaccine due to the inappropriate storing and exposure to heat.

New strategy to limit arm possession

SANA'A, April, 12 — In its last meeting which presided over by the President of the Republic Ali Abdullah Saleh, the National Defence Council ratified a plan, which presented by Dr. Rashid Alalimi, vice prime minister and minister of interior, to collect heavy, mid weapons, and explosives

The 26 September Newspaper quoted witnessed sources that the plan included many steps. First, determining arm markets and the places of arm spread in the light of the result of the previous committee which ordered the collecting of those weapons. Second, determining the kind of arms which come under no possession. Third, determining the compensation for each piece according to its sort, standard, manufacture, and present situation. Fourth, starting the implementation of the plan and finding the necessary bases to its success such as funds for compensations, commissions to superintend the field and secure the collection, and import-storing centers.

The Newspaper adds that implementing the plan to collect heavy and mid weapons will be accompanied by a wide press campaign in different means of information i.e. readable, audible, and visible, so as to identify the risk of this phenomenon as well as the negative sides which affect the citizens who buy or carry those pieces. Also, calling all citizens to cooperate with the commission in their weapon collection according to the law which prevent arm possession.

Sources in the interior Ministry affirmed that the plan will be presented to the Cabinet to ratify it at first, second to approve a budget, and third to



Large and more sophisticated weapons are, too, available for sale.

assign commissions to count, collect, and pay compensations according to the plan. In addition, an official have said that the repel weaponry comes from the biggest arm market, Souq al-Talh which is located only 30 km from the provincial city of Sada, 240 km from the capital Sana'a. He, also, added that there are around 12 arm markets and about 300 light weapon shops spreading across Yemen. It is worth mentioning that in 2005, the government of Yemen Embarked on a scheme to collect heavy weapons, which reach 9 million pieces according to a survey by the UN in 2003, from tribal communities or arm traders, spending a round 44 million dollars to buy back weapons. However, this effort was floundered as a result of inadequate funding.

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Polish firms seek to import Yemen's oil

SANA'A, April 14 — The Polish minister of economy Mr. Piotr Grzegorz Wo_niak submitted a bid for a Polish oil firms to import oil and gas from Yemen and to participate in the international competitions on oil and gas fields carried out by Yemen's ministry of oil and minerals. It is worth mentioning that the discussion between the Polish delegation, which is headed by Mr. Grzegorz and includes deputy minister of Agriculture and a number of businessmen from oil companies, and the Yemeni government was held on Saturday.

During the meeting, the Yemeni Minister of Oil Mr. Khalid Bahah discussed with the Polish minister the potential of boosting the relations in the field of oil and gas, and incorporating Polish oil firms in the international competitions for oil and gas fields in Yemen. He, also, affirmed the Polish firms' bid to import oil and gas from Yemen will be reviewed.

Mr. Bahah welcomed the Polish investment in oil, gas, and mining, affirming his ministry's keenness to open competition chances for international firms in Yemen's oil and gas

fields. His ministry will announce the international competitions on Yemen's oil and gas fields during the coming period.

Meanwhile, the Yemeni Prime Minister Mr. Ali Mujawwar discussed with the Polish delegation the ways of improving investment cooperation between the two countries, especially with regard to oil, gas, modern irrigation techniques, and fishery.

Mujawwar briefed the Polish delegation on the potentialities of boosting mutual relations and interests for both countries. For his part, Mr. Wo_niak said that he would encourage Polish firms to visit Yemen and learn about the available investment opportunities.

In addition, the Polish delegation has also met with the Yemeni Minister of Industry and Trade Mr. Yahya Al-Mutawakel. "We discussed the participation of Polish firms and businessmen in Investment Opportunities Conference, which will be held on 22 and 23 April this year in Sana'a," Al-Mutawakel said. He added that the visit of the Polish delegation comes within the frame to enhance the economic cooperation with the European Union.

Britain concerned over Saada clashes

SANA'A, April 14 — Peter Gooderham, Director of Middle East & North Africa in the United Kingdom's Foreign & Commonwealth Office, said that his country is concerned about the situation in Sa'ada province, north Yemen, where government forces are still combating followers of AlHouthi, a Shiite leader.

We are concerned about the current fighting in Saada and we keep in contact with the Yemeni government, Mr. Gooderham said, denying offering any advice to Yemen in this regard. "It is an internal Yemeni issue," he said in an announcement came on Wednesday in an interview with Al-Ayyam newspaper and newsyemen website.

This is the first visit for a British official to Yemen, where he met with top officials including the president Ali Abdullah Saleh, the prime minister, the interior minister, and the minister of foreign affairs.

Actually, the Saada issue has raised concern over the humanitarian situation in the province, where thousands

of displaced families live in bad conditions. Also, contagious diseases, namely cholera, have been spreading in the area as a result of dead bodies that have been left to rot in streets. The government has also been reportedly accused of lying personnel landmines in its fighting with the rebels. In fact, politicians have been already warned of internationalizing the Saada issue.

The British Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Michael Geofford, said that his country is concerned over the armament sources in Saada fighting. "Arms worry Britain and Yemen as well. We try to help Yemen technically through training coastguard forces on fighting attempts to smuggle weapons," he said, adding that the problem of arms is seriously big for Yemen and the region. In fact, reports indicate that there are 60 million pieces of arms throughout Yemen's governorates. Additionally, they pointed out that Yemen has a relation to the smuggling of weapons to the Islamic courts in Somalia, which Yemen denied.

Yemen as depicted by German Helfritz's photographs

By: Moneer Al-Omari

SANA'A, The German Ambassador held a press conference last Saturday at the Sana'a-based German House. In the conference, he tackled many aspects of the German photographer and musical ethnologist Hanz Helfritz's travels to Yemen that took place over three times during 1931-1935.

Helfritz (1902-1995) was a composer, a travel author, a music ethnologist, an explorer, an adventurer, a photographer, and a cameraman. He traveled from one place to another in Yemen and recorded different aspects of Yemenis' life in different areas, especially in Al-Mukalla, Sayun, Aden, Mareb, Sana'a and Zabid.

In his photos, Helfritz documented the way in which Yemenis lived then, reflecting part of their cultural heritage. He also wrote many books about Yemen and spoke about some funny stories he underwent including his imprisonment in Mareb's Hareeb by Imam Yahya who was doubtful about his [Helfritz] travels.

Upon his visit to Shibam Hadramout, he was enchanted by the city's beauty and nine-to-ten-storeyed clay houses. Thus, he was prompted to call it the "Chicago of the Desert". In his silent film Brick Production and Buildings in the Wadi Hadramaut, he showed in details the way by which Shibam locals mix and make the bricks they used for building their oldest sky scrapers.

Marking Federal Chancellor Schröder's visit to Yemen in March 2005, a similar exhibition of photographs by Hermann Burchardt was opened. Burchardt captured his photographs of Yemen over the period 1904-1909. He traveled to many Arab countries and his journey ended in Yemen when he was tragically killed for mistaken identity. The exhibited



Samples of Bedouin and old Yemeni music will be exhibited in Hadramout

photographs were gifted to the Sana'a-based National Museum.

The Saturday conference was made in a preparation for the Exhibition of Al-Mukalla, the place from which Helfritz initiated his journey in Yemen in 1931, due to be held on Saturday, April 21. It is worth mentioning that this exhibition will be followed later on with other three exhibitions held in Wadi Hadramout (May 9-23), Aden (June 2-13), and Sana'a (June 21-August 4).

German Ambassador to Yemen H.E. Mr. Frank Marcus Mann indicated that those exhibitions are intended to bring back the photographs captured over different periods of time to the original place from which they were taken,

particularly when they are very rare. Further, the exhibition will include samples of Bedouin and the then Yemeni music.

Mr. Mann, who was disappointed at the coverage of Yemeni media to such important cultural and other activities, further pointed out that all these photographs and music samples find their way to Yemeni museums as gifts when the exhibitions are over. "Now, we are bringing back not just photographs but also music samples which will be gifted to the Yemeni Music House," said Mann. He went on saying that Sayun's exhibition will be inaugurated under the sponsorship of Hadramout Governor in Old Sultan's Palace in order to attract the attention

of concerned authorities to the importance of this building which is in need for restoration and preservation.

For her part, Miss Wiebke Brahe from the German House indicated that the idea of this exhibition stems from the fact that old photographs are rare in Yemen especially those which document the history of Yemen over the period 1900 to 1950. So, the earlier exhibition and the coming exhibitions are made in part for following the roots of those photographs. Also, she added that such works and photographs are part of Yemeni cultural heritage; hence, they are brought back to Yemen and will be kept in the future in some Yemeni museums.

In fact, the German House is an institution affiliated with the German Embassy in Sana'a and it helps strengthen the cultural ties between Yemen and Germany. It also provides general information and language courses for those interested.

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Continued from page 1

More volunteers, soliders to support army in Sa'ada

Brigade participation

In related news, more than 10 soldiers from Al-Amaliqah Brigade and another 20 were injured after Houthis trapped them in Al-Safra's Al-Mahather area north of Sa'ada.

"Al-Amaliqah Brigade, famed during Yemen's 1994 Civil War, is participating in the Sa'ada war, which renewed in January," Aleshteraki.net reported.

The participation of Al-Amaliqah Brigade and other military units comes after wide criticism about the performance of Brig. Ali Muhsen Al-Ahmar's Brigades of the First Armored Division.

Aleshteraki.net added that Houthis managed to dispel those army units that penetrated some zones of Dhahian, as well as its main street, after a bloody battle between the two sides, leaving behind 18 dead and injured, including Al-Jabali, deputy commander of a tank unit.

Local sources from Dhamar assure that more than 35 detainees being held for alleged Houthi links and jailed at Dhamar's Central Prison began a hunger strike two days ago to protest their more than month-long detention without justification.

Earlier last week, Dhamar's Political Security Department released 27 students and political activists affiliated with Al-Haq, the Popular Forces Union and the Socialist parties. They were detained for their sympathetic attitude toward Houthism.

Yahya Al-Houthi allowed to be extradited Al-Motamar.net revealed that Interpol has listed Yahya Al-Houthi, now living in Germany, on its red notice, thus binding those countries where he is to extradite him to Yemeni authorities.

Interpol took such action against Al-Houthi after Yemen sent an official letter requesting the agency arrest and extradite him for the many crimes he has committed as an outstanding leader in the Faithful Youth Organization.

Houthi grandson abducted

An armed group abducted a grandson of Badraddin Al-Houthi from in front of his house in Sana'a's Mathbah zone. According to Aleshteraki.net, 13-year-old Amin Abdullqader Badraddin Al-Houthi left his house Friday morning to buy some necessary foodstuffs.

His mother, who lives with him since her husband was killed in the first Sa'ada War, pointed out that her neighbors informed her that a large group of armed men took her son by force to an unknown location.

The source added that the abductors belong to GPC-affiliated Member of Parliament Saghir bin Aziz, whose brother Houthis captured earlier last week following a battle in Al-Mahather. Done with the consent of concerned authorities, the abduction aims to pressure Houthis to free Aziz's brother along with three volunteer fighters.

Some citizens have warned authorities about injecting tribesmen and jihadists into the Sa'ada war in order to cover its failure, noting that such insertion will lead Yemen's tribal society into endless wars. They referred to some military and security leaders who foment hatred and hostility between Yemenis and over the Sa'ada war, whose victims include women and children.

Other Houthi sons arrested

Security sources have raided numerous houses in Sana'a following the war's eruption, arresting many sons and grandsons of Badraddin Al-Houthi's family, and also included female members of the family.

The arrested sons are: Alawi Yahyaddin Al-Houthi, 19; Zakaria Mohammed Badraddin Al-Houthi, 20; and Mohammed Ali Abdulkarim Al-Houthi, 17.

Military forces recruitment

Citizens from Ibb's Al-Radhmah district mention that the local authority has begun opening camps to receive those willing to volunteer as fighters in the Sa'ada war against Houthis, focusing on those previously dismissed from service and those with a Salafi background.

At its April 12 meeting chaired by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen's National Defense Council approved a military recruitment policy including all Yemeni tribes and areas, after previously confining recruitment only to the Hashed tribe.

Some sources indicate that extending recruitment of tribesmen and jihadists to a total of 10,000 comes as a solution to disputes between National Council members regarding the Yemeni army's inability to resolve the battle with Houthi loyalists. Other members demand the participation of other military units, such as the Republican Guard, Central Security Forces and other units that haven't participated in the Sa'ada war until now.

In addition to extending the number of those mobilized from among tribesmen and other geographical areas, the council also approved recruiting a large number of Salafis to join the Yemeni army in the fight against Houthis, as reported in Akhbar Al-Youm, which is close to the authority, entailing more than 20,000 jihadists to fight them.

"Catastrophic" human situation

The Red Crescent Association spokesman in Sana'a declared that the human situation in Sa'ada is catastrophic, noting that the situation of displaced residents is very bad due to the shortage of aid provided to them by volunteers.

He reported to the weekly independent Al-Nidda newspaper that his association supervises just two camps in Sa'ada, Al-And and Al-Ashol, located somewhere at the border of Sa'ada city and accommodating 2,858 families. Other sources revealed that the association is allowed to move in no more than two percent of places where displaced and injured residents exist.

Informed sources assert that there are more than 10 camps for displaced citizens, including Waqash Camp in Al-Safra and others in Bani Mu'ath, while the largest is Al-Mahdeidah Camp located on the Saudi border and accommodating more than 25,000 displaced residents from Dhahian and Al-Talh.

The same sources add that such displaced individuals lead a very hard life, maintaining that there is a total absence of supervision by government, national and international organizations, together with a shortage of food and lack of medical care and relief.

Local residents previously indicated that some Yemeni Red Crescent Association workers are Salafis and thus, biased toward the army, which affects their performance.

U.K. won't advise

Peter Gooderham, Middle East-North Africa director for the U.K.'s Foreign & Commonwealth Office, stated that what's occurring in Sa'ada is an internal affair and his country has no advice to provide in this respect.

Gooderham told Al-Ayyam daily newspaper last Thursday that they "won't provide any advice in this regard. However, they are concerned about existing fighting, so we are in continuous contact with the Yemeni government regarding these events."

Britain had a different stance on the first Sa'ada War, as expressed by then-British Ambassador to Yemen, Frances Guy. Her statements caused tense relations over the 2004 Sa'ada War, as she considered the events an internal insurrection having nothing to do with combating terrorism. She also criticized the Yemeni army's excessive use of power.

The Yemeni government has failed to sell the Sa'ada War as a "War on Terror" to many international parties responsible for international decision making, at the top of which is the United States.



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First Yemeni cartoon illustrates children's exploitation

By: Nisreen Shadad

Cartoons today invade children's world, as well as that of adults. "We find cartoons to be the best way to make children aware of their rights; therefore, we chose it as a means to achieve our goals," explains Lamy'a Al-Eryani, director of Shawthab Foundation, which is an NGO concerned with child welfare.

"Ahmed's Return" is the cartoon's title and it represents all of those boys sold by their parents to various individuals who train them for work, which not only is unhealthy, but dangerous.

Through this cartoon, Shawthab Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Embassy, intends to portray children's suffering and the injury parents do when they send their children to work. It also aims to create more awareness among families about children's rights.

Screened for all attendees, Shawthab's awareness cartoon relates the story of a little boy named Ahmed, whose father agrees to send him to another country for a certain amount of money. Being needy and lacking a job obliges the father to sell his son's rights, while granting himself the right to dream of a big house at the expense of



The panel confirmed the violent conditions in which children grow up, highlighting parents' responsibility to preserve their children's rights.

another human being's life.

His neighbor repeatedly advises him not to send Ahmed with the man, who has promised to find a good job for him. "He's one of those child smugglers," the neighbor warns. However, money is dearer to this father than his son.

Ahmed goes with the cruel man, but he isn't alone, as three other children are with him and facing the same fate. The man chooses to walk the desert route so no one will see him smuggling the four boys. While walking, a snake bites one of the other boys, Abdullah, who dies within a few minutes.

It was a very hard scene for the children to watch because they felt unsafe. Tears were brought to the eyes of some child attendees and moved their hearts,

as fifth-grader pupil Sami Abdul Malik expressed, "I was sad when Abdullah died."

The cruel man bribes a border guard to help him smuggle the children. Upon reaching the new country, Ahmed begins working by carrying large stones. He then washes car windows in order to make something to satisfy his hunger.

Something stops Ahmed, who looks through a window as he passes by to see a rich boy who's the same age eating some delicious-looking food. "The contrast we see in this scene between the rich and the poor moved me. I've seen such scenes a lot in Gulf countries," commented Ann-Marie, public affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy.

As reality restricts Ahmed's hopes and dreams, he frees his thoughts to go wherever they like. He imagines being one of those rich men wearing very handsome and clean clothes and eating the most delicious food.

However, like a slap, reality awakens him, as he finds himself back with his family. He had been injured badly in a car accident, after which someone knowing his family returned him to them.

Yemen International School fourth-grader Wid Radfan was sorry that a father could abandon his son for money, whereas Mohammed Abdullah, a second-grader at the same school, didn't understand the cartoon or its meaning.



Ahmed falls down due to his backbreaking work.

Al-Eryani says the issue must be further enlightened by producing several cartoons portraying all of the issues regarding exploitation in their full guise. Ann-Marie agrees that children face numerous types of exploitation and that while this cartoon depicted economic exploitation, in fact, children face much worse.

Regarding this issue, innocence rapidly may lead to death; therefore, such innocence calls on everyone to understand the facts and factors that lead to selling it, as well as the damage and weariness it leaves behind when a child lacks it.

Fourth grade Azal Hadda School student Amatillah Hassan presented a poem about child smuggling, expressing children's anger and hurt. "Oh Dad, I bear much pain; however, my pain and crying are in vain. I have become homeless in this life. No hope resides in my heart, nor any dream of an immaculate future. My childhood is lost and ghosts in the guise of men have found me as a victim. They stole my childhood innocence and made it as goods sold in the souqs.

"I want to find happiness and love, to live in life full of pleasure. Oh father, don't be surprised at my speech because I mean it. A child has the right to live honorably and walk with dignity. We are gifts and deposits from God; therefore, you are asked to preserve our rights and not break trust," Hassan's poem concluded.

Although Islam forbids marketing or killing children due to fear of poverty, people still transgress others' rights, Al-Eryani notes.

Many children interact with Shawthab Foundation as it works for children's rights. "An activity like this is very important to make people aware of child smuggling," comments Al-Hathara School fifth-grader Ibrahim Safawat.

Osama Mahfoudh, a sixth-grader at Al-Yemenia School, confirmed the importance of such an activity, which makes both children and their families aware of the harms of smuggling. "I hope each and every child can grow up among his or her family. I want children to live their age and not work hard jobs that neither fit their age, nor their small, young bodies."

According to Ann-Marie, this cartoon is the first to address the problems of Yemeni children, but not the first effort dealing with children's issues.

A UNICEF worker building centers based on respecting children pointed out that silence only increases corruption and exploits more children. "Silence only helps those aggressors against children's rights. We must work with children because partnering with them makes them more aware of their rights, building their confidence and preserving their dignity," he explained.

Presidential political consultant Abdulkarim Al-Eryani also supported the activity. "The child smuggling phenomenon is widespread and international; however, it's a new phenomenon here in Yemen, so we must overcome it while it's at the beginning."

He continued, "The entire society is responsible for such a phenomenon; however, the family is the first party responsible for child smuggling. Poverty and living in dire circumstances doesn't oblige a man to sell another human being, who also has the

right to live with dignity, and it's even worse when this human being is his own child.

Al-Eryani concluded, "I hope every Ahmed, Mohammed and Hassan smuggled from Yemeni borders returns to his family safely."

"The U.S. Embassy financed our project. We produced the cartoon in Cairo because we still lack the necessary materials to produce a cartoon in Yemen. Moreover, the U.S. Embassy is willing to provide us presentation materials (a laptop, dynamo, etc.) when screening the cartoon in governorates lacking electricity," one of the organizers explained.

U.S. Embassy public relations officer Osama Al-Anisi explained, "We worked together to choose the Ahmed character as a symbol for all subsequent cartoons." Carl Childey, a public diplomacy consultant working with Al-Anisi, who said that he got involved in such work because the child smuggling issue affected him.

As a contrast, unfair conditions can occur, even among those seeking children's rights. The son of one of the Shawthab's employees reported to his



Amatillah Hassan asked everyone not to trample on children's rights so that they may survive.

mother that he was sitting in the back, but he wanted to sit in front. Therefore, the parent asked another attending pupil to give up her seat in order to satisfy her son, thereby denying that child her seat instead in spite of her work in children's rights!

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Words of Wisdom



The problem is the helplessness people feel. Most people feel they have lost control, and even a sense of direction. They drift along with the current. They feel uncomfortable with the flow as they believe there is no one in charge.

This is because the Yemeni individual is used to an autocratic system in which things are predetermined and people are given exact roles to play.

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

Tehran: the Washington-pampered enemy

By: Nassr Taha Mustafa

When Iran declares its determination to continue its nuclear program for peaceful purposes in the face of the west, we always find that Muslims everywhere strongly back Iran away from any political or sectarian considerations. Surely, this is what embodies the sentimental and ideological unity between Muslims. But the picture becomes totally different when Muslims worldwide feel that Iran may give precedence to its ethnic sentiment in an issue of a sectarian dimension over its political affiliation. Such a fact makes Muslims feel disappointed about building a nation with unified attitudes. So, a large and important country like Iran commits a huge mistake in such a case since its future relies on the support of Muslims, specifically its Arab neighbors whose interests, future, and stability necessitate strong ties with Iran. Similarly, this applies for Iran that is in need of closer ties with Arabs.

Meanwhile, we perceive that there is a long history of disagreements but feel the need for peaceful coexistence between people belonging to different sects most of the time. If the case was similar throughout the different stages of history as the nations were doing well, the situation should be better in our current age, which experiences split and fragmentation of Arabs. Our situations are gradually deteriorating except for a wink of hope maintaining the Islamic entities via historic leaders, major events, or immense changes. All of us remember how the Arabs, without an exception, sympathize with the Iranian Revolution and its leader, the late Imam Al-Khameni. The Arabs upheld the revolution without any restriction or condition, but such backing declined over the elapse of time after Iran's declaration of its sectarian identity, its war with Iraq,

and the war consequences that led to expand the scope of unprecedented sectarian and ethno-discriminations between Muslims. The Arabs then entered a new phase, which is the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its bad consequences culminating in the fall of Baghdad at the hands of the U.S. forces in the year of 2003 which marked the beginning of the real golden age for Iran in the whole region.

Over time, Iran and the U.S. are jointly engaged in the affairs of Iraq's governance in an implicit way. Tehran has become an integral player, if not really the primary player and the strong decision-maker in the Iraq Cause. If Iran hadn't played a great role in Iraq, it would have been subjected to a deadly military strike by the U.S. and some of its allies under the pretext of targeting its nuclear reactor. Instead of this, Iran has become a pampered enemy for Washington to launch against it the war of words. This makes one believe that the fall of the Islamic republic and its regime is inevitable, but later on, he/she will perceive that the issue is something worse than the fall of Iran.

In the light of these developments and changes, the extending between the international moves to approve economic sanctions on Iran over its nuclear project and the regional-Iranian role, which is expanding in the region and accused of sparking sectarian conflicts in search for political influence in the region. Also, in the light of these developments, those interested in the topic can read the Iranian Leader's visit to Sudan and Saudi Arabia.

Irrespective of its being the Iranian president's first official visit to both Arab countries, it coincided with difficult and complicated international and regional conditions. The Iranian government realized that continuing the sectarian conflicts against it in the region is bound to separate it from the world, particularly if the inter-

national community approves the economic sanctions against it. For Tehran, Sudan is a bridge for it to cross to the Suni Islamic movements in the region, taking into consideration the roots of the Islamic movements for the Sudanese regime, which still maintains strong ties with these movements, particularly those engaged in the political action without violence.

Certainly, Tehran understands well the role of the Arab Islamic movements in drawing a positive or a negative picture of the Iranian regime in the Arab street. But the Islamic Republic needs the positive picture after it was shaken in various occasions.

On the other hand, Saudi Arabia is pondered upon as a bridge for Tehran toward the mutual understanding with the Arab regimes and reducing the Arabs' official worry about Iran's new policies in the region. Although, Saudi Arabia back Iran's right to have nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, there is a natural worry that Tehran may use its nuclear programs in favor of projects that may not serve stability and coexistence in the region. Ahmadinejad, the Iranian President, cared for gratifying the Saudi King before holding the Arab Summit in Riyadh, which focused on examining Iran's intents, caring for the political togetherness, reducing sectarian congestion, and supporting Saudi efforts to resolve conflicts between the Lebanese factions.

If Ahmadinejad's visit to Sudan and Saudi Arabia was successful, this means that Iran has taken a serious step to be closer to its Arab neighbors and cleared all the sectarian and ethno-discriminations, the bad influence of which may not be limited to the Arab region, but is expected to reach Iran.

Nassr Taha Mustafa is the President of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate
Source: Al-Syasiah newspaper

SILVER LINING

Prerequisites for Mujawar's Cabinet success

Now, the government is set and its members have undertaken their jobs. It is time for hard work. In his first speech after he and his cabinet members were sworn in last week, the Prime Minister, H.E. Mr. Ali Mujawar, has pledged to wage a war on corruption. "It is enough for corruption," he bluntly said. Mujawar is known of his hard work and devotion. He did a good job when he assumed the fish wealth portfolio. He could not do anything when he took over the electricity because this ministry's plight is difficult to address.



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

The government of Mujawar is, of course, facing a lot of challenges of different colors. It has to address the major headaches of Yemen, including corruption, poverty unemployment, and others. Mujawar said he would address these issues through the boosting of investment. Yes, it is only investment which can truly bring about a boom in Yemen's economy for oil resources are not enough and can not last for a long time as economic agencies reports read.

Encouraging investments needs a lot of work from the government and strategic thinking and planning. It has to create a stable and secured situation which can attract investors to come in. Therefore, the fight in Sada'a has to see an immediate end. It needs to establish fair and independent commercial judiciary system that makes investors feel comfortable about the future of their money. It needs also, as Mujawar himself said, a good infrastructure and facilities like electricity supply. Yes, no investors will flow into a country when they know that there is shortage of power. Investments need also a crackdown on influential tribal figures who use their influence and power to exercise pressure on investors to share them in return of the so-called "protection service". This is really ridiculous and demonstrates the absolute absence of law and order. No investors will even think of coming to the country if they know they have to get the protection of influential figures rather than law and order. The government has also to address the administrative bureaucracy and improve the professional skills of the government civil servants who can run the work procedures very quickly.

Those are really the prerequisites the government of Mujawar has to address if it really wants to attract foreign investments into the country which would consequently revive the already fragile economy pregnant with a lot of pitfalls. On his side, H.E. the president Ali Abdullah Saleh, as usual, advised the government not to submit to the pressure of the influential guys, launch a war on corruption, and create a good environment for investment. I know this is not something new but Mujawar has to take the speech of Saleh seriously and works towards that end. He either accepts the peril and the challenge by insisting on implementing his program that has to be well-planned or gives in to the pressure of the influential figures and the cronies around the president and thus fails his people.

The cabinet has to succeed because it is being eyed by the international donor community which is concerned about the future of this country that, if the situation continues to worsen, would fall into the trap of chaos. A lot of support to Yemen depends on the good operation of this government. So, let's keep our fingers crossed for the last time that this cabinet would achieve some fruitful results.

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



OUR OPINION

Muslim refugee's day

Looking at the world's map of war zones and conflicts, we will realize that the majority of fighting, which, in fact, leads to the homelessness of so many people, is taking place in the Muslim countries. It is worth mentioning that Muslim countries host an estimated 9.4 million of the 20.8 million refugees which is of concern to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) world wide (excluding Palestinians). In his address to the Arab league last month, Mr. António Guterres, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees stated that the majority of the world's refugees are Muslims. Today there are more than 1 million Iraqis in Syria and up to 750,000 in Jordan. In addition, there are Over 100,000 Iraqi refugees in Egypt, 40,000 in Lebanon, 50,000 in Iran, over 5,000 in Turkey, and varying numbers in countries everywhere.

Although, ironically, the international refugee law has much in common with the Islamic principles in dealing with displaced persons. He explained that the Islamic law and tradition includes all the norms, codified later, and provides a valuable foundation for the legal framework the commission operates with. In addition, he said that "Looking back through history, the most direct line between tradition and contemporary refugee law is found in Islam," "From its very beginnings, from the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of the Prophet, Islamic law has considered the question of asylum at length and has given the asylum seeker ("Al mustamin") prominence, dignity, and respect. A community's moral duty and behavior always included how it responded to appeals for asylum" he elaborated.

Yemen is already accommodating many displaced persons whether Palestinians, Iraqis, or lately the increasingly huge influx of Somali refugees who are estimated to be around 90,000 in Yemen alone. It is worth mentioning that many of the Somali refugees cannot make it to Yemen due to the high risks they take through traveling by sea.

The striking fact is that some of the Muslim countries are very rich, especially in the Gulf area. So, if all those countries could chip in together, the Muslim refugees would have been protected. In his speech, Guterres appealed to the Muslim world and in particular the Arab world to play a greater role in the discussion, formulation, and implementation of international refugee policy.

As a commencement for supporting refugees, we could start by identifying a day which could be announced as the World Muslim Refugees' Day. Since Ramadan is a month of compassion for Muslims all around the world, I had a suggestion from a friend of mine to declare the 9th of Ramadan, which will be September 20th 2007, as the World Muslim Refugees' Day. We must all join hands in order to mitigate the crises and help the majority of Muslims around the world. Let's do it, and make sure that substantial efforts are made to make their life better.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

By: Dr. Samia Al-Aghbari

Yemenis have been suffering from the consequences of expatriation which left negative impacts on them and their children in different aspects of life despite the fact that most of them had made money from immigration, which has taken a great price in return.

No one feels the hardship of expatriates except for those who are forced by the economic conditions to taste the bitterness of immigration. In fact, nobody wants to leave his/her

homeland and stay abroad for a long time but for a necessity such as the poor economic conditions or the lack of opportunities to achieve someone's dreams in his/her homeland country.

For how long the Yemeni expatriates, particularly the highly qualified people, will stay away from their own homeland, deprived of the joyful living with their children, families, friends, and beloved ones. Will the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates remain holding this term "Immigration" in a way giving an implicative feeling that official parties promote immigration as a source of national income and bringing hard currency to the country? Is it obvious that the state does not seem to encourage expatriates to return home and stay in their homeland?

Supposedly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Expatriates should care about the Yemeni communities abroad, either by solving their problems or encouraging them to return home and contribute to building the nation, particularly the creative ones. Such objective can not be achieved unless the concerned parties are serious enough to conduct a comprehensive statistical survey of all the expatriates in other countries and classify them under different age groups or according to their qualifications, majors, professions, or careers. This classification has to provide the concerned authorities with a complete profile about the conditions of those expatriates on one hand, and enable the state to benefit from the well-educated and qualified ones such as the businessmen, physicians, economists, scientist, and thinkers in different areas of knowledge on the other hand. The state should promote the return of qualified expatriates instead of introducing foreign experts and paying them large sums of money from its treasury.

Of course, we should not forget the great efforts pursued by President of the Republic in

attracting and encouraging Yemeni investors and businessmen to return home and participate in building the nation. Also, we should not forget the role played by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, represented by its minister, H.E. Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, in examining the situations of Yemeni communities in different foreign countries.

The issue of expatriates is neither momentary nor limited; rather it is an issue with deep historic roots resulting in sharp social, economic, political, cultural, and psychological consequences. So, paying closer attention to expatriates, establishing a strong bond between them and their homeland, and persuading them to return home must top the government's political agenda since the issue has long and medium term strategic and security dimensions.

The current international situation, which doesn't encourage immigration particularly in the developed countries, makes me concentrate on the expatriates' issues. For, the western governments have taken serious moves not only to deport illegal migrants but also to impose restrictions on the resident expatriates, who spent their time in serving the western communities and remained deprived of their homelands and relatives, and who usually dream of home-return which, with the passage of time, becomes difficult to achieve because if they return home, they will actually find themselves as strangers in their home country.

This phenomenon is attributed to the lack of attention paid to the expatriates when they return home and to the treatment they receive on the basis that they are expatriates, temporary residents, and are bound to leave their homeland. In addition, some community members envy them and believe that every expatriate has a fortune, which he/she had saved throughout the several years of expatriation, mainly if the expatriate returned Home from an oil-rich or

European country.

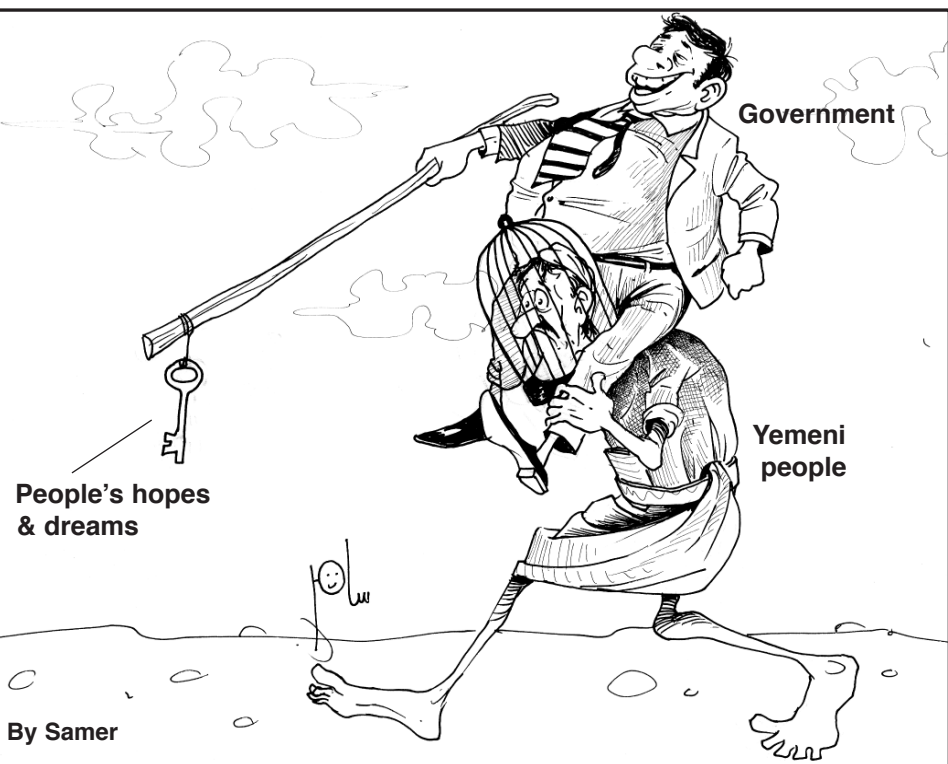
This wrong look at the expatriates, who are all put in a single basket, usually exposed them to be harassed and forced to pay much more bribes than the non-expatriates pay. Additionally, they usually face obstacles while some of them may lose all what they have earned since they don't know how to deal with the local communities. As a result, they become infected with a psychological disorder and decide to leave their Homeland for expatriation once again.

Paying closer attention to the expatriates and fixing their problems in the countries where they reside in and helping those having the desire to come back Home is the best step needed to be taken by the government. I think the official interest in the citizens abroad is to enhance their sense of loyalty with their Homeland and its culture which cannot be achieved unless the expatriate enters his/her country's embassy in the foreign country with the feeling that he/she is at his/her own Home. Further, if the expatriate meets the officials at his/her country's embassy, he/she will feel that he/she meets his/her relatives and beloved ones. So, he/she will sense the status and strengths of his/her country when he/she feels oppressed.

Represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, the Yemeni government is supposed to encourage every talented and creative expatriate to return home to avail the country of his/her talent and creativity. Also, it should pay more attention to the foreign countries where the Yemeni communities reside. Furthermore, it has to play an effective role in assisting the expatriates, who would like to come back Home, to acclimatize with his/her local community and contribute to the building the nation.

Source: Al-Thawra daily

SKETCHED OPINION



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Yemen Press Review

By: Adel Al-Khawlani



Al-Wahdah Comprehensive Political Weekly
Wednesday, April 11

Main Headlines

- Up to 150 investment opportunities before the Investment Opportunity Exploration Conference
- Agricultural production increases, facilities to farmers top government's agenda
- Parliament criticizes Central Organization for Control and Audit for poor performance
- Yemeni-German project to graze fish in Hadramout
- Up to \$570 million allocated for establishing new port projects in Hadramout, Aden, Mahrah
- Consumer Protection Society warns citizens of buying expired commodities
- Yemen exerts efforts to hold national conference on reconciliation between Somali factions

The Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi said in a statement that Yemen is expending hard efforts to hold a conference on reconciliation between the conflicting factions of Somalia, the newspaper reported on the top of its front page. It added that all the Somali effective factions and political organizations are due to participate in the conference in a way contributing to restoring security and stability to the war-torn country.

Al-Qirbi urged all the conflicting parties in Somalia to depend on dialogue as a means to resolve conflicts and help their nation avoid the bad consequences of wars and destruction that swallow every green and dry things and serve only the enemies of Somalia. The Yemeni diplomat added that his

government urges the Arab League and the African Union and other countries interested in conciliating between the conflicting factions of Somalia to exert greater effort to make the conference, scheduled for coming May, a success.



Al-Methaq Weekly, Mouthpiece of the General People Congress
Monday, April 9

Main Headlines

- Saleh: The new cabinet should wage fierce war against corruption and corrupt individuals
- Bajammal authorizes monitoring authority to assess ruling party institutions
- Saudi Interior Minister praises Yemen for security cooperation
- Parliament discusses International Criminal Court
- Health Minister visits victims of Amran mosque arson fire
- Boosting investment, creating more job opportunities and improving living standards of people tops the government's agenda, PM declares

The weekly paper reported that the new cabinet, under Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Mujawar, is expected to forward its platform to Parliament next week. In the meantime, a ministerial committee, made up of many cabinet members, was formed on Saturday to prepare the platform. President Ali Abdullah Saleh chaired the first meeting of the new cabinet on Saturday after the new ministers were sworn in before Saleh in the Presidential Palace.

During the meeting, Saleh highlighted the top priority tasks of the new government. "The new cabinet has many great tasks ahead and it must perform them on due time," said Saleh.

"The platform of the PGC presidential candidate is one of the top priority duties the cabinet must do." The President warned against the intervention of other personalities in the government's affairs and responsibilities.



Al-Sahwa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Islah Party
Thursday, April 12

Main Headlines

- Workers of Balhaf-based French company go on strike
- A little girl killed in shootout over land disputes
- Tribal arbitration resolves conflict over a citizen's murder
- U.S. State Department official: Yemen's most recent presidential and local elections experienced numerous mistakes.
- JMP spokesman calls for good atmospheres to continue dialogue
- Bin Shamlan: If Saleh has the will to implement his platform, he can do so through any cabinet

The weekly reported that Faisal Bin Shamlan, the Joint Meeting Parties' candidate, who ran for president in Yemen's most recent polls, confirmed that the country suffers an illogical political situation. He underestimated the significance of the new cabinet formation saying, "President Saleh could implement his platform through the former cabinet formation if he had the will to do so."

In an interview with the media, Bin Shamlan indicated that he doesn't perceive any economic policy in the country and that the elections had gone, along with their sweetness and bitterness while people are awaiting for any positive changes expected to happen

after the polls. According to Bin Shamlan people appear unsatisfied with the current situation and pin hope that the current dialogue between the JMP and regime reaches tangible results.



Al-Tajamu Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party (YUCP)
Monday, April 9

Main Headlines

- MPs divided between hunting criminals and protecting them
- Al-Asali's resignation confirms that the government system is not progressing toward reform
- Leader of the rebellion critically injured while his followers declared they shot down a helicopter
- New cabinet formation targeted Bajammal, politicians say
- Security authorities arrest suspect of Amran mosque arson fire
- Authorities in Amran governorate said policemen arrested the person suspected of the mosque arson fire that injured up to 30 people who were praying in Al-Amria Mosque on Friday, April 6, the weekly reported. It quoted Amran Governor Taha Hajer as saying the police arrested Hamid Al-Shomi, who is accused of setting arson aflame in Al-Amria Mosque in Al-Soda'a district, some 60 km from Amran city.

According to the newspaper, a committee, made up of Chief of Amran Security Department and local council officials, moved to the scene of the incident and investigated the suspect to identify motives of the crime. Eight of the 30 wounded people faced serious injuries after the assailants poured gasoline on worshippers, locked the

doors and set the mosque ablaze while hundreds of prayers were inside. The paper said the incident is the third of the kind in the governorate after a man opened fire on prayers in 2001 killing three of them and in 2003, a grenade blew up inside a mosque leaving several dead.



Al-Nass Comprehensive Weekly
Monday, April 9

Main Headlines

- President Saleh: The new cabinet have absolute powers, nobody is allowed to interfere in its affairs
- Head of PGC parliamentary bloc claim transferring power from influential persons to institutions
- Political Advisor to President Saleh lashes out at reform critics
- New Prime Minister vows not to give any chance to corruption in his government
- Former Primer Minister: Improving living standards of people is a top priority
- US State Department's report accuse Yemeni authorities of restricting transfer of power

A report released by the U.S. Department of State on human rights state in Yemen for the year 2006 blamed the Yemeni authorities for imposing restrictions on the peaceful transfer of power, the paper reported. According to the report, the authorities restrict the abilities of citizens in some areas to change the government through periodic elections. It accused the Yemeni government of corruption, vote fraud and mismanagement. "Citizens re-elected President Ali Abdullah Saleh for a another seven-year mandate in strongly competitive

elections that experienced various violations such the exploitation of state's facilities in favor of the ruling party's candidate," the report commented.

The newspaper quoted the report as saying the General People Congress candidate won the country's highest political post through unfair elections after the ruling party used all the state's facilities during the campaigns and rallies of its candidates.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, April 12

Main Headlines

- Government plans to collect heavy and light arms, shut down arm markets
- New PM: Government concentrates on development and fighting poverty, unemployment and corruption
- Detained terrorist discloses Sa'ada terrorist plans
- International Interpol hunts the terrorist Yahya Al-Houthi
- Saleh to visit Washington in May

The newspaper reported that Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh is due to pay an official visit to Washington on the advent of May along with a high ranking delegation after receiving an invitation from the U.S. Administration. The visit is to last for a couple of days.

The army organ quoted well-informed sources as saying that Saleh is due to be engaged in discussions with his U.S. counterpart George W Bush and senior U.S. government officials. The discussions will include mutual cooperation between both countries and economic, trade, and investment development.

Joint article by: Dr. Ralf Dreyer Mr. Frank Marcus Mann

50 Years "Treaties of Rome" – 50 Years European Union

On 25 March 1957, two treaties were signed in Rome establishing the "European Economic Community" (EEC) and the "European Atomic Energy Community" (EURATOM). Why is it that these treaties are being celebrated as the cradle of today's "European Union" (EU)?

"Europe will not be made at once, or according to a single plan"

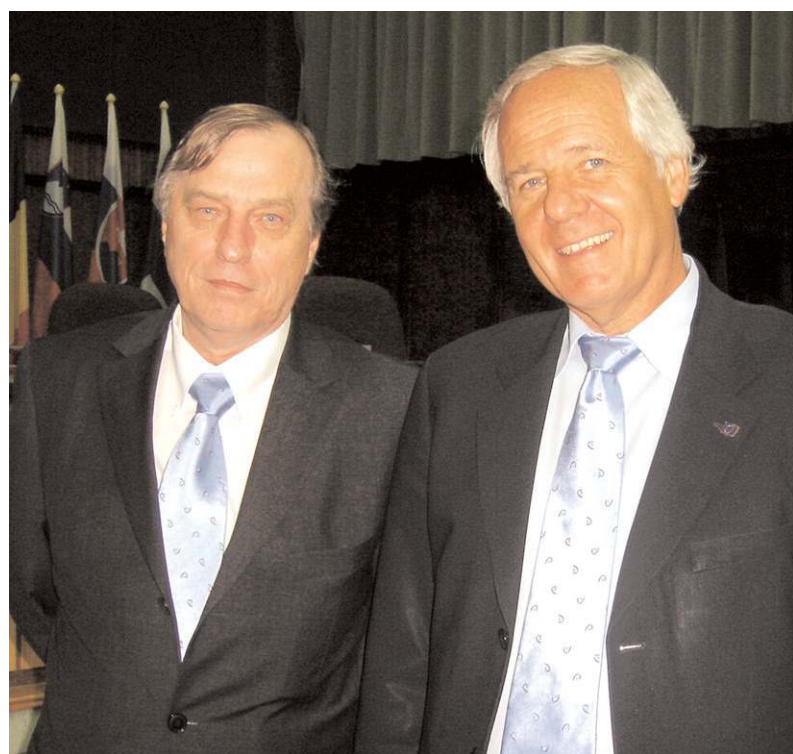
Robert Schuman's vision of 1950 was to become true. The French Foreign Minister had foreseen that countless consultations, conferences and compromises would be needed to create the European Union as it exists today. No single mind, no single plan could have managed to fuse together such diverse historic cultural entities as the European States without respecting their differences and preserving their characters.

The "Treaties of Rome" did not contain the notion of "United States of Europe" as coined by Winston Churchill in 1946. These treaties were not even the first European institutional agreements: They were preceded in 1952 by the "European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)" and in 1954 by the idea of a "European Defence Community". The latter fell prey to the existing reservations (between France and Germany) resulting from Europe's difficult past, thus ending the hopes for an easy European reconciliation.

Finally, it was the 1957 treaty establishing the "European Economic Community" (EEC) that gave a new perspective to those European pioneers who were striving for unification of war-torn Europe. The EEC was to determine Europe's future.

Six founder states at the base of today's largest internal market worldwide

The six EEC signatories Belgium,



From left to right Dreyer and Mann at the EU-Yemen Partnership seminar March 2007 in Sana'a.

France, Germany, Italy, Luxemburg and the Netherlands agreed upon the objective of creating "a vast economic area making up a powerful production entity allowing continuous expansion, increased stability, a rapid increase in living standards and a development in relations between member states", as the Belgian Foreign Minister Paul-Henri Spaak formulated it.

And even though these are mainly economic goals, they could not be realized by economic measures alone but needed political will and political instruments. On the one hand, France and the Benelux countries, the victims of German aggression in World War II, were particularly interested in the idea of creating a community of peace and stability through economic ties. Germany and Italy on the other hand, having lost the war,

hoped that European integration (1) could bring them back into the family of sovereign states and (2) that it would create economic prosperity for their people.

The "Treaties of Rome" already stipulated this predominant objective for the EEC: Prosperity was to be achieved through competition in a market without internal borders. The "European Community (EC)", founded in 1967 through the merging of ECSC, EEC and EURATOM, quickly led to a customs union in 1968 that, in turn, enticed more European countries to apply for membership. Great Britain's decision to join the Community in 1973 together with Ireland and Denmark gave the EC more economic clout. After voting for a common currency system in 1979, the signing of the Schengen Agreement in 1985 smoothed

the way to the European internal market of today, including the freedom of movement of goods, services, capital and - most perceptible for the European citizens - of persons.

Evolution from an Economic Community to a Political Union

While the "Treaties of Rome" defined mainly economic objectives, they also triggered the setting up of the first common political institutions: The "European Commission", the "European Assembly" (which later became the "European Parliament"), the "Court of Justice" and the "Economic and Social Committee". From then on, Schuman's vision of a united Europe was to affect all parts of Europe's lives.

In 1979, the European people were called upon for the first time to elect their representatives to the European Parliament by universal suffrage. With the "Maastricht Treaty" (or "EU Treaty") of 1992, the 12 EC states of the time agreed to intensify economic cooperation and to introduce a common currency, the Euro. Besides the community dimension of social and economic cohesion, two new areas of activity were established: The Common Foreign and Security Policy ("second pillar") and the Justice and Internal Affairs Policy ("third pillar").

Since then, the Treaties of Amsterdam (1997) and of Nice (2000) transformed the institutions with the aim to enable them to cope with the inclusion of further member states. In 2002, the Euro replaced national currencies in twelve of the fifteen Member States of the time (not in Denmark, Sweden or the UK), two years later the Heads of State signed the "Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (TCE)", commonly referred to as "European Constitution". Even though it was ratified by 18 EU Member States, it has not entered into force yet after a majority of the people

of France and the Netherlands voted against it in referendum.

What began as the post-war 'European Economic Community (EEC)' on 25 March 1957 has grown into a political union of 27 Member States which, after so many painful years of war, expulsion and suffering, now unites the European continent in peace and ensures a level of prosperity and stability previously unknown in the

history of this continent.

Today the citizens of 27 EU member states celebrate this day as "Europe Day", the day where the development for a united Europe started. We invite all Yemenis to join us in our celebrations.

Dr. Ralf Dreyer is EU Charge d'Affairs in Yemen, and Mr. Frank Marcus Mann is the German Ambassador to Yemen.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is seeking energetic and skilled **Yemeni Nationals** to join our core team. Following are the positions we seek candidates for:



I. Programme Associate

Support the execution of the community development, micro credit, and micro enterprise development components of the Country Programme and the design, planning and management of the Country Programme through management of data and facilitation of programme implementation. The programme associate will promote a client-oriented approach consistent with UNDP rules and regulations.

II. Resident Representative/ Resident Coordinator Associate

Ensure effective and efficient functioning of the Resident Representative/Resident Coordinator office, maintain protocol procedures, manage information flow and follow-up on deadlines and commitments;

III. Procurement/Travel Associate

Ensure execution of transparent and efficient procurement and travel services and processes and promote a client-focused, quality and results- oriented approach in the Procurement Unit.

IV. Human Resources (HR) Associate

Ensure full compliance of HR processes and help execute transparent and efficient Human Resources services and promote a collaborative, client-oriented approach consistent with the office rules and regulations;

V. Project Management Assistant

Help our programme teams manage their many programmes and projects professionally, while supporting the achievement of results on schedule and on budget;

To learn more about the terms of reference of the above positions and instructions on how to apply, please visit our website (www.undp.org.ye) and go to Vacancies (under about UNDP Yemen)

Only candidates with the specified education and years of experience as indicated in the Job Descriptions will be considered. We look forward to receiving your application. (only short-listed candidates will be contacted)

Deadline for receipt of applications is **19 April 2007**

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization, and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



In recognition for his exemplary leadership and exceptional performance

MTIT Honors Al-Moa'alimi

Al-Jabri: "Al-Moa'alimi pioneered the industry of Telecommunications and introduced technological solutions to the country that resembled a giant leap for the people the country"

In recognition for his exemplary leadership and exceptional performance at the forefront of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology (MTIT) during the years 2001-2007; the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology have honored its ex-minister Eng. AbdulMalik Sulaiman Al-Mua'alimi, in a celebration attended by employees, affiliates and friends of the

ministry as well as the media and the IT community in Yemen.

The recently appointed Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology Eng. Kamal Hussain Al-Jabri, made a speech at the occasion in which he emphasized on the role his predecessor played in the development of the Ministry as well as the many achievements the ministry has accomplished under his leadership, stating that Al-Moa'alimi pioneered the industry of Telecommunications and introduced technological solutions to the country that resembled a giant leap for the people the country.

He particularly mentioned the establishment of the Information Technology city, Providing affordable Internet Solutions for the public, the

creation of the talent-development center, pushing forward the president's initiative to spread Computing, the E-Riyal on-line payment project, Yemen Mobile Telecommunications, Rural communication services, National Program for Information Technology, among many other programs Al-Moa'alimi has done.

H.E. Minister Al-Jabri has further emphasized that Al-Moa'alimi would continue giving this country more of his ideas and generous wisdom, adding that his counsel would be invaluable to the Ministry and the Industry, emphasizing that this recognition is the least that can be done to honor such an outstanding personality and a rich mind.

Engineer Mohammed Ali Murgham, Director of the General Authority for Post, stated that the six years of working under the leadership of Al-Moa'alimi were remarkable years of many achievements, he added that the post authority and all other subsidiaries of the ministry will be honored to work with his Excellency Minister Al-Jabri in continuing along the road of achievements in the Telecommunications and Information Technology sector, adding that all employees in the ministry are happy with the President's decision to appoint Al-Jabri as a successor for Al-Moa'alimi, as he is a multitalented and ambitious engineer.



Minister Al-Jabri recounts his predecessor's achievement in MTIT.

Al-Moa'alimi commented on both speeches thanking all employees and affiliates of the ministry for the support and the hard work they excreted during his years of leadership, he emphasized that the achievements aforementioned are the direct result of cooperation of

Murgham: "Six years of working under the leadership of Al-Moa'alimi were remarkable years of many achievements."



Al-Moa'alimi giving his farewell speech at MTIT.



all employees, adding that he felt that all staff were his members of one family which strived towards achieving the objectives of the ministry. He also wished the new leadership all success in the future, concluding by praising Minister Al-Jabri for his kind gesture and holding this ceremony.

Al-Jabri: "Al-Moa'alimi would continue giving this country more of his ideas and generous wisdom. His counsel would be invaluable to the Ministry and the Industry."



Honoring Al-Mua'alimi.

Murgham: "All employees in the ministry are happy with the President's decision to appoint Al-Jabri as a successor for Al-Moa'alimi, as he is a multitalented and ambitious engineer."



World Health Day: A global challenge to build a safer future

By: Jamal Al-Najjar

In today's world, disease outbreaks know no borders. Globalization has brought about new changes to every area of life, including health. Just as the world has witnessed great development in terms of telecommunication and technology, diseases also have found new ways to spread rapidly, sometimes armed via manmade means.

Not only this, the way humans inhabit the earth has provided a fertile environment for new diseases to emerge, especially those outbreaks that exceed borders to invade the entire world, if not combated.

In the face of all these threats, strong collaboration between both developed and developing countries is the key to combating disease outbreaks and insuring a safer future for humankind, as well as for the generations to come.

Prompted by the necessity of shared responsibility on the part of all world nations, the World Health Organization focused its 2007 World Health Day theme on International Health Security, presenting the main health issues and major threats likely to exist or escalate in any country and spread to as many other countries as they have the opportunity.

Issue 1: Emerging diseases

New diseases partly emerge from changes in the way people inhabit the earth. Between 1973 and 2000, 39 agents were identified as being able to



1- Diseases like malaria become more common following natural disasters such as flooding.

cause human disease. SARS and avian influenza (bird flu) are two outstanding examples of such outbreaks with universal vulnerability.

In this case, the concept of national defense is too far from required perspectives, since such outbreaks can cross international borders rapidly and infect people. Therefore, all countries must cooperate in order to engage in surveillance and sustain an emergency response system to prevent such threats.

Issue 2: Economic stability

Although increasing global economic integration has reduced poverty in many countries, it also has exposed people to numerous diseases and made

it easy for such diseases to spread easily. Additionally, these diseases cost infected nations billions of dollars in launching campaigns and providing treatment.

Issue 3: International crises and humanitarian emergencies

Natural disasters, armed conflicts and food and water shortages are all forms of international crises. Humanitarian emergencies arise from the effects of such crises in order to help people, who subsequently become subject to infectious diseases, malnutrition, mental illness and exacerbation of chronic diseases. Disaster preparedness strategies and humanitarian response mechanisms can reduce the negative impacts of natural disasters to a large extent.

Issue 4: Chemical, radioactive and biological terror threats

Chemical, biological and radioactive weapons are major health threats able to spread lethal diseases, as happened in the United States in 2001 when anthrax-tainted letters were sent via the U.S. postal system. Techniques used to deal with such attacks are similar to those used in natural disasters, including prompt response and securing food, water and sanitation systems.

Issue 5: Environmental change

The earth's climate is changing. Temperatures are rising and, thus, polar ice caps are melting. As a result, the world is likely to experience numerous health problems, such as the outbreak of malaria, drought, flooding and the

spread of viruses in various parts.

However, solutions to global warming and environmental changes can come through collaboration between governments and organizations so as to change the way people live and work and, consequently, help reduce these changes.

Issue 6: AIDS – provoking the health and security debate

The severe social and economic consequences of HIV and AIDS have led to concerns about personal security implications, both in those countries whose health systems are struggling to meet this crisis in addition to other acute and chronic health needs, and to a certain extent, in those where HIV and AIDS have become manageable illnesses.

In this respect, great effort should be made regarding the methods to be followed in order to prevent more victims, as well as providing medicine to infected individuals, especially given that these diseases threaten many developing countries.

Issue 7: Building health security

In today's globalized world, there's a common interest in preventing the spread of disease internationally. In recent decades, diseases have spread faster than ever, aided by high-speed travel and the trading of goods and services between both nations and continents. Rapid spread of disease can be prevented only if there's an immediate alert and response to the outbreak of diseases and other incidents that could spark epidemics or spread globally.

The framework of collaboration laid out by international health regulations and various existing surveillance networks provides an effective early warning and response system. International health regulations aim to achieve maximum protection against the international spread of disease with minimal disruption to trade or travel.

Whenever WHO receives an official report or rumor of an event, an investigation immediately begins and response teams are deployed as necessary via systems such as the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network.

Since its creation in 2000, the network's partners have provided expertise and technical support for 90 events of international importance, with more than 500 experts providing direct



Water and food shortage have been considered international crisis that cause infectious diseases, malnutrition, mental illness and chronic diseases.

field support to some 40 countries. Among routine successes in preventing widespread outbreaks of diseases like meningitis, yellow fever and cholera, the network was instrumental in controlling the 2003 SARS outbreak.

Collaboration between states, especially between developed and developing nations, to ensure availability of technical and other resources is crucial, not only in implementing regulations, but also in building and strengthening public health capacity, as well as the networks and systems that strengthen international health security.

Issue 8: Strengthening health systems

Functioning national health systems are of vital importance to international health security; hence, their objective is to provide the highest level of protection and care to the entire population. Additionally, they are the first line of surveillance for both

infectious and chronic diseases.

Emerging diseases put great stress on any health system. However, not every nation has the resources or the public health system required to provide an effective response. Additionally, some countries also find it difficult to effectively confront threats to health security.

Regarding all of the above health issues, what's required of every individual, organization and nation is to enhance cooperation and share information, using every communication channel to stand firm before any threat that may arise from emerging and epidemic-prone diseases and affect international health security.

Furthermore, all of those concerned about health issues are required to raise awareness among the world's population concerning health instructions, which contribute to decreasing any potential health threats, and scale up health security measures.



Children cover their face with masks to prevent SARS infection, which infected more than 8,000 people in close to 30 nations and killed more than 750.

Hepatitis threatens rural Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

Hepatitis B virus is more prevalent than the other two forms in Yeme, according to recent studies conducted by Sana'a University medical graduates, those carrying the virus are estimated at more than 20 percent in Yemen, especially in nomadic areas like Marib, Shabwa, Raymah and Al-Jawf governorates.

A study was conducted on an estimated 21,244 blood donors in Sana'a hospitals in order to determine the rate of prevalence for hepatitis B

and C viruses, as well as HIV and syphilis. The study found that among these diseases, hepatitis B is the most prevalent, followed by hepatitis C and then HIV, with syphilis considered the least prevalent.

The study recommended more research be done in order to reduce the risks of such diseases through early treatment and preventing additional infections. It also recommended more attention be paid to those areas at risk in Yemen, including providing proper medical care and health services.

Hepatitis is an inflammation causing soreness and swelling of the liver. The disease is caused by many things,

including lack of blood supply to the liver, poisoning, autoimmune disorder, injury to the liver and taking certain medicine; however, it most commonly is caused by a virus.

The liver breaks down waste products in the blood, but when the liver is inflamed, it doesn't do a good job of getting rid of these waste products. In this case, one particular waste product called bilirubin begins to build up in the blood and tissues when the liver isn't functioning properly.

Bilirubin causes the skin of a person infected with hepatitis to turn a yellow-orange color, which is called jaundice. Bilirubin and other waste products also may cause fever, nausea, itching and body aches. There are three forms of hepatitis: hepatitis A, hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

Hepatitis A virus (sometimes called HAV) is found in the stool (feces) of an infected individual and commonly spread when people eat food contaminated by stools carrying the virus. In this context, contaminated food or vegetables, children's diapers and male homosexuality are the main factors causing hepatitis A infection. However, those vaccinated against hepatitis A protect themselves from infection.

Hepatitis B is much more infectious than hepatitis A. Its virus can cause acute illness that resolves itself



Jaundice occurs in hepatitis infections causing the skin and whites of the eyes to turn yellow.

quickly without causing long-term liver damage. However, it also can cause a chronic illness that may last more than six months, sometimes for life, with symptoms that come and go, which may lead to cirrhosis (liver disease) or liver cancer.

An estimated one million individuals worldwide annually are infected with hepatitis B. The disease also is considered the ninth most common cause of death worldwide, killing approximately two million people annually in Europe alone.

Hepatitis B most commonly is

transmitted through blood-to-blood contact. This may be through unprotected sexual intercourse, sharing of contaminated needles by drugs users, accidental injury with a contaminated needle or sharing razors. The virus also can be present in saliva, vaginal secretions and other fluids.

Nevertheless, there is effective vaccination to protect against hepatitis B infection. Healthcare workers, including those working in emergency services and at blood banks, are likely to contract the virus, as they are in contact with infected patients. Thus, such workers should be vaccinated against the hepatitis B virus.

Regarding hepatitis C, it usually spreads through contact with blood products, such as accidentally being stuck by a dirty used needle, using intravenous drugs or sharing needles. Most people don't feel sick when infected with hepatitis C; instead, the virus remains in the liver, causing chronic liver inflammation and ultimately leading to cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Those infected with hepatitis C often don't feel any symptoms for years. Unfortunately, this form of hepatitis is chronic in the sense that it doesn't go away. Furthermore, it can be transmitted from one person to another if they live together in the



Hepatitis B Virus is the most prevailing in the world. Only a tiny amount of blood is needed to transmit the virus because it's so infectious.

same house, although it mostly is transmitted through sexual intercourse, if they use contaminated razors and share toothbrushes. However, the disease can't pass from one person to another by sneezing, shaking hands, hugging, kissing or other casual contact.

There's no specific vaccine against hepatitis C; however, doctors advise those infected with this virus to take the hepatitis A and B vaccine because the risk of the C virus may lead to infection by the A and B viruses. Despite this, regular exercise, healthy food and continuous advice from doctors can help those patients infected with the virus to reduce the risk.



Hepatitis can be transmitted through blood and infect people.

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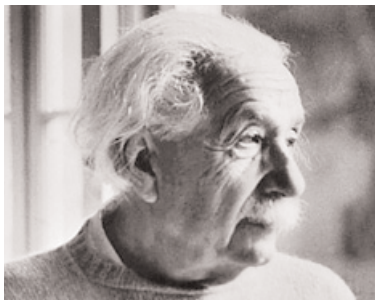
About the smartest man of the 20th century Einstein: His life and universe

By: Walter Isaacson

Einstein was slow in learning how to speak. His parents even consulted a doctor. He also had a cheeky rebelliousness toward authority, which led one headmaster to expel him and another to amuse history by saying that he would never amount to much. But these traits helped make him a genius. His cocky contempt for authority led him to question conventional wisdom. His slow verbal development made him curious about ordinary things — such as space and time — that most adults take for granted. His father gave him a compass at age five, and he puzzled over the nature of a magnetic field for the rest of his life. And he tended to think in pictures rather than words.

In 1905, Einstein had graduated from college but had not been able to get a doctoral dissertation accepted or get an academic job. So he was toiling six days a week as a third-class examiner in the Swiss patent office. During his spare time, he produced four papers that upended physics. The first showed that light could be conceived as particles as well as waves.

The second proved the existence of atoms and molecules. The third, the special theory of relativity, said that there was no such thing as absolute time or space. And the fourth noted an equivalence between energy and mass described by the most famous equation in all of physics, $E=mc^2$.



Albert Einstein on his 75th birthday, March 15, 1954, in Princeton, New Jersey.

SOURCE: AFP / GETTY.

Personal life

Helping him check his math was a moody Serbian, Mileva Mari, who had been the only woman in his physics class at college. They had fallen passionately in love and had an illegitimate daughter, which he allowed to be given up for adoption before he ever saw her. They then got married and had two boys. Eventually their relationship disintegrated, and Einstein sought a divorce. He offered her a deal: One of those 1905 papers, he presumed, would eventually win the Nobel Prize, and if she gave him a divorce he would give her the prize money. She thought for a week and accepted. Because Einstein's theories were so radical, it took until 1922 before he was awarded the prize and she could collect.

His affiliation with the Jewish people was the strongest bond in his life, even though he did not adhere to the rituals of the religion. There was an anti-Semitic reaction both to the publicity he got and to the abstract and seemingly heretical nature of relativity theory. But the rise in anti-Semitism made him identify with the Jewish people even more. His first trip to America was to raise money for the Zionist movement, and in 1933 he fled Hitler and moved to Princeton. Near the end of his life, he was offered the presidency of Israel, which he politely declined.



A childhood portrait of Albert Einstein and his sister Maja.

SOURCE: HULTON ARCHIVE / GETTY

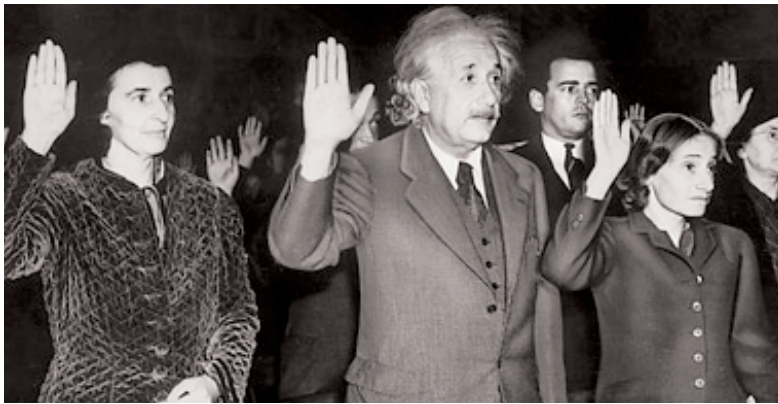
Did Einstein believe in God?

Yes. He defined God in an impersonal, deistic fashion, but he deeply believed that God's handiwork was reflected in the harmony of nature's laws and the beauty of all that exists. He often invoked God, such as by saying He wouldn't play dice, when rejecting quantum mechanics. Einstein's belief in something larger than himself produced in him a wondrous mixture of confidence and humility. As he famously declared: "A spirit is manifest in the laws of the Universe — a spirit vastly superior to that of man, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble. In this way the pursuit of science leads to a religious feeling of a special sort."

When asked directly if he believed in God, he always insisted he did, and explained it once this way: "We are in the position of a little child entering a huge library filled with books in many languages. The child knows someone must have written those books. It does not know how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child dimly suspects a mysterious order in the arrangement of the books but doesn't know what it is. That, it seems to me, is the attitude of even the most intelligent human being toward God. We see the universe marvelously arranged and obeying certain laws but only dimly understand these laws."

The end of a genius

Einstein was not destined to die a bitter



Einstein visiting Mt. Wilson Observatory.

SOURCE: AMERICAN STOCK / GETTY

man. He came to understand America's freedoms, and he was pleased that democracy tended to balance itself after such excesses as the McCarthy investigations. On his deathbed in 1955, he worked on a speech he was scheduled to give for Israeli independence day. "I speak to you today not as an American citizen and not as a Jew, but as a human being," it began. He put it aside on that final night to pick up a notebook that was filled with scribbled

calculations. To the very end, he struggled to find his elusive unified field theory. And the last thing he wrote, right before the pain overwhelmed him, was one more line of symbols and numbers that he hoped might get him, and the rest of us, just a little step closer to the spirit manifest in the laws of the universe.

From the book (Einstein: His Life and Universe).

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