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Inside:	Culture: Terror will disappear when people come to live by the moral values of Islam P4	Editorial: USA and us P8	Business: Expired commodities and weak monitoring P10	Health: Pre-marriage blood screening P12	Education: Computeracy for teachers and learners (1) P14
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World Population Report reveals promising figures about Yemen

The promise of equality

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 15 - "Gender Equity, Reproductive Health and the Millennium Development Goal for Alleviating Poverty and Protecting Citizens". This is the slogan for the new report on the world population from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Yemen. Mr. Hans Obdeijn, UNFPA representative, confirmed on Saturday that the 2005 report on the state of the world population covers prestigious recommendations. And there are three particular issues to which Yemen should pay closer attention. Despite the great development achieved by the Yemeni government with the implementation of family planning, free medicine, mobile clinics and other population policies, there is more to be done.

The first issue concerns the Yemeni women. According to Mr. Obdeijn, Yemen should provide political and educational opportunities for women and girls and fighting violence against them. He says that this kind of investment will help in push the wheels of Yemen's development forward. More opportunities for women will improve the ailing economy, alleviate poverty and reduce the size of families so that children can be more healthy and well-educated. The education of women will also help reduce the rate of AIDS victims.

The studies indicate that when the woman has control over the family funds, she can succeed in fulfilling the



From Left: Hans Obdeijn, Representative of UNFPA; Dr. Mohammed al-N'umi, Health Minister; and Flavia Pansieri, UN Resident Representative in Yemen

needs of her family better than the man. Gender equality and a better climate for women depends highly on the participation of the men. They need to support the notion of equality and empower women to enjoy their rights.

The second issue related to Yemen, is the problem of reproductive health. This problem constitutes a threat to women from 15 to 49 years of age. 570 women die in every hundred thousand births per year because of pregnancy and births.

Reproductive health, birth control and modern means for preventing pregnancy can end the problem and reduce the rate of maternal mortality.

The third point is the necessity to pay greater attention to the youth and the

issues related to them. The report specifically focused on the vital and important role that should be played by youth in driving forward the wheels of development. Investing in the youth is an investment of the future.

On his part, Yemeni Minister of Public Health and Population, Dr. Mohamed al-N'umi, states that Yemen takes all the recommendations into account. He says that Yemen is committed to involving women in the country's development, because otherwise the social discrimination may paralyze a great portion of the society energies,

raise the rate of maternal and infantile mortalities and obstruct efforts to alleviate poverty.

Dr. al-N'umi says, that Yemen has adopted national strategies to empower youth and improving their health, educational, social and economic situations. He added that a national survey is being conducted in order to study the future needs of the youth. Through spreading the reproductive health and family planning services, efforts are being made to create awareness about the importance of birth control.

Continued on page 3

Extradition of Al-Asnj

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a - Oct 16 - Yemen has asked Saudi Arabia to extradite ex-foreign minister, Abdullah Abdulmajid Al-Asnj, who sought refuge in the kingdom after forming an opposition movement in the late seventies. According to the web site of the pro-government newspaper September 26, official memorandums from the interior and foreign ministries were delivered to the Saudi authorities, encouraging them to honor their "brotherly ties, cooperation and good neighborly relations" in the interest of regional security and stability. In addition was the demand of the extradition of Al-Asnj, since he "is carrying out activities hostile to Saudi Arabia". Yemeni Foreign Minister Abubakr al-Qirbi said to the medias, "We have based over request of the extradition of Al-Asnj to the kingdom on the agreement between the two countries, which prohibits both states the allowance of any political or media activity against the other. Al-Asnj was a refugee in Saudi Arabia and was not active politically, but lately he has announced that he would form an opposition group abroad, and this is against the agreement between Sana'a and Riyadh".

Yemeni ambassador in Riyadh, Khalid Alakwaa, said to a Saudi news-



Abdullah Al-Asnj

paper that he has no information about the Al-Asnj extradition, since the kingdom does not allow any subversive activities.

Yemeni Human Rights Organization in Britain (YHRO) rejected this extradition, saying that this Yemeni attitude was because of the last statements of Al-Asnj in which he criticized the political and the economic settings in Yemen and said that he intended to form an opposition group outside Yemen. The organization considered the extradition as a violation of the principle of free expression, according to proper political manners.

The organization appealed to the Saudi Arabia authorities to protect Al-Asnj and not to respond to the Yemeni request that is against the international standers of human rights. The organization also urged Arab and international human rights organizations and all political parties in Yemen to condemn the request.

The accusation came after Al-Asnj's announcement of launching an opposition TV channel that was scheduled to start on September 14. He got some Saudi parties to support launching this channel from London. Al-Asnj was sentenced to death in Yemen in the 1980's for committing what the government called "high treason". Later he was granted a presidential pardon and left Yemen.

Al-Moayyad transferred to hospital

By MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 13 - Sources at the Islah Party reported last Thursday that Sheikh Mohamed al-Moayyad, who was sentenced to 75 years in jail in the U.S., is in bad health.

Al-Moayyad's health has deteriorated over the last two days and his bad condition led to his transference to a hospital in the U.S. city of New York.

Saudi Newspaper, Al-Watan quoted

a U.S. source close to the prison security apparatuses saying, "The prison authorities rushed Sheikh Mohamed al-Moayyad quickly to the hospital after a sudden deterioration in his health on Wednesday."

Sheikh Mohamed al-Moayyad is accused of funding financial support to Muslim terror organizations, of which the most important are the Palestinian Hamas Movement and al-Qaeda Network, led by the Saudi national Osama Bin Laden.

For his part, the communication officer in the U.S. Federal Prison Department denied that Sheikh Mohammed al-Moayyad is in the intensive care unit, but he was transferred to the Federal Medical Center (FMC) in the State of North Carolina because of asthma. "al-Moayyad is now in good health," he said.

The U.S. official refused to give more information about al-Moayyad's condition and pointed out: "there



Sheikh Mohamed al-Moayyad

should be an exclusive statement for talking about such issues."

The FMC consists of administrative facilities for hosting male prisoners of different levels.

The national committee for defending Sheikh Mohamed al-Moayyad and his aide Mohamed Zaid held last Thursday the U.S. Administration accountable for any deterioration in al-Moayyad's health.

In a statement distributed last

Thursday to different media means, the committee attributed the deterioration of al-Moayyad's condition to the deliberate ignorance by the U.S. Administration, which is accused of committing flagrant practices since it prevented officials in the Yemeni Embassy in Washington from visiting the prisoner and attorneys from defending him.

The statement reads: "the U.S. Administration was not satisfied by the oppressive ruling against al-Moayyad but it, moreover, deliberated to inflict on him psychological torture and prevent him from making telephone calls with his family. Such conducts exacerbated the condition of Sheikh al-Moayyad who suffers from diabetes and asthma."

The statement blamed the U.S. Administration for maltreating Sheikh al-Moayyad in spite of his being in the intensive care unit.

The national committee for defending al-Moayyad called on those who have clear consciences, human communities and human rights organizations to exert pressure on the U.S. Administration to free the aged man and offer him medical treatment.

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Saudi policeman tortures Yemeni to death

SANA'A - Oct. 15 - Saleh Taib Rashid, a Yemeni national, was murdered after being tortured and beaten by a Saudi policeman. The murder happened in a Saudi village at the border between the two countries.

In a statement to the Yemen News, Abdulhafid al-Khatib, Director of the Criminal Investigation Bureau in Harad, said that the Yemeni citizen Saleh Taib Rashid died in Harad Hospital. A Yemeni military patrol found the victim lying in the ground and then took him to the hospital. The corpse of the victim is still in the morgue of Harad Hospital.

A border guard officer in Harad stated that his authorities made contacts with their Saudi counterparts immediately after they were informed of the incident. He said: "We work hard at restricting the killings of Yemeni citizens when they cross the border of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to find work".

One of the victim's relatives said that Saleh Taib Rashid was subjected to torture and beaten by a Saudi policeman until he died. One of the victim's companions said that the

Saudi policeman harshly beat Saleh and then forced his other companions to take him away to the Yemen side of the border.

Mohamed al-Hisni, the victim's companion, said: "Saleh passed away before we could find the Yemeni patrols and get him to Harad Hospital".

Saleh Taib Rashid is from al-Mahal Village in Abs District, Hajjah and he attempted to cross the border into Saudi territory to search for work. His companions mentioned that he took refuge in a house while he was hunted by a Saudi patrol in the village of al-Hithairah, to the southwest of Saudi Arabia, before he was tortured to death.

Another Yemeni national got a leg injury last Sunday when a Saudi patrol opened fire on him near al-Tiwal city. Local sources in the village of al-Khidur in Harad reported that Yahya Nashri was taken to a Saudi hospital to have the leg injury treated. He was returning to Yemen from Saudi Arabia, and wanted to cross the border in order to spend the rest of Ramadan with his family.

Three soldiers killed

SANA'A - Oct. 14 - A Yemeni officer and two soldiers were killed on Thursday in an offensive, launched by unidentified group of men in the governorate of Mahrah, near the Yemeni-Omani borders.

After the murder, the armed men escaped toward the Omani territory early on Thursday night.

The 26 September newspaper website, quoted a security source saying: "troops of a security checkpoint in the areas of Han and Mahrah governorate

were subjected to fire shooting late on Thursday by anonymous men. The victims then turned fire on the attackers."

The quarrels led to the killing of a Yemeni officer, two troops and a Yemeni citizen. In addition, another citizen was wounded, as he was present at the time of the incident.

The source told that the armed men fled the scene immediately on board a car to a security source saying: "troops of a security checkpoint in the areas of Han and Mahrah governorate

YSP gets premises back

SANA'A - Oct. 8 - The Yemeni Socialist Party got its headquarters in Sana'a back after it was seized by security forces in the 1994 civil war.

The secretary general of the Socialist Party said that this took place following an agreement between the himself and the Minister of Transport. Mohammed Alshotofa, head of the party's administration, said that they will gradually get the rest of their premises back in Sana'a

and other cities in the provinces.

He denied the rumors that the party premises are currently occupied by Islah party, or any other party. He said that all parties that had used the Socialist Party's premises had handed them over. Except for the General Peoples Congress who are still using some premises in the provinces. He added that this matter is being discussed in bilateral meetings, last of which was two weeks ago.

AAYSF sends books to Yemeni universities

The American Association of Yemeni Scientists and Professionals (AAYSF) with the help of the American Chemical Society has sent another shipment of books to Yemen universities worth more than \$700,000. The previous shipment worth about \$70,000 already arrived in Yemen and will reach Sana'a within the coming week. The AAYSF was formed in 2004 to address the edu-

cational and academic needs of Yemenis, with a dual responsibility towards both Yemeni students and professionals. For Yemeni-Americans, the AAYSF works to promote higher education and provide networking opportunities for young students to pursue college and postgraduate education. For students and academics in Yemen, the AAYSF provides educational resources

Yemen breaks international ban

SANA'A - Oct. 12 - Yemeni government officials confirmed last week reports that they had sold weapons to what they considered the legal government to be in Somalia. It denied the smuggling of any weapons to Somalia on the basis that the transaction was fair and legal.

The source said in a release to Almihaq, the ruling party news paper, last Monday, "The Yemeni government in its cooperation with the elected Somali leadership has sent personal weapons as a support to the police." He said this was done openly with the knowledge of concerned

international parties.

The source's release came as a reaction to last Friday's accusations of the Security Council Weapons Experts Committee that observes the weapons ban in Somalia. It spoke of an increase in weapon smuggling to Somalia during the last few months. It spoke of three neighboring countries involved in this increase. They are Yemen, Ethiopia and Eritrea.

As the report considers this a breach to the ban imposed by the UN on Somalia, the Yemeni government admits that it sent 5000 pieces of personal weapons to Abdulla Yosif's

interim government, which they describe as the legal government. This "legal government" is internationally recognized as one of many rival factions loyal to particular warlords.

The experts' committee is not interested in the identity of who the weapons are being sent to, because they speak of Somalia as dominated by warring militias. The difference of opinion is getting Yemen into hot water, but with international resources already so overstretched international grumbling is unlikely to have any real teeth.

Yemenia Airways expands

BY MOHAMMED ALJABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 14 - Yemenia Airways has set up widely important changes in the winter flight schedule which starts from October 30. A number of flights has been added to set out for different

destinations. For instance, daily flights to Cairo, eleven non-stop flights to Dubai, and nine direct flights to Europe. In this way, Yemenia Airways covers 33 destinations inside and outside the country.

These changes are part of Yemenia Airways' plan to extend and improve

their services. The plan includes better connections between Yemen and the rest of the world in order to uplift tourism, which in turn contributes to a better economy and connection of the Yemeni expatriates with their homeland.

Manager of commerce affairs, Mr. Abdullah al-Mutareb, pointed out that such changes have proved to be effective according to a marketing study carried out by order of the chairman of the company, Abdul-Khaleq al-Qadi. The manager added that operating such airlines is an indication of the company's adherence to fully cover as many distinctions and air cargo services as possible.



EC aid to fight polio

The European Commission has allocated E500,000 in support of an emergency response to a polio outbreak in Yemen. The aid will help protect the country's four million children less than five years of age. It will be channeled through the European Commission's humanitarian aid department, under the responsibility of Louis Michel, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid.

Yemen is facing a serious resurgence of polio. By mid-July, the country accounted for nearly 40% of cases of disease reported worldwide. Children, who are a priority in the European Commission's humanitarian

policies, are bearing the brunt. Large-scale vaccination is required to tackle this huge problem. In view of the lack of international funding to meet this urgent need, the European Commission has decided to provide E500,000 through an emergency deci-

sion.

The funds will allow the Commission's implementing partners, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF to continue work already begun in inoculating Yemen's four millions under-fives.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

This edition's question:

A report by the UNFPA revealed that Yemen is suffering many problems. Do you think that policy makers in Yemen will take such problems in consideration?
Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Most of the infringements against Yemeni journalists are official while others are attributed to unknown. Do you think that transgressions against journalists are an official policy?

Yes 70.1%
No 29.8%
I don't know 0%

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yementimes.com/#poll
and have your voice heard!

Dengue fever hits in Taiz

TAIZ-Yem. Oct.8 - Dengue fever cases reappeared in Taiz.

Media sources said that Hisham Al-modaie, a 14 year child, died in the Republican Hospital last Tuesday, following his contraction of dengue fever, which has lately spread in several of the districts of Taiz governorate.

Sources attribute dengue spread to the failure of the cleaning project to spray insecticides especially in Cairo District and other areas of the town.

In stead of that Ali Al-Domaini Head of the branch of medical syndicate, Manager of the Military Hospital, died of dengue last week, the general sanitation manager still denies that there is dengue fever. Many people held the manager accountable for their contraction of the disease, because of the carelessness of his department.

Within the last ten days, three people died of dengue while tens of people are still suffering the disease.

Last June, Rahidah town in Taiz witnessed a number of dengue cases and more than twenty people had died.



Job Vacancy

The Embassy of the United States of America announces for immediate job opening within its organization.

"Information Assistant" "Subject to availability of Funds"

The position is located in the Public diplomacy section under the immediate supervision of the Information Specialist and general supervision of the Public Affairs Officer. The Information Assistant prepares a Daily Media Summary as comprehensively, concisely and briefly as possible while closely monitoring Yemeni media, focusing on treatment of the US and on issues of particular interests to the mission (i.e. economic reform, privatization, selected legislation, building democratic institutions, promoting civil society and independent and responsible media, regional cooperation, combating corruption, campaign against terrorism), and sharing knowledge gained with interested team members. Develops and maintains a wide network of mass media contacts throughout the country.

Required Qualifications:

Education: University degree in liberal arts, political science, economics, journalism, international relations, or related fields is required. Specialized training in press and publication, analytical writing, management or computers is desired.

Prior Work Experience: From two to three years experience in communications media-related work as journalist, researcher, or writer required. Experience with Embassy information programs may be substituted for this work. One to two years reporting/writing/editing/producing for local newspapers or TV and some translation work is desirable.

Language Proficiency: Level IV (fluent) in written and spoken English, and fluent Arabic.

Knowledge: A good knowledge of Yemen's media, political, economic, social and educational structures, and key figures in the government, academic, business and media circles.

Skills and Abilities: Ability to work under time pressure. Ability to scan, comprehend and summarize quickly. Flexibility to adjust to shifting priorities and focuses. Ability to develop and maintain excellent contact and working relationship with journalists, newsmen and Government Officials. Ability to draft and translate. Excellent knowledge of work processing. Satisfactory typing skills (Level IV).

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How to apply: Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualification requirements of the position as listed above and contact the Embassy Human Resources, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 755-2000 & Fax No. 303-182, no later than October 23, 2005.

* NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

Japan supports Family Forum Association

BY MOHAMMED AL-JABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 14 - The government of Japan has decided to extend a grant amounting up to 72,000 US dollars to the Family Forum Association in Sana'a governorate under a Japanese scheme called "Grant Association for Grass-roots Human Security Projects". The scheme aims at supporting small-scale community-based projects in basic human fields of need, such as primary health care, basic education and public welfare in developing countries.

The grant will be used to purchase equipment to train women in different handicraft skills like sewing and embroidery, cooking and making perfume. The training will help build women's confidence with their own work, the products will add an extra income to the families and improve their general standard of life. Part of the grant will be used to purchase a bus and a pick-up truck for transportation to and from the association to encourage families to send their female members to receive training. The vehicles are also expected to be used to transport the trainees' products to local markets to be sold.



Mrs. Hayat Alwan Al-Qirshi, chairman of the Family Forum Association, and Mr. Yuichi Ishii, the Japanese ambassador in Yemen, signed the agreement to this effect on Tuesday. During the current Japanese fiscal year, which runs from April 2005 to March 2006, 11 projects has been funded by the government of Japan

under this scheme, at a total of 660,000 US dollars. Last year, the Japanese government financed 15 projects in Yemen with a total of 1 million US dollars. The Japanese embassy invites as many Yemeni NGOs as possible to submit their draft proposals to be implemented under this particular scheme.

Continued from page 1

The promise of equality

According to the report, Yemen's population is expected to reach 59.5 million in 2050 and the country scores a high rate in infantile mortalities. 64 in every thousand breastfed infants die. The average longevity in Yemen is 60.2 years for males and 62.9 for females. 22% is the rate of births delivered under the supervision of professional practitioners.

There is also a deterioration in the educational level. Only 65% of males and 29% of females are enrolled in a secondary education. 31% is the illiteracy rate among males and 72% among females over 15 years of age.

The report exposed the economic gap and the slow development of Yemen compared to that in the Gulf countries, as well as the suffering of citizens and the violation of their rights. In assessing the situation in the different countries, the report relied on the population number, the average per capita income, the fertility rate and other indicators related to education and health.

The report, which says that prosperity of nations is correlated with the political will of leaders, put more emphasis on the generalization of elementary education, curbing the spread of AIDS and reducing mortality caused by birth. It assigned 2015 as a deadline for achieving the 8 millennium development goals.

The world population report records which of the development goals that has been achieved, searches for shortcomings and encourages utilizing experiences of other countries.

The report was launched by the Yemeni Ministry of Public Health and Population along with the United Nations Population Fund in Yemen, which is considered the biggest source for humanitarian aid. UNPFA has programs operating in over 140 countries across the world, including Yemen. In our country, the programs and activities funded by UNPFA is concerned with family planning, medical centers and the eradication of violence against women.

Response to MALI's comment about YALI

We here at Yemen Times respect the issue that a comment was sent to us, concerning a survey we took a little over a month ago. We are more than happy to respond to it, with the following information. Before I start, I would like to correct a typing mistake that took place in our last issue. We mentioned that MALI has been in existence for the past seven years, while it has been existent for ten years. We here at Yemen Times apologize for this unintentional typing mistake.

Last month we published certain information dealing with the issue of the English institutions, which had the most success during the last summer vacation. In your comment you mentioned that I admitted on taking a survey with 14,500 students, while if you read the article correctly you will notice that I only mentioned that number to show how many students enrolled in language institutions throughout the summer vacation, and not dealing with a survey which you said he took. I really recommend that your staff takes another look at that report.

Another issue you focused on very much was that YALI had only 1500 students throughout the summer vacation. According to information given to us through the U.S. embassy, YALI successfully had over 6000 students in a short span of two and a half months. We also met with the Director of YALI personally and he more than happily showed us a list

of all enrolled students during the summer. On the other hand, we tried to enter MALI to take a similar survey, but unfortunately your entrance guards weren't as cooperative in allowing us to enter the premises, even when we showed them our Yemen Times I.D. Even the term of Ramadhan, which is considered the lowest season of the year in terms of students enrollment. YALI surprisingly had over 2000 students.

Next, you complained on the reason why YALI's picture was used to resemble language institutions and not MALI. We think that YALI deserves that respect due for it being number one, and when any institute in the future outbeats YALI, we will be more than happy to place its picture instead of YALI, when mentioning language institutions.

Your comment also mentioned the issue of why MALI with the many years of experience in teaching English, was put beside newly established language institutions in the standings for most enrollment noticed during the summer vacation. The answer is very clear, and if MALI thinks that it's the only institute in Sana'a, I am proud to mention that there are over 150 institutes in Sana'a, and respect is given to the institute, which achieves success not looking at previous history, or successes accomplished in the past. We really look at present successes not past ones. These institutes deserve the status they received and our policy is to be fair and just to all.

By the way, MALI was still number two, but if in the future it drops to 3rd or 4th, we will mention that clearly practicing our freedom of press.

You also argued the issue that how could a teacher in YALI be called a language instructor. The answer is also easy and clear. This title is given to them by the U.S. embassy as we were informed, and we used this information according to the title given to us by the embassy and the I.D. cards that were issued to these teachers and shown to us, and we here at Yemen Times deal with facts.

Finally we would like to make it clear that all the information we published in the articles was almost 100% accurate and true, while the comments we received from MALI, was of no background, especially with the issue that YALI had only 1500 students during the summer holidays. We respect the issue that you gave us a comment on the survey, but we as a newspaper can't agree with this comment in particular due to it being inaccurate. I would be more than happy to hold a meeting with Mr. Mazen, Head of MALI, concerning this issue at the Yemen Times Headquarters to answer any questions he might have, on condition that he talks realistic and base his information on true facts and not opinion.

Thank you,
Hakim Alasmari
Yemen Times Staff

CSSW Participates in Onchocerciasis disease Coordination Group

Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) participated in the 58th session of the DPI-NGO Conference held last September at the United Nations headquarters in New York under the title "Challenges, Voices for Peace, Partnerships & Renewal".

Mr. Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, pointed out the vital importance of this session and the great role of NGOs in the forthcoming period.

The Conference for three days discussed several issues related to the world peace, development of partnership with the UN, poverty alleviation, working towards the achievement of the millennium development goals (MDGs), and human rights.

During the conference intervals, Dr. Isam Awad, CSSW representative, met with the Conference Chairman and head

of the NGOs division and discussed with them CSSW-submitted application for joining the UN Department of Public Information which CSSW will obtain its membership within the upcoming days.

Dr. Awad also met with the Unicef executive director, the head of the NGOs division for the UN Economic & Social Affairs and a number of international organizations representatives who took part in the conference and discussed with them various issues of common concern and the proper means of achieving the millennium development goals (MDGs) and poverty alleviation.

On the other hand, CSSW participated last September in the 26th meeting of the Coordination Group for organizations working to control Sowda (Onchocerciasis) disease held in Bensheim, Germany. The event was host-


ed by Cristoffel-Blindenmission organization for blindness control.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Kamel, CSSW representative, made a presentation on the onchocerciasis disease control program undertaken by CSSW in five Yemeni governorates.

This participation is a qualitative addition to CSSW's credit and its contribution with international specialized groups involved in health and control of communicable and endemic diseases.

At the end of the workshop, the group commended CSSW's presentation made by Dr. Al-Kamel and the significance of the report contents demonstrating the program activities performed in Yemen. CSSW was also invited to take part as an observer in the forthcoming meeting to be held in Uagadogo, Burkina Faso next March, 2006.

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Reflections on Ramadan

Terror will disappear when people come to live by the moral values of Islam

In the Qur'an (32:9), God reveals that He has breathed His own soul into Man, His creation, and that Man is His representative on earth (Qur'an, 6:165). One of the most important differences between Man and the animals is that Man was created with both earthly desires and with a conscience. Every person possesses desires that incite him to evil, along with a conscience that inspires him to avoid it. Alongside such pleasing attributes inspired by that conscience—love, sacrifice, compassion, humility, affection, honesty, loyalty and kindness—he also possesses destructive and undesirable tendencies, stemming from his earthly desires.

Thanks to his conscience, however, the believer can distinguish between right and wrong and opt for what is morally

You have an excellent model in the Messenger of Allah, for all who put their hope in Allah and the Last Day and remember Allah much. (Surat al-Ahzab: 21)

right. Strong belief in and fear of God, faith in the Hereafter, powerful fear of the endless torments of hell and a yearning for Paradise all keep the temptations of his earthly desires at bay. Therefore, he always behaves well towards people, is forgiving, responds to wickedness with good, assists those in need, and shows compassion, love, affection and tolerance.

Terrorists, on the other hand, listen to their earthly desire for violence instead of their consciences, and can easily turn to all forms of wickedness. They become loveless, aggressive people who easily hurt others without the slightest pang of conscience. Having no fear of God, they do not know the morality of religion, nor do they practice it. Nothing can stop them from committing crimes.



BY HARUN YAHYA
www.harunyahya.com

In restraining its citizens, society's prevailing rules can go only so far. Thanks to its law enforcement units, the state may be able to partially protect streets and public spaces, and—thanks to a powerful system of justice—may be able to take necessary means to ensure public order and ensure that the crime rate drops. But since it's impossible to keep watch on every individual, 24 hours a day, it's essential that peoples' consciences enter the equation at some stage. Someone who doesn't heed the voice of his conscience can easily turn to crime when on his own, or surrounded by people of like mind. That being the case, a model of society emerges which is composed of individu-

als who lie when necessary, have no hesitation about making unjust profits, and feel no unease about oppressing the weak. It is clear that physical precautions and measures will bear no fruit in a society which has no fear of God and which has lost its spiritual values. Religious moral values, on the other hand, command a person to refrain from evil, even if he is all alone, even if nobody will punish him for his evil deeds. It is evident that a person who knows that he will be called to account in the presence of God for his every deed, his every decision and his every word, and that he will be suitably rewarded for these in the eternal life of the Hereafter, will scrupulously avoid committing evil.

Terrorist organizations can't possibly have any place in a society whose people avoid evil of their own free will. Where religion's morality prevails, problems that give rise to organizations supporting the use of violence will disappear naturally. If the whole society possesses superior virtues like honesty, sacrifice, love and justice, there can be no place for such things as poverty, unequal distribution of

bers of people. This fight will be fought on the level of ideas—between people who believe in the true religious morality, who are loving, forgiving, compassionate and in full possession of their conscience; and those who draw their strength from ignorance, arrogance and violence. In one verse, our Lord asks, "Would there had been more people with a vestige of good among the generations of those who came before you, who forbade corruption in the earth..." (Qur'an, 11:16). Believers should possess the virtue that God describes in that verse. While terrorists hope to achieve their aims by violence, believers should know that true success can be achieved only by clinging tightly to the religion of God, and acting accordingly. If Jews, Christians, and Muslims join together in that struggle, in a spirit of respect for all beliefs and ideas and, by the will of God, they will enjoy definitive success. This is God's promise to all His believing servants, which will definitely come true.

At this point, a great responsibility falls on all true believers, no matter what their religion. Jews must not ignore Old

Allah would say to the inmates of Paradise: 'I shall cause My pleasure to alight upon you'. (Muslim)



Ramadan Kareem

Love and salam to all

Here the truth unfolds more and more and it apparently prevails. Just now you are offered to get hold of rewards of a century time just by doing one good deed in this month.

Love is interpreted now on the ground of reality. God still loves you, and these blessings of Ramadan are enough to prove how God is compassionate and cordial! Prove, in return, to Him that you are grateful and thankful.

We have been indulging into tasting and smelling the Paradise from our place on earth.

The relief, easiness, bliss and love are unspeakable and inexpressible. It is hard to ignore them and belittle their greatness. It is also hard not to, if you are industrious, be a believer and share Muslims these blessings. It is opportunity to all to repent and beef up their stock.

Good believers seek God's forgiveness even more patiently and ask Him to lead those who go astray to the right path. In fact, Islam has directed them to be peaceful, to say the good and to wish all people happy days and lovely life.

I wish I were a bird singing on Prophet Mohammed's mosque (may peace and blessings be upon him). We wish that Ramadan does not go away from us. We wish these blessings and forgiveness to cover and envelope the whole world from pole to pole.

God bless all believers who are busy listening to Allah's teachings and are carefully doing their best to confess and repent to Allah. God bless all who are constantly reciting the Holy Quraan and making use of



By Mohammed al-Hakimi
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For Yemen Times

its fruitful preaching.

God bless in particular those who think of their tortured brothers and sisters, of those who are struggling against the enemies and occupiers in order to restore their invaded and extorted lands.

God bless these genuine believers who are oppressed and never, however, incline their heads or surrender. They have maintained their stances vigorously while we have proved to be of no use for them. These people are higher on the scale of faith and they deserve respect and reverence. They deserve also Allah's forgiveness. I wonder how patient, how powerful, how faithful, and how great they are!

More importantly, we should not forget them any more. We should pray to Allah to grant them victory and relief.

Further, we should urgently pray that the values of goodness, truth, and peace would ever dominate the universe.

income, injustice, the oppression of the weak, or limitations on freedoms. On the contrary, a social order will emerge that meets the wants of the needy; where the wealthy protect the poor and the strong, the weak; where everyone can enjoy the very best health care, education, and transport systems. There, tolerance and understanding will dominate the relationships between different ethnic groups, religions and cultures.

For these reasons, proper morality is the key to solving so many social problems. The source of that key, in turn, is the Qur'an, which God has revealed as a guide for mankind.

It must not be forgotten that unless necessary measures are taken, unless deep-rooted solutions are brought in, the 21st century will continue to be a time of terror and violence, just as the 20th was before it. The homes of innocent people will be bombed, and women and children will be slaughtered.

The ideological fight against terrorism, therefore, must begin started with great and urgency, to include very great num-

Testament statements calling mankind to peace and tolerance, and they must call on all other Jews to oppose terrorism—including the state terrorism employed by Israel in the occupied territories. So should Christians call on all other Christians, taking as their guide the morality most pleasing to God. One should not forget that terrorism stems from wrong ideas and the basic struggle against terrorism should be on the level of ideas. Believers must explain that these ideas are wrong both in terms of their theory and practice. No idea can prevail by means of violence, oppression and cruelty; and despotism can never triumph.

Terrorist ideology is built on sand. Its foundations can easily be swept away by mobilizing a proper education campaign. Sincere believers in all parts of the world can help end the ignorance that breeds terrorism by searching for solutions, writing books and articles, promoting educational activities and disseminating their own cultural heritage. The prevalence of tolerance, peace and security on the Earth, as commanded by God, will make terrorism disappear into the pages of history forever.

Adopting a defeatist, pessimistic attitude in the face of terror is unacceptable. Our hope is that this suffering will not be repeated, and that all measures will be adopted to that end.

May God have mercy on those who died in those hateful attacks, and may He heal the injured. Our sincere condolences to all mankind. (For detailed information, please see Islam Denounces Terrorism and Only Love Can Defeat Terrorism by Harun Yahya) www.islamdenoucesterrorism.com

To purchase the works of Harun Yahya, please visit
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Literary Corner

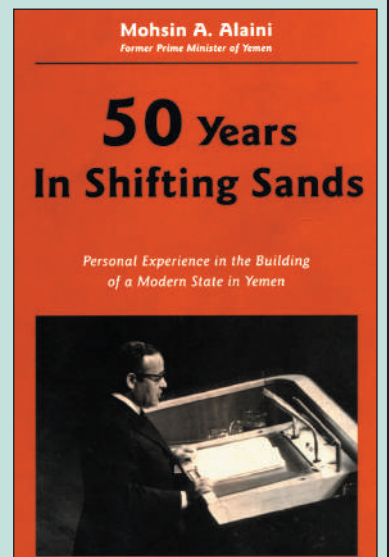
By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah

Fifty Years In Shifting Sands (3-5)

Author: Mohsin Al-Ainy, Former Prime Minister of Yemen
Language: Arabic & English
Publisher: Dar Al-Nahar, Beirut
Year Published: August 2004
Number of Pages: 384 pages

If there was anything to be learned from the 1955 attempted coup against Imam Ahmed of Yemen, led by soldiers, who got carried away in their treatment of some of the residents of the Houban area of Ta'ez, is frantic coups against the Imam Ahmed are simply out of the question. They are doomed to failure, even if two of the brothers of the Imam (Prince Abdullah and Abbas) were on the side of the rebels.

The Imam started his counter-coup by feigning to go along with the rebels and he signed a "turn over charge of affairs from the right hand to the left hand" (his brother Abdullah). Then he played sick, as he always does when the going is some what challenging. He was however not to be easily overtaken. The besieged Imam was able to gather momentum by secretly mobilizing his loyal supporters in Ta'ez and all of a sudden the artillery that was once used to besiege the Imam was lobbing shells at the barracks of the rebel troops and the Imam showed up amongst the rebel troops riding horseback demanding that the rebel troops drop the "Imam's rifles" and weapons, and his supporters were shouting "God protect the Imam". Soon he headed for his rebellious brother and told him: "Now I will show you how revolts should be!" Seventeen of the rebel leaders were executed including Colonel Thulaya, and the Imams' two brothers, who sided with the rebels. In the meantime, the Free Yemenis in Cairo were somewhat stunned by the whole affair in Ta'ez, so the author and Yahya Gekhman were nominated to send a message to the rebel leader, Al-Thulaya. Just as they arrived in Aden (there was no direct air access to Yemen then), they were flabbergasted to learn that the coup has been foiled and they were met with screaming crowds in Aden shouting "Long live the Imam!" When the Imam had requested that Al-Ainy and Gekhman come to Ta'ez, through his Viceroy in Aden, the two men reluctantly had no choice but to oblige. The Imam had arranged for them to continue their studies in Paris and many of the students in Egypt were also distributed to other locations to keep them from making trouble. In addition the Imam was waging a war against possible opponents that were overseas and trying to discredit them with the authorities wherever they were to be found. However, the sojourn in France for Mr. Al-Ainy was a chance to enlighten him to western left oriented liberal political thinking and the Latin Quarter was what he viewed as the best political education institute one can go to. He pointed out that had leaders like Gamal Abdul Nasser, Mu'ammarr Al-Qadhafi, Hafez Al-Assad and other Arab revolutionary leaders had a chance to live in the Latin Quarter for a few months, things would have probably developed quite differently in the region. Mr. Al-Ainy soon learned French and translated the first French account of a Frenchwoman's journey into Yemen ("A French Women Doctor in Yemen"). With the post-1956 Suez War with Israel, France and Britain over, the Arab Nationalist Movement got a boost and many young Arabs, especially students were trying to find partisan niches here and there. Most Yemenis found these movements (from center to left) irrelevant to the struggle in Yemen and even Al-Ainy's membership in the Ba'ath Party did



not have any particular on the Party or himself. Al-Ainy returned to Cairo and obtained a Law Degree from Cairo University in 1959. He went back to Aden for a short stint as a teacher and a labor activist. The translated book had already gained him the disfavor of the Imam in Ta'ez and the Imam convinced the British authorities to expel Al-Ainy out of Aden. He returned to Cairo. In the meantime, discontent was steadily increasing in Yemen against the monarchy and there were sporadic bursts of rebellion here and there, but none could reach any lasting impact and were quickly overturned by the Imam. When Syria broke away from the United Arab Republic union with Egypt, the Imam of Yemen began his own media campaign against the socialism of President Nasser of Egypt and this was a signal that Egypt now would be more interested in supporting the Imam's opposition. However, Al-Ainy noted that the constituents in the opposition were taken aback when the Egyptians had decided to promote the leadership of a new entrant to the opposition, Dr. Abdurrahman Al-Beidhani. Thus, most of the other leaders in the opposition movement had to step aside and show token support for Beidhani's imposed leadership, although most did not agree with the logic or approach that Beidhani was actively pursuing.

It was clear that the Egyptians needed a boost for their many setbacks politically in the region (secession of Syria) and the domestic economic situation in Egypt, as well as the increasing opposition from the traditional regimes of the region. The Egyptians apparently, thanks to a strong "friendship" between Anwar El-Sadat (Speaker of the National Assembly and a close man to Nasser) and Dr. Beidhani, were gearing up for a more active role in Yemen, especially after the Imams' attacks on Nasser's socialist agenda, which the Imam found anathema to Islam.

With Beidhani about the only one with a clear idea of what the Egyptians had in mind, most of the free Yemenis had to go along with the Egyptians coziness with Beidhani, and thus were pretty much out of the picture, as the Egyptian Embassy worked along with the Free Yemeni Officers, who were mostly trained by the Egyptian advisers, who were sent to Yemen. Preparations were already ongoing for something to happen, but according to Al-Ainy, the leadership of Free Yemenis overseas hardly had an inkling of what the plans were to lead to. When Mr. Al-Ainy was in Baghdad after the Imam Ahmed passed away in September 19, 1962, he learned that the September 26, 1962 Revolution against Imam Mohammed Al-Badr has been carried out, from Abdul-Karim Qassim, then President of Iraq, who also advised him that the author was the first Foreign Minister of the new regime in Sana'a.



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Iraqis vote on historic post-Saddam constitution

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraqis flowed to the polls in an historic referendum on Saturday, with up to 15 million voters set to decide on a controversial new post-Saddam Hussein constitution that backers hope will unite the torn country.

Amid intense security, including a ban on all traffic, voters headed on foot to polling stations across Baghdad as they opened at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT). They are due to close at 5 p.m., unless attacks cause delays and some are kept open longer.

In the western city of Ramadi, a Sunni stronghold, militants attacked Iraqi and U.S. forces; there was little sign of voting. Mortars fell on a Baghdad polling station but no one was hurt.

In Basra in the south, Falluja to the west of the capital and Kirkuk to the north, polling sites received a steady stream of voters, many enthusiastically saying "Yes" to the draft charter and some others just as determinedly voting "No".

But in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city and an area of strong insurgent activity, attendance was scarce at polling centers and fliers were distributed urging people to keep away.

The fliers showed an American Uncle Sam figure looming over a voter depicted as a donkey placing a ballot paper into a voting box that is shown at the bottom to be a shredder. "Stay home; Don't believe in the constitution" a caption read.

In Baghdad's fortified Green Zone compound, where the Iraqi government is headquartered, President Jalal Talabani and Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari were two of the first to cast ballots.

"I voted 'Yes' and I urge all Iraqis, no matter their different ethnicities and religions ... to vote 'Yes' to the constitution," Talabani, a Kurd, told reporters.

The Kurdish and Shi'ite-led government strongly backs the constitution, which it was largely responsible for drafting.

The charter will be ratified if more than half of voters say "Yes", and as long as two thirds of voters in three of Iraq's 18 provinces do not say "No".

"NO" VETO UNLIKELY

Prospects of a blocking "No" vote receded in recent days when one of the



Iraqis wait to vote in the constitutional referendum at a polling station in the Sunni-dominated town of Falluja, about 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, Oct. 15. Polls opened on time on Saturday for the country's landmark referendum, with more than 15 million Iraqis registered to vote "yes" or "no" to a new draft constitution. Iraq has tightened security across the country, closing its borders and increasing police and army patrols, hoping to foil insurgents who have threatened attacks aimed at derailing the vote. REUTERS

main Sunni Muslim parties threw its support behind the constitution after Shi'ite and Kurdish leaders, under U.S. pressure, agreed to consider amendments next year.

However, most Sunni Arabs, who make up about 20 percent of the 27 million population, are believed to oppose the charter and the "No" vote is expected to dominate in their areas. In an election in January, most Sunni Arabs boycotted the vote.

In Falluja, a predominantly Sunni city that was until late last year a bastion of the Sunni Arab insurgency, Mohammed Jabber, a 35-year-old laborer, said he was intent on voting after deciding that boycotting January's poll was a mistake.

"I came here to say 'No' to the referendum and to avoid the strategic error we made last time," he said. "This time we must participate in a big way and restore balance to Iraq, a balance that has been lacking since the previous election."

Others in Falluja and in areas of Kirkuk, where ethnic Turkmen oppose

the constitution, also said they were voting "No". But Talabani said he did not think the veto would succeed.

Clashes, but security holding

While January's election marked a particular watershed for Iraq after 30 years of dictatorship, Saturday was also the first opportunity in decades for people to vote in a free referendum.

The last referendum was held almost exactly three years ago, under Saddam's rule, and it renewed his leadership for seven more years in a vote his regime said was 100 percent positive.

Ahead of Saturday's vote, those in Baghdad and towns to the north spent a hot night without electricity after a sabotage attack on power lines blacked out the capital. Insurgents have threatened widespread violence during the referendum.

Three Iraqi soldiers were killed by a bomb north of Baghdad on Saturday. But despite the attack and the Ramadan clashes, overall security seemed to be holding, with more than 100,000 Iraqi police and soldiers protecting 6,000

polling stations, and U.S. troops ready to help out if needed.

International borders were sealed earlier this week, after threats from insurgents, who include Iraqi nationalists and foreign Islamists like al Qaeda. Shops and businesses have been closed since Thursday and private vehicles banned from roads.

Hussein Hendawi, the head of the Electoral Commission which is managing the vote, said things were going well and that he thought results could come as early as Sunday evening or Monday.

However, the Electoral Commission did say that while the vast majority of the polling stations were open, some in Anbar, the Sunni province west of Baghdad including Ramadi, were shut. Carina Perelli, who heads a U.N. mission overseeing the election, also said that things were going well.

Divided opinion

Patchy opinion polls and the sectarian arithmetic of Iraq suggest the constitution will be ratified comfortably. But talking to Iraqis across the country, there is also disquiet over a text pushed through to meet an American-backed timetable in the face of misgivings, especially among Sunni Arabs.

The spiritual leader of much of the 60-percent Shi'ite majority, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, as well as Kurdish leaders representing up to 20 percent of Iraqis, are urging a "Yes", probably ensuring a nationwide vote in favor.

Ratification of the constitution is a key plank in Washington's plan to start withdrawing some of its 156,000 troops. As the number of Americans to die in Iraq nears 2,000, polls show increasing unease in the United States about the war.

Failure for the charter would mean that an election in December would elect only an interim assembly, as in January, charged with drafting a new constitution from scratch.

If the text is ratified on Saturday, December's vote will produce a fully empowered, four-year parliament and may well usher in a very different coalition government from the present one dominated by Shi'ite Islamists and their Kurdish allies.

India, Pakistan put politics before relief -Farooq

SRINAGAR, India (Reuters) - India and Pakistan are playing politics with earthquake relief, and have missed a great opportunity to build closer ties in a time of tragedy, Kashmir's main moderate separatist leader said on Friday.

India's tepid response to the tragedy has also reinforced a sense of alienation among many ordinary Kashmiris living on its side of the divided Himalayan territory, said Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, chairman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference.

"We thought both countries should have risen beyond politics, but the only thing we see is them involved in scoring brownie points off each other," said the 34-year-old, who is also the religious leader of Sunni Muslims in Kashmir.

"It was an opportunity for India and Pakistan to really bridge the gap, to come closer to each other at this hour of crisis," he told Reuters in an interview.

"But I feel it has widened the gap." Tens of thousands of Kashmiris died in last weekend's earthquake, most on the Pakistani side of the heavily militarized frontline. Many more are still sleeping out in the open, and fears for them are rising as temperatures drop.

India has tried to score a propaganda victory by proposing relief operations across the frontline — an offer Pakistan spurned — and by sending aid to Islamabad, Kashmiris say.

But it has not allowed Kashmiris on its side of the frontline to telephone the other side to find out about relatives there.

The neighbors even got involved in a row on Thursday about whether Indian soldiers had crossed the frontline to help their Pakistani counterparts rebuild a bunker.

"Repeatedly we had asked the Indian government to at least open telephone links between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, but that has fallen on deaf ears," Farooq said. "This only adds to the agony."

"Very cold response"

India cut telephone links between the capitals of divided Kashmir after Muslim militants began an insurgency against Indian rule in 1989, some using bases on the Pakistani side of the frontline.

But Farooq said the ban made no sense in an era of satellite phones, and was only hurting ordinary people.

Sitting in the garden of his home in Srinagar after several days on the road bringing relief to earthquake victims, Farooq said the frontline should be thrown open to allow Kashmiris to get relief, or help those that need it.

"It is so sad. We have so many people on the other side, of the same blood, of the same culture, but we cannot help them. In spite of the fact we are so near, we are helpless."

India, he said, was also putting pride before the people of Kashmir by not appealing for international help, as Pakistan had. With at least 30,000 tents needed and only 5,000 distributed in Indian Kashmir, it says it has run out and is manufacturing more.

"In the whole of India you don't have any tents? If that is the case then you should say, as Pakistan has appealed for international help, let India also say 'we are not capable of dealing with it'."

Farooq has also been bitterly disappointed by the "very cold response" by Indian business, individuals and aid groups — especially in comparison to the national response to the tsunami or the 2001 earthquake in the western state of Gujarat.

It showed that ordinary Indians did not relate to Kashmiris, he said.

On Thursday some Indian companies pledged aid to help Kashmiri victims but Farooq said the gesture only came after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh spoke to them.

"The fact that the prime minister had to call corporate chiefs and ask them 'why don't you do something?' — it is embarrassing for the Indian state," he said.

Kashmir quake toll nears 40,000 as rain hits relief

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (Reuters) - Pakistan raised the official death toll from the Kashmir earthquake to 38,000 on Saturday, making it one of the most devastating earthquakes to hit South Asia in recorded history.

Military spokesman Shaukat Sultan said the number of deaths in Pakistani Kashmir and North West Frontier Province was raised to 38,000 from 25,000 after confirming a higher death toll from remote mountain valleys and the town of Balakot.

"This number is likely to further rise," Sultan told Reuters.

Another 1,300 people are confirmed to have died in Indian Kashmir.

Relief flights in and out of Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani Kashmir, were severely disrupted on Saturday by rain. A few helicopters managed to take off from a makeshift landing pad in a sports field but it was nothing like what has become the routine of a flight every minute.

Some 3,000 Muslim faithful gathered in the country's largest mosque, Shah Faisal in Islamabad, for a special prayer session at the time of the quake just before 9 a.m. (0400 GMT) on October 8.

"Oh Allah give courage to those who survived this disaster to endure this hardship," the cleric prayed, his voice breaking with sobs as he called the Pakistanis who died in the quake martyrs. It is Ramadan in Pakistan, a holy month of prayer which also dictates fasting from dawn to dusk.

The 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck just outside Muzaffarabad, a city of 70,000 people 100 km (65 miles) northeast of Islamabad, at the foothills of the Himalayas, where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet.

The rise in the death toll puts the earthquake on the same massive scale of destruction as the Quetta quake of 1935.

Between 30,000 and 60,000 people are estimated to have died in the Quetta quake, which almost destroyed the city completely, according to the U.S.



Kashmiris ask for aid relief in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-administered Kashmir, Oct. 15. Pakistan raised the official death toll from the Kashmir earthquake to 38,000 on Saturday and said it was likely to rise further, putting it on the same massive scale of destruction as the Quetta earthquake of 1935. Between 30,000 and 60,000 people are estimated to have died in the Quetta quake, which almost destroyed the city completely, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. REUTERS

Geological Survey. The 2003 earthquake in Bam, Iran, killed 31,000 people.

The overwhelming concern as relief operations moved from rescue to rehabilitation was the potentially deadly combination of bad weather and no real shelter. The United Nations estimates more than a million have been made homeless — as many as 2.5 million by local counts — and winter is approaching rapidly.

Taent cities

In lieu of any organized camps, tent cities have sprung up in Muzaffarabad made up of a hodgepodge of plastic awnings, old signboards and a few real tents. The refugees burn wood from the rubble still wet from the rain, plastic bags and bottles or even donated clothing — whatever they can find to keep warm and cook.

"It is very difficult. My children are

crying all the time," said Nasreen Ikram, her daughter by her side chanting softly "Allah, Allah" (God).

The smell of burning plastic hung in the air of Ikram's camp, housing some 2,000 people, along with the stench of dead bodies still entombed in the rubble, somewhat dampened by the rain.

With chances of finding anyone to rescue fading fast, some international rescue teams had begun to leave although the government denies the search has been called off.

Thirty people, including foreigners, remain unaccounted for in Islamabad's Margala Towers apartment block, the capital's only significant damage, and British rescuers were continuing work there in the hope of finding more people alive.

Thunder and lightning rolled through the mountains around Muzaffarabad on Saturday morning and dark clouds

hung low over the city like a shroud.

The 48-hour weather forecast for the region was for isolated thunderstorms followed by a cold snap that will bring night-time temperatures to as low as three degrees Centigrade (37 degrees Fahrenheit).

Strong aftershocks have added fear to uncertainty about the future and sent nervous residents of ruined mountain towns running into streets in the middle of the night every night.

Meteorological officials said the seismic activity was likely to continue for months, maybe years.

Global response

About \$350 million in international aid has been pledged and more than \$38 million has been raised domestically.

But United Nations' chief emergency relief coordinator Jan Egeland has called for a more urgent world aid response. He said there was still an acute shortage of helicopters and about three times as many were needed.

"This is a very major earthquake but it's really aggravated a thousand times by the topography," he told Reuters. "An earthquake is bad anywhere, in the Himalayas it becomes much worse."

The aid effort has picked up steam in recent days after a difficult start due to a shortage of helicopters needed to reach remote mountain towns and roads blocked by landslides.

The army has been airdropping supplies to villages cut off from help in remote valleys in the Himalayan foothills.

Where valleys are too narrow and steep-sided for helicopters, mule-trains are being sent to carry in the food, blankets and tents people need to survive.

The tragedy has straddled the divide between Pakistani and Indian Kashmir that dates back to independence from British colonial rule in 1947 and over which Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars.

Pakistan has accepted Indian aid, but has declined an offer of helicopters.

Ousted Ecuador president Gutierrez under arrest

QUITO, Ecuador (Reuters) - Former Ecuador President Lucio Gutierrez, ousted by Congress in April, was arrested minutes after returning to the country on Friday for refusing to recognize President Alfredo Palacio as his successor.

"They have detained him," Gutierrez spokesman Fidel Araujo told Reuters. Ecuador's Congress fired Gutierrez six months ago for meddling in the Supreme Court.

Promoting his book, "The Coup," in which he outlines his case against those who threw him out of office, the 48-year-old Gutierrez told reporters on Thursday it was his patriotic duty to go home to try to retake power.

He flew to the western Ecuadorean city of Manta on Friday from Colombia,

where he had been granted asylum.

Even from jail his presence in Ecuador could further destabilize a country where three presidents have been toppled since 1997. Analysts said his chances of resuming power were thin.

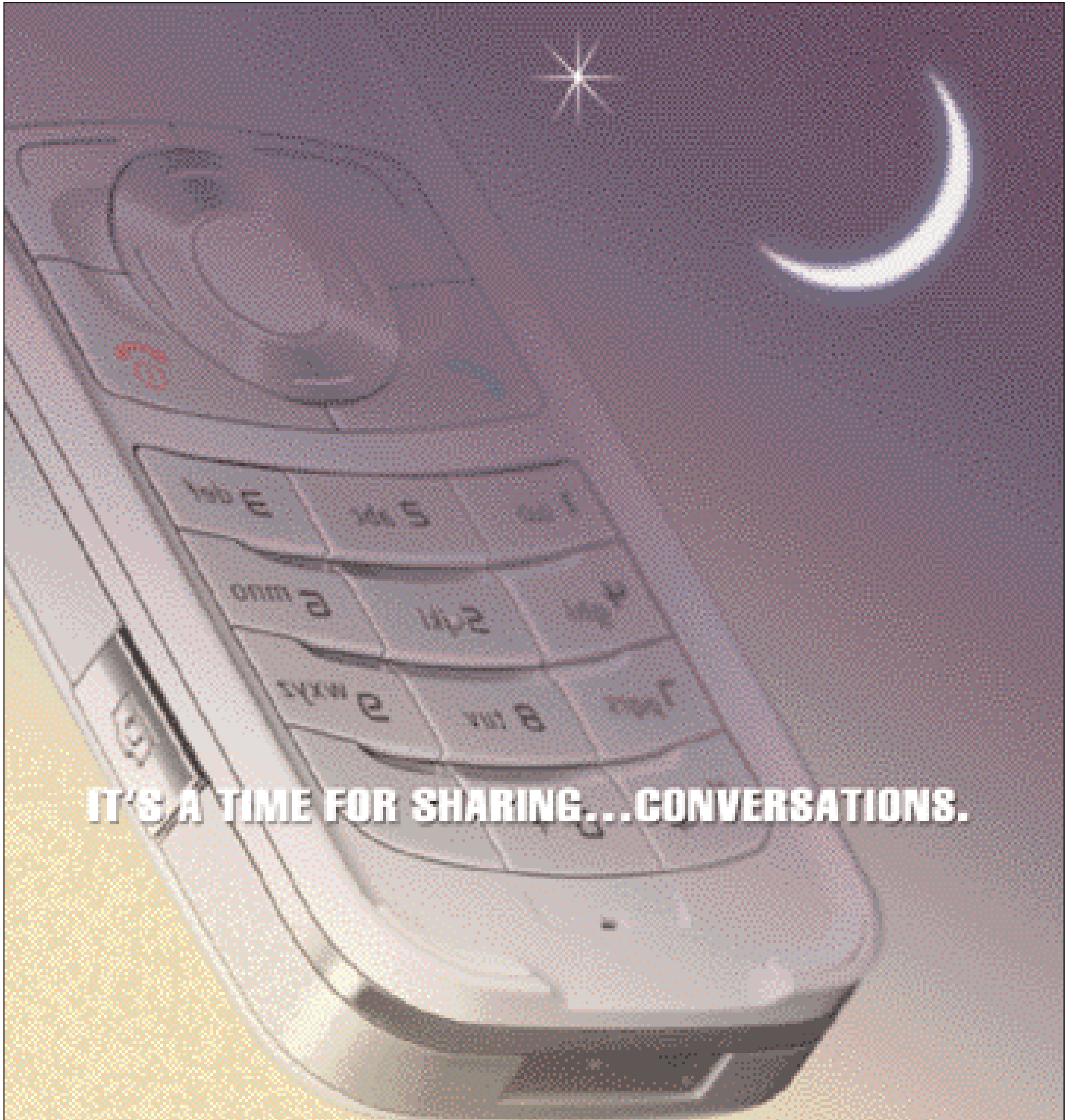
"At this point, Gutierrez is not a major political figure in Ecuador," said Adrian Bonilla, director of Ecuador's branch of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences.

Gutierrez was elected in 2002 promising left-wing policies that he quickly abandoned in favor of fiscal austerity and a close relationship with the United States.

He came to political prominence when, as an army colonel, he led a coup attempt in 2000.



Ecuadorean policemen escort former Ecuadorean president Lucio Gutierrez (L) at an army airport in Manta Oct. 14. Gutierrez, ousted by Congress in April, was arrested minutes after returning to the country on Friday for refusing to recognize President Alfredo Palacio as his successor. REUTERS



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Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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

OUR
OPINION

USA and us

Over the years the Yemeni-American political relations have gone through rapid progress under the current long lasting regime of president Ali Abdullah Saleh and the consecutive presidents of the United States. Yemen is considered a strategic ally in the war against terrorism and indeed in more than one situation the Yemeni government tried to prove to this fact.

However, with the recent statements by the United States representative in Yemen in addition to an accumulation of international reports mentioning Yemen, it seems that there is a new tone in the happy dialogue between the two countries. On more than one occasion, Yemen has promised to seriously work on improving both democracy and the development situation of the country. Unfortunately it is a promise that has never been fulfilled. Recent reports about the MDG's and Yemen's commitment to achieving the millennium goals indicate that it is impossible to meet the goals before 2015. Yemen has gone further down in the Human Development Index and the country's economy is considered by World Bank reports deteriorating with a decelerating GDP growth among other deteriorating financial indicators. Even the credibility of the president's declaration not to run for presidency has been doubted, as such announcement was made four times during his 27 years old rule none of which proved to be true.

The issue is not terrorism anymore. The US authority realized that terrorism is a result of poverty and lack of democracy in the so-called terrorist prone nations. The trend now is to push governments to further transparency and combating corruption in all state systems so as to allow a better life for the people. It is debated that if people enjoy a stable environment and happy living in their countries they will be less prone to thinking of suicide or Istishad in other countries. A point that is fairly logical but needs more than just ratification of a new agreement or promises to better governance and definitely not a new loan.

Yet the accusations of slowed democracy or even the lack of it did not hit a live nerve until the US ambassador commented on it. It seems that the Yemeni government does not take any international - let alone national - reports on human rights violations, democracy or development seriously as long as it does not come from the White House. Surprisingly enough, the White House did not seem to mind much of the violations in the past until recently when a subtle doubtful remark was made and withdrawn quickly by the ambassador himself according to Yemeni media.

All of which lead to questions about whether the United States will promote democracy in Yemen for the sake of democracy and the welfare of the people. Why then so late a comment and yet so fragile? What is going to be discussed in President's Saleh coming visit to Washington is yet to be revealed. It had better make a difference otherwise the credibility of not only of the Yemeni government, but also the US will be at stake.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

Iraq & Arab rescue task

It has not become secret for anyone that the situation in Iraq has become very complicated. Iraqi politicians are in dispute on everything and the United States of America is incapable of facing the situation and putting an end to the deteriorating security situation and the bloodbaths open here. It is as if the world community and its international organization are absent vis-à-vis what are taking place in the country. The European Union has not been able yet to coordinate or unify its efforts and movements of the committee of Iraq's neighbouring countries is rather traditional and has no essential influences on what is going on inside Iraq.

Amidst this troubled and gloomy climate, there has emerged an Arab action providing a ray of hope in the possibility of drafting a new policy to rescue Iraq. This movement is sponsored by Egypt and Saudi Arabia following a summit held by President Hosni Mubarak and the Saudi monarch king Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz in Jeddah in initiating an effective regional action to contain the flaring crises in the region. Then there was Jeddah meeting of the Arab group that emerged through declaration of a new Arab initiative for national reconciliation among the Iraqis in what is described as necessary intervention coming the appropriate time to stop the security and sectarian congestion in Iraq. This initiative is to start with a visit by the Arab League secretary-general Amr Mousa to the Iraqi capital Baghdad, the first of its kind since the fall of Saddam Hussein regime and the occupation of Iraq.

In fact, this movement is considered a natural extension of the Arab movement for holding a reconciliation conference among the Iraqis, a recommendation that lingered long because various Iraqi forces have planned to achieve



By Prof. Dr.
Abdulaziz al-Tarb

speedy political gains at the expense of the situations in the country and exploited by certain regional powers to bolster their influence in Iraq especially after they have found some kind of consent with the occupation forces there, to change the political map and centers of power.

This political Arab action reflects a feeling of a sense of Arab responsibility towards Iraq that nearing to the verge of civil war as a result of failure of all policies of the occupation and its inability. This mission would not be an easy one because situation in Iraq has aggravated to an extent of irremediableness, as many indications point out. Nevertheless, the serious consequences and their impact on the region's countries and the world, dictate speeding up and continuation in political attempts to salvage Iraq and its people from this tragedy. It has now become understandable that resolving the Iraqi crisis would not be by a political operation launched from Iraq, or in the process of referendum on the constitution in this month or the election of a new parliament at the end of next December. It would not be solved also by fabricating an imaginary crisis between the Sunnis and the Shiites or between the Arabs and Kurds or frightening all of Iraq's Baath Party that has ended and dissolved after the fall of Saddam regime. The crisis could not be solved also by leaving ire to fall prey to all types of extremists. Each wants to test its force and ignite new wars and seditions springing from mentalities that inherited the culture of middle ages or by hegemony of regional powers that view in the American mistakes in Iraq, along with its weakness, as a historic opportunity for control and destabilize the traditional regional balance between Iran and the Arabs. This balance is necessary for the stability of this significant

region for the world.

There would be neither victor nor vanquished party in the Iraqi crisis. It is the only point in our contemporary world where all would come out defeated. Even the superpowers would not be able to come out of their crisis or the catastrophe they have created in Iraq, except with a serious and effective cooperation of influential Arab countries and all countries of the world in order to rectify the political equation.

The new movement must rectify the mistaken equations that emerged from imbalances of forces between the Iraqi various parties, provided the endeavor to preserve the right of all in an independent Iraq and clarity of its Arab and Islamic identity. There must not be focusing on sect and nationalities that are already melted in the pot of integrated Iraq, now being resurrected by occupation mistakes and calamities. There must be a restoration of the comprehensive political operation to its right track, reconstruction of what was destroyed by the war and the establishment of constituents of a modern state and return to the peaceful settlement according to the UN Security Council resolution 1546 in July 2004. In other words, there must be stages and timings for the political process, structuring the state, withdrawal of occupation forces, and participation of the entire international community in solving the Iraqi crisis without leaving it in the hands of the Americans alone. The new movement should define Iraq's financial and security needs and timings of implementing them even if here emerged a need for issuing a new international resolution. This should be carried out in a way not leaving the Iraqis prey to terrorists and extremists that are rejected in our region, or to some extremist ideas in Washington that think of arming all the parties to face extremism. This would lead to burn what remained of Iraq and would set ablaze the entire region. It is a lesson requires accuracy and to benefit from it before it is too late.

Woman's political rights:
Controlled by traditions,
exploited by man

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI

The Yemeni woman usually joins the presidential elections as a voter and not a racer for the job, and this issue never draws attention of the Yemeni society despite what has been achieved by women in the field of political updating. Legislations and constitutional clauses granted women the right to be a candidate and voter in any elections, but the Yemeni democratic experience since 1990 showed that political parties have exploited the high numbers of women as voters in favor of their male candidates.

This attitude left bitterness on the part of the Yemeni women due to the very low percentage of women in the Parliament. Two out of forty women who stood in parliamentary elections in 1993 won, and the same was repeated in 1997's elections when the number of women candidates declined by 50%. The experience was exacerbated in 2001's local elections as only 30 women out of over 5 thousand candidates won.

This confirms the importance of the Yemeni women's participation in the political life. Women should have posts in the parliament, the cabinet and the local councils. It is unreasonable for women to remain voters in favor of male candidates who dominate the political and social life and control women rights under the guise of social traditions. We need not have a discussion of the religious teachings that granted women rights in abundance in different areas. The Islamic Sharia supports woman rights and dignity.

In this context, Mohamed al-Ashwal, member of the Islah Party's Political Unit emphasized that his party view the woman as a partner of man in building the country. In spite of living in a society dominated by human traditions and cultures at the expense of the divine legislations, the Islah Party work on removing such insufficient vision on the

status of woman in the society.

Regarding the Islah Party's view on the existence of women in places of decision making, he said the party view the woman from different perspectives including the legislative and ideological systems and the social cultures and conventions. The party, he added, work hard at spreading the social culture about the rights of women and uprooting other traditions and conventions that degrade the status of women in Islam.

The Islah Party hold the view that there are some priorities and rights that should be cared for by the woman and her society as well including the eradication of illiteracy and poverty, health care and others. However this view never paid attention to the political rights of women. The Islah Party, which had no female candidates in the parliamentary elections, got a considerable portion of women votes in the elections as did other opposition parties.

Last Wednesday, the Woman Leaders Forum held a symposium under the slogan "the viewpoints of parties and political organizations about the presence of women in places of decision making". At the event the chairman of the People's General Congress Political Unit, Tariq al-Shami, indicated that there is plan for raising women's participation in the parliamentary elections to 10% out of the total number of seats in the Parliament and from 15-20% out of the total number of seats in the local councils.

Al-Shami said: We are convinced of the importance of the role practiced by the woman, either at the organizational level or at the national one, and there is no shortcomings or barriers that prevent women from playing their roles and doing their duties".

Mohamed Mus'ed al-Ruba'e, Representative of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, said that his party forwarded a proposal on the portion of women in elections registers since it has become necessary for the political parties to show their position

on the woman issues. He said that the Nasserite Unionist Organization pay more attention to the political participation of woman considering women are half the population.

Giving women more opportunity to join the civil community organizations and saving them from the policies of inheritance and the exploitations of parties is a must.

According to al-Ruba'e, women constitute 30% of the participants in the organization tenth conference and 13% in the highest authority at the organization.

Ms. Jawharah Hamoud Amin, Assistant Secretary General of the Yemeni Socialist Party talked about the importance of woman's existence in the political world. She said: "I believe that women are targeted by political propaganda. Women are believed to be the only voters".

Ms. Amin added that a country that does not care for women's rights is doomed to fail in the development process. She said that there are several examples of that in Yemen, where 87% of the women are illiterate.

The presence of women in the political arena increases very slowly due to the male culture that is based on the marginal role of women in any area. Ms. Amin said that it is the first time in the history of political plurality that women are occupying posts in the general secretariat of the Yemen Socialist Party. We should be proud of this, but at the same time it is only a minimum of what women's role should be.

She added that the Yemen Socialist Party makes extensive efforts to nominate a number of women candidates in many districts in the coming local elections.

The view of Jawharah Hamoud seems to be closer to reality since we anticipate the Yemeni women to achieve broader goals in the political field. This will help push women to posts in the Parliament and other governmental institutions.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The view from outside

Yemen under
tough pressure

With the President of the Republic, Ali Abdullah Saleh due in Washington soon, it is clear that he has a tough job convincing our American friends that all the reports that are being published on Yemen are not at all painting the truth about the situation in Yemen. One however would expect, with so many mutual interests between Yemen and the United States, these unfavorable reports would not affect the overall mood of the trip and most likely most matters would have been smoothed out in due time before the trip. It might be helpful to the President if some matters are clearly laid out in due course. These include the efforts towards getting real progress along the front towards democratization, including the release of all political prisoners and issuing orders to put an end to the harassment of journalists. The President has already ordered an "amnesty" for the so called "Al-Houthi followers", but it is not known as to how much of them have been released, if any, or when that will happen. Furthermore, the President might do well to assure the Americans that all religious institutions "harboring extremism" have been closed and not just the ones that are affiliated with the mainstream Zeidi sect or Shafe'i sect, while some of the more obviously extreme religious institutes manage to continue operating unchallenged.

There is the clear issue of corruption that Yemen needs to address and probably Washington would be interested in knowing what Yemen has done to at least begin the awesome task of making all government officials accountable to independent oversight bodies that should begin diligently finding ways to root out those officials who continue to abuse their public positions to serve their own narrow interests. These oversight bodies should include Parliament, which should call on any officials that it finds are not going by the rules. This would go a long way towards improving the investment climate in Yemen and help make government services more accessible to the majority of Yemenis, who are presently facing deprivation from the most basic of public services. Concrete steps towards decentralizing authority would also be a positive approach towards empowering communities to play a greater role in the planning, formulation and implementation of development projects. This might include allowing local communities to make their local government officials accountable to the local elected officials, in the same way that officials at the national level would be accountable to Parliament, as they should be.

The security situation would probably present a thorny issue and the President would have to point out what Yemen has achieved to preventing Yemenis from getting drawn into terrorist activities. Understandably these are probably sensitive issues, but the reports being issued from the outside are pointing to many difficulties that Yemen is facing especially along the security front.

On the home front, the President would have to make it clear to Yemeni citizens that the Government is fully aware of the many difficulties faced by the Yemenis and he would have to impose certain performance criteria that the Government must fulfill in order to remedy these difficulties and put the Government to task accordingly, by setting deadlines and expected output.

On the transparency front, the official press should be made to report on the issues that are of concern to most people and not consider any opposing opinions as acts of treason or ingratitude for all that the Government has done. Furthermore, the Government should be ready to promote innovative ideas in the form of public feedback as to how Government efficiency could be enhanced and where the weaknesses in Government are seen by the people. The official press should not be just a medium for solely polishing the Government to the public, but can be an effective forum for constructive exchanges of ideas.

The President would also have to show how much of a tolerance there is to opposing political views and what constructive dialogue has been initiated with elements in the opposition to institute real meaningful reforms that will enhance democratic governance and sound public administration of government assets and natural resources.

It might be worth it for the President to meet with some leaders in the opposition, political and social dignitaries and even members of the independent press to obtain their views on how to ensure that the President is fully prepared with all points of view on the existing situation in Yemen and a consensus on the prospects for the future.

On another note, the President would do well to meet with the Yemeni community in the United States and to have an open session with them regarding what they feel they can contribute to setting Yemen on a new sound footing and to learn what they have to offer in terms of possible solutions to the problems faced by the country. In addition, he might get some of them to start channeling some of their savings in the form of investments in their homeland and whatever expertise they can offer in the fields where they have achieved success in the United States, whether as employees or as entrepreneurs.

Of course, it is expected that these suggestions may have already been considered as the President plans his trip with his advisers, but one hopes that by taking note of the unfavorable press reports that Yemen has been getting overseas, the President will be equipped with the right answers that reinstate reassurances in Washington that there is still room for hope and grounds for continued cooperation with the United States on all fronts.



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Yemen Press Review

Review By Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress (GPC), 10 Oct. 2005.

Main headlines

- A second round of dialogue between the GPC and the YSP
- Weapons that Yemen given to the legitimate Somali government carried out under knowledge of relevant international parties, smuggling groundless
- Official source describes the American ambassador statements as arousing astonishment
- Yemeni German governmental consultations in Berlin
- Calling on Arab countries to contribute to Somalia stability, FM al-Qirbi: Today we are dealing with institutions and those talking about factions want to return Somalia to the stage of conflicts
- No casualties among Yemeni students in Pakistan earthquake
- Ms Carren Hews, holding the title of

ambassador of American popular diplomacy has been visiting some Arab countries in a task she knows it is impossible. The mission is the improvement of the American administration image among the people of the region. Owing to her realization of the impossibility of her mission, she has confined her to some Arab leadership who would not hesitate to say the image is alright and the terrorists and extremists are the ones who are deforming it.

The task is difficult and heavy and all those who preceded her had been dismayed with the wide gap between the American administration and the world, not only among the Arabs alone. The American emissary and those who have sent her know the reasons behind the hatred that is widening day by day and that they can not only improve the image but change it with a better one. This can be achieved through recognizing peoples sovereignty, respecting their sons feelings and the Bush admitting that he is a ruler of a superpower not someone sent for sewing chaos and destroy dreams of peoples in their right to wring out their freedom from their

tyrants by their own potentials and at the hands of their sons rather than by the marines and cruise missiles.

Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, 12 Oct. 2005.

Main headlines

- The US ambassador statements, dangerous indication
- Audition Apparatus discovers millions of squandered money
- Reports of international organizations, American tools
- In an American scheme, \$463 thousand to marginalize democracy and the Yemeni government
- Iraq: A growing popular rejection of the draft constitution
- American terror kills hundreds daily
- Abu Udai writes saying that indications in south Iraq have revealed prediction on the first steps for partitioning Iraq into three regions, neither ethnic nor ideological, but rather spheres

of regional forces influence having multi and changeable interests. An economic oil dimension sphere of influence in the north, where America finds itself as having the right to it for several reasons, regions of economic sectarian dimension in the south where Iran sees it has the right to it in return for the many services it has offered to the American occupier. All this is under knowledge and satisfaction of America.

Statements recently published for the Saudi foreign minister have been an indication to what is being existent in south Iraq and the danger it poses to Iraq's unity and safety as well as to the neighbouring countries. Some neighbouring countries have begun expressing of what is threatening them as a result of the spread of the disease of the sectarian division and attempts of exporting the Shiite Islamic revolution under a new attire different from that during the eight-year Iran Iraq war.

Although statements and fears of the Saudi minister are real in that of destabilizing the situation in the entire region, the other face of them and the truth, is their timing.

As this situation was evident from the first time and as America is the occupying state upon which lies the responsibility for Iraq's unity, safety and security is aware of that and it is the party that seeks to draw a strategy of future cooperation and alliance with followers of the Shiite sect, considering them the more flexible and openness towards the American aims in the region, the truth about the Saudi foreign minister's statements is not as a criticism of the American politics nor a demonstration of fear from a new situation but rather a service offered to and a card of pressure the US uses on the secret ally that has begun to step over the red lines by refusing to abide by desires of America, the stronger ally. That disobedience is represented by its nuclear program, insistence on depriving the American companies of future investments represented by selling nuclear fuel to Iran and sharing Iran in its share of the southern Iraq's oil revenues. Today there is the drawing up of the constitutional structure that would guarantee appropriation of a proportion of oil revenues to Shiite religious leaders who in their turn would spend on projects of infrastructure in Iran.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 11 Oct. 2005.

Main headlines

- UN Security Council accuses Yemen, Ethiopia and Eritrea of exporting weapons to Somalia
- Municipality in the capital loots a business shop
- Nasserite central committee member Abdulmalik al-Mikhlaqi says statements of the American ambassador to Sana'a political extortion
- Chinese oil Company asks the authorities to provide security protection
- Iraq's former vice-president Al-Douri calls resistance for escalation and warns Sunnis of participation in government
- Yemenis retained by Algeria since last June, the government continues disinterest in its citizens under pretext of al-Qaeda
- JMP holds a meeting

Columnist Ali al-Saqqaq discusses in his article this week the stands of America towards peoples and regimes in the world and how it changes them according to its interests heedless of those peoples interests. He gives an example of Chile when America in the

seventies machinated the assassination of its elected president Salvador Allende. The dictator who succeeded the assassinated elected president received care and blessing of America.

The writer queries whether it is the same America that is trying nowadays to install itself as advocate and sponsor of freedoms and human rights. The answer is that America is the same America every time and everywhere. The American ambassador to Yemen has lately and suddenly remembered that democracy in Yemen has halted and he talked in a tone as if he is really concerned in Yemen democracy. The writer emphasizes that what the American ambassador has said is merely a political extortion of the regime, no more.

Mr. al-Saqqaq maintains admitting that democracy in Yemen has not yet reached its target though 15 years elapsed since achievement of the unity. It is true there are flagrant violations of human rights and freedoms, and it is true we are in need direly of political, economic and administrative reforms especially that corruption has affected everything. However, the writer says, what the American ambassador has stated with exceeds his task as an ambassador. He is speaking as guardian of the country and we refuse and reject any guardianship, especially if the guardian was America.

Haikal: Larger than a life's experience

In my youth, and we are talking about the forties here, my generation had clear options and vision in front of them from which they chose their paths. Today I find this generation in a political mess and completely lost. I believe that the awareness of nations could be measured through a number of indicators; the most important of which is the knowledge of the direction it wants to take forward and where it wants to go. It is relevant whether it does achieve its goals or mission but the most crucial is to understand these goals in the first place with a clear picture of its directions as a nation. What surprises me is that today supposedly the number of educated people is more, the number of intellectuals has increased and media has improved much better. In spite of the fact that there are many more university students today than there was sixty years ago, this generation is not being able even to participate in deciding its own fate. What is happening in Iraq is heart breaking while during my time Iraq and Egypt were embracing the Arab world and nurturing the youth and their intellectual thinking, now all are watching without even lifting a finger.



Mohammed Hasanien Haikal

The conspiracy in Arafat's death

When the topic of Arafat's death is approached and discussions on the circumstances of his death are discussed the very generation of today is not being able to participate in deciding its own fate. While when Tchaikofski, in Ukraine was said to be poisoned the world went upside down but no one was mentioned the conspiracy theory. They took the facts and documents and was declared that the government of Ukraine poisoned the man and so and so. Now we have an Arabian leader who was in relatively good health

and suddenly became mysteriously dead. There is a claim that his death was natural? There are many incidents and indicators that the death of Yaser Arafat was not natural and since 2001 there were clear statements by the Israeli national security council that it is time to put an end to Arafat. It was told publicly by three Israeli leaders: Ariel Sharon, Shaul Mofaz and Shalom Silvan. At that time in 2001 when this was said the Arab League rushed to USA and complained to Bush that such things should not be told and the US president actually interfered and promised that Yaser Arafat will not be harmed. Then in 2002 again this was raised on the pretext that apparently Arafat is not following the plan and that he stopped midway and did not want to compromise further in the Palestinian issue. And again in 2004 it was all over the Israeli and American newspapers for example publishing a letter from Sharon requesting the US president to release them of the promise to keep Arafat's life, as they have tried since 2000 and yet he has not "changed his ways" and the reply was why don't we leave it to Almighty, considering Arafat's age. Yet Sharon replies: "Don't you think Mr. President that we have to give him a push?"

To be continued

How will the referendum go?

By HOSAM SIRRI BAGHDAD FOR YEMEN TIMES

According to the announcement made late last night on reaching an agreement between Sunnis (The Islamic Party) on the one hand and the Kurds and Shi'ites on the other with regards to writing the constitution. I would like to make the following comments:

- In fact the proposed Iraqi constitution is an American affair rather than it is an Iraqi issue. Because it means too much to the US administration, while the Iraqi in general are apathetic about it.
- The bottom line is that the US administration is desperately wants a "yes" vote on the constitution for its rating inside the US.
- Most Iraqis believe that if the US wants the constitution to be approved, therefore, it is going to be approved one way or the other.
- The Sunni negotiators (The Islamic Party) do not represent the majority of Sunni community because Sunnis do not have (as do the Shi'ites) a unified authoritative source that would make the decisions for them. Basically the Sunnis behave individually and are not obliged to follow any source in making their minds.
- Beside, many other Sunni groups do not accept the agreement reached.



- And even if amendments are made in spring. There will be easy to get three governorates that will reject the amendment in the referendum that will follow.
- Last night's agreement meant to give the Islamic party an excuse to call for a "yes" vote on a promise that the constitution will be amended later.
- The Islamic Party (which claims to be representing the Sunnis) is legalized and approved by the US authorities. And is basically an ally to the US. Though it tries to part itself from that.
- There are other Sunni groups who did

not announce yet their position regarding the voting after the latest developments.

On the other side, there are many other groups, including a large number of Shi'ites who opposing the constitution. No one knows whether they will vote or not and how they will vote. Some people do not care how the constitution will come out, it is not a sacred document, and they believe that Iraqi quick sand might force rewriting another constitution. The supposed amendments if done means in actuality that the period for writing the constitution has been extended, for several months, and that what was originally proposed by many. Therefore why hurry to hold referendum if the constitution is to be revised next spring any way?

A lot of talk about the constitution, but who saw it and who read it. It has a very limited distribution while most of the people do not know its contents not mentioning the amendments agreed on.

- With two days to the referendum, I personally, have not seen the proposed constitution yet nor the agreed changes. All I know is what I hear from the media.
- Some believe that the proposed constitution has not been distributed because it has not been written in its final version.
- Most people do not care one way or the other about what the constitution contains. They are sick and tired of the whole situation and became to realize that all this is time consuming. They even were better off without a constitution.
- While the people live with the lack of electricity, absence of municipal services, running inflation, growing unemployment and no distribution of the food rationing quota. Who cares about a constitution that no one knows anything about.
- Streets are very tense with heavy presence of Iraqi and American forces, causing traffic jam. Most people prefer to stay at home unless the have to go out to attend to important business.
- Explosions and machine gun fires are heard around the clock, many times by the government forces to scare the people or because they are themselves too scared. And now the US troops are doing the same.
- The government is a big joke. It is drowning in scandals of bribes mismanagement and thefts of public money. With no improvements in the services and public welfare.

Does Yemen's democracy matter to Krajewski?

The development of democracy in Yemen has come to a standstill. This statement, made by US ambassador Thomas Krajewski, created a big fuss that was not at all necessary. The ambassador did not say anything wrong. He did not violate the sovereignty of the country as the official response alleged.

Our political regime appears hypersensitive to any criticism delivered by the US even if it is constructive. It behaved like a child who loses its temper very quickly and never likes to be criticized even if he/she does something wrong.

When Krajewski said that democracy progress has stalled, hell broke loose and the media tried to activate a public opinion against him and his country. But, when he made his initial statement about Yemen's democracy, the media happily distributed his words. Why does the media not consider this an interference in internal affairs as well? It is not his business to speak about democracy, which matters only to us.

This is the stupid logic of the people in charge who were also sensitive even to the Eftar party to which the ambassador invited journalists, and even doubted these people's loyalty towards their own country because they talked with the ambassador about democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hey guys, wake up. The ambassador was right when he expressed concerns over the harsh attacks that journalists get. This is not only the opinion of Krajewski. Other international organiza-

tions already voiced the same concerns. It is this good scope of press freedom that invited the praise and admiration of the world and consequently attracted more support for development. When we were on the right track, the world praised us but when we regress, we are criticized. We are not perfect and are still crawling towards democracy. Therefore, I believe it is good to be alarmed so we can correct our mistakes. When we seek the appreciation of the world, we should accept its comments and criticism.

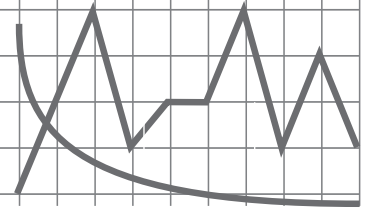
The US, as a super power and a leading democratic country should not close their eyes to violations and abuses of human rights and press freedom all over the world. The leading democratic societies have an ethical commitment towards supporting democratization worldwide, and should take care that their donations do not go to political regimes, which do not respect human rights and media freedom.

I have heard that the draft press law has been present during the Yemeni-European dialogue in Brussels last month. The question of journalists' harassment is likely to be raised during the summit of Bush and Saleh next month in the US.

Therefore, the question of human rights, media freedom and democracy are not internal issues, but issues that concern the world in this era of democracy. The political regime in Yemen should understand that attacking a journalist in Sana'a does matter to people in Canada, the US or Europe. Will the people in charge understand this?

SILVER LINING
By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
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YT Business



Yemeni markets in Ramadan

Expired commodities and weak monitoring

For Muslims the holy month of Ramadan is a great occasion as it sees the pursuit of good morals, valuable lessons, noble meanings of patience and mercy and feeling the need of the poor and needy who led a miserable life.

Recently it is remarkable that the holy month of Ramadan in all the Arab countries has become a season for trade and making good interests by raising prices of foodstuffs, mainly those desired by people during Ramadan.

In Yemen Ramadan has become a month for the passing of expired and smuggled goods, and some of them had been stored for a long time to be then sold in streets. In addition, smuggled clothes

are usually sold during this month, particularly as Eid al-Fitr draws nearer.

The holy month of Ramadan has become an occasion for marketing and more consumption that leads to spread of expired products in streets including sweets and cakes that contravene specifications.

Economists confirm that smuggling is responsible for the spread of expired products during the holy month of Ramadan, and in some commodities no one can find the production and expiry dates. The spread of outdated and expired commodities is also attributed to a lack of monitoring role by the concerned parties, such as the Environment Health Authority.

Wholesalers who import such articles are also responsible for spread of expired foodstuffs as they use to store different types of goods to merchandize them in certain occasions, exploiting consumers. Articles that went beyond the expiry period can not be sold in shops, but by vendors in streets.

Most of the commodities merchandized in streets are anonymous and therefore vendors cheat consumers by making rumors of unimaginable price



By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

cuts and prizes. The government and the non-governmental parties should give warnings against the purchase of foodstuffs merchandized in streets, particularly those that contravene specifications and standards. Efforts of government officials could not curb attempt of smugglers, so, they turn to advise consumers against the purchase of articles of unidentified and imitated sources. The government some-

times gives orders to the concerned parties to monitor markets and advise consumers against being attracted by the cheap prices of such articles due to their scant incomes.

It seems difficult to advise locals against being attracted by cheap prices of such commodities as they suffer from poverty and deteriorating economic conditions.

Despite confirmations of official parties, among the Environment Health Authority, that committees working in rotations have been formed to receive notes and complaints of citizens with respect to expired articles merchandized in streets, efforts of monitoring are still weak and never achieved any ambition.

Observers of the Yemeni markets emphasize that the condition of the Yemeni markets is bound to remain flooded with smuggled and expired commodities as long as the purchasing power of citizens is still weak and the lower cost is the most important thing to them.

The official monitoring authorities should be held to account for illegal practices in the Yemeni markets and also for the health of locals. Authorities of environment health, specifications and standards, municipality and supply should always have monitors in the markets. If such a problem is not curbed, numerous diseases such as cancer and food poison will proliferate and illegal trafficking of goods will hit a record.

Civil service DGs sit for training program

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of civil service is currently implementing a training program including directors generals for personnel affairs at administrative units. The training program is in cooperation with the scientific council for systems and applied sciences and the Jordanian establishment of investment development and administrative training. The program is part of training programs project of modernizing civil service and aims at qualification of ninety trainees of general managers for employees affairs at administrative units and to improve their performance as well as making

them acquainted with the program from modernizing civil service and the best way for management work.

The participants discuss basics in managing the public sector and the changing role of the state in addition to ideal methods for re-structuring and analyzing the organizational structure and re-organizing and simplifying procedures.

The program comes within the framework of the civil service ministry effort for building employees institutional capabilities in targeted government institutions to re-build the officialdom structure. The present stages of present administrative reform focus on administrative and financial reform and not only the financial aspect as was the trend in the past.

The program would enable the participants implement modernization program in their ministries and institutions out of their posts in managing human resources. It would also give opportunity for each trainee to demonstrate his abilities and to get acquainted with aspects of strength and weakness in them. The idea of the program is based on the blending between world, Arab and domestic experiments.

On the other hand there is another program under implementation for training for pivotal teams organized by the ministry of civil services over 12 days in association with the Lebanese Team International Company with the aim of strengthening abilities of working cadres in the field of reforming and modernizing

the state administrative apparatus and enabling them to undertake their role.

The program in which 50 members of pivotal teams would include theoretical lectures and practical applications on tasks of pivotal teams and presenting the work for the strategic re-structuring and improvement of performance and modern trends in public administration.

The participants are also to be acquainted with principles of good judgment and managing diversity, integration, strategic planning process, modern administration of human resources, and planning for human resources. In addition to that there are basics of the restructuring and elements of success for them and the ideal methods for engagement the private sector in this area.

Yemen seeks activate its external investment relations

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemen is currently seeking to coordination with its embassies abroad and the chambers of commerce and industry inside in a manner leading to enhance Yemeni relations of trade cooperation with world countries. For this reason a meeting was held at the ministry of foreign affairs gathering chairmen and members of chambers of commerce and industry and the newly appointed ambassadors of Yemen to a number of Arab and friendly countries. The meeting included the exchange of viewpoints on mechanism of future work and coordination among the embassies and chambers of commerce in a way leading to enhancing relations of trade cooperation between Yemen and those countries, aiming at development of opportunities of foreign investment in Yemen.

The meeting is considered an intro-

duction for forthcoming meetings grouping diplomatic work with commercial and economic activity the government seeks for the purpose of supporting multi opportunities of investment. The meeting also represents a good initiative of serious partnership between the government and the private sector with the aim of activating economic aspects with all friendly and sisterly countries.

The meeting has come out with agreement on consolidating communication with chambers of commerce and Yemen's embassies abroad in various ways. The Yemeni ambassadors attending the meeting have promised to work for whatever that would enhance Yemen's commercial status and to promote investment opportunities in it and also to search for all that would boost cooperation abroad and the private sector has to implement commercial agreements and programs that would be concluded.



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Pre-marriage blood screening

By: DR. QAZI SHAIKH ABBAS BORHANY

AIDS and Hepatitis are such most dangerous health hazards which captured the attention world wide. The spread of AIDS and Hepatitis are quite alarming, and if not controlled may cause an epidemic. It transmits among the people, through sexual intercourse, transfusion of blood and blood related products, use of non sterilized syringes, blades, and from mother to child transmission through the placenta. It is regrettable that Muslims, champion claimant of modesty and chastity in their lives, are infected either through legitimate or the illegitimate means. The infection and spread of the disease in our region is quite disheartening, non official statistics at the health sector discovered a large number of Muslim patients, both males and females, who are carrying the most deadly HIV and Hepatitis virus in their blood, and most of the time married couples.

One possible way out of this problem is the pre-marital blood screening among all intending couple in order to safeguard the marriage institution. Since the disease cannot be seen on the face, so people with these cannot be identified by mere looking. If a female for example intending to get married and asked to under go blood screening, that does not mean she is a spoilt girl, or she is suspected of having premarital affair, but just to safeguard her husband and the rest of family and the marriage institution.

There are men that know very well that they are confirmed HIV/Hepatitis positive, but deliberately insist to marry and argue to spend private life with the help of condoms. This plan will definitely fail, because the woman will not agree to the use of condoms throughout their life, as she needs children, nor will the husband be able to restrain himself. Therefore, it will definitely make the woman at risk of



By: DR. QAZI SHAIKH ABBAS BORHANY

contracting HIV/Hepatitis. Should the couple engage in pre-marital screening, the woman will definitely not agree to marry him? There are women, who lose their husbands, due to such diseases, after the completion of Iddat, if they wish to re-marry, only pre-marital screening can save their proposing husbands and the rest of their families. Similarly this is applied upon the man too.

Pre-marital screening is viewed as lacking religious and moral grounds and likely to incite public uproar. Nonetheless, the issue of pre-marital screening should not be taken for granted because we strongly believe that the very essence of marriage as a religious obligation is to regenerate and bring happiness to the family not to exterminate the family and cause trauma. As Hadith guides: "Establish Nikah-ties (marriage ties) & regenerate so that I will be overjoyed upon you in the hereafter".

For compulsory blood screening, as a pre-requisite for the marriage contract, government should take serious action by the help of Senate & National Assembly to frame the law in this regard. Why should we shy for it? For example, we have several members of the society who are ready to screen a house girl or an employee, but when it comes to marriage, it faces a lot of resistance. Yes, those who are

inherently guilty of the crime, will definitely shy out, instead of being bold and taking up the test. We do not think that pre-marital screening should give the Muslims any worry, if our doctors, the learned and the educated class find out the necessary legal stand under the guidance of the Sharia realizing the fact. We strongly believe that pre-marital screening is:

- In the best interest of both parties.
- In the best interest of the offspring and family.
- In the best interest of the community.
- In the best interest of the marriage institution.
- In the best interest of the future generations and for the sake of restoring the dignity and moral-fiber of the Nation.

Koran has two most important objectives of the marital relationship which are the preservation of chastity and the bond of love and compassion between the spouses. These objectives get lost if either one of the spouses is afflicted with a disease or handicap, which disgust the other or renders him or her incapable of satisfying the natural urge of the other. Another principle of Jurisprudence is that, the marriage tie should not be a source of causing harm to the spouses or a cause of forcing them to transgress Allah's limits. If there is no option for dissolution on the ground of the above noted afflictions, this principle is certain to be violated. It is a commonly accepted Muslim norm in our society to make enquiries about the habits and behavior of your spouse before marriage, and marital plans can be canceled because one of the spouse has a history of mental illness in the family, what do you think will happen if they discover one of them is HIV carrier?

From the Muslim point of view, the existence of communicable diseases and the need to take adequate preventive care from contacting them are well documented. A Hadith says: "Keep away from the leper (infectious) as you do from a lion". Between

leprosy and HIV/Hepatitis which one is wreaking more havoc in the society today? A Hadith said: "if you hear that there is an epidemic, do not enter it, if the deadly disease breaks out where you are, do not leave it to escape the pestilence". These Traditions more emphasized the significance of quarantine as a way to prevent the spread of communicable and epidemic diseases, like communicable and an epidemic disease.

Furthermore, Islam is protective of the reproductive health of human being and it is a clearly preventive tragedy. Koran says: "Women impure are for men impure and men impure are for women impure. And women of purity are for men of purity. And men of purity are for women of purity. These are not affected by what people say. For them, there is forgiveness and a provision honorable", (Surat al Noor, Ayat 26). Ibrahim Tudu, a Muslim scholar suggested in a conference, in Nigeria, that a Muslim government is bound to provide its citizens all necessary protective health measures to keep them safe from viral diseases. It is hoped that, pre-marital screening whether voluntary or mandatory, emphasizing on caution regarding future sexual relationship particularly of interest here, the Halal or legitimate ones. All forward looking have taken the issue of pre-marital screening seriously and advocated compliance. In Malaysia, as per law, couples proposing for marriage should get an HIV negative certificate from a Government Recognized Institution. Since one great advantage of pre-marital screening done is the potential of helping the concern individuals to live fruitfully. (Conference: Premarital Blood Screening Against HIV/Aids among Muslims, Global Network for Islamic Justice, Gusau, Nigeria).

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Eating fish regularly delays dementia: study

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Eating fish at least once a week slows the toll aging takes on the brain, while obesity at midlife doubles the risk of dementia, a pair of studies concluded on Monday.

Omega-3 fatty acids contained in fish have been shown to boost brain functioning as well as cutting the risk of stroke, and eating fish regularly appears to protect the brain as people age, the six-year study of Chicago residents said.

"The rate of (mental) decline was reduced by 10 percent to 13 percent per year among persons who consumed one or more fish meals per week compared with those with less than weekly consumption," wrote Martha Clare Morris of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

"The rate reduction is the equivalent of being three to four years younger in age," she added in the report published

es of dementia are growing problems around the world, particularly in developed countries with aging populations.

In another study published in the same journal, Swedish researchers from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm concluded that obesity, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol levels at midlife each doubled the risk of dementia later in life.

Subjects who suffered from all three of the health problems at midlife multiplied their risk of developing dementia six times compared to people free of the risk factors, she said.

Nearly 1,500 subjects who have been part of a study that began in 1972 were reexamined. The 16 percent who were obese at midlife were at double the risk of dementia compared to the one-quarter of those with normal weight at midlife and the half who had been slightly overweight.

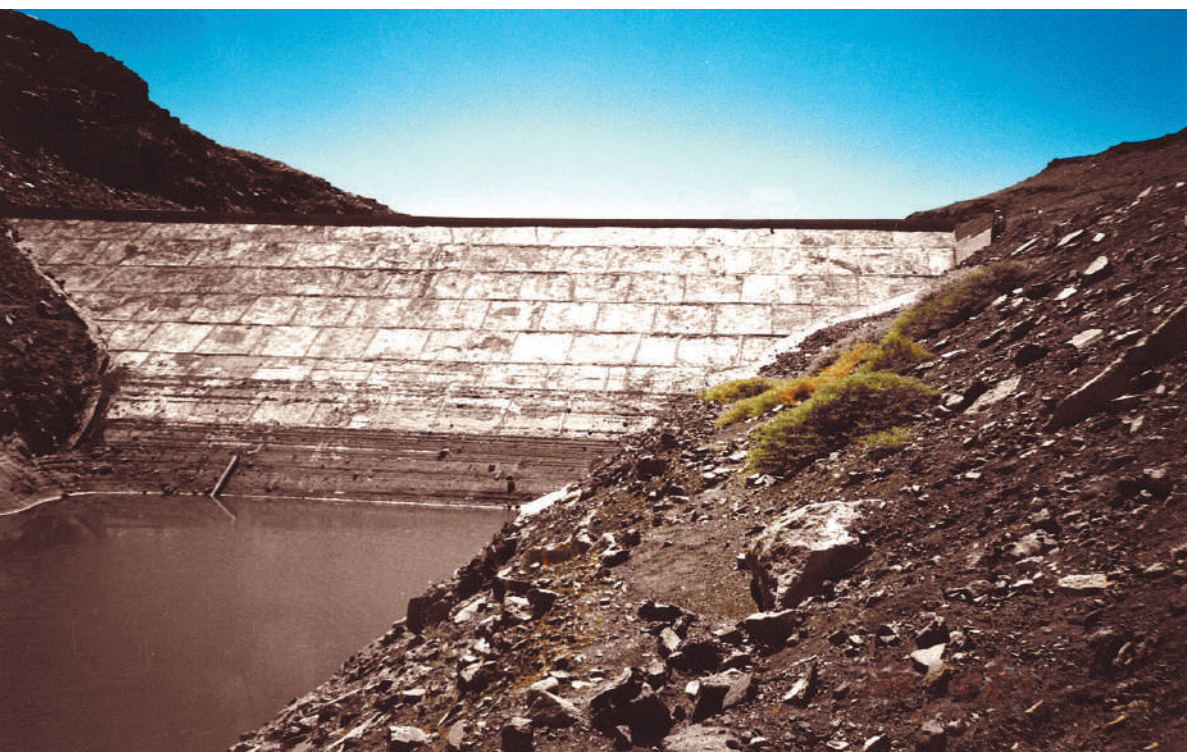


online by the Archives of Neurology. The protective effect from eating fish was evident even after researchers adjusted for consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Alzheimer's disease and other caus-

"Midlife obesity, high systolic blood pressure, and high total cholesterol were all significant risk factors for dementia, each of them increasing the risk around two times," study author Miia Kivipelto wrote.

New warnings over water shortage in Yemen



SANA'A-Oct.8- Warnings of water shortage in a number of governorates over the depletion of water following the increase in lands planted with qat.

The arbitrary increase in drawing of water exceeds feeding by 140%.

According to Sana'a University Center for Water and Environment Research, the basins of Sana'a, Taiz and Saada are on top of the threatened areas, because the feeding is only one third of the amount that is being drawn.

In its last issue, Official Al-wahda newspaper, reported that Dr. Taha Alariqi said that the shortage in Sana'a basin is now 350%, as the rate of water being drawn is 182 million cubic meters/annum. However the rate of rain-water feeding is only 82 millions cubic meters. This resulted in an annual drop of water level by 6-8 meters.

The shortage in water reserve in Saada reached 1000%. The estimated drawn amount in Saada basin, is 65 million cubic meters, whereas the rainwater

feeding doesn't exceed 6.5 cubic meters. The annual drop in water level is estimated to be 8-6 meters.

Taiz water basin came third in water shortage. The loss rate is 210%. Water level is going down. Drilling increases by 2-6 meters each year.

Rada'a, Wadi Moor, Tihamah Wadi Zabeed and Amran basins come consecutively in order of water depletion.

The Yemeni Central Statistics organization (CSO) said last year that the rate of Yemeni citizens accessible to drinking water is 38%. Alariqi says that 'The rate of those accessible to drinking water is 50%, including those who use pools and springs which are often contaminated.' Alariqi added that 70% of the population are in the rural areas where sanitation services are only 17%.

The Water and Environment Center in Sana'a University owed the water shortage to arbitrary water drawing in addition to rarity in rainfall whose average is 200 mm in Yemen.

Dr. Ariqi said that the Capital Secretariat need for water will increase to 441 million cubic meters by 2010. Dr. Alariqi warned of the process of re-injection of water into the basins for fear of polluting them, taking in consideration what happened in Masilah basin, whose reserve exceeds 3 milliards cubic meters.

Alariqi also warned of the increase in qat planting which covers 25% of the irrigated areas.

He said that the area of qat plantation is 8,000 hectares. It is one of the most fertile areas. Sana'a occupies 44% of these lands and a rate of 55.4% of annual water consumption. Grape planting comes next, covering 39% of the cultivated areas and a water consumption rate of 30%.

50,000 are employed in qat planting which constitutes 16% of the working force in Yemen. Dr. Alariqi called for an alternative for these working forces. He called for the rapid application of the so called national strategy for water.

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KAMARIA

Shabwah: Town of ancient monuments

COMPILED BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
AND ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Shabwah was once the capital of Hadhramout State, and a very important commercial location for the Shebaen kingdom during the first century BC. Its prosperity raised more and more due to science and Arabic gum trade. These were valuable products known during the civilization of the ancient Yemeni world. Again, it was partially attributed to the activities of the capital's port, known as "Qana" which was one of the main centers for collection and transiting of these transactions at that time. The product of salt was known to be extracted from a mountain situated in the region.

Today local traders still extract the salt from that same mountain. The province is today one of the petroleum locations in the country; many international firms exploring crude oil and are currently engaged in this industry through contracts and agreements signed mutually between each of them and the Government of Yemen.

Important historical sites in Shabwah

Ataq

The capital of Shabwah governate, Ataq, is situated 458 km southeast of Sana'a. An asphalt road links the two cities via Marib, Harib, Baihan, Ridhab and Ataq.

Ataq is a modern city. It has a museum with a valuable collection of antiquities from different areas of Shabwah, especially from the ancient city of Shabwa, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Hadhramout. There are relics from the archaeological sites of the ancient Qataban and Aosan kingdom also in the museum.

Baihan

Baihan is located to the northwest of Ataq. It is a beautiful city with houses built of adobe blocks and an architectural style that is prevalent in the eastern part of Yemen. It stretches from Saadah, passing by Al-Jawf and Marib, and southwards to the coasts of the Arabian Sea. This city also has a museum containing a good variety of examples from the Qataban archaeological sites, which are near to Baihan.

Important archaeological and historical attractions

Tamna'a (Capital of Qataban)

The city of Tamna'a is one left bank of Wadi Baihan at the fringes of the desert plain. The capital of the ancient kingdom of Qataban was originally 30 km from the city, which flourished during the 4th century BC. It was an important station on the ancient incense road and was a collection point for taxes from the caravans in return for protection.

The incense caravans, after setting out from Tamna'a had to travel a distance of 1487.5 Miles (2,380 km), to reach its final destination: Gaza on the



Mediterranean coast. By then, the caravan would have passed through 65 stations where the camels could rest.

The American Anthropological Institute's expedition carried out excavation work at Tamna'a Hajar Bin Hameed and Haid Bin Aqeel in 1951.

These excavations showed that Tamna'a was a prosperous city with gold, a rich heritage, and temples of the goddess. Some of the important antiquities that were found were two bronze lions, one of them carrying a child in the image of Cupid, the son of Venus, goddess of love.

Hajar Bin Hameed

Hajar Bin Hameed is one of the Archaeological Qatabanite Towns 15 km away to the south of Tamna'a on an oval hill, lying at a height of 70 feet from the surface of the valley at the bifurcation of the ancient routes. It is smaller than the city of Tamna'a.

Mablakah Route

The Qatabanites were in control and domination of the Incense/Myrrh Route, which was passing through the lands and Stations of Qataban. The Qatabanines carved in stone a mountainous route linking Baihan Valley with Hareeb Valley through Mablakah Mount, which is 1000 feet (380 m) above sea level. The length of the route was 3 miles (4.8 km) in dangerous slopes and the width of the route amounted from 12 to 15 feet, paved with stones and protected at the sides by walls. Hence, the Qatabanines dominated and controlled the route as well as prevented smuggling. The mountainous strait of Mablakah was a conjunction point of many routes and paths of Myrrh.

Ancient features of Shabwah are the ruins of the Royal Palace to the east, parts of the city wall around the northern gate and ruins of ancient temples.

Maifa'a

Maifa'a lies on the banks of Wadi Maifa'a, on the side of the asphalt road linking Shabwah with Hadhramout, nearby the village of Azzan. Maifa'a is believed to have preceded Shabwah as the capital of ancient Hadhramout.

Maifa'a had a stonewall with a number of towers, which show the significance of the city in ancient Hadhramout. It had a number of temples, which were destroyed around the 4th century AD. Today the city is no more than ruins, but its ruins show signs of a grate and glorious past.

Habban and Azzan

Habban and Azzan are the most beautiful villages in Shabwah governorate. There is no asphalt road used by tourists who come from Abyan and Ataq to Mukallah in Hadhramout. Both villages have beautiful high structured houses built of adobe. The village of Azzan is also surrounded by rows of palm trees.

Bir Ali (Ancient port of Qana)

This area consists of a number of beautiful sandy beaches, some of the most attractive in Yemen. It is a coastal village and finishing port on the edge of the Gulf 120 km from Mukallah and 140 km from Ataq. From a volcanic hill called Husn Al-Ghurab on the other side of the Gulf, one can view the southwestern entrance of the Gulf. It is the location of the ancient port of Qana, which was once the main port of the Yemenite Dynasty of Hadhramout, from which Myrrh, Incense and Olibanum were exported, either by sea or via the historical Olibanum Route on land.

The port of Qana was in close relations with Dhofar of Oman and coasts of India and Somalia. The volcanic hill contains ruins of a control tower, which was linked to the port and the water reservoirs. There are relics at the foot of the original location of the city of Qana. There are many Sulfur springs in

Shabwah governorate, such as nearby Rudhoum Baths, which are considered the largest of such springs in Yemen.

Tourist roads in Shabwah

Many tourist roads pass through various parts of Shabwah, namely desert roads between Shabwah and Marib. It transverse desert and valley, passing by beautiful villages, among others the villages of Sa'eed, Yashbum and Rawdah. These are important handicraft centers for manufacturing textiles. There is also a third route near the beautiful beaches of Bir Ali and Balhaf.



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