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Protected areas to save Yemen's biodiversity



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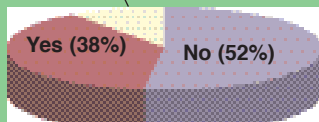
Private sector should step in to save Yemeni TV drama

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Tensions between the regime and opposition parties run high as presidential elections draw near. Do you think opposition will attain the political reforms for which it is calling?

I don't know (10%)



This edition's question:

The nationwide spread of arms claims numerous lives and causes concern on the part of the government. Do you think the government will reinforce the arms-bearing ban as a reaction to the phenomenon's consequences?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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Opposition: "We may be compelled to address the people's court about the whole regime's corruption"

Opposition speaks of 150 violations on the first day of voter registration, 119 closed centers and 13 ruling party supervising committees.

By: Mustafa Ragih

SANA'A, April 23 — At a press conference at the Socialist Party center to inform the media of the latest developments, the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) distributed a number of last week's conduct violations by the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER), which opposition listed.

Opposition revealed 150 illegal violations on the first day of registration, which began last Tuesday, occurring in

the Capital Secretariat, Sana'a, Taiz, Amran, Al-Dhale and Thamar. In its daily violation report, it mentioned that 119 election centers in Sana'a, Thamar and Amran remained closed on the first day, as well as all electoral centers in Al-Jawf.

According to the report, the most important violations were concentrated in election committees, which were late in beginning their work in the early hours. Others remained closed until the following day.

Continued on page 2



The opposition is expected to continue holding weekly press conferences to inform the public.

Al-Moayyad, Zayed on hunger strike for mistreatment

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 23 — Sheikh Mohamed Al-Moayyad and his aide Mohamed Zayed, detained in a U.S. jail for alleged terrorism links, have been on a hunger strike for more than two weeks for alleged mistreatment by the U.S.

Al-Moayyad's son, Ibrahim, told media that his father and his companion began a hunger strike more than 13 days ago to protest against harsh treatment they face while in prison.

The National Committee to Defend Al-Moayyad and Zayed, headed by Islah Party leader Sheikh Hamoud Hashem Al-Dharihi, holds the U.S. Administration accountable for the pair's health, as the two are subjected to abuses inside its jails. In a statement, the committee said Al-Moayyad and his aide suffer bad treatment and U.S. authorities impose hard work on them, compelling them to go on hunger strike.

According to the statement, such mistreatment caused the men's health to deteriorate amid lack of prison health care. The committee appealed to President Ali Abdullah Saleh to pursue the case's procedures and intervene to secure the two Yemenis' release.

Lawyer Khalid Al-Anisi, Secretary-General of the National Committee for Defending Rights and Freedoms

(HOOD), stated, "The two victims suffer from bad health, complain of mistreatment by jail officials and are deprived of good food, health care and medical treatment."

"President Saleh authorized me to travel to the U.S. to follow up case procedures, which was transferred to the tribunal," Al-Anisi added. "The U.S. accepted granting a visa to enter the country to appear for Al-Moayyad and his companion in the tribunal."

Yemen's Foreign Ministry forwarded a letter of protest to the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a after the latter refused to grant Al-Anisi a visa to enter the U.S. In its letter, the ministry confirmed Yemen's stance to follow up cases of Yemeni nationals detained in U.S. jails via lawyers.

The ministry renewed demands for granting Al-Anisi a visa to join the U.S. defense team defending Al-Moayyad and his aide during the appeal phase against the Brooklyn Court's verdict sentencing Al-Moayyad to 75 years in prison and Zayed to 45 years, plus \$2 million in fines.

3 killed, 25 injured in qat market blast

Approximately 30 people were victims of a market blast in Yemen's capital city when an unidentified individual threw a hand grenade onto the qat market roof following a quarrel with a qat seller.

By: Adel Al-Khawlani

SANA'A, April 23 — At least three people were killed and 25 others badly injured Sunday afternoon in a hand grenade explosion in Shumailah Qat Market southwest of Sana'a, according to police and eyewitnesses.

Police confirmed to media that an anonymous individual hurled a hand grenade into the market, heavily crowded with qat sellers and customers, killing four and wounding more than 20.



People investigating the effect of the blast that left the market roof holed.

YT PHOTO

A security officer said injured victims were rushed to various capital hospitals and noted that Shumailah Police Station surrounds the incident site. Police began investigating the case to identify the perpetrator, who immediately fled the scene following the blast.

Six of the critically wounded were taken to Al-Thawrah General Hospital, while others with minor injuries were treated in a private hospital near the market. However, other sources mentioned that 30 people were injured, three of whom badly.

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- ملحقاتها
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Khori: U.S. not a judge, only an observer

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, April 19 — In cooperation with the Civic Democratic Initiative Support Foundation, the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a held a symposium Wednesday on the recently released U.S. State Department human rights report on Yemen. The event was attended by many interested personalities.

At the symposium, Nabil Khori, the vice-ambassador of the United States to Yemen, stated that the U.S. State Department issues human rights reports like this in various countries throughout the world. "The report is one of U.S. local affairs, as the Senate council orders the State Department to prepare reports on human rights worldwide, particularly countries having relations with the U.S.," he explained.

"The American community and U.S. policies have not reached perfection. Nobody is infallible in the world, as human beings have positive and negative aspects. The U.S. attempts to acclimatize with new circumstances," Khori said.

The reports do not intend to magnify or beautify the image of the U.S.; rather, they aim to respect human rights worldwide. "We utilize these reports in setting U.S. policies. Above all, such reports improve foreign policies and relations between countries," he continued.

Khori mentioned that the State Department's human rights report



Nabil Khori (Left) addresses attendees at the symposium.

intends to support civil community in the Middle East and human rights principles. "We welcome your comments. We hope our friends will accept our criticism in the spirit of cooperation and correcting each other's mistakes," Khori added.

He pointed out that such international reports lower Yemen's status on the list of countries and that this report is not the only one. "The U.S. is not a judge, it only observes," Khori noted.

He indicated that his Sana'a-based embassy is obliged by the U.S. government to release a report on human rights and Yemen's government, which disliked the report's content, as well as on Yemeni opposition, which

considered the report as lacking harsh criticism.

Despite the fact that the report was not entirely positive, nor entirely negative, Khori said it faced criticism. He emphasized that Yemen's government must protect journalists, pointing out that the U.S. Administration backs press freedom, although it faces harsh criticism by the media.

Yemen's government considered the report as serving U.S. policies in the Arab region and labeled it as containing unauthentic information. It said the report promotes concepts of the opposition, which plans to shake security and stability by confusing public awareness.

YJS calls for electing new chief

SANA'A, April 19 — In a meeting this week, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) council decided to order the General Assembly to elect a new chief this June. The new chief will succeed Mahboub Ali, who stepped down last month due to health reasons.

At its meeting, chaired by acting YJS Chief Sa'eed Thabet, the YJS council discussed General Assembly duties, including a budget project presented by the financial officer.

The council urged the Cabinet to clearly explain investigations of assaults on Al-Nihar Managing Editor Jaje' Al-Jehafi and reporters Jamal Amer and Qied Al-Tairi.

It discussed complaints many journalists raised about several attacks and harassments and decried any illegal practices against journalists and journalism. Also, it condemned the assassination attempt on journalist Mahmoud Yasin and approved sending two

letters to the Minister of Interior and the Attorney General to investigate the case and bring the perpetrators to court.

The YJS council also discussed complaints by Nabil Al-Kumaim, Qatar's Al-Rayah newspaper reporter, who was defamed and accused by opposition parties of changing the contents of a press conference he held with Dr. Yasin Sa'eed Nu'man, Secretary-General of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

Foreign Ministry: peaceful use of nuke technology is Iran's legitimate right

SANA'A, April 23 — In a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Yemen Hussein Kamalian, Yemen's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohyaddin Al-Zabe'e said peaceful use of nuclear technology is Iran's legitimate right. He stated that Yemen has no objection to Iran's peaceful nuclear use programs, unless it harms the Middle East and other neighboring countries.

Al-Zabe'e added that Yemen hopes for a peaceful resolution of Iran's nuclear dossier. "We hope that with sound judgment and prudence by Iranian officials and taking into account Iran's legitimate right to use peaceful nuclear technology, the issue will be resolved through diplomacy and negotiations," he continued.

He also noted that settling regional issues calls for regular consultations

between regional state officials. Al-Zabe'e further expressed hope that the two nations will strengthen closer ties in all areas.

Kamalian praised the latest developments in bilateral ties, as well as future plans for bolstering relations, describing them as fruitful. He said Iran is ready to continue negotiations in line with its legitimate right to use peaceful nuclear technology.

In related news, Iran on Saturday strongly rejected calls for suspending its peaceful nuclear activities. Ali Hussein-Tash, Deputy Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) for Strategic Affairs, made the disclosure while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a student conference on Iran's recent success in the nuclear field.

Asked about a recent BBC news story reporting that Javad Vaeedi, Deputy Secretary of the SNSC for International Affairs, who recently visited Moscow, was there on condition Iran would suspend its nuclear activities, Hussein-Tash said he rejects such stories.

"We will choose proper ways [of resolving this issue]. We intend to settle this case through compromise and negotiations," he stated.

Asked to comment on talks the Iranian delegation held Thursday in Moscow with the Europeans, Hussein-Tash said such talks have a special impact. However, he added, "We need extra time to be able to discuss results of such talks. In light of current circumstances, these talks will produce good results."

HITT concludes 28-day teacher training program

IBB, April 22 — The Higher Institute for Teacher Training (HITT) staged a closing ceremony Thursday following a 28-day teacher training program, which was supported by the Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) receiving funds from the World Bank and other donors.

Mohamed Al-Salahi, Ibb Education Office Training Department Manager, gave a welcoming speech, wherein he emphasized the importance of such projects to teachers. He indicated that the project is a vital step toward teacher qualification and making them instruments for building human

mental abilities.

According to Al-Salahi, teacher competence and qualification are necessary to develop students' minds, their skills and practical experiences, adding that teachers lack such training and qualification.

He noted that there is a huge gap between the simple capacities of teachers and education requirements including experience and competence, coupled with time demands, pointing out that this gap must be bridged. He confirmed that such teacher training programs leave positive effects on less experienced and

on-service teachers.

Al-Salahi mentioned that 175 training activities were held during the 2005 education year, 20 of which were organized in other provinces, involving 15,400 men and women participants from throughout Yemen.

Regarding 2006 first quarter activities, he said they have amounted to 130, of which 12 were held outside Ibb, involving approximately 5,600 participants. As many as 182 trainees from various Ibb districts joined a training course on multiple education themes, which kicked off last Saturday, Al-Salahi noted.

Earthquakes in Gulf of Aden

SANA'A, April 23 — Two earthquakes struck Aden Gulf Friday, April 21, according to the Seismograph Center located in Dharmah governorate.

In its report issued Saturday morning, the center confirmed that the first earthquake to hit Aden Gulf territorial waters was estimated at 5.3 on the Richter scale, whereas the second was estimated at 5.1 on the Richter scale. The report did not refer to any damages but predicted seismic events reflected in Aden

Gulf and Al-Mandab Strait which may lead to noticeable sea disturbance and high waves. The center called on all fishermen to be careful.

Center director Jamal Shulan confirmed that the two earthquakes were far (150-200 km.) from Yemeni beaches. He noted that Aden's Gulf witnesses many seismic events due to the region's tectonic biological structure.

The center recorded 2,485 seismic events in 2005 – 943 on Yemeni

regional lands and 1,342 in Gulf of Aden and Red Sea territorial waters, in addition to 200 seismic events outside the above mentioned regions. The Civil Report said Yemen experienced extensive seismic activities during 2005, compared to previous years, in regions like Sana'a, Hajja, Al-Mahwit, Al-Beidha, Yafa and Sa'ada.

Yemen's worst earthquake occurred in December 1982, killing thousands and leaving another thousand homeless.

In Brief

• SANA'A, April 23 — Journalists without Constraints concluded its participation in election awareness campaigns in Hodeidah, Beit Al-Faqih and Zabid. Trained men and women conducted activities for 19 days in cooperation with the International Establishment for Electoral System. The United Nations Development Program supported the campaigns.

Journalists without Constraints will participate with 3,750 observers in registration, checking and altering voter registers for upcoming elections. Observers will be distributed in more than half the country's centers, which will be coordinated with the American Democratic Institute (NDI). The organization completed training its observers in checking, registering and reporting violations. Journalist without Constraints hopes its observers will not face any difficulties undermining its mission.

• The Civil Education and Democracy Center (CEDY) in the Women's Research Forum for Research and Training (WFRT) is holding the second national citizenship student project show April 23-24 in Taiz Cultural Center, in cooperation with the Arab Network for Civil Education (MEPI).

Suad Al-Qadasi announced, "This is the second citizenship show wherein students compete with their projects. The winner in last year's local show participated in Jordan's show and this year's winner will participate in Beirut's 2007 show."

Turkish School marks prophet's birthday



Students from the Turkish School in the ceremony.

SANA'A, April 23 — The Turkish School in Sana'a organized a Thursday, April 19 ceremony celebrating the Prophet Mohammed's birthday, under the patronage of the Minister of Endowments and Guidance.

Arab and Islamic ambassadors, dignitaries, several guests arriving from Turkey and students' parents attended the ceremony.

Kamil Awon, coordinator of the ceremony, said the aim of holding it was to pay tribute to the blessed birthday of the prophet and revive the merciful image in which he was sent, as well as restore his honorable image. The celebration came at a

time when the prophet is being subjected to a campaign to deform his image before the world.

In his address, Dr. Ahmed Bujstanji pointed to the prophet's love and his position in every heart. He reviewed glimpses of the prophet's life and his followers' love for him, as well as highlighted their devotedness to him until Islam became dominant.

Several Turkish School students recited religious hymns in Arabic, Turkish and English. DVD pictures of the infinite light were displayed in 12 scientific languages and a book of tribute to the prophet, translated into 12 languages, also was distributed.

Continued from page 1

Opposition: "We may be compelled to address the people's court about the whole regime's corruption"

However, constituencies 200 and 201 have been closed since registration list checking began because of ruling party branches restructuring, according to opposition. The JMP reports spoke of moving registration centers from their locations due to intervention of influential ruling party bodies.

Responding to a question on the report's sources, opposition representative Mohamed Qahtan pointed to developing awareness among citizens, saying they began watching violations and reporting them to the parties.

Qahtan started the press conference by reading a statement, which pointed out that dialogue with the ruling party is futile, noting that it is a waste of time. He reconfirmed opposition's stance regarding the SCER issue and demanded its change.

He asserted that the SCER changed the formation of committees to secure the ruling party's domination by

adding names of some government officials and security personnel to approved jobseeker lists. This is a clear violation of the text of the law, which prohibits forming any election committee from only one party. Qahtan added that the 13 observing committees' membership fully consisted of the ruling party.

Opposition is expected to continue holding weekly press conferences to follow up developments and inform the public. In a related matter, legal advisors will hold a press conference on opposition's legal stance on the alleged violations. However, opposition leadership said it will not file cases before a judiciary affiliated with the authorities.

Hassan Zaid, head of Al-Haq party's political secretariat, recalled some judges who ruled that electoral lists were invalid, including Judge Mohamed Humran, who later were

punished and transferred to administrative posts or remote areas. Humran was transferred to Sa'ada, though he was known to be one of the Capital Secretariat's most qualified judges.

Qahtan pointed out that opposition will resort to 'the people's great court,' indicating that they will take it to the streets.

Asked about opposition's nominee in the elections, press conference attendees said discussions about the issue had begun; however, the time to declare it is still early, with the SCER issue still pending.

Qahtan said opposition will escalate its demands for political reforms, saying it may be compelled to speak about the whole regime's corruption unless its demands to secure fair elections are met. He added that a boycott would include all means and tools of the political system, of which election is among them.

3 killed, 25 injured in qat market blast

Eyewitnesses said the incident was caused by a quarrel between two individuals, one of whom tried to stab the other, who then threw a hand grenade into the heavily crowded market where locals congregate in the early afternoon to buy the mildly narcotic plant, the sale of which is warranted because it is one of the country's major crops.

The incident is considered the second of its kind in Sana'a in 10 days, as four people were injured in a similar blast nine days ago in Al-Jaraf area north of Sana'a. Some of the victims, who were transferred to Al-Thawrah General Hospital, remain hospitalized in the intensive care unit.

For the majority of Yemenis, qat, a centuries-old social custom, helps stimulate mental activity, long conversations and storytelling in this tribal-dominated nation at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, where use of the plant is ubiquitous. Many government and aid officials are pushing to cut the use of the rubbery green leaf with amphetamine-like qualities.

Qat is blamed for many of Yemen's ills, from widespread poverty to growing health problems. Realizing the bad effects of such a narcotic substance, Yemen's government announced policies to ban qat entry into main cities in an attempt to fight the product and encourage farmers to grow other use-

ful crops instead, like coffee and cotton. However, it has been several years since such policies were declared and no qat ban was put into effect.

As part of its effort to enhance nationwide security and stability, particularly in main cities, the government issued an arms-bearing ban and intensified checkpoints at city entrances. However, government efforts to curb the phenomenon in a nation inhabited by armed civilians are thwarted by leniency of some concerned parties like the Ministry of Interior, which grants arms-bearing licenses to prominent sheikhs to enter and leave cities with their armed bodyguards.

East Africa: It's time for East Africa Federation

Sheila Kawamara
Kampala

I am greatly saddened by Okodan Akwap's views in New Vision of April 19, where he questioned the relevance of the East African Community (EAC) and the proposed political federation. I strongly believe that the EAC should have federated even yesterday. The appointment of Beatrice Kiraso as the Deputy Secretary General in charge of fast tracking the federation is a fundamental political response to the repeated cries of East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) MPs since their first sitting in 2002.

The Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC states that "the Partner States undertake to establish among themselves and in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty, a Customs Union, a Common Market, subsequently a Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation in order to strengthen and regulate the industrial, commercial, infrastructural,

cultural, social, political and other relations of the Partner States to the end that there shall be accelerated, harmonious and balanced development and sustained expansion of economic activities, the benefits of which shall be equitably shared."

The beauty of the Treaty is that it does not give a time frame when each of the phases of development should be achieved, hence putting the architects of the political federation on track. Fast tracking simply means that as East Africans we should move a little bit faster in order not to be overwhelmed by the supersonic global economic trends. So far a lot of ground work has been done by the partner states and the EAC Secretariat to lay the foundation for a political federation.

In my view, most Ugandans are still seated on the fence while Kenyans and Tanzanians are taking advantage of available opportunities. For example, Kenyans are exporting their labour to take over managerial positions in

Uganda. Many employers will testify that Kenyans understand and value their work more than Ugandans.

Secondly, Kenyan manufacturers know the benefits of an expanded market. They have moved faster and established outlets in Uganda and Tanzania and they are already taking advantage of the Customs Union that came into force in January 2005. The expanded Kenyan manufacturing sector is also targeting the markets in Southern Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern DRC. In the meantime, the Ugandan manufacturers are still complaining and calling for the expansion of the tariff lines by the EAC and the amendment of the Customs Union Management Act, 2005.

Tanzania, which many Ugandans still look down upon as economically backward, is a growing economic giant, exporting gold, platinum, diamonds, Tanzanite, and with a growing tourism and timber industry.

Having discovered their shortcoming

in the education system, many Tanzanians are sending their children to study in Uganda, where they are the largest student population in the leading elite schools like Kabojja SS, St. Lawrence and Vienna College. Before we wake up, Ugandans will be competing with Tanzanians for jobs.

In terms of exploring the available markets, Tanzanians and Kenyans are operating several buses on the Dar-es-Salaam-Nairobi-Kampala route while Ugandans are watching. The Nation Group took over the Monitor Publications and they are reaping big.

In my informed opinion, there is a very large market in E. Africa which Ugandans must take advantage of before dreaming about future markets in Southern Sudan that have not even been tested. East Africans share a lot in common in terms of pre-colonial and post-colonial history, culture and even the Kiswahili language. My wake-up call to Ugandans is get up and grab the opportunities while they last.

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Progress on millennium development goals suggests global effort working, says World Bank-IMF report

Reduced child mortality, increased school enrolment, and lower poverty signal that better governance, increased aid, mutual accountability bearing fruit, says Global Monitoring Report on the MDGs

WASHINGTON, April 20, 2006 — Evidence of reduced child deaths in nine out of 10 developing countries surveyed, rapid gains in primary school enrolment, and reduced HIV/AIDS infection rates in several countries suggest that strong economic growth, backed by improved policies in developing countries and increased aid, is delivering results in some countries.

This third annual Global Monitoring Report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), subtitled Strengthening Mutual Accountability – Aid, Trade and Governance will be presented at the World Bank-IMF spring meetings this week. It highlights economic growth, more and better quality aid, and trade reforms, as well as governance as essential elements to achieve the MDGs.

The eight MDGs, which call for halving between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of the world's people living on less than \$1 a day, and reducing child mortality and HIV/AIDS, among others, were approved by 189 world leaders in 2000. The Global Monitoring Report reviews progress on implementation of a compact between developed and developing countries in Monterrey in March 2002, in which developing countries

agreed to improve their policies and governance, while developed countries pledged to increase and improve their aid, and provide developing countries with more access to their markets.

"Less than 10 years remain until 2015, the target year for the MDGs," said World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz. "We are making progress in many countries, and this shows that development efforts can deliver results. But with just a decade to achieve the goals, it's urgent for both developing countries and the donor community to improve governance to ensure we get the results we seek. This report proposes a framework that defines governance, and proposes tools for monitoring it."

The GMR highlights evidence of reduced child deaths in nine out of 10 developing countries surveyed, namely Madagascar, Indonesia, Philippines, Bolivia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Mozambique & Cameroon. It notes rapid gains in primary school enrolment, with 50 countries having achieved universal primary completion, up from 37 in 2000, and cites signs of the first decline in HIV/AIDS infection rates in high-prevalence countries such as Haiti, Uganda and Zimbabwe. But the advances "remain uneven", the report



Improved policies in developing countries show decrease in child deaths

says. Many countries, especially in Africa and Latin America, are still not making strong inroads into poverty reduction, while progress on human development indicators in South Asia has been insufficient.

"The importance of growth to reaching the MDGs cannot be overestimated," said IMF Managing Director Rodrigo de Rato. "Fortunately, most regions have good long-term growth prospects and strong recent performance. In Sub-Saharan Africa, per capita GDP is now growing at around three percent annually. Improvements in macroeconomic stability in low and middle-income countries contributed to this success, with inflation rates declining,

and fiscal and current account balances improving."

"Mutual accountability is critical to achieving progress on the MDGs," said François Bourguignon, the Bank's Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics. "Rich and poor countries, and the international institutions, have made commitments to one another to increase, harmonize and raise the effectiveness of aid, while improving governance. Monitoring performance and progress on these commitments is essential to ensure that all the actors are accountable."

The GMR defines public sector governance as the way in which a country's government gains and exer-

cises authority to manage public goods and services. Good governance requires more than simply technical skills and organizational capacities in the public sector. It also demands clear rules and expectations, transparent information to monitor performance, and incentives and enforcement mechanisms to reward success and address failure, the report says. To help achieve this, the report outlines a framework for monitoring, "the key actors in a governance system", namely political leaders, checks-and-balance institutions, the public bureaucracy, and citizens and firms.

"I have emphasized the need to fight corruption," Wolfowitz said. "This report shows how corruption is

the result of failed governance. The best check against corruption is continuous improvements to governance by all the actors, sustained by regular monitoring."

More investment is needed to monitor aspects of governance such as public financial management, procurement practices, and institutions that provide checks and balances. This monitoring not only tracks progress on indicators relevant to achieving the MDGs, but it also generates greater accountability and increased demand for good governance.

The GMR also calls on countries and institutions providing aid to developing countries to deliver on the commitments they made in 2005 to increase transfers and debt relief, including an additional \$25 billion per year in aid to Africa by 2010, and \$50 billion more per year for all developing countries.

"Aid must become more predictable, less fragmented, more closely-aligned to countries' needs, and targeted to where it will be productively used to advance the MDGs," said Mark Sundberg, lead author of the GMR. "This includes allowing aid recipients to use aid to cover current expenditures, including teachers' and health workers' salaries, to accelerate and sustain progress on goals of increased school enrolment, child and maternal mortality, and HIV/AIDS."

The GMR also calls for redoubled efforts to speed up the Doha Development Round of trade talks at the World Trade Organization.

Reporters Sans Frontiers voices outrage over kidnapping Indian editors

Paul Michaud
Paris News file

Reporters sans frontiers voices its "outrage" in Paris over the kidnapping in the north-eastern Indian state of Manipur of the editors of six regional daily newspapers, "backs" the decision by the six publications to not publish on Apr. 19, out of protest over the abduction of the editors by the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), as well as the threats made against a seventh newspaper, the Imphal Free Press.

Editors by the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), as well as the threats made against a seventh newspaper, the Imphal Free Press

Paris, Apr. 22 - Speaking in Paris yesterday through its Asia-Pacific spokesman Vincent Brossel, French-based worldwide press freedom

organization Reporters sans frontiers voiced its "outrage" over the kidnapping in the north-eastern

Indian state of Manipur of the editors of six regional daily newspapers.

RSF also let it be known through spokesman Brossel that it was "backing" the decision by the six publications to not publish on Apr. 19, out of protest over the abduction of the editors by the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), as well as the threats made against a seventh newspaper, the Imphal Free Press.

"We appeal to the Manipur state government to do everything possible to protect journalists who are the targets of reprisals by militant groups,"

the press freedom organisation said during a hastily organized press conference in the French capital.

Six newspaper editors were taken hostage on Apr. 15 after being invited to a news conference by

leaders of the KCP, a separatist group. They

Were freed on Apr. 17 after their newspapers published a KCP statement commemorating the party's creation in 1980. The newspapers had

Previously refused to publish the statement.

The KCP also announced that it was banning publication of the Imphal Free Press, an English-language daily, for three months for supposedly misrepresenting the content of its statement. The newspaper has continued to publish in defiance of the ban.

The newspapers all left their editorial columns blank in a show of protest on Apr. 18, while journalists staged demonstrations. The next day, none of them appeared. "If no newspapers have been published

today, it is because we want to tell the world that press freedom cannot be

restricted," said Rajesh Hijam, the editor of the English-language Sanghai Express.

In Feb. 2006, the KCP claimed responsibility for an attack in which Ratan Luwangcha of the daily Poknapham was badly injured. At least four

journalists have been murdered in Manipur state since 2003.

In another development Reporters sans frontiers,

RSF) has expressed in Paris its "displeasure" over the conviction Apr. 19 of a Minivan

Journalist Abdullah Saeed and his sentencing to life imprisonment, said by RSF spokesman Vincent Brossel to have been "engineered by the authorities (of the Maldives) in order

to harm the country's only opposition newspaper."

The RSF representative also said that his organization was calling for his immediate retrial "by an impartial court" and that it was "urging President Gayoom to keep his promise of allowing more press freedom in the Maldives"

Saeed's colleagues were also said by the RSF spokesman to have maintained that his conviction on charges of drug possession and trafficking "had been orchestrated in order to silence a critical journalist."

The presiding judge, who insisted on not being named, violated Saeed's right of defence, observers said. Saeed was not allowed to testify


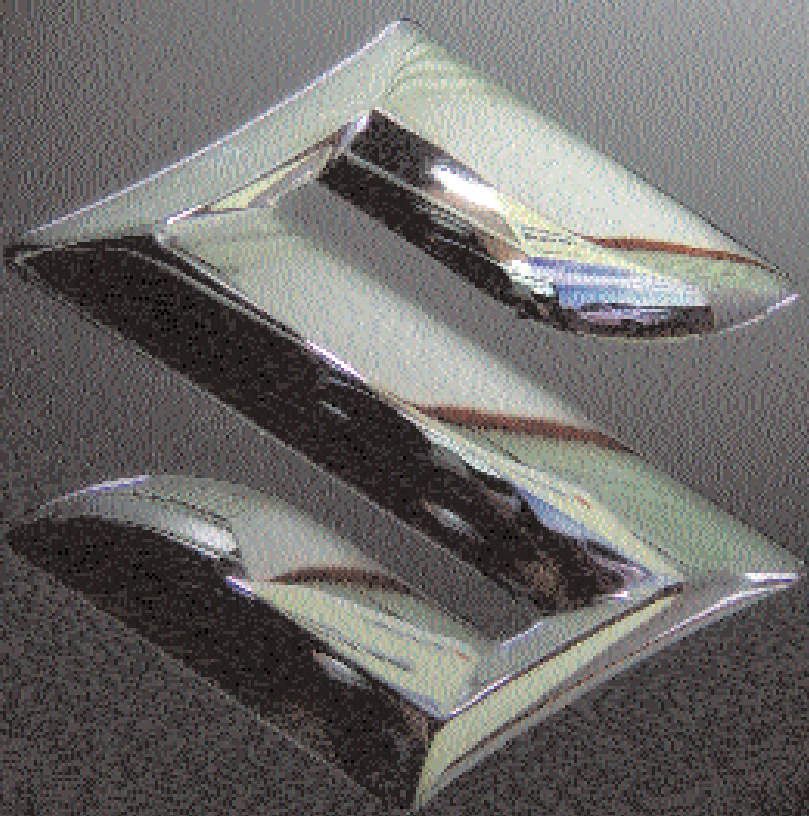
Under oath in court, where he had intended to deny that he was in possession of drugs at the time of his arrest. The police said they found

drugs in his clothes when he went to a police station in response to a summons. The judge also rejected defence requests for other witnesses to take the stand. The only witnesses in court were the police officers who claimed to have found the drugs.

Saeed's lawyer nonetheless showed that the charges were trumped up. The police found nothing in Saeed's possession during an initial search.

The drugs were only "found" by a policeman during a search of his clothes a few minutes later after he had undressed and when his back was turned. His lawyer was not present for the search.

Aged 42, Saeed, also known as Fahala, had been held in Maafushi prison, south of the capital, since Mar. 27 for refusing to submit to urine test.

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English not taught well in Amran

Lack of qualified teachers specialized in English and absence of officials' responsibilities has led to a deteriorated English teaching situation in Amran governorate, as schools pay little or no attention to the importance of the English language.

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
Saddam_alashmori@yahoo.com

“If our teachers fail to teach Arabic, how will they be able to teach English?” student Ahmed Al-Ghool wondered as he explained the English teaching situation in Amran governorate. “Concerned authorities have given us schools but not specialized teachers qualified enough to teach generations of students,” he continued.

university graduates in various specializations and now there are 2,500 university graduates. We have tried our best to cover the lack of English teachers,” he explained.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Najjar, Faculty of Education dean in Amran, clarified that the deteriorated English teaching level results from the weak educational level in secondary schools, where students lack basic skills upon their graduation.

“When a student joins university, he is not persistent in attending lectures and pays no attention to improving his

them. Books are unavailable, as the curriculum only is available in hand-outs, which are below required standards. Above all, Yemeni students are not interested in reading, which is the key to knowledge,” Al-Najjar stated.

Vice Dean Dr. Mohammed Al-Naqeb shares the same view, agreeing that the reason for the low English teaching level is the weak level of secondary school graduates. “The faculty receives students who are not good at English, even though the number of those joining the English Department is large. Approximately 320 students are admitted, which makes it difficult to reach the required educational level.

“Also, many do not adhere to attending lectures due to being farmers, soldiers or employees in other sectors. They cannot harmonize between their work and study and so their educational level is low upon their graduation,” he added.

Al-Naqeb confessed, “We do not exclude ourselves in this matter, as we contribute to graduating weak-educat-

other in the Faculty of Languages.”

Absence of responsibility and awareness

Amran governorate's deteriorated English teaching situation not only is due to unqualified teachers, as officials and locals also are responsible for it. Students themselves are unaware of the English language's importance in the absence of concerned authorities' role to spread awareness among them. Some governorate schools even are deprived of English teachers, while English textbooks reach schools in mid-academic year.

“English is the language of Jews, so there's no need for us to learn it,” Al-Ghool flatly stated.

Student Mohammed Al-Joubi pointed out that there are 150 students in the school and only three teachers for all subjects. “I realized the importance of the English language and joined a private language center. I feel I'm better than our English teacher, as I teach on his behalf. I always advise my colleagues and teachers to join language centers to improve their English.”

Al-Khair School headmaster Mohammed Al-Harrasy expressed his concern over the shocking circumstance of teaching English. “There are no qualified English teachers. Even English textbooks reach schools in mid-academic year. Some schools also are deprived of specialized English teachers. Why wouldn't the English language replace the official Arabic language? In fact, many people are not in a position to learn English.”

Noting that English teaching begins in seventh grade, English teacher Ameer Al-Madari said teachers are unqualified and textbooks reach schools in mid-academic year. For him, these three factors cause English language to be taught at low levels.

Adel Al-Sheraei, head of a governorate educational center, noted that tribal traditions prevail among Amran citizens. The majority notably are unaware of the importance of English, caring only about receiving certificates, he added.

For his part, Educational Office

head Ahmed Al-Sabari attributes the problem to insufficient numbers of English teachers. “Over the past years, English teachers have not been sufficient in schools, resulting in feebleness regarding English. When there were vacant English language posts, those in charge had to employ other teachers, as there were no English graduates.”

Al-Sabari pointed out that the Educational Office has organized

many training courses to qualify teachers, adding that there will be English teacher training courses this year.

Moreover, Amran's governor Hajer stressed that such training courses should continue for 10 years. “There are 10,000 teachers in Amran – 2,000 are university graduates and 8,000 graduated from high school and institutions. Their experience is little, so we need 10 years to qualify them well.”

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Adel Al-Sheraei



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Unqualified teachers

An insufficient number of English teachers is the main reason behind the deterioration of teaching English in Amran governorate, according to Amran governor Taha Hajer, noting that there are 200,000 students in the governorate and only 100 English teachers.

“But nowadays, we have made remarkable progress in comparison to previous years. There used to be 67

educational level. Therefore, he barely passes some university syllabus subjects and must sit an exam again as he fails in other subjects,” Al-Najjar noted.

In fact, there are factors responsible for this deteriorated situation at the Faculty of Education. “There is an insufficient number of lecturers, nor is there a language lab or other means. The number of students joining the faculty is too large for it to contain

ed students. The Ministry of Education, universities, families and the media all are responsible for this problem.”

However, he optimistically concluded, “Opening Amran University would be a radical solution, as it would reduce pressure exerted on the faculty. Realizing the importance of specialized English teachers, we recently opened two English departments – one in the Faculty of Education and the

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Date : 26th - 28th April 2006 التاريخ : من ٢٦ - ٢٨ إبريل ٢٠٠٦ م
Time : 9:00 am - 1:00 pm الوقت : من ٩ صباحاً إلى ١ ظهراً
: 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ومن ٤ عصراً إلى ٨ مساءً
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| ■ Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia | ■ Nilai International College (Malaysia) |
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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
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The Heating debate on the legitimacy of the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) has been looping endlessly. While Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) continue deem it biased in favor of the ruling General People's Congress (GPC), the regime, according to the opposition, has done very little to validate its neutrality and legitimacy except instructing members of the armed forces including the police academy to obtain their voting cards with no fail in order to allow the students to pursue their studies in the academy.

Additionally, some local websites published results of a statistical study indicatingb that the number of registered people to vote in the upcoming elections is double the adult population in remote governance such as Al-Mahara and Mareb in accordance with the latest consensus. This in addition to tons of violations on the part of the SEC, which were reported by civilians to the offices of the JMP, which results in escalating tensions between the GPC and the JMP around the upcoming elections. All this put the JMP in a helpless and nervous situation, to the extent that JMP are considering nominating President Saleh along with the GPC on the condition that more power is decentralized and more authority is delegated to the parliament, with aspirations to the 2013 elections.

Those are hard times for the democratic process in Yemen. The GPC seems to be not ready to loosen its grip on power regardless of what the president may say or the JMP may demand. Thus it is expected that the GPC will continue with its elections blueprint accompanied with an intensive Public Relations campaign attacking the creditability of the JMP focusing on their newborn entity, internal disputes and their unclear political stance.

Yemen can't afford more political instability; internal tensions do not only tax Yemen's own developmental process but also our relationship with our neighbors and the international community. So will the GPC favor the bigger good, and in turn loosen its grip on power towards 2013 if it is unwilling to do so this year?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

The dilemma of U.S. Administration in Iraq

Since the U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq, President George W. Bush has insisted on defending himself and his mistake as he stumbled into a swamp filled with innocent blood.

He and his country need not be in this dilemma, which continues exacerbating situations in Iraq, the U.S., countries neighboring Iraq and the Arab region. The superpower is lucky, as facts are not entirely concealed. Moreover, some men and women are brave enough to uncover what is behind the official curtain where Bush and his allies – who caused the catastrophe and paved its path with blood-stained flowers – are hiding.

What arouses curiosity is that some in the U.S. Administration acknowledge the facts concerning what is happening in Iraq, confront any fools, lies or fabrications and feel embarrassed to reserve any facts. Among them is U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who proved that she is



By: Dr. Abdulaziz
Al-Maqaleh

able to disclose scandals in Iraq and mistakes committed by Bush and his administration despite her tighter bond with the White House and its officials, mainly President Bush.

The frank confession Rice made regarding thousands of massive mistakes the occupiers have committed in an innocent country reflects her early environment, as well as her being a university professor who abides by at least minimum objectivity and validity. Rice's confessions and condemnations sparked reactions from conservative White House officials, namely Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld and others who attempt to 'cover the sunray with the sieve,' as the Arab proverb says.

The malignance of those conservative officials intensified, as Rice's declarations coincided with the eve of the third anniversary of Iraq's occupation and its consequences, including Baghdad's fall and dominating the nation under the alleged

umbrella of U.S. protection. Rice's declarations spoiled celebration of the unreal triumph strategy, which was termed the most failed invasion in history. Liberation was the strategy's slogan but its aim was to destroy Iraq and divide it into smaller states and factions similar in size and population to Israel, which is satisfied with what is happening in Iraq.

U.S.-led forces invaded Iraq for the sake of oil; the absurd liquid, which days has proved that it will burn the occupation forces, as well as making it possible for them to control the country.

Rice's declarations created a gap in the U.S. Administration by revealing facts to the American people, who are on the way to reaching a consensus, denouncing new conservatives who insult the U.S. by trying to deviate it from its principles of peace into war. The Iraqi issue, plus crimes the White House committed on its own soil, constitute a theme of uprising to overthrow Bush and his regime as soon as possible.

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

Arab economic incapability (1-2)

Despite of all potentials that qualify the Arab world to be one of the most productive regions of the world, based on its available natural wealth, it does still constitute one of the most prominent areas of consumption and importation in the world. The main reason of this situation is that the Arab world capabilities are scattered rather than unified. The parts of the Arab world that are in possession of financial abundance are lacking in enough areas of land and availability water. On the other side of the equation, the Arab world countries which possess human cadre and expertise, suffer from shortages in capitals necessary for pushing forward the wheel of development.

This situation arouses a big question about what has happened that led to the Arab nation to this extent of disintegration and fragmentation. What is worse is that the situation infection has crept from politics and diplomacy fields to economy and development that directly impact the nation peoples' interests.

In my view there were many causes contributed to make this condition of dismemberment and division. In my point of view the most prominent of those causes is that all parties that are components of the Arab world are only mindful of their own individual concerns without looking further than that. An evidence of this assumption is that despite of many years of insistence on the imperative of establishing the Arab common market or to begin with the Greater Free Zone, it is regrettable that the Arab nation is still away from the proper start point for the establishment of this Arab economic entity.

The current Arab incapability, though outwardly appears as political inability, in essence it is an economic incapability embodied by conceding to that Arab markets remain a wide-open area to foreign goods and commodities imported from different countries of the world. This is associated with absence of integrated Arab strategy which should give priority to Arab goods and products even if they were of less quality and more cost.

Let's consider the food crisis in the Arab world as a proof on reality of Arab incapability and additional evidence on purposeful negligence of correct reading of the Arab reality. This situation is the production of the domination of the principle of "regional fallback" which squanders the huge capabilities of the policy of mutual benefits and consolidates the ever invasion of foreign countries. Those foreign countries usually link their loans, assistance and grants to political and economic terms serving their interests in the first place.

We may recall that the Arab world was many years ahead of the European Union countries in calling for establishment of the Arab Common Market. That call was launched at the time when Europe was still repairing its material and psychological structure in the wake of the World War II which exhausted Europe and destroyed it politically and economically.

Nevertheless, Europe managed to surmount its ordeal and to build an economic and political unity capable of being a competing counterpart of the American superpower. As for us, the Arabs, we have sufficed ourselves to launching slogans of unity and calls for integration and coordination without taking even one forward step. On the contrary, we have very much retreated backwardly.

It maybe necessary and useful to realize now that there is no better thing than recollection of some lessons from our history that emphasize that the Arabs had not been a proper figure of the international equation but when they were grouping in genuine solidarity and rallying behind goal at which they met and all their potentials and energies were mobilized for serving tat goal.

History mentions that situation as since the beginning of the Yarmouk battle under leadership of Saladin al-Ayoubi to liberate Jerusalem and leading to 1973 October war. That war conquered the legends of weakness and erased the illusions which were meant to dwell in the Arab minds and souls after their defeat in June 1967. Behind all these great political and military victories, there was always a firm

base of the nation's economic potentials and energies unity. This maybe the motive behind putting forward an ever repeated question on causes of neglecting elements of the true solidarity, for which the Arabs are in need more than any time before, in the confrontation with challenges of a ferocious attack. The parties of this attack mistakenly think that all indications detected inside the Arab world reflect signs of weakness and incapability, though this is not true. Even if that impression was true at this stage, the Arab nation is capable of recovering its health id it succeeds in restoring the absent spirit of solidarity.

The more important question repeatedly asked by the Arab public opinion is: Is it not an eye-catching matter that enemies of the nation always endeavor to avoid dealing with the Arabs when they are in a state of solidarity and unity, and build their strategy on singling out each Arab party to deal with individually so that they could impose the iniquitous economic and political conditions?

As a matter of fact, when we talk about solidarity we mean the true solidarity not that propagated in the media. A solidarity that guarantees support and strengthening the Arab national security, politically, economically, security and socially. This solidarity the Arab nation aspires for does not tolerate repetition of the game of busying the public opinion by nominal meetings that result in conciliatory formulas. Aimed at appealing all tendencies at the expense of constants and sanctities.

There is no one demanding the impossible and insisting on decisions full of passions prevailing in the Arab street. What is required are decisions reflecting seriousness of dealing with an abominable dilemma whose danger reached the extent of a threat to possibility of providing bread in many of the Arab countries. There must be a stop of issuing traditional decisions and to turn to the core of challenge sending messages to the big powers that are holding the keys of world economy and international trade.

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

Letter to the Editor

Long live the OIC!

Is it not surprising to see that the U.S. has not yet disposed of what is going on in Afghanistan and Iraq and now it has determined to open a third front in Iran? To be honest, it has been an OIC tradition always to awaken when the storm of wrath nearly has passed – an indication of how courageous and bold the organization is.

Most people call the OIC a maid to the U.S., like those Arabs keep in their homes. Yes, it appears to be a maid to the U.S., as a maid has no say in domestic affairs except to keep cleaning and looking after the

children.

The same is the case with the OIC. It is unable even to hold a meeting on time to say something unanimously about any issue. Our leaders now are heard talking about reorganizing this spiritually dead body. What for? Only to preserve our identity so Muslims will have an organization? That's also a part of democratic norms, but perhaps we lost our democratic norms when we put true Islamic democratic norms behind.

Islam is a complete code for life. We all know it, but despite that, we are running after Western democra-

cy, culture, traditions and lifestyle. Everyone feels proud of being well versant in English, no matter if he has not seen the inside of a school. He feels jubilant by wearing a three-piece suit, no matter if his bank balance is zero. But has he ever thought about the fact that even by adopting such a way of life, he cannot become a Westerner?

We claim to be Muslims. We claim to have faith in almighty Allah and his prophets [peace be upon them]. We also have the holy Qur'an but despite all that, we are doing what we're not supposed to do and that's our weak point being exploited by others.

Let's not forget the saying of the holy prophet Mohammed [pbuh],

"The wise among you is the one who always keeps him/herself prepared for death." But nowadays, the situation is totally different as we consider a wise person only the one who is 'wealthy' and knows how to make money, though none of those who died ever could take a single penny with them, could they?

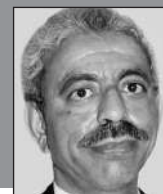
Everyone is talking of combating cruelty and injustice. For example, U.S. President Bush says he is fighting terrorism while his arch rival, Osama bin Laden, also has a version that he is curbing injustice and atrocities. Other leaders also have the same kind of statements. So tell me who is a cruel and who is a justice provider? Is it not a confusing situation? I don't know

about you, but it is for me.

Last but not least, acts of suicide bombing are increasing daily against the U.S. simply because of the fact that our leaders seem to have failed to settle the issues. When a family elder fails to sort out a problem, then the youngsters tend to take a step, no matter whether it is positive or negative.

A question arises: Is the OIC purely an Islamic body? If so, let it prove itself in the case of Iran. It's their responsibility to convince the U.S. that all Muslims are not terrorists or extremists; otherwise, no non-Muslim would be in Islamic countries.

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COMMON
SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Do Moslems really
need sectarian strife?

One cannot help but see that the Moslems of the world are in the most difficult of times, with almost little control over their destinies and hardly the faintest idea of what lies in store for them in the future. It is bad enough that Islam is being targeted for all practical purposes as an enemy, in all of its manifestations, but that Moslems are now being goaded to engage in sectarian strife and violence is simply unforgivable. This observer and many others are really wondering if as Moslems, we are truly being ourselves. When we consider the sectarian inclinations, most of which are trivial and secondary in nature, as more paramount in our thinking than the dictates of our religion, which call upon Moslems to stand together and keep in mind that they are really a universal nation. Accordingly, the pains of any Moslem are the pains of all and an aggression against any of the faithful is an attack on all. There is really no excuse for those of us, who believe that we should pay attention to our minor differences and work them out by the process of elimination! That not only defies Islamic ordinances of any sect, but is simply inhuman, not to mention being self-defeating. All those, who look at different sectarian persuasions as more worthy of confrontation than confronting their real enemies, who are spreading havoc in their countries, exploiting their scarce and badly needed resources and happily encouraging all inter-sectarian strife amongst Moslems, so they can be free to fulfill all their ugly designs for the people of, not just the Moslem World, but the entire helpless Third World as well.

We have never come to know of any inter-sectarian violence in our history and indeed have great moments when even sectarian differences would not prevent Moslems from coming together to face up to a barbaric invasion. No, what we are seeing and hearing today is far away from the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the ordinances laid down by the greatest social reformer of all times, the Prophet Mohammed (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). No, Moslems, loyalty to Sunnism or Shiism is not what Islam is all about, especially when it comes at the expense of the badly needed Moslem unity that can help us face up to the real threats that are being brewed against us as a nation. It is not enough to say that this is being fed to us by "external forces". That is naively and simply an escape from responsibility for our own apathy when we hear of a new wave of sectarian clashes brimming here and there.

Needless to say, our leaders are helping tremendously to foment such sectarian infighting, just so we can forget about their incompetence and the unholy oppressive regimes that keep them in power. In fact, they are finding respite in this to cover up for their incompetence as effective guardians over the interests of their constituencies. That is why some of them are ready to talk about greater loyalty to "Shiism" or "Sunnism" than to their nation. What nations are they talking about anyway, the nations set up by fictitious borders drawn by former imperialists, their constituencies have sacrificed millions of martyrs to get rid of? It is bad enough that they have simply replaced the oppressive imperialist administrations sometimes with even more oppressive regimes than those that were imposed by the former imperialists. But to suggest that these fictitious borders should be honored by faithful Moslems more than the loyalty to the faith that has taught us to live as a nation that rests on brotherhood, freedom and justice for all Moslems is not at all acceptable or even rational. This observer has been fortunate to visit the lands of many Moslem brothers and sisters, everywhere over the last half century and I must say, at the grass roots level, the welcome a visiting fellow Moslem enjoys in all these places is one of the unforgettable imprints of Islam that the observer senses and relishes. I have seen this in the Island of Rhodes, in the various countries of the Middle East, in Malaysia, in Europe and in every country where Moslems are to be found. Not one of these Moslem brothers and sisters ever asked me what sect I belong to or, which Moslem theologian I follow. This was not an issue that deserved anyone's attention. It is only until recently when some of our misguided brothers, who claim to represent the fundamental creeds of our "fellow Moslem predecessors", started to regard the shedding of Moslem blood more holy than any Jihad they should engage in to safeguard Moslems. Here, we are facing the Jihad of survival and these corruptors of the faith insist that Islam is to be devoid of all its magnificence as a social order which professes tolerance, brotherhood and mutual trust and cooperation as absolute essentials for anyone to be called a truly faithful Moslem. Some claim that those who insist on upholding the superiority of a certain sect are actually prodded by the "enemies of Islam". I say, that they are the enemies of Islam and this is also what the Holy Qur'an says about those who seek conflict between Moslems and misinterpret true Islamic guidelines of conduct: 'They have taken their oaths (to be dedicated Moslems) as cover for them, then they detracted from the path of Allah, Their deeds have all turned sour. That is because they believed, then they became disbelievers, and accordingly their hearts become hardened and they have become (so) uncomprehending, ... they regard every call as being against them; they are the enemy, so be cautious of them! (The Holy Qur'an Surah 63/Verse 4. Does not this fit well with these seekers of friction amongst Moslems until they have forgotten themselves and their obligations as true Moslems? God's has indeed spoken the truth.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

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Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Wasat
weekly, 19 Apr
2006.

Main headlines

- The JMP demands for a real democratic change, the Salafis join the ruling party
- Word bickering between al-A'nisi and Al-Barakani ends opposition dialogue the president
- Al-Ahdal: American and Saudi investigators interrogated me
- Salafi campaign against the JMP project, with support by the authority
- American warning to Dubai against the lease of the Free Zone
- A seventh escapee of al-Qaeda prisoners captured
- Government universities professors sue the ministry of civil service
- The government prepares to approve a bill on a law organizing fishery

Writer Fawzi al-Kahili says in an article it is revealed that the behind-door meetings of the General People's Congress (GPC) held by its higher leaderships lose their secrecy just hours or may be minutes after their conclusion. What has taken place in those meetings is leaked unintentionally through communications on telephone talks and individual meetings. Revealing and circulation of such limited information and secret talks in such a way and speed is not confined to the ruling party but rather includes all our political parties, ministries, institutions and organizations. The reason behind that is very simple. Most of the Yemenis want to appear before others they have access to information no one else can be acquainted with and that some of the Yemenis want to show that they are trusted by higher ranked people more than others.

The writer maintains saying there are no secrets in this country except the actual figures of oil revenues and volume of assets and wealth of the senior officials.



Annas
weekly, 17 Apr
2006.

Main headlines

- JMP inaugurates its contacts with the public by meeting its branch leaderships
- Teachers chairman calls for putting politics aside and unite for the rights
- Students succeed in canceling the rule of guard in Sana'a University
- Opposition leader Abu-Isbaa: If the president had believed in the JMP program he would have entered history through the widest gates

- The opposition goes westwards and the president heads eastwards
- JMP meets leaderships of its branches in the governorates, defines priorities of the next stage

Writer Nasser al-Taweel says at last the almost four-month dialogue between the Joint Meeting parties and the General People's Congress has floundered. If the GPC has not publicly revealed its motives for hindering the progress of dialogue or its vision about the electoral process up until now, the behavior has disclosed part of the general climate in which the opposition parties are working and that affects its performance and blocks the road leading to realization of its political and national goals.

In a state like Yemen the political variable receives much importance and mostly leads the rest of economic, social and cultural variables. Within the frame of the political change, the regime is the party of more effect. In such situations the political action needs requirements and measures other than those known in the political life in the countries run by institutions.

The present authority does not possess a political project and all that it aims at is to stay in power the longest possible period of time. Therefore, the ideological lines do not represent a determinant in its relations with the political forces and parties but in what it sees as essential of national and religious constants. Upon that it deals in a pragmatic way with those parties. This is a positive matter but it has other negative consequences. The absence of the political projects has taken with it the strategic vision and with the latter absence the policies have become absent as well. It is difficult to assume that the political, economic and social situations in Yemen are managed through policies of clear objectives and have relative steadiness in measures and programs. What the government calls as policies are in fact general trends and orientations not built on correct and enough information. They do not follow administrative and scientific procedures necessary for building, implementing and evaluating them.

I think matters are heading for easing the pressure on opposition political leaderships, especially after alliance among the parties of the Joint Meeting and their declaration of their program for the political and national reform and formation of establishments for that grouping, their vision about elections process guarantees. All that will narrow the margin of maneuver for the authority and prevents it from trying to divide the rank of the opposition. That may lead ultimately to rationalize politics in Yemen. Nonetheless that is related and connected to the extent of the JMP commitment to collective action and

the constitution and law in dealing with the authority.



Al-Mithaq
weekly, organ of
the General
People's
Congress (GPC),
17 Apr 2006.

Main headlines

- GPC secretary-general: We will not strike secret deals, the constitution is arbiter
- Gulf-Yemeni conference to explore opportunities for investment and another for donors
- President of the republic emphasizes the necessity of Arab solidarity, welcomes Gulf investments
- PM Bajammal: GPC decision on nomination of Ali Abdullah Saleh for presidential elections in harmony with the people's desire
- Yemen takes part in an international program for fighting child labor in Washington

On crimes of the American occupation in Iraq the columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh writes saying over three years of the American occupation of Iraq and President George Bush does not stop his defense of himself and his dilemma in entering this quagmire whose mud is blended with innocent blood. It is fortunate for a big power like the United States that facts do not completely disappear. There are some men and women courageous enough to make the fact appear to disclose what is behind the mask of official deceit behind which Bush and some leaders of his administration hide. It arouses admiration that there are in the inner circle of the American administration people who, even with some caution, are able to admit the truth and face the lies. This is the case with Ms Condoleezza Rice, the secretary of state. Despite her close relation to the White House, especially Bush, she is able to disclose dimensions of the sin which Bush has committed and dragged his country into it. She has confessed occurrence of serious mistakes in the operation of the continuous invasion of Iraq.

The American minister's confessions have aroused reactions by the conservatives inside the White House, mainly Cheney and Rumsfeld and others who try to hide the truth. What instigates hatred of those conservatives is that Rice's confessions came on the eve of the third anniversary of Iraq occupation and the illusion that accompanied the first days of the invasion in the minds of those conservatives and the occupation stooges of taking power under the umbrella of the American protection. Thus Rice's statements have spoiled the celebration of the illusion

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**Palestinian
People**



**American democracy
in Middle east**

By: Samer

of victory strategy.

Condoleezza Rice's statements have opened a gap in Bush's administration to reveal some of the facts that are no longer hidden for the American people who are on their way to form a state of unanimity condemning the new conservatives who offend the spirit of the United States of America and derail the course of the principles on which it has progressed in states of peace and states of war. The subject of Iraq and the crimes the White House has perpetrated the axis of the action that would lead to removing Bush from power as soon as possible.



As-Sahwa
weekly, 20 Apr
2006.

Main headlines

- Al-A'nisi withdrew from meeting in protest to vulgar words of al-Barakani
- Meeting with the president did not come out with a result
- After its failure to gain political parties trust, the Supreme Commission commits more violations
- At Al-Sahwa symposium, politicians: The parliamentary system distinguished by its ability to achieve stability
- In a message to the president: JMP: Volume of challenges to block reforms unless there are free elections
- Meeting of JMP branches in governorates approves a project on tasks and directions of the JMP work for the next stage
- Council of Yemen Journalists Syndicate fixes June for a meeting to elect its chairman
- Fresh government scandal in Container Port in Aden
- Teachers Union Chairman: The president is the only one able to do us justice

Columnist Zaid Ash-Shami says in an article voter registering is a right of

citizens who are legally eligible to register their names in their hometowns or where they live or where the place where they work. It should also be known that political differences do not contradict giving this right and all have to get used to respecting the laws.

Despite of the objections expressed by the opposition parties on performance of the Supreme Commission for Elections, it does not mean the citizen gives up his constitutional right to make the political life. The citizen is partner in authority and wealth. As much as he is

asked to bear woes and disasters he must take part in the decision directly or indirectly, as stipulated in the constitution and the law.

It is no secret that from its beginning, the electoral process is associated with means of tricks and the use of authority and the people's potentials in favor of the ruling party in a way led to prevalence of corruption and tyranny. Nevertheless, the resisting of violations and disclosure of mistakes and the use of legal ways to prevent this deviation is a legal duty of the political forces and with them the citizen.



By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi
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JMP & PGC: Confrontation or compromise?

The dialogue between the opposition Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) and the People's General Congress (PGC) has been fluctuating without any concrete results.

After a meeting with president Saleh, the opposition and the PGC went to agree on setting up a committee composed of legal experts and academicians to monitor the job of the elections committee. Suddenly, the ruling party apologized and said the agreement should be called off. The opposition held the PGC accountable for the failure of several rounds of dialogue to overhaul the elections administration. This fluctuation of the dialogue shows a visible problem inside the PGC itself, being unable to conduct agreements without the approval of the big man, President Saleh.

In fact, the regime is not serious about the dialogue and wants to confuse and exhaust the opposition, wasting the time as it is few months and the candidates for the presidential office have not been named yet.

In an unprecedented move, the JMP has been able to maneuver and stand against all sorts of pressure exercised by the ruling party. It even announced that they will go ahead in their joint work to challenge the PGC. The position of the opposition has become a bit stronger with the announcement of the Islah, an old ally to Saleh's regime, that it will not let the other parties down and has solo agreement with the PGC. Of course, the backlash of the ruling party was strong and went to accuse the JMP coalition of attempting to overthrow the regime with a foreign support.

The JMP feels that it is being embroiled into two choices only: either to confront and go into even a crisis or compromise with the PGC. Both the two choices are challenging and of grave consequences. The opposition is just starting its joint work and therefore, needs enough time to prepare itself and make the people confide its new tendency and that it is serious this time. The decision to face and challenge the PGC and Saleh's regime might embroil them into the tumult of crisis which Yemen, with its heavy economic challenges, is no longer prepared to face. The other choice will mean that the opposition is committing suicide and that the rest of its reputation among the public will be completely damaged. At this particular time, the opposition needs to work hard to restore the public trust in its ability to challenge and open a little window of hope for them in the

possibility of change. If they bargain, their future is really at stake.

At the same time, the passive boycott of the JMP will bring about a number of negative consequences. It will push the ruling party to work towards a fair and free election, putting the opposition in a fix before the international community. But, this might push the international community to think about the uselessness of an election void of any real race. The passive boycott will hit the opposition very strongly increasing the momentum of frustration among the public of the fruitlessness of multiparty system and democracy at large. In fact, it will kill the margin of democracy which has been gradually backsliding due to the dominance of the PGC over the parliament, making it toothless and unable to hold the government accountable.

But it seems the coalition of the opposition is serious this time, following the announcement of the Islah, the strongest old alliance of the Saleh regime, that it will no longer take individual decision and that it is obliged to the decision of the coalition. The opposition even threatened that it would call for protests, strikes of the people to pressure the regime to accept the demands of the change of the elections committee. Their demand also went beyond this to the overhauling of the elections system at large. This is a completely different discourse of the opposition parties which have a bad reputation in making individual deals with the ruling party by the end of the day.

The opposition wants to show they have changed and is serious about their demands for political reform and participation in elections; the joint meeting which they held two weeks ago in Sana'a for the leaders of their parties in the governorates is seen as a launch for their elections campaign and the solidarity of their joint work. But this depends on their decision to go ahead with this issue and challenge Saleh truly. This will be tested by their nomination of their candidate who will challenge Saleh, no matter whether he wins or loses.

Besides, the strong stand of the opposition is a good pointer of the breakdown of Saleh regime's old allies. It has lost Islah party which named him as its candidate for presidential office in 1999 even before the PGC itself. Islah announced that it will not let its partners down and conducts deals with the PGC.

All these make all the possibilities, including the postponement of the elections, open.

Why pay more for fairness?

By: Peter Singer

Marks & Spencer, a supermarket and clothing chain with 400 stores throughout Britain, recently announced that it is converting its entire range of coffee and tea, totaling 38 lines, to Fairtrade, a marketing symbol of "ethical production." The chain already sells only Fairtrade tea and coffee in its 200 Café Revive coffee shops. It is also boosting its purchases of shirts and other goods made with Fairtrade cotton. The announcement came during "Fairtrade Fortnight," a two-week promotion of Fairtrade products that included speaking tours by farmers from developing countries, telling Britons how Fairtrade has assisted their communities.

The movement toward more ethical consumption has made significant gains in the United States as well, as consumers increasingly turn to organic, locally produced foods, and eggs from hens not kept in cages. In the UK, a survey has found that half of those shown the Fairtrade symbol recognized it and understood that it refers to products that give a better deal for Third World farmers. There is no comparable US research, but related data, and discussions with my own students, suggests that the figure would be much lower.

Traders seeking Fairtrade certification must pay producers a price that covers the costs of sustainable production and provides a living wage. For example, the minimum price for coffee is \$1.26 per pound, no matter how low the market price may fall. If the market price rises above that figure, the fair trade price will increase so that it remains five cents per pound higher.

Small farmers, for their part, are required to be organized in cooperatives or other groups that allow democratic participation. Plantations and factories can use the Fairtrade label if they pay their workers decent wages, comply with health, safety, and environmental standards, allow unions or other forms of workers' associations, provide good housing if workers are not living at home, and do not use child labor or forced labor.

Not every one approves of Fairtrade. Brink Lindsey, director of the pro-market Cato Institute's Center for Trade Policy Studies, believes that the campaign for Fairtrade coffee is a "well-meaning dead end." With some justification, he argues that the real cause of the fall in coffee prices was not the profiteering of multinationals, but big increases in coffee production in Brazil and Vietnam, combined with new techniques that make it possible to grow coffee with less labor and hence more cheaply.

In Lindsey's view, if we want to assist coffee growers, we should encourage them either to abandon coffee and produce more profitable crops – and here he rightly points to rich nations' trade barriers and subsidies as obstacles that must be dismantled – or to move into higher-value products, like specialty coffees, that bring higher prices.

What is curious about Lindsey's argument, however, is that the Fairtrade coffee campaign can be seen as doing just what he recommends – encouraging coffee farmers to produce a specialty coffee that brings a higher price. Pro-market economists don't object to corporations that blatantly use snob appeal to promote their products. If people want to pay \$48 for a pound of Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee because that's what James Bond prefers, economists don't object that the market is being distorted. So why be critical when consumers choose to pay \$12 for a pound of coffee that they know has been grown without toxic chemicals, under shade trees that help birds to survive, by farmers who can now afford to feed and educate their children?

Economists might reply that if you want to help people feed and educate their children, you can pay \$10 for a pound of non-Fairtrade coffee that tastes the same and give the \$2 you save to an aid agency that provides

food and education to poor children.

That's a possible strategy, but there are advantages to Fairtrade. The growers know that they have to provide a product that consumers like, both for its taste and for the way it is grown. If their product sells well, they can take pride in having produced something that is sought after around the world. From the growers' perspective, receiving a premium by selling a Fairtrade product is preferable to receiving a charitable handout that they would get whether they worked or not and regardless of the quality of what they produce.

Paying more for a Fairtrade label is no more "anti-market" than paying more for a Gucci label, and it reflects better ethical priorities. Fairtrade is not a government subsidy. Its success depends on market demand, not political lobbying. Fortunately, in Europe, that market demand is growing rapidly. One hopes that it will soon reach similar levels throughout the developed world, and wherever people can make choices about their discretionary spending.

Peter Singer is professor of bioethics at Princeton University, and author, with Jim Mason, of the forthcoming *The Way We Eat: Why Our Food Choices Matter*. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006. www.project-syndicate.org

From and among local and regional banks, CACbank wins the highest partnership deal with VISA international, obtains confidence of world financials firms

Cooperative & Agriculture Credit Bank (CAC Bank)

The only bank in Yemen issuing and acquiring visa EMV local and international debit & credit cards

As the rapid success and the highest Information Technology strategy evolves CACB continues to rise, the bank uses the most modern information technology systems and delivers its services over the most sophisticated channels of the Information super highway, the banks gets more and more local and international recognition from financial world leaders. The bank (CACbank) has signed the highest membership with Visa international to issue & acquire and sponsor other banks locally and regionally to offer the latest financial payments and dealing all over the world. This unique partnership started 6 months ago where the bank has gone through rigorous evaluation (Technology infrastructure, Management, financial and strategies) and international ranking evaluations as well. Visa has looked into the bank security system and policies, as well as Anti-money laundering systems and policies.

Mr. Meyad, the chairman of the bank says we are the first to deploy the most modern services via our largest network of 42 branches around the republic.

Numerous steps toward the overall strategy to enhance CAC Bank position, capacity and build the confidence in our performance. Three weeks ago, the chairman of the CACBank Hafedh Fakhre Meyad signed the final deal with the World largest high-tech payment solutions (Visa International)

in Dubai in the presence of Dr. Hizam Gamoom, the CACBank Chairman senior advisor for Information Technology. Under the deal, the CACBank will issue, grant and acquire the world visa card (debit, credit, prepaid) cards making it the first in the country to have such partnership and privileges.

Several local and regional banks competed to win this partnership but failed in front of CACBank which proves the bank leadership in terms of technology and banking services enhance the position of the

bank locally and international by winning this membership.

First Bank in Yemen

Hafedh Meyad, CACB Chairman and Engineer of the Information Technology, which qualified the bank to be the first one in Yemen, labeling it among top banks offering distinctive banking services in the Middle East, said: "we reached such progress and modern services through conducting a series of changes and re-engineering means. We introduced new strategies in the technical, financial

to provide international services. Also, they checked its financial status. "For us, this is an evaluation of the bank's performance and its position at the international level and not only locally, and this helped us to be more eligible for obtaining the confidence of World banks.

International certification:

Dr. Hizam Gamoom the chairman senior advisor stated that the bank is in the process of negotiating with the ISO to obtain the most certifiable standard internationally to make the bank the first and one of the few in the region to have such recognition.

Distinctive move:

Currently, Dr. Hizam Gamoom says the bank is finalizing the deal to bring American experience and knowledge to oversee the re-structuring and re-engineering project for the bank within the upcoming months. CACBank will announce an international tender for this important project which will make the bank reach the top.

Dr. Hizam Gamoom continuous, this unique Visa membership and partnership opens new horizons for CACBank to bring more business opportunities, prestige and enabling the bank to sponsor and serve other banks. Dr. Gamoom emphasized on the effectiveness of the vision, mission and continuity of the right planning to use the latest technology. The bank was the first bank locally and regionally to introduce the smart technology and smart cards (debit, prepaid, and credits) into the real live of the people and will be now the first to issue and acquire the latest Visa smart card locally and regionally as well. The bank is capable of transferring these technologies to other banks including the central bank of Yemen

Dr. Hizam Gamoom, the CACBank clear IT strategy has brought the bank many awards and international recognitions. CACBank was the winner of the Card-X yearly award for 2005 for its leading edge systems and technology and expecting to win it this year (2006). The bank also won the German G&D certificate for using the smart technology and smart chip.

Advanced services:

Gamoom pointed out the CACBank has began introducing new banking services including the cash machines (ATM) beside the 5000 planned POS terminals all over the country, SMS banking with more than 10 services in line with the SMS services in Europe, Internet banking which serves the web user with the most flexible interface, bill payments and top up

making the bank the most eligible bank to serve the Government and public for all their banking, payments, billings, collections, and salaries need.

He further said: "we have given our customers the tools and confidence to bank with us by applying the latest security requirements and verifications. Our customers can use different levels of securities to

safe their accounts and CACBank is the first in Yemen and regionally to link the account signature verifications with the photo of the account owner. We will continue on working toward better and safe services for our clients and we will be announcing exclusively for CACBank new technologies and services putting the bank in the right path to compete regionally.

Membership and trademark licence agreement

Witness signatures

To be completed by VISA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION (Owner)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be duly executed

Signed by (Secretary or Assistant Secretary) *Amir Phillips*

Signed by (Authorized officer) *Dr. Bailey*

Officer's name (please print) **IAN BAILEY**

Officer's title (please print) **VICE PRESIDENT**

Date **15 MAR 2006**

To be completed by the Applicant (User)

Name of user **COOPERATIVE & AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK-YEMEN**

Signed by (Secretary or Assistant Secretary) *MOHAMMED TAGY*

Signed by (Authorized officer) *MOHAMMED TAGY*

Officer's name (please print) **MOHAMMED TAGY**

Officer's title (please print) **ASS. GEN. MANAGER FOR BANKING**

Date **22.11.2005**

I/We hereby state that (any authorized signatures are required in addition to the applicant's corporate seal)

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
COOPERATIVE & AGRICULTURAL CREDIT BANK

Giesecke & Devrient

القاهرة في 2005/4/7

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عالية أ. / حافظ فخر معيد (رئيس مجلس الإدارة)
صورة أ. / هزام جعوم (مستشار البنك)

الموضوع: Cardex Egypt 2005

نحوه نظيفة وبعدها،

بالإشارة إلى الموضوع أعلاه وإلى التعاون الذي يتم حالياً بين الشركة وبين بنككم المؤثر، نود شركة G&D أن نعرب لسيادتكم عن عظيم شكرها لشركتكم في إسناد صليحة إصدار الكروت الذكية الخاصة بالبنك للشركة.

كما يتشرف الشركة بدعوة سيادتكم لحضور المؤتمر المشار إليه أعلاه، حيث سيتم تكريم عدة بلوك قامت بإصدار البطاقات الذكية ومنها بنك التسليف والتعاون الزراعي اليمني وسيتم تسليم درج باسم المؤتمر و يوجد به اسم البنك في حضور السيد وزير الاتصالات المصري الدكتور / طارق كامل والسيد وزير للتربية الإدارية الدكتور / أحمد درويش

وعليه نرجو من سيادتكم حضور من يمثل البنك لاستلام الدرج وحضور هذا التكريم.

وتفضلوا بقبول وافر الاحترام، ، ، ،

Yours sincerely,
Giesecke & Devrient Egypt

Ihab Abdel-Aziz
Senior Area Sales Manager Apr. 7th, 2005



Mr. Hafedh Meyad, Chairman of CAC Bank



Dr. Hizam Gamoom



and administrative areas, as we implemented the bank infrastructure in compliance with internationally recognized banking criteria's and standards."

The strategy, he added, will provide our bank and other banks with various services. "We were the first to introduce new banking services to Yemen via the largest network, covering the republic depending on the latest technologies." The CACB Chairman went on.

He pointed out the negotiation process with Visa Card Company, lasting for more than six months, was too complicated, as Visa Card representatives made several visits, conducted studies and viewed the bank's technology and its capacity

Protected areas to save Yemen's biodiversity

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

Bilqis gazelle, Yemen warbler, white-eyed gull, sterna and dragon and cucumber trees are names of species that existed plentifully in Yemeni nature, but nowadays, these species are extinct or threatened with extinction. These species are among many plant and animal species that are disappearing from the earth at an alarming rate.

According to biologists, life on earth now faces the most severe extinction period since the event that drove dinosaurs to extinction 65 million years ago. Species of plants, animals, fungi and microscopic organisms daily are exposed to extinction. In fact, biologists estimate that three species become extinct every hour and many scientists believe that human activity largely is responsible.

Therefore, biodiversity – biological variety that thrives in a healthy ecosystem – became the focus of intense international concern during the 1990s.

Biodiversity in Yemen

There is no strict data or study naming the rare and unique species in Yemen, but many researchers believe that Yemen enjoys biodiversity due to its distinguished geographic location. For example, Socotra Island contains 850 plant species, 254 of which cannot be



Bora Forest

Located on the edge of Wadi Rijaf in Al-Hodeidah governorate's Bora district and covering a 4,100-hectare area, this forest contains wide biological diversity, especially in its flora. The forest receives substantial rainfall quantities, resulting in a thick subtropical forest. Several bird species have been reported in this forest and it is one of the few Yemeni areas where one can see large numbers of baboons foraging in the trees.

recognized in other world regions.

Yemen registered 71 wild mammal species, a third of which rarely are found in Arab countries. There are also 363 bird species representing 18 classes and 61 families. Some of these birds are threatened with extinction internationally, but they can be found

in Yemen, such as the greater spotted eagle, the imperial eagle, the comerake, the ferruginous duck and the white-eyed gull.

However, population expansion, deforestation, cutting and burning of trees, random hunting and pollution are some reasons creating disorder in these species' ecosystems, leading the government to respond to such alarms by cooperating with various organizations, programs and techniques intended not just to keep individual species from becoming extinct, but to defend unique ecosystems.

In this regard, Yemen's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) developed a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). Finalized in 2004, the plan represents a major step toward a national program aiming to conserve and wisely utilize Yemen's limited but yet unique natural resources.

Protected areas

The EPA cooperated with international organizations like the World Conservation Union (IUCN) to launch the May 2005 Collaborative Management of Protected Areas and Natural Resources project. Funded by Italy's Directorate General for Development Cooperation, the project

aims to support implementing the NBSAP, developed with IUCN input.

Under the project, the IUCN will work with its Yemeni partners, focusing on developing an effectively managed nationally protected area network, improving community participation and gender equity and strengthening Yemeni collaboration with its regional and international partners in the biodiversity field.

"The authority is ready to cooperate with environmental organizations and experts to define the problems, needs and priorities for protected areas," EPA chief Mahmoud Shdeiwa said.

He noted that the EPA is working to establish and declare many land and marine protected areas. "The EPA is studying management plans for protected areas such as Sharma and Jathmun in Hadramout governorate, Bir Ali in Shabwa governorate, Al-Habari in Al-Mahra governorate and bird and wetland protected areas in Aden governorate," Shdeiwa said.

He added that the EPA also is studying desert regions where gazelles live in order to declare these regions. However, so far, Yemen has declared only four protected areas: Bora, Hawf, Otma and Socotra.

Challenges and difficulties

Seventy-five percent of Yemenis reside in rural areas. Most are poor and depend upon natural resources due to the absence of infrastructure in many Yemeni regions. For example, mountain residents still cut trees for fire and energy uses.

The development process also may share in harming biodiversity. For example, in some regions of Bora protected area, executive authorities left behind waste when they built streets, thereby negatively affecting the environment. Therefore, Yemen faces great challenges in maintaining its natural integrity as it strives to provide a better quality of life for its citizens.

Why save species?

Plants provide oxygen, which we breathe, and they also help renew air polluted by industrial development. Animals like gazelle and ibex rely on these plants to survive; therefore, cutting such plants means killing these animals. Plant cover also prevents denudation.

Plants and animals provide food and fibers for clothing. One might say that such species humans use for food and clothing are in no danger of extinction. In fact, their widespread cultivation in



Otma

Declared June 5, 1999, Otma was Yemen's first protected area, lying in western Yemen's Dhamar province between 4450 and 4350 longitude and 1420 and 1435 latitude. The area consists of sharp mountain slopes with terraces used for agriculture and vegetation cover in Otma (grasses, herbs, shrubs, trees and crops) is at least 95 percent. Otma protected area's ornithological importance comes from the number of endemic and resident bird species found in it.



Socotra

Socotra Archipelago, wherein Socotra Island is considered the archipelago's largest island, contains a wide variety of flora with an estimated 850 island plant types, including 250 species that do not grow in other parts of the world.

carefully controlled monocultures – areas like farms where only one species is allowed to flourish – has pushed many other plant species to the very brink of extinction.

Another reason to preserve biodiversity is the vast potential for new medicines that can be formulated from plant compounds. A recent example involved Socotra Island, whose plants and trees are known internationally for their medical use. Unfortunately, island locals use some of these rare and unique trees as a firewood source. In 2005, the IUCN

published a Red List of species threatened with extinction, wherein at least four Socotra Island plant species were listed.

Then there is the issue of the health and happiness of future generations. Ultimately, as Adrian Forsyth, director of conservation biology for environmental organization Conservation International, says, "Most people working to preserve biodiversity are doing it because they believe that the ultimate result of the current path of human development is self-destructive."

A primer for pandemics

A few times each year, the world is reminded that a pandemic threat is imminent. In 2003, it was SARS. Today, it is a potential avian virus similar to the one that killed 30 million people after 1914.

"Bird flu" has already shown that it can jump from fowl to humans, and now even to cats, which indicates that it might be the next global killer. But there are many other potential pandemics, and many are not even viruses. Bacteria, prions, parasites, and even environmental factors could suddenly change in a way that slays us. It is widely predicted that when this happens, the economic and human losses will exceed that of any previous war.

Indeed, it is humbling to remember that some of history's most deadly invasions were carried out by single-cell organisms, such as cholera, bubonic plague, and tuberculosis. Countries with the resources to do so are making resistance plans against pandemics – limited strategies that would protect their own citizens. Most governments are hoping that early detection will make containment possible.

Containment depends heavily on vaccines, but vaccines are only part of the answer. While they are a good defense against many viruses, each vaccine is highly specific to the threat. Viruses are parasites to cells, and each virus attacks a particular type of cell. The virus is shaped so that it can drill into a particular feature

of that cell and inject parts of itself inside, confusing the cell into making more viruses and destroying itself in the process. With their very specific forms, the most effective anti-viral vaccines must be designed for a narrow range of factors.

Sometimes the tailored nature of viruses works in our favor. For example, they usually find it difficult to jump between species, because they would have to change their structure. But if large numbers of a host – say, birds – encounter a great number of people, eventually the virus will find a way to prosper in a new type of cell.

Birds are the greatest concern today only because the spread is easy to see. But AIDS jumped from monkeys and several types of flu jumped from swine. Deadly mutations of any kind need to be identified urgently, so that an effective vaccine can be designed before the strain becomes comfortable in the human body. Unfortunately our present methods of detection are not sensitive enough.

This is even more worrying when you realize that scientists should also be monitoring bacteria, prions, and parasites. There are more bacteria than any other life form. Many live harmlessly in our bodies and perform useful functions. They evolve and adapt easily, which means that they learn to sidestep our drugs over time. Bacteria should be checked for two types of mutation: adaptation by a hostile form that enables it to become super-immune to drugs, or a deadly mutant strain that appears in one

of the multitude of "safe" bacteria.

Prions are a relatively new discovery. They are made from proteins similar to those that the body uses during healthy operations, which means that they are able to fool the body's tools into making more prions. They have only recently been recognized as the cause of several infectious diseases, including mad cow disease and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, which kill by crowding out healthy brain cells. Many nerve, respiratory and muscle diseases might also be caused by prions.

Finally, parasites, simple animals that infect us, are already classified as pandemics. Malaria afflicts 300 million people and is the world's biggest killer of children. Many parasites are worms: hookworm (800 million people infected), roundworm (1.5 billion), schistosomes (200 million), and the worm that causes Elephantiasis (150 million).

There are also antagonists that are currently ignored. Environmental chemicals and particulates might warrant their own categories. Or consider combinations of problems, such as these chemical infectors mixing with airborne pollens, and apparently pushing up incidences of asthma. New fungal infections are even scarier and might be harder to treat.

The bottom line is that we can't predict where the threat will emerge, so we need a distributed, intelligent detection system. In practical terms, how should it be built?

"Detectors" would have to be expert enough to know when an ordinary-looking symptom is actually an emergency. They would be located everywhere, with an emphasis on vulnerable regions. Initial warning signs of a pandemic are most likely to appear in



By: H. T. Goranson

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Private sector should step in to save Yemeni TV drama

By: Yemen Times Staff

A symposium was held Tuesday, April 18, at Al-Afif Cultural Foundation to discuss the status of Yemeni television drama. A director, a screenwriter and an actor were involved in the event, which highlighted difficulties encountered by Yemen's emerging TV drama.

Television director Dr. Fadhil Al-Ulufi pointed out insufficient resources such as studios and cameras. "We produce with adventure, as we sometimes go to public places and it is very difficult to shoot there," he said. Productions also don't have technical consultants like physicians or lawyers to consult about pertinent technical matters.

Another problem Al-Ulufi pinpointed is that of staff, saying that the poor quality of acting staff is a reflection of the poor status of Yemeni theater. "Whenever the theater is strong, television and cinema actors become strong. We can't say that we have really professional actors. They remain all year long without any work and when it comes, they return, having forgotten the ways of acting and requiring retraining. Their time is not dedicated to acting because of the low wages they receive."

On the other hand, Mohammed Al-Hubaishi, a screenwriter with a good sense of humor, considers screenwriting a cultural activity requiring "full-time devotion and removal of obstructions, as well as appreciation."

He said Yemeni screenwriters have many rich topics to discuss but the crux of the problem lies in how to treat such topics. Among the reasons for dissatisfactory Yemeni TV drama productions is "total dependence on the public sector. The private sector should participate, which comes after a suitable environment is prepared by



(Left to right) Abdul-Karim Al-Ashmori, Dr. Fadhil Al-Ulufi and Mohammed Al-Hubaishi.

finding public sector support.

"Because Yemen has only one satellite channel and another local one, businessmen who would finance TV series productions are likely to lose. This entails that they should get cooperation from the government to encourage them to continue and provide patronage for this type of artistic production," Al-Hubaishi added.

The problem of dialect

He also pointed out another problem – the dialect actors use. Yemen has different dialects and television directors cannot decide which to choose and present their works. "We should agree on a specific dialect in which to discuss our problems and present our work to others, even outside Yemen," Al-Hubaishi noted.

Another aspect of the issue is misplaced allotments. "TV serials production is costly. It requires big budgets, which sometimes, unfortunately, are misplaced. The bulk of the budget does not go to the main work crew but to other beneficiaries. Actors feel they are neglected and their enthusiasm erodes," he added.

Popular comedian Abdul-Karim Al-Ashmori said a preliminary study should be done on the history of TV drama in Yemen and the most important factors that influenced it.

"I believe the most significant factor is dependence on a sole producer, i.e., the public sector," he stated. "This leads to seasonal works meant for local consumption, which are shelved forever. The public sector does not mean to make a profit nor does it have the sense of investment or promotion; therefore, this does not result in improved quality."

Al-Ashmori continued, "Works appeared as individual initiatives – some of them succeeded and others failed. The financial part of it is not addressed either, as it was some sort of routine task without even evaluation. Therefore, experience did not develop or accumulate."

However, he indicated that experience matured in certain aspects, such as the fact that actors became seasoned as they participated in many works and directors gained experience in the art, etc.

Similarly, Al-Ashmori placed high value on the private sector, which is

expected to "free Yemeni TV drama, as it depends on industrial concepts, unlike the public sector, which lies on routine functional basis."

All of the symposium participants underscored the importance of investing in Yemen's history, heritage and nature, warning that if the private sector does not step in actively, foreign firms will come and pull the rug from under local producers and "Yemenis will remain passive viewers only."

Scenario is crucial

There were many interjections, one of which was by critic Mohammed Al-Sharafi, who alerted the audience that as long as the theater is inactive, improvement in television is impossible.

"Theater is the fountain that feeds television and cinema," he stressed, simultaneously underscoring the importance of scenario, which is the soul of TV drama work. "Scenario is a science that is studied academically. If we neglect it, how can we possibly get a good TV drama? I have perceived that no one has been sent abroad to study scenario, as if it is unimportant," he concluded.

Bamatraf: I try to show the beauty of nature and geography

By: Mariam Saleh

Born in 1984 in Aden, plastic artist Yaslam Mohammed Bamatraf is a student at Jamil Ghanem Fine Arts Institute, as well as an architectural engineering student at Aden University's Faculty of Engineering.

He participated many times in the cultural caravans of Sana'a as the 2004 Arab Culture Capital and he won first prize for fine arts (plastic arts) during 2004 University Student Week.

Recently, Bamatraf participated in group exhibits, as well as solo shows at Aden Hotel. He has multiple skills including plastic arts, photography, Arabic calligraphy, engineering, programming and computers.

"When I'm drawing, I feel as if I'm dreaming," he says, believing that no artistic production should be restricted.

The painting speaks for itself and the brush shows the artist, while colors realize festive diversity embodied by the brushstrokes, revealing a well-studied technique. Some say that the still painting, set within its frame, has its own pulse that animates it into meaningful movements that enchant the eyes and involve them in the mischievous adventure of contemplation. The viewer then will see the once-scattered elements somehow organized abstractly or realistically.

In this interview, Bamatraf speaks about his experience:

Depictions from reality

When did you first indulge in painting?

(recalling) Nobody can claim that plastic art comes from out of the blue on its own. Therefore, my beginning was in my childhood, namely when I was seven. It was a hobby. I was obsessed with whatever I saw. I mimicked and depicted. Following secondary school, I joined the Aden-based Jamil Ghanem Fine Arts Institute to study plastic arts. Moreover, my family and my teachers encouraged me to



Yaslam Bamatraf

stick to art and excel in many occasions, beginning in school and on to other national events.

I draw for myself

For whom do you draw? Have you succeeded in presenting works that meet the public's expectations?

I draw for myself and for those around me. What I draw does not as much reflect the public's opinion as it does mine. However, the public does appreciate my works.

Exploring beauty of nature and geography

Viewing some of your paintings, I have seen that you revive history, heritage and Yemeni customs. Why?

Actually, I would like to do paintings that showcase simple Yemeni life, the life of the common man, in addition to scenes from reality. For me as an artist, this means celebrating the beautiful image and customs and presenting them to the onlooker who knows nothing about the area, as well as foreign tourists in love with the desert and its terrain. In brief, I try to show the beauty of nature and geography Yemen enjoys and its tourist and architectural advantages.

Criticism and artist

Can we describe your works as postcards to the public?

Perhaps, but I only draw. The public and critics can judge whether my works could serve as postcards. In general, the artist draws and leaves a trace on life, while the critic should finalize what the artist has initiated. The process is complementary. Plastic art cannot develop apart from the influence of criticism.

No difference

Do you like warm or cool colors? Why?

I like all colors, whether warm or cool, and this is apparent in my paintings. Sometimes I use cool colors and other times warm and I mingle them in certain paintings. After all, in my viewpoint, plastic art is a space for creativity and the painting is a visual hymn that should please the viewer.

Power of perception

It is perceived that artistic awareness is not prevalent among the educated community. What does this mean?

This is some sort of illiteracy. Many people cannot "read" visual art and



One of his paintings

interpret its elements.

Influence

What are the factors that shaped you as an artist and which school of art do you prefer?

Influence over the artist is conditioned by the society in which he lives. If the community is full of concerns, problems and daily discomforts, the artist will be influenced accordingly and is expected to provide for that in his artistic works. I admire international artist Vincent Van Gogh.

Painting rituals

Do you have any special arrangements before you begin painting?

Not exactly. As I'm drawing, I like to be internally peaceful and have a genuine desire to draw a specific idea. I'm not the kind of artist who gives vent to his own sufferings in his work. I would rather write them down until I get quiet and then start drawing.

Plastic arts in Yemen

As a beginner, how do you evaluate the art movement in Yemen? What difficulties does an artist encounter?

The art movement in Yemen still is growing and faces many difficulties, most significant of all is low artistic awareness and inadequate attention paid to plastic artists. I hope concerned authorities will pay more attention to this type of art, which is culturally important.

Last wish

What wishes do you have for the future?

I hope I always will present the new and sublime in terms of art and I hope to formulate my own style to stand out in the field and represent my country at international events. I hope that Yemeni art will improve and that the media will further introduce and be critical of art to help purify it of its blemishes and raise public awareness about its issues.

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

26

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

There was a door to which I
found no key:
There was a veil past which I
could not see:
Some little talk awhile of me
and thee
There seemed-and then no
more of thee and me.

Literary Corner

By Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah

Yemen: The people and culture (I)

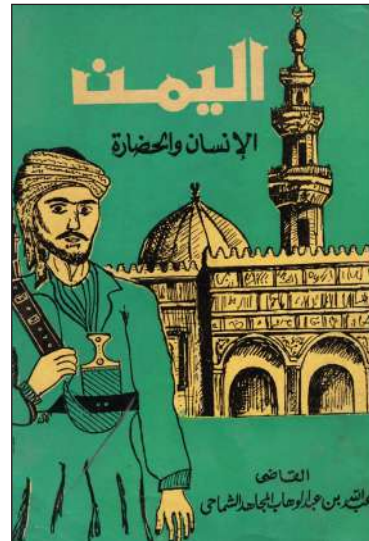
This is an old book published on the history of Yemen. However it was written by a late prominent national patriot, and a well known scholar and literary personality. The book was written prior to unification of course, and most of the discussions on the patriotic movement covered what was then known as the Yemen Arab Republic or North Yemen, although he underscores keeping in mind the importance of "natural Yemen", as he calls it, which included the recently formed Democratic Republic of Yemen, which until 1967 encompassed Aden and the Protectorate Sultanates of the former South Arabian Federation, which was prior to that under British administration.. While the book tends to be more literate and a desire to instill nationalistic pride, than an academic study, nevertheless it can be safely assumed to give interesting insights into the history of Yemen.

The author's nationalism and love for the country is obvious throughout the book, but his portrayal of the nationalist movement is more honest and less hostile to the previous regimes, against which the patriotic movement struggled, as we shall see later.

Qadhi Abdullah Al-Shamahi's patriotism is demonstrated by having to serve a prison term of seven years in the Imam Ahmed's period (after the failed 1948 attempted coup). In his forward of the book, he dedicates the book to all the sons of Yemen and hopes that it will help maintain a patriotic zeal among the future generations of Yemen as they become familiar with the rich and illuminating history of their Yemeni fathers. He says in the dedication: "We deemed it appropriate to place in your hands topics on natural Yemen, which have hardly been touched upon by historians. These topics are (intended) to be a stimulation to further study and critical analysis. We have added to these topics momentary glances on the cultural history of Yemen, as well as the different Yemeni governments and kingdoms that prevailed, with a view towards presenting a historical sequence, that hopefully will facilitate the understanding of the struggle of Yemenis over the ages."

Citing his references, the author points out that his major sources included Qadhi Mohammed Bin Ali Al-Aqw'a Al-Hawwali (i.e., a collector of "Annals" and Ahmed Sharafuddin, and for the 14th Century (AH; i.e., 20th Century) included historians like Al-Arashi, Al-Waisy, Al-Jirafi etc. He notes that he gave attention to the 14th Century since very little was written about it.

It is worth noting that the author wrote the book to also counter some of the foreign influences that were creeping into Yemeni culture during the Sixties and Seventies of the last Century. This was not just emanating



Author: Qadhi Abdullah Abdul-Wahhab Al-Shamahi

Language: Arabic

Publisher: Dar Al-Hana Printing

Year Published: 1973

No. of Pages: 370

from the western or modern culture, but also some of the deviating religious indoctrination that some Yemeni youths have begun to pick up from an earnest effort to propagate the so called Salafi puritanical sect. Al-Shamahi was trying to show that the prevailing Yemeni sects were more open and progressive than the hard line extremism professed by these fundamentalists. It should be borne in mind that this was over three decades ago, when this Islamic extremism was still in its embryonic stage. Many mainstream Yemeni religious scholars were viewing this new religious encroachment from overseas (actually across the border) as a potential danger to Yemeni society, which could foment an undesired friction between the various sects that have for centuries coexisted in an atmosphere of mutual respect and recognition, that was unparalleled anywhere else in the Moslem world. In addition, the progressive fevers of radical left wingers was also creating additional areas of factional strife, that Al-Shamahi and other moderate scholars were wary of, which they felt Yemen could do better without.

The book is as the author states not broken down into organized chapters but "themes", which follow a historical sequencing of sorts. The book briefly touches on the regional ramifications in Yemen's history while starting with a brief description of the geographical and environmental influences on the developments in Yemen.

The author does not fail to note that Yemen was accorded the favorable geographical and climatic conditions that made it not only the home of Yemeni cultural development but also the birthplace of human civilization in general.

We shall look at some of the interesting themes in the book in the next few issues of the Literary Corner by this once phenomenal Yemeni personality.



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Yemen mated with Iraq, Iran and Tajikistan



Yemen's under age 17 team.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

The Asian Cup of Nations finals draw for under age 17 football teams last Monday mated Yemen in the second group with Iran, Iraq and Tajikistan. The Asian Cup of Nations finals are scheduled to take place in Singapore this September.

The draw was conducted in Singapore's capital in the presence of the Yemeni Football Federation Secretary-General. Fifteen Asian teams – Syria, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, Tajikistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Laos, Vietnam, Singapore, China, Japan, North Korea and titleholder South Korea – have qualified for the finals.

Three of the 15 teams will qualify for the World Cup for under age 17 football teams due to take place in South Korea, which is the automatic qualifier, in 2007. The automatic qual-

ifier brings to four the number of Asian teams due to participate in the World Cup finals.

According to sports analysts, Yemen was not mated with tough teams in the second group. Rather, the group is easy for Yemen due to geographical nearness between Yemen, Iraq and Iran and therefore, the three teams are familiar with each other's play.

In previous qualifiers, Yemen was mated in the second group with Qatar and Bahrain, drubbing the former 2-0 and the latter 4-3. Currently, Yemen's national team is considered better than Tajikistan's.

Yemen's under age 17 team will begin preparing for the Asian Cup of Nations qualifiers by the beginning of May. The team plans to camp in Sana'a before holding external camps and playing practice matches with certain teams according to the preparation program.

YFF resumes postponed matches

Two encounters, the first between Al-Telal and Al-Rashid and the second between Al-Saqr and Sha'ab Ibb, were held last Friday after they were postponed during the Premier League's first round when Al-Telal and Saqr excused themselves from playing for unknown reasons.

The Yemeni Football Federation (YFF) decided to resume first and second round matches after they were canceled when the YFF Temporary Committee imposed sanctions on nine teams boycotting the tournament.

The new YFF refused such sanctions and decided to resume play,

a procedure strongly opposed by the four teams who claim to be implementing the Temporary Committee's instructions and decisions in conformity with the Asian Football Federation (AFF) and FIFA.

According to a timetable set by the YFF, three matches were staged Friday, wherein Ahli Sana'a downed Sha'ab Hadramout 4-0 to occupy second place with 22 points.

In Attaq city, Tadamun Shabwa defeated Ahli Al-Hodeidah 2-1 to rank fourth in the tourney with 18 points, while Ahil Al-Hodeidah

remained in third place with 19 points. In Abyan, Hassan defeated Aden's Al-Shu'lah 1-0, jumping to sixth place with 17 points.

According to the YFF timetable, the round is to conclude with a meeting between Ta'awen Ba'adan with Shabab Al-Jeel.



Al-Telal team.



Ahli Sana'a team.



Al-Saqr team.

PHOTO BY HOWAIS



Sha'ab Ibb team.

Shawqi Hayel resigns YFF post

Shawqi Ahmad Hayel resigned from the Yemeni Football Federation (YFF) Supreme Honors Board for alleged unfair YFF procedures and failure of recurring attempts to reconcile teams.

In his letter of resignation, Hayel called for settling disputes between Premier League teams, but his attempt was deterred by YFF's insistence on canceling the Temporary Committee's decision regarding resuming postponed games.

The letter said by doing so, the YFF supports particular teams and oppresses others and recommended the YFF board settle the dispute in a way gratifying all parties involved.

After receiving complaints from some teams that they were put down by the YFF's decision, plus failure of recurring attempts to reconcile quarreling teams, Hayel felt compelled to step down from his post.

Track & field, taekwondo champs receive honors

Minister of Youth and Sports Abdurrahman Al-Akwa'a awarded merit certificates last Monday to national track and field teammates who won second place in the Arab Championship held in Bahrain, as well as to Al-Yarmouk Club star Anas Aqlan for taking fifth place in the World Taekwondo Championship in Saudi Arabia.

Yemen's national track and field team, made up of runners Mujahed Al-Ansi, Ahmad Abdullah Sarhan, Yousef Saleh and Murad Nasser Abu Atif under local coach Badr Saleh, performed well in the contest arousing surprise among fans and game lovers.

Yemen and Yarmouk star Aqlan won gold for ranking fifth in the World Taekwondo Championship organized in Saudi Arabia.



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The Yemen MCS Fisheries Project intends to award a works contract for an extension to the existing Ministry of Fish Wealth building in the south Al-Safia District of Sana'a Republic of Yemen with Financial assistance from the Asia & Latin America (ALA) programmer of the European Communities The tender dossier is available for inspection at:

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Tel :- (01) 444156 Fax :- (01) 444157 PLT Mobile:- 711453300, PIU Director Mobile:- 733200207, Email: degmfwye@v.net.ye The deadline for submission of tenders is before close business 10 May 2006.



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Sana'a**

Die Deutsche Botschaft Sana'a sucht voraussichtlich für die Zeiträume Mitte Mai bis Mitte September sowie Mitte Mai bis Mitte Juli 2006

2 Aushilfskräfte (Halbtagsstellen)

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Deutsche Botschaft; Postfach 41, Sana'a
Zu Hdn. Herrn Peter Speyrer

Nur Bewerberinnen und Bewerber, die in die engere Vorauswahl kommen, werden von uns benachrichtigt.

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Why dogs can't eat chocolate

The worst a Hershey bar can do to you is add an inch to your hips. But that same candy – even in relatively small amounts – can make a dog or cat very sick. Make no mistake: For them, chocolate is poison.

By: Dr. Dawn Ruben

In addition to a high fat content, chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine, two different types of stimulants that affect the central nervous system and the heart muscle, as well as increasing the frequency of urination.

Symptoms of Poisoning

If your 50-pound dog gets his paws on a single chocolate-chip cookie, it probably

won't cause him serious problems. However, if he gobbles up more – a pan of brownies, say – he may develop vomiting or diarrhea.

Once toxic levels are reached, the stimulants kick in, and this is when you really have to worry. Symptoms include: restlessness, hyperactivity, muscle twitching, increased urination and/or excessive panting. If your pet isn't treated, he could go into a seizure – possibly even die.

How Much Is Toxic?

The amount of chocolate that it takes to poison your pet depends on the type of chocolate he's eaten and his weight. White chocolate has the least amount of stimulants and baking chocolate or cocoa beans have the highest. Here is a list of the most common sources of chocolate and the amount that leads to toxicity:

- **White Chocolate.** Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 45 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested. Severe toxicity occurs when 90 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested. This means that a 20-pound dog would need to ingest at least 55 pounds of white chocolate to cause nervous system signs. A 10-pound cat would need to ingest 27 pounds. Yes, that is twenty seven pounds! White chocolate has very little real chocolate in it. Therefore, the levels of caffeine and theobromine are very low. Tremendous amounts of white chocolate need to be ingested in order to cause toxic signs from chocolate. It is highly unlikely that white chocolate ingestion will result in the toxic neurologic signs but, the severe gastrointestinal effects from a high fat food develop with much less white chocolate ingestion.
- **Milk Chocolate.** Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 0.7 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested. Severe signs occur when 2 ounces per pound of body weight is ingested. This means that a little less than one pound of milk chocolate can be toxic to the nervous system of a 20-pound dog. A 10-pound cat would need to ingest 1/2 pound.
- **Semi-Sweet Chocolate.** Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 1/3 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. Severe signs occur when 1 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. This means that as little as 6 ounces of semi-sweet chocolate can be toxic to the nervous system of a 20-pound dog. A 10-pound cat would need to ingest 3 ounces.
- **Instant Cocoa.** Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 1/3 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. Severe signs occur when 1 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. This means that as little as 6 ounces of semi-sweet chocolate can be toxic to the nervous system of a 20-pound dog. A 10-pound cat would need to ingest 3 ounces.
- **Baking Chocolate.** Mild signs of toxicity can occur when 0.1 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested.

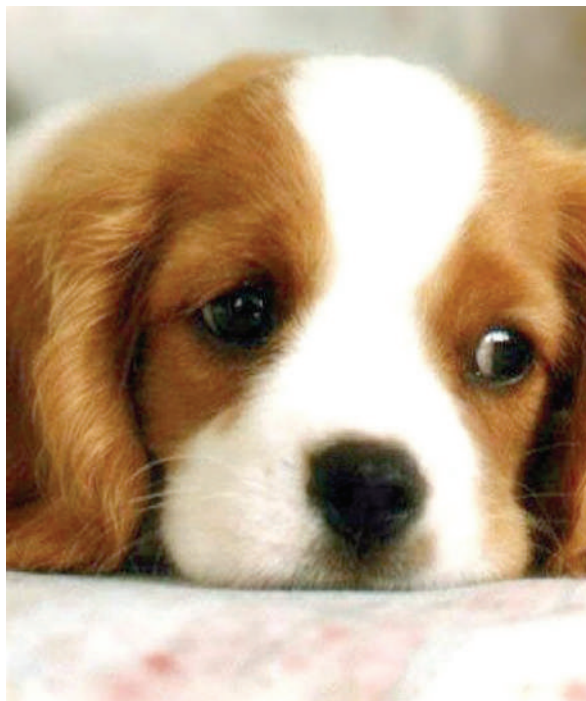
Severe signs occur when 0.3 ounce per pound of body weight is ingested. Two small one-ounce squares of baking chocolate can be toxic to a 20-pound dog. A 10-pound cat would need to ingest 1 ounce of baking chocolate. This type of chocolate has the highest concentration of caffeine and theobromine and very little needs to be ingested before signs of illness become apparent.

Even if your pet doesn't eat enough chocolate to induce toxicity, the candy's high fat content may cause him to vomit or have diarrhea at much smaller amounts than those shown. If that hap-

pens, watch him carefully. If his symptoms don't clear up within eight hours, call your veterinarian (if your pet is very small or young, call within four hours); aside from toxicity issues, you don't want the animal to dehydrate. Try to be as precise as you can about the type of chocolate the animal ate, how much he took and approximately when he ate it.

The sooner you get help, the better off your pet will be. If the animal is showing signs of toxicity, he has a good prognosis if he's treated within four to six hours of ingestion. The effects of the chocolate can linger for 12 to 36 hours, though, so your pet may require hospitalization.

Source: www.petplace.com



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