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Inside:   **5** Disabled: 'We refuse to be treated like this'

 **6** Yemeni entrepreneur describes bureaucracy as hurdle to foreign investment

 **8** Improving efficiency in Yemen: Is Saleh's call enough?

Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 Do you think Gulf states are serious about qualifying Yemen's economy for entry into the Gulf Cooperation Council?
 I don't know (13)
 Yes (39%) No (48%)
 This edition's question:
 A number of opposition parties threaten to boycott the upcoming elections. Do you think that they are serious?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
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JMP demands tangible role in managing September elections

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, June 5 — On Monday, politicians and jurists at a symposium organized by Al-Sahwa.net, unanimously singled-out the failure of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) to improve upon the electoral process in Yemen.

Lawyer Jamal Al-Jaabi said voter registry is one of the basic building blocks for attaining legal legitimacy and electoral management represents an important cornerstone but is ineffective unless the ruler desires effective participation.

At the symposium, organized under the theme, "Political system legitimacy under forged voter registry," and held at the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies, Al-Jaabi added that the SCER is playing a political role parallel to opposition parties and the ruling party, whose involvement has caused the commission to be in a state of disorder and depend-

ence.

He also pointed out that the dispute with the SCER is attributed to absence of judicial reference and is a type of injustice against the judiciary to be entrusted with deciding a matter for which it's unqualified, especially with the non-existence of administrative judiciary specialized in challenges and absence of executive laws and understanding of judicial challenges.

Al-Jaabi also affirmed that the security committee controls the electoral process, despite the fact that it's not found in relevant law except in faint indications. He demanded a draft law granting actual management to political parties and dwarfing the security committee's role.

In his working paper, Islah party's Ibrahim Al-Haer said the SCER announced 64,000 repeated names, 126 children and two million similar names on voter registers and confirmed 25 mil-



lion falsifications. He added that Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) statistics affirm that 30 percent of registry volume involves forgery.

The director of Islah general secretariat's electoral office holds the ruling party and the SCER responsible for such tampering and falsification, especially given the merger between the two. He said security committee reports are devoid of violations by the ruling party, only registering those of the opposition. "We haven't heard of any violator sent to investigation or courts. The commission doesn't differ with the ruling party but with the opposition," he added.

Dr. Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakil of the Union of People's Forces party said the JMP will work toward whatever benefits the political reform program and participating in elections.

As for political analyst Ali Saif Hassan, he said the basis of the legislation is effectiveness, adding that Yemen is requested to play a functional international role embodied in active participation against terror, accomplishing a form of democracy and economic reforms and providing stability and regional security.

Activist politician Abdeh Salem said the ruling party mobilizes the street and communities, claiming that openness in

Yemen is meant for the balance of powers due to Gulf economic superiority and that what's required is producing regional and international leadership and participating in elections.

Tariq Al-Shami, head of the GPC's information and culture office, demanded the JMP seriously compete in presidential and local elections instead of arguing about the coming political system's legality under an electoral register they allege is falsified in favor of the ruling party. He added that the SCER wasn't formed this year and has been working since 2001, noting that its formation wasn't submitted as a case for discussion by the JMP until January.

SCER adopts 2006 elections mechanism

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, June 6 — At its Monday meeting chaired by SCER chairman Khalid Abdulwahab Ash-Sharif, the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) approved forming supervisory, original and branch committees to run September's presidential and local elections. The commission decided to adopt the same mechanism and proportions allocated to political parties and organizations in the 2003 elections, considering such a mechanism more just and legal.

The SCER affirmed that the decision arose from its keenness for all political parties and organizations to participate in committees managing the upcoming presidential and local elections.

According to the mechanism, the proportion of political parties and organizations participating in election committees is 44 percent for the



Abdeh Al-Jundi

General People's Congress, 40 percent for the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), eight percent for National Council for Opposition parties and eight percent for the SCER.

The commission entrusted the head of the technical affairs and planning sector with informing political parties and organizations about the proportions and positions of their participation in electoral committees according to the mechanism. The SCER also discussed at its meeting all things relating to nomination stage, voting and vote

counting.

Sources said President Ali Abdullah Saleh called on the JMP to sit and dialogue about the elections in coming days in a manner preparing ways for the success of such constitutional and democratic due process and holding it in a free, safe and transparent climate with the participation of all, without any exception, thereby embodying the principle of peaceful transfer of power.

According to September Net web site, this step would be followed by an invitation to all legally licensed political parties and organizations registered with the parties and organizations committee for a dialogue meeting. Such dialogue aims to search for common factors pursuant to national interests, as it is considered that the country's interests dictate dialogue and understanding among all and moving away from predetermined stances and visions.

SCER information head Abdeh Al-Jundi affirmed that the measure's aim arose from the commission's keenness on the participation of all political forces in Yemen, adding, "We call on the parties to participate strongly. This distribution was the method used in 2003 elections and proposed then by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar."

He noted that graduates summoned from the civil service to run the election process are very few and can't manage the electoral process. "For instance, in some governorates, no one among them applied to the civil service. Most civil service applicants are women, who declined to participate in the committees; therefore, we thought the best measure was to adopt the mechanism used in managing the 2003 elections," he explained.

Regarding whether there was coordination with other parties, Al-Jundi affirmed that most parties would respond to this proposal. He said he thought that was just for all parties, believing it the only suggestion doing justice to all parties and creating balance in the election process. He revealed that the SCER had other proportions, but the parties refused them.

Al-Jundi also stressed that the technical committee will distribute the committees among the parties. "They have the right to participate or refuse. If they refuse, we'll resort to our own choices to run the election process."

Hamas, Fatah welcome Yemeni mediation efforts

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 7 — The Palestinian leadership welcomed efforts initiated by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to hold talks between Fatah and Hamas in Sana'a, according to the Palestinian ambassador in Sana'a.

Ambassador Khalid Sheikh said, "The Palestinian leadership welcomes the intervention; therefore, there is collective approval for the two groups to hold talks in Sana'a."

He confirmed that a time to hold such talks has not been defined yet. The September 26 website mentioned that the arrival of a plenipotentiary from Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas is expected in the coming days. "The plenipotentiary will convey the Palestinian National Authority leadership's view regarding the referendum," the website reported.

According to Ambassador Sheikh, the Palestinian president is clinging to carrying out the referendum. "President Mahmoud Abbas insists that dialogue between the groups will continue until the last day," he said.

On Tuesday, President Saleh offered to host talks between Fatah and Hamas, which are locked in a power struggle in the Palestinian territories. Hamas immediately welcomed the invitation. "We don't know if Fatah has accepted, but Hamas is ready to hold talks in Yemen at the highest level," said Moussa Abu Marzouk, a member of Hamas's exiled leadership in Syria.

Relations between Hamas and Fatah worsened after Hamas won January's Palestinian elections and formed a government isolated by the West for its refusal to recognize the Jewish state and its rejection of peace deals with

Israel which were accepted by Fatah when it was in power.

Hamas also opposes holding a referendum on a statehood manifesto implicitly recognizing Israel. In this regard, Abbas gave Hamas a few more days to accept a manifesto implicitly recognizing Israel or face a referendum on the issue. Hamas officials welcomed Abbas's offer to extend their dialogue but repeated their opposition to deadlines.

Abbas has asked the Hamas-led government to accept a proposal calling for a Palestinian state alongside Israel, thereby implicitly recognizing the Jewish state. He believes the plan will help lift economic pressure on Palestinians and allow him to pursue peace talks with Israel. Hamas has balked at the plan, demanding changes in the language and saying the group will not give in to deadlines.

USS Cole-related suspect released

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 7 — The Specialized Penal Court released Nawaf Mohammed Bouhij, suspected of hiding criminals accused of bombing the USS Cole, following time he already served in jail.

Judge Mohammed Al-Badani declared Bouhij innocent of accusations attributed to him regarding forming an armed gang and participating in attacks against general authority personnel while investigating Gamal Al-Badawi,

Fahd Al-Qusea and others in the wake of the Oct. 12, 2000 USS Cole incident.

At the trial's first session on April 30, Penal Prosecution accused Bouhij and Al-Qusea of hiding suspects in Marib and participating with others in forming an armed gang to attack military personnel in charge of monitoring convicts while trying to catch the two men at a checkpoint between Abyan and Marib governorates.

Al-Badawi, Al-Qusea and eight others convicted of bombing the USS Cole escaped from prison in Aden, but later

were caught to stand trial Sept. 29, 2005. The Penal Court sentenced Al-Badawi to death and Al-Qusea to 10 years' imprisonment; however, the Appeals Court later commuted Al-Badawi's sentence to five years' imprisonment.

Al-Badawi and 22 others again managed to escape Political Security Prison in Sana'a by digging a 44-meter-long tunnel from the prison into a women's bathroom at a nearby mosque. Authorities declare that eight of the 23 have been recaptured and they are searching for the rest.

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Al-Jawfi recognizes efforts of education personnel, EDC

On the occasion of the National Day of Yemen, the Ministry of Education, the Office of Education, and the Teacher Training Institute, organized a ceremony to acknowledge and reward the most outstanding staff members from the three institutions. The ceremony, which took place at the Teacher Training Institute on June 1, was honored by the presence of Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi, the Minister of Education, who acknowledged the outstanding personnel at the Ministry, the Office of Education in Sana'a, and the trainers and trainees at the Teacher Training Institute.

Al-Jawfi also acknowledged the Education Development Center (EDC) for their work in the development of the education system in Yemen. In recognition of the accomplishments of the EDC, Al-Jawfi conferred a certificate of excellence and recognition to Dr. Towfick Sufian, Senior



Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi (left), the Minister of Education, presents Dr. Towfick Sufian, Senior Representative of EDC in Yemen, with a certificate of excellence and recognition.

Representative of EDC in Yemen.

EDC, a nonprofit organization, works in the areas of education and health internationally. It is a registered

organization in Yemen where it is currently implementing two innovative educational projects in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

Watani Bank trial continues, investor defense organization forms

SANA'A, June 6 — The Specialized Penal Court decided on Monday to authorize the Prosecutor's office to collect outstanding loans for the Watani Bank for Trade and Investment and present any remaining evidence for the upcoming hearing.

At the hearing chaired by Judge Najeeb Al-Qadri, the prosecutor explained to the court that the prosecution has implemented the court's previous decision concerning the arrest of suspect 'number ten' who will not be tried.

The court accepted the demand of the Watani Bank Control Committee's lawyer to force released suspects to pledge to repay their debts and to use

any property they own as collateral on the loans.

Meanwhile, the Organization to Defend Yemeni Investors (ODYI) will announce its formation in the near future. A member of the ODYI's Preparatory Committee, Nabeel Sa'eed Ghanem said that inequity between investors and constant land disputes are the key barriers to investment in Yemen.

Government agencies tend not to recognize individual land ownership, and therefore they can misconstrue the Investment Law according to their own whims, said Ghanem.

More than forty businessmen and investors held a meeting at the Chamber of Trade and Industry in Aden last

Sunday in the presence of Mohamed Omar Bamashmous, who chairs the chamber. They discussed obstacles that investors face in Yemen.

The meeting reached a decision to form a preparatory committee comprised of Salem Ali Bin Othman, Nabeel Ghanem, Sa'eed Yaf'ee, Saleh Bin Ju'aim and the lawyer Salahaddin. The committee will be responsible for the preparation of the internal bylaws and objectives of the ODYI.

Ghanem expected the preparatory committee to complete preparations of the internal bylaws and objectives of the ODYI and to invite various guests for a meeting to announce the foundation the ODYI within three weeks.

Symposium reviews prospects of environmental tourism

SANA'A, June 6 — Organized by the Ministry of Tourism, a symposium on the 'Role of Environmental Tourism and the Media in Protecting the Environment and Developing Local Communities' concluded last Sunday. Lasting two days, the symposium was attended by a group of specialists and academics.

Nabeel Al-Faqih, Minister of Tourism, highlighted the importance of the symposium as it will help to extend social awareness of environmental tourism and promote the tourism sector. He went on to emphasize that the media will play an important part in

promoting environmental concepts and advertising the tourism sector.

Furthermore, Al-Faqih called the establishment of a tourism television channel that would make people aware of the importance of tourism and the promotion of the culture and history of Yemen.

Many working papers were presented that discussed the significance of media messages, focusing on the content of the message, designating target groups, and the current role played by local media in defining and spreading the concept of environmental tourism.

The papers also looked at how to

make known the importance of environmental tourism, as well as on protecting the environment, developing local communities, and advertising the tourism industry; in addition to the myriad ways goal-oriented media messages can be produced.

Some of the papers presented examined the concept of sustainable tourism in protected nature parks in Yemen and tourism products that could be developed to entice foreigners to visit Yemen. Suggestions from the papers included achieving sustainable environmental tourism by focusing on desert, marine, and montane tourism.

Sa'eed Abdu Moqbil wins Al-Afif prize

On June 6, the Al-Afif Cultural Foundation revealed the name of the winner of this year's prize. Researcher Sa'eed Abdu Moqbil was awarded Al-Afif prize for his work entitled "Public Education in the Republic of Yemen: Reality and Prospects of Development."

Ahmed Jabir Afif, president of Al-Afif Cultural Foundation, presented the prize, consisting of YR 300,000, a recognition certificate, and the Al-Afif Medal, at the headquarters of the foundation in Sana'a.

The study that won the prize is a 132 page long paper comprised of nine chapters: the general framework of the study; an introductory approach to Yemen's education; philosophy and aims; curricula; preparation and training of teachers; school management; school facilities; financing education; and prospects of development.

The research was motivated by the fact that "there is [sic] a serious decline in the performance level of the [education] system in general," as stated by the National Strategy for Developing Basic Education.

Many indicators attest to this fact: a diminishing number of students passing their general certificates; an increasing number in failed students and those who have opted out of the school system; poor educational output; more and more parents complaining that their children finish the basic education program without being able to read and write; and poor English skills despite six years of courses.



Ahmed Jabir Afif (left) presents the prize to researcher Sa'eed Abdu Moqbil.

In the introduction to his study, Moqbil quoted the Asian edition of the Wall Street Journal as saying in its Asian economic survey for 1997-1998, "The long-term struggle for economic success is going to be more in the classroom than in the stock market."

Moqbil conducted adequate research to put this fact into a Yemeni perspective.

Moqbil concluded that the most important external factors that influence Yemen's public education are: the economic crisis; overpopulation; social and political meddling within schools; poor integration among education strategies; fragmentation of the education system as oversight is placed under the discretion of three ministries (the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Higher

Education, and the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training); and illiteracy.

The internal factors are divided into two groups: general factors and pivotal factors. The first category includes such factors as inadequate integration among the education's subsystems, insufficient input, inadequate working hours at schools, the large number of temporarily closed schools, the relatively small number of girls schools, and insufficient continuous training of educational staff.

Pivotal factors are those related to the preparation of educational laws, which have not consulted independent research. Lastly, the overall aims of education are poorly related to an educational philosophy.

World Food Programme recognized by Yemen

SANA'A, June 6 — A Basic Agreement was signed on Tuesday between the Government of the Republic of Yemen and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

Recognizing the juridical personality of the WFP and its freedom of assembly, the agreement was signed by Abdulkarim Ismail Al-Arhabi, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and Dr. Mohamed Al-Kouhene, the WFP Representative in Yemen.

The agreement recognizes the inviolability of the WFP Country Office and its sub-offices together with the immunity of the WFP's property and personnel.

Additionally, the Government will grant transportation facilities for the import and delivery of food commodities as may be necessary for the fast and effective execution of WFP assisted activities, according to terms of the agreement. Meanwhile, the WFP will enjoy treatment for its official communications equal to that accorded by the Government to diplomatic missions and other UN organizations.

In return, the WFP will fulfill its mission of providing humanitarian and developmental assistance in accord with the principles of humanity, neu-



Abdulkarim Ismail Al-Arhabi, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, and Dr. Mohamed Al-Kouhene, WFP Country Representative, sign Basic Agreement. (Photo courtesy of the Yemeni Channel)

trality, and impartiality as specified in United Nations General Assembly Resolutions.

Al-Arhabi praised cooperation between Yemen and the WFP, emphasizing the need for bilateral cooperation in order to achieve common objectives.

Al-Kouhene thanked the Yemeni government for its generosity and support.

"The role of the Government in facilitating all aspects related to the implementation of WFP activities

including the import and delivery of food commodities and necessary equipment that the WFP requires in order to fulfill its mission is highly appreciated," he said.

Al-Kouhene made reference to the fact that the former Basic Agreement dates back to the period prior to Yemeni unification. He said that "This new agreement takes into consideration the new reality [in Yemen] and new ways to implement WFP activities to meet the needs of a unified Yemen."

ICRC and Yemeni Red Crescent provide humanitarian aid in Sa'ada

SANA'A, June 6 — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Yemeni Red Crescent Society this week completed a distribution of aid to the areas of Majz (Al Talh, Bani Mouath, Wal Massoud), Al Safra (Nushur), and the Al Sahar areas in Sa'ada province. Deliveries were made to households affected by fighting between local insurgents and government forces in late 2005 and early 2006.

On the basis of a survey carried-out in April, a team comprised of 3 ICRC and 14 Red Crescent staff members, including four volunteers from the Society's newly established Sa'ada branch, distributed household items

(blankets, mattresses, cooking stoves, gas cylinders, kitchen sets, and tarpaulins) to some 400 families whose houses had been damaged or destroyed in the skirmishing. In addition, four healthcare clinics will receive first-aid supplies in the coming days.

The distribution team determined that access to water is a critical area in which help is immediately needed. Preparations are therefore being made to repair water pumps in the area.

This is not the first time that the ICRC and the Yemeni Red Crescent Society have worked together. A year ago they came to the aid of people living in the Marran area of Sa'ada who

had been affected by fighting that had occurred the previous year. They distributed water filters and provided materials for the repair of 84 ponds used for water collection that had been damaged in the violence.

International humanitarian law strictly prohibits attacks on civilians not taking a direct part in hostilities. The Geneva Conventions also prohibit the destruction of water supplies, food-stuffs, and other items essential for the survival of civilian populations. The ICRC and the Yemeni Red Crescent are committed to meeting the urgent needs of people in the Sa'ada governorate and the surrounding area.

Yemen participates in First Forum for Gulf Family Companies

DUBAI, June 6 — Yemen took part in the First Forum for Gulf Family Companies, which started Tuesday in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates. The event was organized by the Saudi Law Training Center (SLTC) in cooperation with trade and industry associations located in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

The Forum involved 150 economists, businessmen, academics, judges, and lawyers from various Arab states, plus other non-Arab international experts.

Majed Al-Qarub, chairman of the SLTC, commenced Forum activities and welcomed Yemen's participation represented by delegations from large Yemeni companies, which he described as "distinctive."

"First, let me bid a special welcome to representatives of international companies in Yemen, who came to know about Gulf laws by operating in trade companies and stock markets and by integrating into the Gulf economic community. Yemen's participation is part of the country's preliminary steps for GCC admission," Al-Qarub said.

Al-Qarub pointed-out that the two-day forum would discuss many legislative and organizational challenges facing nearly 20,000 international companies with operations in the Gulf whose investments amount up to \$500 billion (USD) while their total assets and investment capital total some \$2 trillion (USD). These companies constitute 75% of private sector economy in the Gulf.

Mohamed Abdullah Al-Mulla, secretary-general of trade and industry associations of GCC member states, presented a speech in which he stated that "the Gulf Family Companies have played a distinctive and primary role in the modern economic development of the Gulf stated." These companies function as the main engine for economic growth outside of the petroleum sector, said Al-Mulla.

"Despite the fact Gulf Family Companies play an important role in economic recovery, they face several external and internal challenges threatening their survival. Such challenges force them to work on improving their state of affairs and enhancing their capabilities to survive, develop, and compete," Al-Mulla added.

YFMF holds successful workshop

The Yemeni Female Media Forum (YFMF) held a successful training workshop to enhance the role of Yemeni web sites regarding reforms and women rights issues.

Yemeni media has witnessed the mushrooming of more than 15 news web sites managed and updated regularly by practicing journalists at licensed newspapers, as well as freelancers wishing to take advantage of media possibilities made available through the internet. However, most such web sites lack the sophistication and skills required to cater to a demanding online audience, whether from fellow journalists and professionals in Yemen or Yemenis overseas.

Against this backdrop, YFMF successfully organized a training workshop for more than 30 journalists catering to online content. Sponsored by Friedrich Ebert, the workshop began June 7 at Hadda Hotel with 30 participating journalists discussing



Participants discuss the challenges of online journalism in Yemen.

the dynamics of online publishing and journalism. Key papers included identifying the realities of online journalism in Yemen, its influence on the audience and enhancing human rights promotion in Yemen.

YFMF director Rahma Hujaira indicated that this workshop fulfills a

need to train Yemeni journalists in new technologies, as well as solve problems that might obstruct timely reporting relevant to the audience by contrasting regular reporting and online journalism. Another focal point was reporting women's issues, one of the media's most pressing issues.

Iran gives cautious reception to nuclear offer

Iran on Tuesday gave a cautious reception to an international proposal aimed at resolving the crisis over its disputed nuclear drive, saying the offer contains "positive steps" but also "ambiguities."

The package, presented by European Union Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana, offers a variety of incentives and fresh multilateral talks if the Islamic republic agrees to suspend uranium enrichment work, which can make both reactor fuel and weapons.

"There are positive steps in the proposal, and there are also some ambiguities that should be cleared up," Iran's top national security official Ali Larjani said on state television.

"We consider that the Europeans will to solve the issue through talks is a correct step, and we welcome this," he said after receiving the proposal and



Iran's nuclear dabbling has the world community on edge.

the United States, Russia and China.

"Now that the proposal is on the table, I hope we will receive a positive response which will be satisfactory to both sides," he said after also meeting Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki and ending his whirlwind visit to Tehran.

Patience needed

Western officials have said Iran -- which has so far refused to freeze enrichment work -- will be expected to give its response within a matter of weeks.

Ali Larjani

A string of tough comments from Iranian officials have left many diplomats fearing that the offer could prove to be dead on arrival -- but Larjani asserted that it would be studied.

"They submitted the proposals and the discussions were good. We have to examine these proposals and then we will give our response," he said.

He did not elaborate on what the "ambiguities" were -- but Iran will

undoubtedly have questions over the scope and duration of a nuclear suspension.

Iranian officials have signaled they may be willing to hold off on industrial-scale enrichment, but they say "research" work cannot be halted.

While being offered carrots, Iran also faces the stick of robust Security Council action -- including a range of possible sanctions -- if it rejects the offer and continues what the West fears is a covert weapons drive.

"I would counsel patience," White House spokesman Tony Snow told reporters in Washington on Monday.

"At this point, as we've said all along, let's give it time. Let's let the Iranians take a look at what the offers are, at the incentives and disincentives."

"There is hope"

Although the United States has not ruled out taking military action, diplomats say it has helped sweeten the package by offering to lift certain sanctions if Iran agrees to an enrichment freeze.

"The condition for getting to the negotiating table is to suspend enrichment-related and reprocessing activities. That's the first step. Should that happen, then the whole series of other things can take place," Snow said.

"There's neither optimism nor pessimism; there is hope."

Iran maintains defiant stance

On Saturday, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad revealed that he had been asked by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan "to examine the proposals and not act hastily."

But the president has consistently ruled out halting enrichment: "They say that they want to give us incentives. They think that they can take away our gold and give us some nuts and chocolate in exchange," he said last month.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also vowed Sunday that his country would not buckle in the face of "threats and bribes" and spoke of Iran's "scientific progress" as "representative of our political independence and national self-confidence."

Washington, whose ties with Tehran were severed more than two decades ago, has banned most US trade and investment in the Islamic republic since the mid-1990s.



Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

South Africa's security mission in Iraq queried

There is an estimated 5,000-plus South Africans working in Iraq "doing Lord knows what," a South African official said on Tuesday.

South African defense department official Siviwe Njikela said in Cape Town that South Africa had a duty to oversee and regulate the activities of thousands of militarily trained citizens selling their skills abroad.

According to earlier report, South Africans are doing military and security jobs and providing vip protection in Iraq.

"If you keep dangerous animals in your yard, you have responsibility to ensure they don't get out and harm people," the official told the parliament's defense portfolio committee.

"If we have that kind of a population in Iraq, isn't it rather curious that we have no idea what they are doing there? The South African government should know -- that is the principle -- without infringing on their right to earn a living and practicing their profession," he added.

Committee acting chairman Oupa Monareng said a previous submission on the topic had put the number of South Africans providing security or military-type services in Iraq and other countries at about 20,000.

The Department of Foreign Affairs, however, has put the number at about 4,000. Source: Xinhua



Solana arrived in Tehran late Monday.

holding two hours of talks with Solana.

"We had good discussions," Solana said, while asserting that "there is a strong consensus between the six countries" behind the package. The offer has been drawn up by Britain, France and Germany and backed by

Migrant workers in Middle East denied rights: ICFTU

BRUSSELS, June 7 — Migrant workers, mainly from South Asia, make up the majority of the workforce in parts of the Middle East, yet enjoy 'few or even no rights,' a report by an international union group has said.

The report on labour rights violations around the world in 2005 has singled out the plight of migrant workers in the region for particular attention, according to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

"In some sectors they make up 80 per cent of the workforce, yet they are often denied a passport, blackmailed, and prevented from joining unions," Kurt Vannieuwenhuysse, head of union rights at the ICFTU, said on Tuesday.

From Kuwait, the report cited the example of 60 Indian workers who were expelled from the country "for protesting against miserable conditions and against payment delays."

It says migrant workers are 'shamefully exploited in a number of countries,' especially in Libya and Jordan, where unions are either entirely forbidden or subject to severe legal constraints.

In Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, "they make up the bulk of the workforce but are weak, vulnerable, mistreated and enjoy few or even no rights," the report continues.

In Jordan, "foreign workers cannot join a union, negotiate collectively or strike," the report notes.

Foreign workers in the United Arab Emirates have staged numerous strikes to protest against ill-

treatment and non-payment of their salaries.

There is one bright spot, though, in Qatar, which has drawn up new

labour legislation that allows free trade unions, "though it has a number of flaws," the report said.

Source: Press Trust of India

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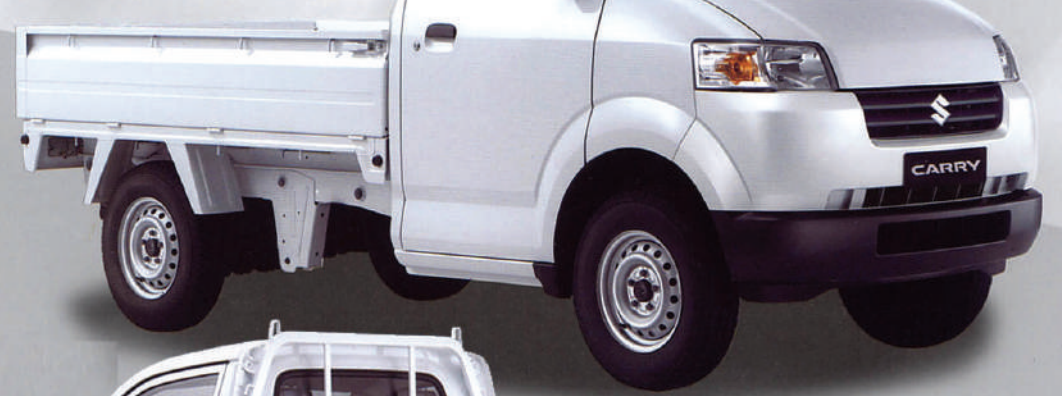
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لحياة أفضل

Disabled: 'We refuse to be treated like this'

By: Samar Mujalli
samarmujalli@hotmail.com

Upon entering Al-Salam School for the Handicapped, one can see how cooperative its students are. Those who can walk help those in wheelchairs, as students there understand each other's needs and try to help as much as possible.

The situation for the handicapped has changed for the better in recent years, as nowadays, education and more work opportunities are available to them. Unfortunately, such positive changes didn't include respecting and treating them normally.

"The disabled should be respected and admired for their determination in overcoming the daily challenges they face," said head of the Yemeni Society for Rehabilitating the Physically Handicapped, Ali Wijeeh, paralyzed in an accident 30 years ago. "The biggest dilemma the handicapped face - and mostly cannot overcome - is the wrong perception others have about disability. For many, disability equals not being able to do anything."

According to a survey conducted in 2006, there are 1.37 million handicapped individuals in Yemen, however, this number cannot be verified as accurate because many still deny having handicapped members in their families. Many disabled, especially in rural areas, spend their lives in locked rooms, never going out. They spend their lives alienated from people and alienated from their own abilities. In some families, the handicapped die without others even knowing of their existence.

Having a disabled family member



Some students like to help disabled people.



Disabled since birth, this young girl hopes for a better future.



A first grade class at Al-Salam School for the handicapped.

may give a family a less honorable position in society and might subject them to laughing and sarcasm by others because for many, disability is a shame. Some families believe having a handicapped individual in the family will drive away others and marriage might become an obstacle because of the disabled.

"For the handicapped to live a simple life and learn and work like anyone else, they must work twice as hard," said Nabil Al-Amari, a disabled teacher at the Yemeni Society for Rehabilitating the Physically Handicapped. "In order for the disabled to succeed, they must overcome their disabilities by socializing with others," he added.

Although mingling with non-disabled students is good, such students subconsciously may discourage and depress the disabled by feeling sorry for them. Also, their fellow students daily remind the handicapped about their dis-

abilities. Because socializing with others is the main reason for depression and self-despising, many handicapped choose not to suffer through it and eventually give up their education and ambitions.

"When I was studying in public school, I couldn't take the way girls looked at me when I walked. Before that, I didn't mind how long it took me to walk. Now I try to avoid people; therefore, I dropped out of school," said 20-year-old high school student Moshera Al-Dobase, who has an abnormality of her left leg.

Unfortunately, the handicapped don't only receive pitying looks in schools, but rather everywhere they go - even in their own families. When asked how others' attitude should be toward her and the disabled in general, Al-Dobase said, "I want them to understand that disability is my problem not theirs and if they want to help me, they should treat me normally."

According to 2002's Disability Law No. 2, five percent of the total workforce should be reserved for those with disabilities. At the Yemeni Society for Rehabilitating the Physically Handicapped, the physically challenged receive training for jobs that suit their abilities, like learning to use computers and the internet. Additionally, women learn sewing and handicrafts. Their ability to work has been proven during many competitions held between computer and language institutes, as the disabled students were so good and hard-working, they exceeded the other students.

However, work remains difficult for the handicapped. Gaining access to services and provisions remains restricted by many institutional disabling barriers. Inability to access the workplace leaves the disabled limited work opportunities; therefore, many social, political and cultural measures must be put into place in order to pro-

vide a suitable work environment for the disabled.

Mostly missing is acknowledgment and appreciation for disabled individuals' work, as many citizens refuse to buy their handmade products. In many cases, the handicapped stop working due to not finding a market for their products.

"We demand people judge our products by their quality and not by our disabilities. We need markets for our products and we need companies and factories to be cooperative and provide us with work," said 13-year disabled teacher Zenab Al-Fagih, who wants to work and provide work for her students.

"Everywhere we go, we are insulted. When we try to sell our products at exhibitions, we hear people tell each other to buy from us because we're handicapped. By saying that, they mean our work is bad and they only buy it as charity. If we wanted charity, we would

beg in the streets instead of working," disabled college student Fathea Al-Girsh said. "If our work is bad, we'd rather people told us so we can do better next time," she added.

Currently there are three specialist safety nets serving disabled individuals: the Social Welfare Fund (SWF) providing financial assistance to the needy including the disabled; the Social Fund for Development (SFD), a capacity-building organization, and the Fund for the Welfare of the Disabled (Disability Fund - DF), which provides funding for various disability rehabilitation projects.

Their disabilities are not what's keeping the handicapped from living a normal life in Yemen. In most situations, those around them are the ones responsible for isolating them destroying their dreams. The disabled believe that they undoubtedly are capable and productive and that it's about time others treat them that way.

Elham's story: A tale of survival

Below is the true story of a woman who ran away from her home because her father treated her ruthlessly.

By: Nawal Zaid

Elham Yahya lived with her poor family in a suburban Sana'a village when she was 14, the youngest of three sisters and seven brothers. Every morning, her family members worked in various agriculture fields owned by rich villagers so they could earn their living.

Elham's sisters married and went to another village. Being very poor, her brothers decided to leave for the city so they could find good jobs. The mother accompanied them, leaving Elham alone with her father Yahya, who was quite merciless.

She lived hard days with her father who, when finding nothing to do, vented his anger on her. He forced her to work and earn her own living, so she worked from early morning, returning in the evening in a state of utter fatigue, while Yahya received her with unkind treatment.

Once, finding no breakfast, he got so irritated that he hit her with an iron rod until she fell down. He sometimes threatened her with his fists if she didn't work and bring food. Years passed and he continued treating her ruthlessly.

One day, Yahya hit her so harshly that blood came from her head and the beating left marks on her body. To save her life, she decided to run away, taking the chance when her father went to meet his friends outside the village. In the misty darkness, Elham left her house and walked to the road leading to Sana'a city, sitting at the road's edge until a car came.

Upon seeing her, the driver, an elderly man, stopped his car. "What are you doing here?" he asked. "I'm very sick and I want to go to the hospital. Will you help me?" she replied. The driver, called Uncle Saleh, took Elham to the hospital where his son worked and she remained there four days in intensive care.

Yahya returned home and, much to his surprise, didn't find his daughter. He thought she was in the bathroom or had an errand, so he waited and waited, but in vain. As dawn came, worries began to occupy his heart, so at that point, he went out to search for her. Perhaps she stayed with neighbors, he wondered, so he searched for her in all the village homes.

He then told her mother and sisters the news, so they came to search for

her, but nothing worked. Her mother felt sorry and wept for Elham, regretting that she had left her alone.

Rumors circulated among the village that Elham ran away because she committed adultery with someone. Such rumors were fabricated by one villager. Day after day passed, but Elham didn't return. Her father became sick, as he was shocked, and didn't dare go out, as villagers repeated his daughter's story and defamed her name. Yahya kept asking himself, "Elham, where are you? What are you doing?"

Uncle Saleh's son, Ahmed, took much care of Elham until she recovered and he told her she could leave the hospital. Thanking him, she left, not knowing where to go. She sat by the hospital with tears filling her eyes. At that moment, Ahmed saw her as he was heading home.

"Why are you sitting here? Why didn't you go home? Where's your family?" he asked her. Still weeping, Elham replied, "I have no family, I'm alone. I don't know where to go." So Ahmed asked her to accompany him to his house, assuring her that he lived with his father and five sisters. She felt assured and decided to go with him.

Arriving home, Ahmed introduced Elham to his sisters, considering her his sixth sister. They received her kindly and consented to let her live with them, so Elham lived among them. As time lapsed, the five sisters married, so she

was alone again, now living with Uncle Saleh and Ahmed.

Uncle Saleh thought it wrong to allow Elham live with them, so it occurred to him to marry her to his son. Ahmed accepted the idea, as no one would speak evil of the family because she lived with them. So Elham married Ahmed and lived happily with the good uncle, but she continued thinking of her family and how her mother left her after marrying her sisters.

One day, as Elham was shopping for some clothes for her expected baby, she suddenly saw her sisters in the market. Panicking at the thought of talking to them, she hurriedly returned home and locked herself in her room, weeping painfully. Both her uncle and her husband were surprised to see her like that.

Ahmed asked why she was weeping, but she couldn't disclose the secret that had remained in her heart for seven years. Ahmed tried to discover why she was weeping, but she avoided giving him any information. A few months later, she gave a birth to a boy named Jalal. She was very happy with the baby, who became all she possessed.

Elham one day went to the garden for a walk in the company of her husband and child. While Jalal was playing, he got lost in the crowd, suddenly disappearing. Crying, Elham searched for him, but in vain. At that moment, she thought of her parents and how they must have panicked at her disappearance. She felt the same agony of a child's disappearance. Months passed, but there was no sign of Jalal.

Elham continued praying that God would return her child. Once, Ahmed and his father entered while she was praying and saying, "O God, why? Is this a punishment upon me because I ran away from my parents? My son disappeared while he was in front of my eyes. Forgive me, Almighty God. Return my son to me. I'm now searching for my son, as my parents are searching for me."

At that moment, Ahmed asked her to disclose the truth and her secret, assuring that he would help her. She retold her story to them, saying, "I ran away from home because my father used to torture me. I fear that if I return, they will kill me." The two men promised they'd help her return to her family.

Four months passed without finding Jalal, when an old woman one day

knocked at the door, carrying him. She said she'd spent four months searching for his family. Elham was happy to see her child finally home.

Ahmed and his father decided to go to Elham's village and tell all the villagers her story.

The next day, they purchased a bull as a sacrifice to Elham to offer her family.

Elham and Jalal accompanied them to her village. She was trembling with fear and hesitated, but Ahmed assured her that he would stand with her.

They arrived at the village, with residents gathering in the center of it as news spread that Elham had returned after seven years. Upon hearing the news, Elham's father took up his firearms and hurriedly went to kill her because she had disgraced the family.

Yahya arrived where the villagers were gathered and found Elham carrying a child. He stood in silence as the villagers looked at him. "Have you returned home bringing disgrace in your hands? This is your last day," Yahya said, pointing his gun at her. However, Uncle Saleh shouted and told everyone what had happened during Elham's seven-year disappearance.

The villagers began to wonder who Ahmed and Jalal were. Then, Ahmed said before them all, "This is my wife Elham and our son Jalal. Elham is an honest and pure woman."

Fearful, Elham fell to the ground. Feeling Ahmed was true, Yahya decided to forgive her and embraced his daughter warmly. The bull was slain and villagers fired into the air to express their happiness.



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Yemeni entrepreneur recounts life-story, describes bureaucracy as hurdle to foreign investment

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

For ages, Yemenis have been fond of trade and migration. They are, as confessed by a lot of people, creative people when away from their homeland. Most of them have achieved immense successes abroad, excelling at building social relations in their new environments. Throughout the Arab world, numerous successful Yemeni expatriates can be found that realized their achievements by their own hands.

In a recent visit to the U.A.E., I came to know about an exemplary Yemeni businessman, Mohammed Al-Amri, who has transformed himself from a simple employee in the Tax Administration in Yemen to a successful businessman. He directs a company that carries-out multi-dimensional activities: importing, exporting, cargo transport, travel services and tourism management. His holding group now manages sixteen companies.

An educated man who hopes Yemen to have a better future, Al-Amri suggests that

Yemen must create an investment-encouraging environment in order to progress. One way to lessen the burden of operating in Yemen would be to ease requirements for commercial deals, he suggested. Though he faced hurdles when intending to invest in Yemen, Al-Amri is still determined to invest in Yemen. He feels sorry for the mistreatment some of the employees at the investment bureaus of Aden mete out. He pointed-out that they diminish Yemen's status with their complex and boring routines. Al-Amri thinks that attracting capital to Yemen requires clear thinking and skilled personnel to carry-out the task.

To discuss the subject of foreign capital flows to Yemen and other subjects, the Yemen Times sat down with Mohammed Al-Amri for an interview.



Mohammed Al-Amri

YT: Please tell us something about your successful experience in the U.A.E.?

MA: Before I moved to the U.A.E., I worked in many jobs, the last one was at the tax authority where I came to know many Yemeni and foreign businessmen. Later, I obtained a visa to enter the U.A.E. in a visit to Dubai, with a sum of money equal to 150,000 (AED) and I started to think of investing this sum there. I started a company providing administrative services to institutions; with more efforts, the company expanded.

We tried our hands in other fields like importing, exporting, general agency, commercial mediation, land transport, and tourism services. Additionally, the company became an agent for many foreign airlines. We also founded the Najmat Aden Company for shipping, freight, and customs clearance. The company—moving goods from Dubai to Saudi Arabia, Europe, South Africa, Sudan, and Indonesia—has employed many agents and shipping lines.

YT: What are the reasons behind your heading to Emirates, rather than some other country?

MA: I was driven by ambition and the search for a prosperous future to move to the Emirates as working in Yemeni government is discouraging and full of com-

plexities and routine. When I started working in the U.A.E., I parted with my family for more than three years and suffered a lot, but I had a goal to achieve: to find a better future.

In regard to selecting the Emirates, Dubai has become an important center for international trade for all international companies due to the wise leadership of Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al

Maktoum who gave investors of all nationalities investment opportunities. Al Maktoum spread security and stability, important conditions for attracting investment from abroad. These reasons and many others make many entrepreneurs head to Dubai.

YT: What are the reasons for your interest in trade? Have you realized your ambitions?

MA: My interest in trade came from my father's work as a merchant, and through my constant interaction with merchants and investors during my life. This led me to have an integrated idea of all the rules and basics of trade. My trade ethics are built upon faithfulness in trade, as unfaithfulness soon leads to failure. Honesty is important for success in commercial enterprises. Moreover, honesty and faithfulness are part and parcel of Islam. Having clear and transparent transactions will make you perform quickly and it will not hinder your progress while

unfaithful dealings will cause you more problems and difficulties.

Regarding my ambition, I have undoubtedly achieved my ambitions. Yet, I have more ambitions, as I dream of an even better future with no hardships whether in Yemen or in the Emirates. As a Yemeni expatriate and businessman talking on behalf of businessmen in general, I wish to have more facilities in accordance with President Saleh's directives, aiming at phasing-out ineffectual routines that stall investment and eliminating difficulties so that Yemeni expatriates can reasonably invest in their homeland.

YT: As an emigrant Yemeni businessman, have you implemented any projects in your homeland?

MA: I want to assure you that I have had an old ambition to set-up many commercial projects in Yemen. Preparations have been made to set-up a chain of hotels in Aden and Taiz. I got support and facilities from President Saleh who directed the respective authorities to grant me a piece of land to set up my project. However, we were faced with a stifling bureaucratic process, making investors pointlessly circle between different government offices. There is interplay between these administrations that makes investors feel insecure.

Moreover, many government offices

lacking modern methods and are directed by those seeking personal aggrandizement above all else, thus creating a poor environment to woo investment to Yemen. As for myself, I was granted a piece of land on the Abyan coast, but was compelled to follow the directives of a plethora of bureaucracies, causing me to become quickly fed-up. Ultimately, the plan was suspended by the Construction Bureau of Aden. Being a Yemeni investor who knows both legal and illegal channels of getting things done, I felt awful. What would be the reactions of foreign investors, if my reaction was so bad? When an investor feels tired because of the overlap of authority between government agencies, he will choose to leave the country.

Unfortunately, an irritable employee at the investment bureau has the capacity to ruin the image of the country. I asked President Saleh to direct the respective authorities to consolidate into one investment authority and to close other channels of establishing business in Yemen. Investors need the rule of law and order to operate.

YT: Where do the problems lie exactly?

MA: Providing suitable soil for investment is, as I told you, a complex process that starts with a bold resolution to having an uncomplicated legal regime and atten-

tive employees willing to serve their country. Such personnel should administer the investment process and facilitate matters not complicate them. They should also be highly qualified and trained as all of us know that traditional ways of administration are no longer acceptable in managing investments. We need qualified employees with the ability to make use of innovative technologies like computers.

Investment sites should be clearly defined and maps detailing the extent of the sites should accompany their ownership as is the case across the world. Dubai is the best example in dealing with foreign investment, as it has attracted capital from across the world and has become one of the biggest cities attracting such investment.

I want also to assure you that the problem does not lie solely in legal provisions made to regulate investment as we have one of the best legal systems in the world. Rather, the problem manifests itself in the existence of corruption, which has warped the investment environment in Yemen. Furthermore, to have a better future for investment, we have to give the employee a gratifying salary in order to meet his needs and reflect his efforts on the job.

YT: Why have you focused on diagnosing the investment problem in Aden?

MA: I concentrated on Aden because it is the gateway for the upcoming investments in Yemen. Such investment could create thousands of jobs for the unemployed. Its location qualifies it to be one of the most important Yemeni cities, so why do we cripple it with people who fail to recognize its significance?

Other Yemeni cities do not suffer from such problems. For instance, the Hadramawt has more facilities for investment. The problem with Aden lies in the investment administration where most investors prefer to invest. Some of the malfeasant conduct of officials in Aden is not known to officials in Sana'a. I assure you that most Yemeni expatriates who considered investing in Yemen have been shocked by such conduct that demonstrate a substantial ignorance on the part

"Unfortunately, an irritable employee at the investment bureau has the capacity to ruin the image of the country"

of investment officials. Expatriate businessmen said that they were encouraged by the president's calls for investment in Yemen, but most officials do not understand that and these officials are unable to carry-out a wise policy.

YT: Currently, you direct businesses in Dubai and previously you worked in Yemen. What are some comparisons you can make?

MA: There is a big difference between the two countries, for Dubai is one of the most investment-attractive cities in the whole world and it has surpassed many significant cities. It is also a place where one can accomplish his ambitions, particularly in the field of business. Dubai allows businessmen to have more commercial relations through a lot of conferences and international festivals held there. All these activities exist due to the rule of law and order. In Yemen, we lack such fertile ground for investment to plant its roots and what is needed is willingness for our country to excel. I ask officials to help achieve that end.

YT: In spite of the difficulties facing investors in Yemen, will you continue to try to invest there?

MA: Surely, for I love my country and I will not set it back. Employees are not the same as they were and we have some good ones, but they lack their opportunity. Additionally, the president's call is what has encouraged me most to continue. I want to make many projects that can provide jobs for unemployed graduates. I ask President Saleh, together with high ranking officials, to fight corruption and to dismiss all employees that have proven unable to further Yemen's desire to attract foreign capital, as businessmen are fed-up with such employees.

Officials should focus on improving investment management and on being the magnet that attracts capital to Yemen. Yemeni expatriates will feel a sense of pride in developing projects in their homeland. Yet, all too often they are faced with many difficulties and problems, causing them to abandon the idea altogether.

"I was driven by ambition and the search for a prosperous future to move to the Emirates as working in Yemeni government is discouraging and full of complexities and routine"

"One way to lessen the burden of operating in Yemen would be to ease requirements for commercial deals"

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The elections farce

Several months ago, president Saleh stirred an apparently stagnant political pool by throwing in the stone of that refrains from running the elections. The stone churned up the pool's real disarrayed depth.

President Saleh's announcement was not taken seriously. His ruling party the General People Congress GPC seemed to have fully comprehended the message by refusing to deal with the announcement. Yet, they sought to mobilize public pressure to force the president to retreat. The political opposition represented by the Joint Meeting Party JMP, however, sought in a wicked manner to provoke the president to keep his word. On the other hand, the majority of the people were at a loss between the stance of the ruling party and the opposition. They were sinking in the worries of their suffocating crises of diminishing daily in addition to rampant unemployment and poverty that reaches the edges of famine.

Yemeni elections hardly have any significance save its ability to keep Yemenis away from wars. Yemeni history is full of wars, especially the recent 'red ones'. The Yemeni elections are to a far extent pretentious. They are almost an allegiance.

Most of Yemeni people are registered in voters' lists which contain several hundred thousands repeated names and the names of minors. The ten million voters are registered in a population that doesn't exceed twenty million, where 57% are minors and three million are expatriates. The supreme election committee is an ancillary of the ruling party and is obeying their unfair willpower.

Despite presidential elections being only three months away, the ruling party and the State insist on having elections under the supervision of a biased election committee using an illegal voters' list. This indicates an intended extortion of authority through false and undemocratic elections.

Since the opposition is reluctant to present a concurrent presidential candidate, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, the Islah leader, hints he is not in the least interested in these elections. He has declared his interest is limited to local



By: Abdulbari Tahir

councils' elections only. A declaration implying the sheikh is offering a barter for additional seats in the local elections and consequently the parliamentary elections. This is especially explained by the sheikh's interest in continuing the tribal-military coalition. When asked about the president's nomination in an interview in Al-Jazeera channel, Sheikh Al-Ahmar announced, "A devil you know is better than a human you do not know," which is commonly understood by Yemenis that accepting the worst you know, is better than the best that you do not know. However, the Islah leader has an option of compromise while the JMP seems deprived of all options.

Then there is the additional plight as both the Islah and the ruling authority air threats laced with. As the President declared "that the sleeping serpent has been turned loose", Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar, (Sheikh Abdullah's son), and an Islah member were calling for a public revolution. Have we reached the point where remaining in power is impossible without violence? Is the use of force the only way for the ruler to show legitimacy? Do those who demand their share of the cake have any other option than to resort to war games in which both sides are skilful?

Confining the crisis to the presidential and local elections does not present a clear picture of social dilemmas in Yemen. The ailments are not restricted to a lack of fair elections. It has other comprehensive diseases realized in the monopoly of power exercised executive authorities that are ultimately focused in the hands of the president. The dependent and unskilled corrupt judiciary system also reflects this. The parliament is an extension of the executive authority. There are no clear separations of the powers. They are all tangled in corruption. However, the clash among the influential ruling parties is one sided where among them and the powerful opposition the conflict is over interests. It is a struggle for redistribution of everything, including the 'sick man's' legacy.

Abdulbari Tahir is a Yemeni Journalist and the former chairman of Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate

Who benefits from the fall of Hamas?

It seems that an answer to this question does not require much thought and it can be produced by the tongues of Hamas' opponents before its supporters give an answer. The answer is that the real beneficiary will none other than the Israeli government and its supporters. Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority, Fatah, and other Palestinian factions will be the first to lose and not merely in areas related to the peaceful transfer of power through elections. The inevitable loss will be in the form of political disorder in Palestine and at the Arab and international levels due to a lack of confidence. The scene may be similar to what happened in Algeria when the military-backed state deprived the Islamist Salvation Front (FIS) of their expected electoral victory. Hamas has been judicious in avoiding a repeat of the errors



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

that FIS made because its issue is bigger and deeper than governance alone.

No one can argue that the Hamas-led government, since it came into existence under siege, has been targeted by enemies and friends alike. When the areas related to the peaceful transfer of power through elections. The inevitable loss will be in the form of political disorder in Palestine and at the Arab and international levels due to a lack of confidence. The scene may be similar to what happened in Algeria when the military-backed state deprived the Islamist Salvation Front (FIS) of their expected electoral victory. Hamas has been judicious in avoiding a repeat of the errors

front against Israel and her supporters. During crisis, Arabs tend to act whimsically with an urge to fulfill transitory desires.

Modern Arab political history have proven that the most perilous dilemmas stem from their subjective competition for power along with the fragile state of democratic traditions or its total absence. This makes people seeking power resort to exercising influence and using property without any supervision or check on their ambitions. If Arab governments were democratic, common political failures would not occur. Until the realization of a democratic era in the Arab world, conflicts and skirmishes between Arab countries will amplify, leading frequently weak governments to seek the aid of foreign governments, even at the cost of foreigners becoming the actual rulers in the states they assist.

Hamas gained power through elections, which even its enemies have

called free and fair saying they were conducted according to European and international standards. Hamas' opponents have stated that the Palestinians proved capable of expressing their will and they opened the door to the peaceful transfer of power. They added that the Palestinian people have opened a new page in the history of their country while being under an unique occupation. Along with other commentators, I am of the view that governance under foreign occupation does not merit such internal conflict. Further, governance should not be the cause of heated debates and momentary quarreling, often leading to internecine fighting and deaths of innocents, thereby magnifying the already existing tragedy.

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

To avoid checkmate, let the pawn of democracy pass

In the 1920's, Ahmed Lutfi al-Sayyid nominated himself for elections within his constituency of the West Delta district in Egypt. His contender was a notable and feudal lord in the area that did not enjoy the reputation Lutfi al-Sayyid possessed at the time. Lutfi al-Sayyid was the first Egyptian to assume the Presidency of the Egyptian university. An intellectual, with many supporters among Egyptians, he was prominent writer familiar with European and in particular with the French culture, as he had graduated from one of its faculties in Paris. Nevertheless, his contender managed to defeat him and keep him away from Parliament previously established in Egypt in 1896. Al-Sayyid was defeated by his competitor because the latter and his supporters had spread among Al-Sayyid's constituency that he was an "Infidel Democrat".

Democracy at the time was perceived as infidelity, similar to how the term secularism is currently perceived. The majority of the nation believes someone "secular" to be an infidel and an apostate



By: Atif Awad

of religion and our nation. Promoted until recently, democracy was considered an infidelity or at least a Western concept that had nothing to do with Arabic and Islamic culture. Some stated that the Shoura (consultation) system was analogous, but Shoura ways differ from the West's concept of democracy. The promotion of this idea was seen as serving the whims of its promoters. The same was said about democracy serving the interests of those connected to the throne of authority. Here democracy and its institutions as granting the Arab shah (ruler) and his philosophy that gave him complete authority, be it out of hereditary or heavenly right. It was said this type of democracy granted him this authority through unmatchable wisdom. The nation would then have to bow to heaven for granting it such a wise leader.

It was only logical then, for the Arab leader to begin demanding his people support this so-called democracy. He did this even if in doing so it was more in submission to another wave and deluge

that swept the earth and its nations. The deluge of democracy has become a sword wielded by Americans and Zionists against Arabs to adopt it as the only Way. The submission of the Arab ruler and his people to the deluge of American and Western democracy is an excuse to avoid overthrowing the shah or checkmate it and devour the entire Arab pawns on the chessboard. The Arab shahs (rulers) and their entourage do not believe in a democracy whose people and political parties aspire to shake them from their thrones nor in institutions who would call them accountable for everything. Therefore Arab rulers are not embarrassed to create new tricks and designs within that American-Western game called Democracy.

For this reason the Arab player now says to himself, his entourage and his nation: "Let democracy to pass to avoid the Arab checkmate or to have his throne shaken." Any individual of this nation who does not understand this game, has only to look around him to realize the truth. The truth is Arab rulers would not have accepted Democracy had it not been for fear of American pirates making an excuse to deal him a deadly blow. To internalizing this within the nation is

an escape from realizing an Arab checkmate.

Thus everyone witnesses elections held under states of emergency and extraordinary laws written, as well as witnessing Israeli artillery bombardment and America's destructive machines in Iraq. That is the game played by the Arab shahs and their governments, the Americans, the West and the Israelis. None of them are interested in the democracy that the Arab national, out of a deep naivety, has enthusiastically believes and gets burned with.

The question is will Arab shahs play into this democracy until some other new idea comes; until American or Western ideals disappear? Is democracy merely balloting boxes and media propaganda? Where are the civil and democratic establishments that without which there is no use for any elections? Has the Arab ruler really been checkmated with the sword of democracy, or by time and development which he does not understand and is powerless to stop? Would any Arab shah die because he is unable to listen to the steps of time and development?

Atif Awad is an Egyptian journalist and short story writer residing in Yemen.

Announcement

Invitation to Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Three Nos. New Single Screw Mooring Boats

Yemen Ports Authority (Port of Aden) intends to announce for the above tender.

The tender documents is available to bidding companies at a cost of US\$100.00

Quotations are to be submitted on 10th July, 2006

For collection of tender documents or more information, please contact:

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Tawahi – Aden**
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Letters to the Editor

Al-Hamidi's case by Mohammed al-Qadhi "Silver Lining"

I hope this finds you well. This is just to congratulate you on the excellent piece of writing you had on Al-Hamidi's case. I can't tell you how sad and proud I felt after reading the article. Sad to read about such a tragedy, and proud that we have such a fine Yemeni writers. You have written the article in a very humanistic and realistic way. It couldn't be better! Wish you all the best.

Esam Al-Ghorbani
alghorbani@worldbank.org

Islamic State vs Imperial State

Orientalist's distorted version of history, coupled with the legacy of exploitation of colonialist occupiers of past and present, has led a many to view the caliphate as an acronym of the same imperial system.

In principle however, the reality defies this abstract notion.

The regions ruled by Islam under caliphate - though constitutes various

racess and religions, all being linked to one central place - are not ruled by an imperial system but by a system contradictory to the imperial system.

The imperial system does not treat races equally in the various regions of the empire; rather it gives privileges in the ruling, finance and economy to the centre of the empire.

Contrary to this, the Islamic way of ruling establishes equality between the subjects in all the regions of the state. Islam grants non-Muslims who hold citizenship, the full rights and duties that Muslims have. They enjoy the same fairness as Muslims and are subject to the same accountability like them. Furthermore, every single citizen, regardless of his or her creed, enjoys rights that even a Muslim living abroad who holds no citizenship does not enjoy.

With this equality, the Islamic system differs completely from the imperial one. It does not make the regions under its ruling into colonies, areas of exploitation, nor a source of wealth

funneled back into the central region for its own benefit, no matter how far apart they were, and no matter how different their races were. It considers every single region as a part of the state and its citizens enjoy the same rights as those in the central region. It also makes the ruling authority, its system and its legislation the same in all the regions.

Hence, given the current trends of globalization presently lead by capitalist nations, and the subsequent winds of oppression that have enveloped many a places, the revival of Caliphate would serve as in idealistic way forward, for entire humanity both at home, and as well as the international screen.

Sharique Naeem
Lahore, Pakistan
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Boring website

I am a Yemeni immigrant in the US. I have loved this newspaper since (Almarhoon..Alssaqaf) the founder

was alive before he had a car accident. It was a good paper and a great source of information about Yemen. The Internet version setting was so good and so beautiful. Now, it is boring: the new setting is not good at all and it lost its popularity around the world. You guys need to use the same setting and the same way of posting or reporting the news as other papers. Can you add Yemeni live radio broadcasts or live Yemeni television to your website so that readers can watch or listen to our country's news and other live programs like every country in this world?

Walid
walid7_2000@yahoo.com

Thank you for your interest in the Yemen Times. The bad news is that we acknowledge that the website is boring and needs updating. The good news is that we are almost done with our new site. We plan to launch it in July or by August at the latest.

—The editor

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Education For All

International commitments: Time to act (Part-II) EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 (9/9)

When 164 governments adopted the six Education for All (EFA) goals in 2000, they espoused a holistic vision of education spanning learning from the first years of life through adulthood. In practice, achieving good-quality universal primary education (UPE) and gender parity, two of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, has dominated attention. As the United Nations Literacy Decade unfolds, the *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006* aims to shine a stronger policy spotlight on the more neglected goal of literacy – a foundation not only for achieving EFA but, more broadly, for reaching the overarching goal of reducing human poverty.

Part V assesses international commitments to basic education, including literacy, in light of the considerable expectations surrounding pledges in 2005 to increase aid substantially over the next five years.

Increasing aid's potential

While financing education is the primary responsibility of national governments, the world's poorest countries require predictable, long-term aid to carry through essential policy reforms. Such aid is particularly crucial to meet recurrent costs – salaries, textbooks, learning material and day-to-day administrative expenses – in countries with insufficient revenue to finance the steps necessary to achieve EFA. Aid can support governments in financing the cost of abolishing school fees – an essential move for achieving UPE. It can promote more equitable budget allocations to basic education and finance the professional development of teachers, large numbers of whom need to be recruited if EFA is to be achieved by 2015. The argument that aid should be deferred in countries that cannot cope with an

influx of additional money does not advance education's cause. A more constructive approach would be to ensure that aid helps raise countries' capacity for managing the necessary education reforms. To be effective, aid must be better coordinated, as previous Reports have consistently argued. A further positive step was taken in 2005 when over 100 countries endorsed the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. Designed to reform the ways in which aid is delivered and managed, the declaration emphasizes the need to better align aid with national development strategies, to harmonize donor practices and to put a stronger focus on managing for results. In the field of education, the endeavour to provide more and better aid is reflected in the work of the Fast Track Initiative (FTI), including its close collaboration with the DAC. While the FTI is an important example of donor harmonization, it has not yet mobilized significant additional resources for EFA.

Donors are experimenting with other approaches to make their aid more effective: silent partnerships are a case in point. Relatively recent in education, these occur when a country channels funds through another bilateral agency. This lessens the burden of aid procedures and entails no staff costs for the 'silent partner'. In Malawi, for example, the Netherlands channels funds through the United Kingdom's Department for International Development to support the country's education sector plan. Canada, France, Norway and Sweden are exploring similar partnerships in several sub-Saharan African countries.



A woman deeply engaged in a literacy class in Venezuela.

Investing in skills

Technical assistance is a vital part of aid. It helps strengthen the knowledge and skills of those responsible for managing education sector reform. It may apply to such fields as teacher training, textbook and curriculum development, school management and the decentralization of education provision. Although one-quarter of bilateral aid to African countries is channelled into capacity-building, the

track record of technical cooperation is not strong. Efforts to harmonize aid should systematically include attention to technical assistance and cooperation, particularly at the country level, where the proliferation of sources of expertise continues. Recent studies point to the value of pooling technical assistance funds, a practice that remains all too rare. A premium should be placed on improving the knowledge base and sharing knowledge among countries with comparable problems. A more forceful international debate on how to better coordinate technical assistance in education is needed.

At pretty much the same time that Secretary of State Rice and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert were discussing the best means to weaken Hamas by strengthening President Mahmoud Abbas, the House was overwhelmingly voting for a bill that, in the eyes of many in Israel and the United States, would prop Hamas up.

As General Dan Halutz, the IDF chief-of-staff, told the Knesset, "The fact is that the monies are not being funnelled in, but the economic pressure in my view will not accelerate the collapse of the Hamas government." On the contrary, the fund cut-off was building support for Hamas by allowing it to play the victim. That surely is not the intention of those who voted for the bill.

But, as was widely reported, the bill did not pass based on its merits. Voting "yes" was the path of least resistance. On the other hand, the mere rumour that a House member was considering voting against it brought down upon them the wrath of lobbyists who made their displeasure known in explicit and sometimes ugly ways.

Along these lines it is worth noting that one supporter of the bill, Rep. Gary Ackerman of New York, had his Edward R. Murrow moment when he went out of his way to defend opponents of the bill from lobbyists' charges that they were "giving support to terrorists".

While emphasizing his own support for the bill, Ackerman said that "for

but is very far from being universal. In recent years, several countries – among them Brazil, Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Senegal and Venezuela – have devoted increasing attention to adult literacy, joining those, such as Bangladesh, China and India, that are achieving impressive results as the result of efforts during

the 1990s. Political commitment to a rights agenda focused on improving the quality of life of every citizen is a starting point for framing explicit national policies on literacy at all levels of education, with special emphasis on the most disadvantaged groups of children, youth and adults. Such policies must be underpinned by the vision of dynamic literate societies that encourage individuals to acquire literacy skills and to use them over time.

The 2005 gender parity goal has been missed, but now is the time to build on progress made, and reaffirm the commitment to it and to all the EFA goals by paying particular attention to issues of access (abolishing school fees), quality (better training for more teachers) and the learning environment (safe schools, books for students, school health initiatives and adult programmes adapted to adult

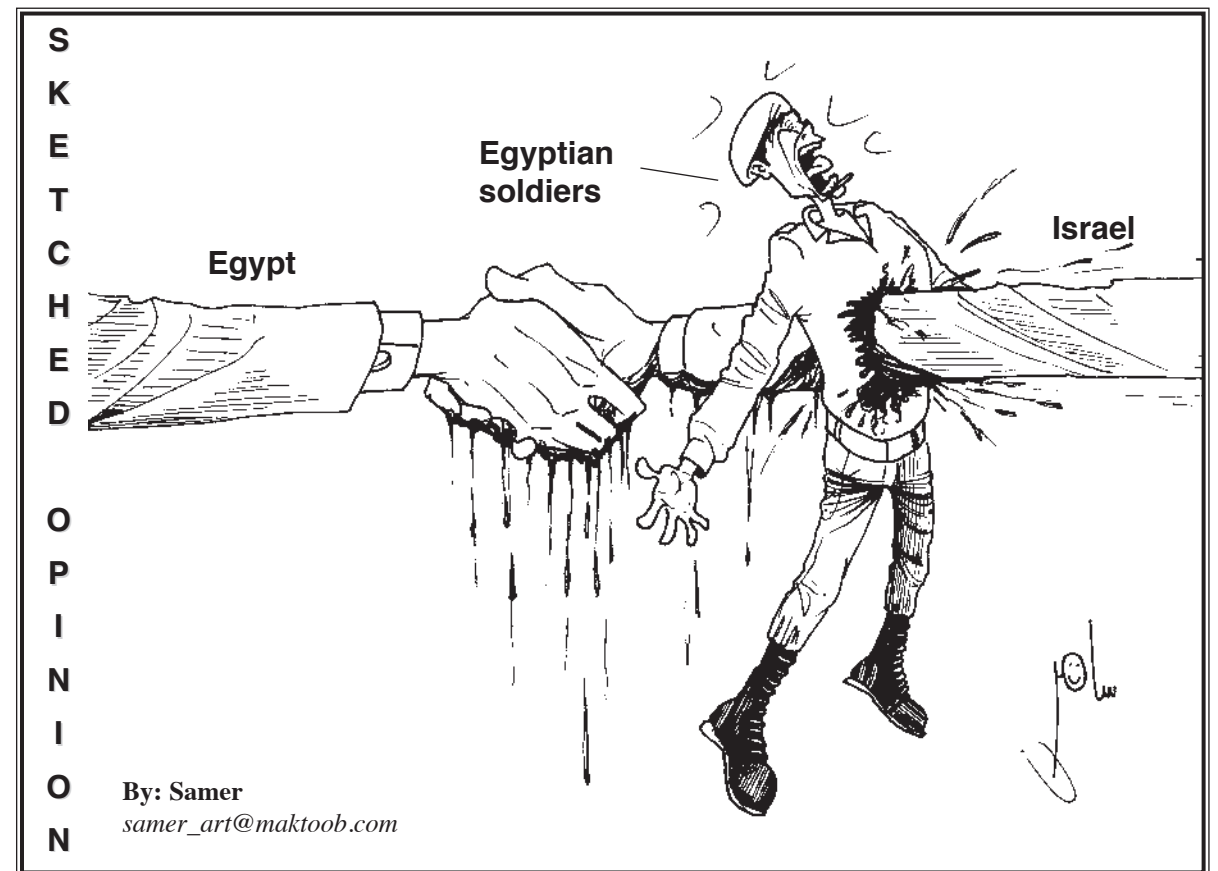
learners' needs). The powerful connections between parental education and children's schooling further reinforce the imperative to make adult literacy a priority in developed and developing nations. For commitments to be met, public funding for basic education must continue to increase and be allocated more efficiently, with particular attention to equity. Literacy typically receives a mere 1% of national education budgets, a share that must rise if the Dakar literacy goal is to be achieved, if governments are to meet their public policy and financial responsibilities, and if literacy educators are to be professionalized and salaried.

Donors must honour their Dakar pledges. Assuming that the share of funding that goes to basic education remains constant, the increased overall aid flows pledged at the G8 summit

could by 2010 result in an annual total of only US\$3.3 billion for basic education. This is still far short of the US\$7 billion a year estimated as necessary to achieve UPE and gender parity alone, without any allowance for adult literacy or ECCE. A doubling of aid to basic education beyond that currently anticipated would bring the international community closer to meeting its commitments and to achieving the EFA goals for 2015.

It is vital that the case be made strongly for EFA in the follow-up to the G8 decisions and the outcomes of the September 2005 United Nations World Summit. This aid must go to countries with the gravest basic education challenges and be better coordinated so that it makes a tangible difference. The groundswell of support for halving the number of people living in extreme poverty in the next decade must translate into long-term commitments that recognize the indispensable role that education – with literacy at its core – plays in bettering the lives of individuals, their communities and nations.

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Getting to yes

anyone to indicate, in so noxious a way, that people whose views might differ from their own, support America's enemies, is an approach reminiscent of the Taliban."

Ackerman's statement is, of course, both true and obvious. At the same time, Ackerman's generous move is all too rare (in fact, I can remember no previous instance) in the long history of Congressional debates over the Israel-Palestinian issue.

Could it be a new day?

More good news came from the Senate that, as expected, is on the verge of passing its own Hamas sanctions bill which eliminates the defects that marred the House version. It distinguishes between Hamas and non-Hamas Palestinians, allows for aid to President Abbas and agencies under his control, and allows the President to provide aid as necessary to advance U.S. interests. This is precisely what critics of the House bill had pushed for, not to mention the Bush administration which, not surprisingly, wants to preserve the President's flexibility.

Meanwhile, in Ramallah yesterday President Abbas said that if the Hamas government does not announce its acceptance of Israel and the two-state solution within ten days, he will, as President of the Palestinian Authority call for a referendum in which the Palestinian people can themselves decide on their own future. They will be asked to choose between a West Bank/Gaza state or continuing the war to achieve all of historic Palestine.

According to Reuters, Palestinians would be asked if they approve the following provisions of an agreement that was reached after negotiations among the various Palestinian factions:

- A negotiated settlement with Israel if the Jewish state withdraws from land occupied since the 1967 Middle East war.
- Continued resistance – focusing

on peaceful means – on land occupied since 1967.

- An independent Palestinian state on all land occupied since 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital.

- A unity Palestinian government among all factions, including Hamas and Fatah.

- Guaranteeing the right of return of Palestinian refugees to their former homes inside Israel and the release of all Palestinian prisoners in Israel.

- Speeding up efforts to incorporate Hamas and Islamic Jihad into the umbrella Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). (The PLO charter recognizes Israel.)

Abbas knows which side would win that referendum; a clear majority of Palestinians have indicated in public opinion polls that they are ready for compromise. Once it passes, Hamas would have no choice but to back down from the limb on which it is so precariously standing or to lose credibility and, very likely, power.

And Prime Minister Olmert – who told Congress that before he proceeds with further unilateralism he wants to pursue negotiations – would have not only a negotiating partner but one with a mandate.

Of course, virtually no one in Israel would accept the terms of the intra-Palestinian agreement. But that isn't the point. The document, if adopted, allows both Israelis and Palestinians to go back to where they were before the second intifada broke out, which means moving toward negotiations over security, borders, settlement blocs, the status of Jerusalem and refugees.

The Palestinian document would serve as a statement of their maximum demands. The Israelis, for their part, would demand retention of settlement blocs, full control over Jerusalem, and a ban on refugee return.

Agreement, if reached, would be

somewhere in the middle.

The main thing is to get the process moving. If it doesn't, Prime Minister Olmert will move unilaterally on his realignment plan, as he has every right to do. But, even then, final borders for Israel (and a Palestinian state) can only be arrived at through negotiations, whether sooner or later.

Let's hope for sooner. All in all, this is a moment of promise.

Following the mid-term elections, President Bush begins the last lap of his Presidency. But he has more than enough time to help the Israelis and Palestinians back to negotiations.

Prime Minister Olmert is ready. As he told Congress on Wednesday, "With a genuine Palestinian partner for peace, I believe we can reach an agreement on all the issues that divide us. Our past experience shows us it is possible to bridge the differences between our two peoples. I believe this - - I know this...."

On Thursday, President Abbas said, "There is an overwhelming majority among the Palestinian people for peace, an overwhelming majority in favour of an agreement with Israel." He added, "We cannot say no to everything – what can we say yes to?"

That applies to both sides. Getting Israelis and Palestinians to "yes" won't be easy. But it can be done. And President Bush and Secretary Rice can help make it happen. It is their choice.

M.J. Rosenberg is the Director of Policy Analysis for Israel Policy Forum. He is a long time Capitol Hill staffer and former editor of AIPAC's Near East Report. The views expressed in IPF Friday are those of M.J. Rosenberg and not necessarily of Israel Policy Forum. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) and can be accessed at www.commongroundnews.org.

Improving efficiency in Yemen: Is Saleh's call enough?

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali
and Raidan Al-Saqaf

A recent presidential appeal that called on the Yemeni people to become more productive has resulted in varied reactions and impressions from its intended target, while opposition parties have determined that the appeal lacked candor. Moreover, the businesses dependent on the local labor market have concluded that Yemeni society suffers under a set of barriers which limit its productivity.

Surveying opinions on the subject, the Yemen Times found that opposition figures in political parties believe that nothing is impossible provided a genuine political will for change exists and that the Yemeni leadership is just in the utilization of national resources towards infrastructure development in all governorates while focusing on populous and impoverished areas.

Sources in opposition parties said enhanced efficiency is only possible if corruption is eradicated so that one's work becomes the sources of one's wealth and power and not the current situation where nepotism and cronyism are the rule of the day. They added that any single-handed move towards increased productivity is unachievable in the meantime, in spite of the fact that the Yemeni people are hardworking, skilled, and talented as the current political context discourages honest, hardworking people to prosper without having to get their hands dirty in corrupt activities.

Having said that, these sources pinpointed several obstacles to increased productivity, of which the primary hurdle is the non-existence of a national plan to invest in human capital: vocational training is not widespread enough to make a difference; and earnings from national resources are ear-



The Yemeni labor force is estimated at 5.83 million persons. Unemployment in Yemen stands at 35%.

marked for projects that largely fail to develop the country. Accordingly, "Such projects help the country's development in minimal ways and result in increased unemployment and migration from rural to urban areas. Such is the direct result of mismanagement of resources and governance by telepathy, believing in strategies that are distant from the current and future needs of the country", opposition figures demurred.

Opinions of the average working man were much the same. Abdu Saleh, a plumber by trade, said that any such speech on productivity is nothing but a mockery of the working man. "We spend up to 12 hours working each day, while those who speak of productivity

rest in their ivory towers," said Saleh. He added that "They specialize in wasting public funds on projects irrelevant to the working man, using their corrupt talents in making our livelihoods even more complicated, and frustrating." Saleh's assistant plumber noted that "Regardless of how hard you work or how much you save, at the end of the day you are broke and in debt, prices rise and everything is more expensive."

"I'm a professional in what I do, however, I was unable to get a job with the Department of Water and Sanitation in spite of my qualifications because the recruitment process with this government agency is flawed, based on private relationships and

mediation, not merit and qualification. You see so many fellow professionals unemployed; meanwhile amateurs get the good jobs."

Radhya Ahmed, a textile worker, said that "The issue is about transparency. If we are to become more productive, we have to see and touch the results of our work, and with that our productivity habits would be reformed, since the person who works hard is valued and merited while those who do lousy jobs are derided. If I work harder than my peers I will not be recognized, and therefore I have no reason to exert any additional efforts." She mentioned that many her coworkers feel likewise.

Intellectuals and academics suggested that with corruption rife, and public and private sector organizations largely dysfunctional, efficiency has become an alien concept in Yemen. Several people interviewed suggested that change can be driven by the 'spill-over effect'. For example, by attracting investors throughout industry who can introduce sophisticated management systems and quality control standards, higher levels of efficiency could be realized. Such a method would not only reward efficiency but will also make it a habit. However, most investors in Yemen are discouraged by the many legal and extra-legal obstacles to investment as well as by the mindset of the Yemeni labor in general, which has not operated in a work environment that rewards efficiency.

Although Yemen has a considerable pool of skilled labor, efficiency is a far-fetched idea in the short run and will only be realized at very few organizations. Yemen requires a serious cultural change sparked by the willpower of a frank leadership dedicated to increasing efficiency starting at the governmental level. Such action in the public sphere would spill-over into Yemeni society.

Business In Brief

COCA launches anti-corruption campaign

The Central Organization for Control and Audits (COCA) organized a three day training seminar for its employees and associates in order to launch an anti-corruption campaign within COCA. This comes as a part of a package of institutional and legislative reforms which was approved by the Council of Ministers in January 2006 with the intention of fighting corruption within governmental institutions.

A draft law will be presented shortly to restructure the COCA transforming it into a more efficient body specifically with regard to the detection, monitoring, and handling of corruption cases. Furthermore, the new draft law will allow the COCA to enjoy an expanded mandate coupled with enhanced authority and independence from the legislative branch, along with bringing all government agencies under the purview of the COCA to identify cases of corruption and take suitable measures.

DNO confirms new oil discovery

DNO of Norway confirmed a new discovery of oil in Block 32 in Godah, located approximately 12 km east of the Tasour Field. DNO plans to equip the well with an electrical submersible pump as it has the potential to produce oil in commercial quantities. The find will increase production and reserve estimates within the block. DNO assumed control of operations over the Tsour field in 1998 and began oil production in 2000. Today, DNO is Yemen's fourth largest producer of oil.

Prince Sultan lays groundwork for development projects in Mukalla

Saudi Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz laid the cornerstones for several projects that will carry his name including a hospital, a cancer research center, and a technical college in Mukalla during the 17th round of the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council held in Mukalla on June 1-2.

Yemeni-Saudi bilateral relations have reached new heights with the signing of a border treaty last week, ending decades of bitter border disputes, and in turn shifting the focus of the relationship to economic development and mutual business concerns.

GCC donors visit Yemen to prepare for London conference

A delegation of several funding organizations and donors based in the Gulf Cooperation Council region will visit Yemen next week in order to prepare for the London donors' conference to revitalize Yemen's economy to be held in November.

Dr. Motaah Al-Abasi, Deputy Minister of Planning, indicated that the delegation will include representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council's General Secretariat. The

delegation will meet with various Yemeni officials and technical cooperation agencies from June 12-16 to discuss the ministry's plans for the donors' conference. This visit has the main objective of discussing technical aspects of cooperation and is a follow-up of the Riyadh meeting held in April, said Al-Abasi.

Chambers of Commerce link-up in Najran and Hadramawt

Hadramawt's Chamber of Commerce signed a memorandum of understanding with the Saudi Najran Chamber of Commerce on June 4 in a gambit to establish strong bilateral ties in terms of trade and investment. In addition, the accord seeks to improve information sharing and the coordination of efforts to hold several trade conventions and exhibitions.

Al-Wadhya crossing opens

The Al-Wadhya border crossing in the Hadramawt governorate has officially opened as a trading gateway between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The gateway has a customs office equipped with an automated customs system (ESCUA) that will facilitate customs operations for businessmen. Additionally, the border crossing has been outfitted with storage facilities that can hold agricultural and other goods.

China's Sinoma to build a cement plant in Mukalla

Sinoma International, a Chinese firm, has signed an agreement with the Yemeni-Arab Cement Company to construct a cement manufacturing plant in Mukalla at a total cost of \$260,000 (USD). The factory is to be built within three years, with a production capacity up to 1.4 million tons of cement per annum.

Arab Bank takes in record profits

Arab Bank-Yemen has achieved record profits totaling over YR 1.66 billion in 2005, an increase of YR 543 million from 2004. Among the leading banks in Yemen since 1963, Arab Bank operates ten branches nationwide.

Sony Ericsson open sales in Yemen

Sony Ericsson reinforced its pioneering global position in digital mobile music through the launch of its mobile phone line in Yemen. The Ghamdan Group has announced that a range of Sony Ericsson mobile phones are now on sale at its subsidiary Future Telecom as well as at select retailers.

Sabafon, Beecell launch mobile content services

Beecell announced that it has joined with Sabafon to launch SMS and MMS content services in the Yemeni market. Beecell provides a variety of mobile content using advanced technology which is capable of delivering mobile services to various mobile platforms and operators.

Upswing in counterfeit currency, drugs in Yemen

By: Yemen Times Staff

Security forces are investigating the current explosion in the number of forgery cases which have created a sense of suspicion in the local Yemeni market. The number of uncovered forgeries have dramatically increased in the last two months, reflecting a high level of professional skill in the printing of counterfeit currency.

Alarmingly, officials have connected various forgery cases as the style and tactics employed are almost identical, resulting in the conclusion that forgers have developed small networks of organized criminals to manufacture and leak counterfeit currency into the mar-

ketplace. The most recent incident uncovered was a few days ago in the city of Hajja, where counterfeit money was used to purchase gold from an elderly jewelry retailer worth over YR 200,000.

In a related development, a stock of bogus pharmaceuticals was captured in a storage facility in the Sana'a. The imitation drugs were on their way to be sold under fake brand names. Security forces have since arrested the owner of the goods, who indicated that he was "one of many" who undertake such illegal activity in the manufacture and sale of imitation drugs, claiming that the stagnating market conditions forced him to do so in order to stay solvent. Additionally, 17 food retailers are

under investigation in Sana'a for the overweighing of foods being sold including sugar, flour, and rice. The illegal practice was detected through a random sampling routine of food retailers as a part of a nation-wide inspection program instituted by the Consumer Protection Agency. The agency has also reported that stocks of expired consumer goods have been relabeled and repacked to indicate a false expiration date.

The recent surge in forging indicates that the local market needs a stricter monitoring mechanism and increased enforcement of existing legislation in order to eliminate organized forgery and the retailers who buy their illegal products.



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- Excellent oral and written communications capabilities; strong organizational, research/analytical and presentation skills. Spoken and written fluency in English and Arabic.
- Strong computer skills; proven ability to use standard and customized technology packages, e.g., Internet, Word, Lotus Notes, PowerPoint, Excel and basic knowledge of Web Editing.
- Knowledge of social, political and development issues in Yemen.
- Personal and professional integrity, self motivation and proven ability to work under minimum supervision and as part of a team.
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- Maintain current knowledge of all operations in Yemen and ensure that all relevant documentation is available in a timely manner.
- Routinely advise the organization's staff on proper disclosure procedures; provide expert advice to external audiences on the implementation of the policy and contribute to the country's media monitoring services. Provide input and content for the Public Information Center's web site and ensure its information is up-to-date.
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Zamil: The art of popular chanting

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

One of the most popular chanting styles in Yemen is zamil, a type of well-composed verse, each poem usually consisting of two-line stanzas but sometimes a different number of lines. Zamil usually is composed for chanting loudly by a group of people for various purposes, both in peace and war times, as well as on numerous social occasions and at tribal gatherings.

No clear indication in Yemeni history can tell when or how this popular poetry style originated. In his description of zamil, the great writer Al-Baradoni referred back to a story of tribesmen from earlier in history. During hard times of some ruling tyrants, the tribesmen fled to mountain caves where in the dark night, they heard some unseen chanters repeatedly singing persuasive verse in the popular dialect, chanting:

*Damn your belittled face.
There can be no welfare after war.
But when we are destined to fight,
Our great deeds will tell you more.*

The tribesmen listened and then memorized those enthusiastic words and threats against enemies and derived their own style of chanting similar poems. However, the art of zamil singing is not believed to be derived from that tale. In fact, it initiated in Yemen long before the Islamic era, coming into existence as the result of the necessity of Yemeni tribesmen to chant war poems and challenge the enemy, to celebrate victories and chant other pieces of poetry on various social occasions.

The nature of life in Arabia, with its aspects of ancient wars between tribes and rivals and the way armies used to head to battlefields accompanied by the sound of drums and warriors chanting words of persuasive verse aroused the necessity for innovation of war zamil or persuasive verse chanted by warriors.

Other types and purposes for zamil later were introduced in adapting to life requirements and social environment needs. For instance, at the coming of

Islam, welcoming zamil was innovated as tribesmen made their way to Medina to profess Islam.

Because of the fact that the art of zamil chanting was unable to reach out to other neighboring countries, it has succeeded in retaining its own special features and unique flavor apart from external impacts. Even with its peculiarities, zamil has surpassed all other local poetry styles and the reasons are as follows.

First, the theme denoted by zamil clearly can be abstracted and understood perfectly due to the limited number of stanzas comprising a single poem. The poet must squeeze the extracts of his creativity to arrive at a very concise poem, rich with metaphorical expressions, similes and other rhetorical images. With as few words as possible, he must convey a very expressive meaning, which accounts for how zamil poetry is coupled with the use of symbolic expressions.

Moreover, zamil poets are very selective in their vocabularies because the stanza he presents is expected to be responded to by another poet or recipient.

For instance, a father chanted the following words on the occasion that his son intended to leave the family house for his own independent residence. The father portrays the sense of a bird's weak points, saying:

*O bird, how far you fly away in the sky.
No matter -- soon you must come down a day
To quench a thirst that you will suffer.
Surely, your wings cannot hold water.*

On the other hand, the son portrays the sense of birds' advantages and replies:

*The flying bird is hard to catch.
With the help of his wings, a farther point he can touch.*

*Only foolish birds build nests nearby,
A place which is aimed by every passerby.*

Secondly, zamil is most distinguished among other lyrical poetry styles and known for its widespread popularity because it tackles issues of public interest and mostly is associated with events or occasions that circulate in the minds of

subsequent generations.

One such occasion dates back to 1948 after Imam Yahya's assassination and Sana'a city was experiencing a state of robbery. The new Imam Ahmed's poet was heard chanting:

O you there, who should be kept well alerted.

The money usurped by all to be submitted.

Doing not, the imam's glazed sword is awaiting

And his enormous soldiers are anticipating.

Thirdly, contemporary daily language is selected when composing the poetry of zamil songs. Use of common dialect is explained in the sense that zamil was a product of daily social life, expressive of individuals' status and reality and their internal and external reactions with the social environment.

Consequently, zamil poetic style was enriched with daily demands of tribal life and tribesmen conventions, traditional peculiarities, rituals, hostilities, compromises and problems' solutions, in addition to aspects of peacetime life. Moreover, zamil offered a scope for individuals to indulge in expressing their spiritual life and philosophical view toward human experience in the world at large.

Zamil's lyrical poetry represents the social implications of life and it has dived profoundly into the human facets of individuals' lives to come up as integral part of social fabric with all its tribal features, conventions, customs and daily life routines.

Furthermore, zamil sometimes is becoming more influential and could be an accountable mover to the state of tangled war and at times, a means of compromise and a peacemaker.

It also could provoke unquenchable thirst for blood and revenge between tribes, be a rapid eradicator of all motives and causes behind hostilities and spare the lives of many.

It was said that a young man once mistakenly killed his fast friend. The killer's father took his son with him and made their way to the victim's father. Upon arrival, the killer's father was

heard chanting a zamil, saying:

God only knows and people around can testify,

The killing of your son was not an act of intention.

It was a destined decree that no one can rectify

And the matter is now left up to your kind attention.

Despite the serious situation in which the father's victimized son was put, zamil's social and ethical implication urged him to reply in a generously tolerant way, saying:

Welcome, my two guests, from that far destination.

We have your versed words, foreshadowing inclination.

Sure, you'll know how generous people redress a situation.

Your arrival before us shall clear all sort of intimidation.

As such chanting, zamil style also was considered a means of expressing wise reactions to serious and problematic situations. Besides, zamil's role was emphasized more in tribesmen's lives, as it was more expressive of resolutions agreed upon by hostile parties. Zamil was a way to sum up in wise sayings and expressions the judgments, arbitrations and resolutions to inter-tribal problems.

In addition to this, zamil style of lyrical poetry stems from the individual personality and is being fed on all supreme meanings of human values, ideal morals in society and national concepts. These factors are all influential for zamil's existence and long life in people's minds.

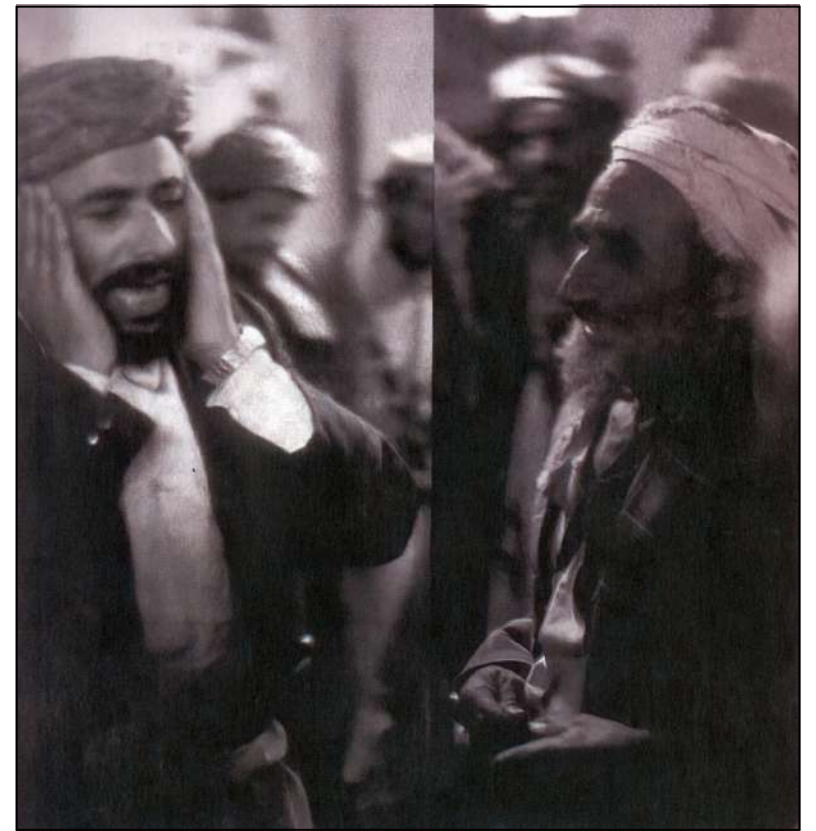
A poet once praised national loyalty and condemning traitors by saying:

*O fort of ours, which shamefully has been betrayed,
For the sake of your liberty, cheaply we offer our blood.*

We care not who has paid for your destruction

And sold his land to buy weapons instead.

A study of the art of zamil chanting clearly identifies some of zamil poetry's



philosophical aspects. This sort of poetry has tackled individuals' spiritual needs, as it parallels development in their spiritual and religious life. This type of poetry has become identifiable with man's life philosophy in general, as well as religious and moral aspects.

One such type of zamil is the following:

*Greetings from the sheikh of the tribe.
In this life, we are strangers on a trip.
All mankind should ask for forgiveness.*

The burden of their sins should become less.

The reckoning day's balance favors rightness.

Based on the fact that zamil poetic style is but a mirror of Yemen's real social and day-to-day life scenery over the ages, one can conclude that life's various moves and daily scenarios make it necessary for poets to portray life from

various angles. Hence, there appeared multi-dimensional purposes for zamil lyrical poetry.

Among zamil poetry's major themes and purposes are the following:

1. War zamil and threats against enemies
2. Political zamil
3. Zamil of pride
4. Welcoming and greeting zamil
5. Marriage zamil
6. Cheerful zamil
7. Lamenting zamil
8. Arbitration and judgment zamil
9. National and revolution zamil

The aforementioned are but some of the various purposes for zamil chanting in Yemen. More on this issue still is to be unfolded if more specialized studies, surveys and research is conducted in this regard. Zamil is a unique art of lyrical poetry, with most of its facial expressions yet to be discovered.

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Tunisia's dream is to reach last 16, says Lemerre



Tunisia team.

Reaching the second round of the FIFA World Cup™ would be a dream come true for Tunisia, coach Roger Lemerre said on Tuesday.

Tunisia face a stiff task after being drawn in Group H with Spain, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia.

"We have one big goal which is to reach the second round," Lemerre told reporters. "It would be a dream for Tunisia to reach the last 16."

The Frenchman, who was Aime Jacquet's assistant when France won the 1998 FIFA World Cup and in charge himself four years later, said his team would receive a big boost if they could defeat Saudi Arabia in the opening game while Spain drew with Ukraine.

"Tunisia against Saudi Arabia (on June 14) will be the first key and Spain against Ukraine will be the second," he said.

"Who opens the door in the first

match can hope to advance. Psychologically it's important."

Tunisia made history in 1978 when they beat Mexico 3-1 to become the first African team to win a FIFA World Cup match but 28 years later are still looking for their second victory.

They have made good progress in recent years, winning the 2004 CAF African Nations Cup on home soil with Lemerre in charge.

Tunisia have beaten Belarus 3-0 and drawn 0-0 with Uruguay in their FIFA World Cup build up but preparations were disrupted when first Kuwait and then Iraq pulled out of Wednesday's scheduled friendly.

Lemerre's side will now play a local amateur team and should receive plenty of support after nearly 1,000 fans turned up to watch them train on Tuesday.

Source: Reuters

German hopes match rivals' respect

From respect to sympathy, from fear to reverence, and from hope to panic. Opinions on the likely performance of the host nation at the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ continue to swing from one extreme to the other.

With the starting whistle of the global showdown fast approaching, fans in the homeland of the three-time world champions are still not sure what to expect from coach Jurgen Klinsmann's men. Abroad, meanwhile, commentators have failed to reach any consensus on whether the hosts are among the favourites or the outsiders.

One thing is clear however. While the team skippered by Michael Ballack at these finals may not boast the same individual talent as teams in the 70s, 80s and 90s, the whole world is acutely aware that the traditional virtues of German teams, such as fighting spirit and discipline, could take the home team a long way in this tournament.

The 3-0 victory over Colombia in Germany's final warm-up game before the finals in Monchengladbach last Friday appears to have done much to restore the reputation of Klinsmann's players and finally sparked the much-needed sense of euphoria in the host nation. "We believe the whole country can sense that things are really coming together," said Klinsmann.

"The fans have also realised that we need them. They are our 12th man. We hope they will give us extra energy at the World Cup and a big advantage." There is little doubt that a wave of anticipation has swept through the host nation from the North Sea to the Alps in recent days.

The sense of togetherness and self-belief often described as the secret of Germany's success has returned as strong as ever at the 11th hour. "Come on boys. You win the Cup and we will carry you on a wave of euphoria," wrote the Berliner Kurier after the emphatic display against the South Americans. Just days earlier, the entire German press had lamented the 'pitiful' state of the home



team after the lacklustre 2-2 draw against Japan.

So how are the 23 protagonists charged with winning the coveted Trophy for a fourth time really viewed by their 82 million compatriots? There is no real consensus of opinion. Seldom before has a German team entered a FIFA World Cup with such uncertainty surrounding them. And that is only in their own country. Of course, one thing can be depended upon. The support of the fans will be overwhelming and more passionate than ever before. For that reason alone, the host nation can still dream of glory.

Paradoxically, Klinsmann's men are clearly held in much lower esteem in their own country than they are abroad. While there has only been genuine optimism in Germany since the convincing performance against Colombia, observers in other nations with a strong tradition in the tournament have never taken the home team lightly when it comes to this FIFA World Cup.

Memories of German teams of the past are still all too vivid for Italy, Brazil, England, Argentina and France. If the host nation make a sound start, the rest of the world know they could quickly see Germany back to their best. "Whether they are actually that strong remains to be seen," said the United Kingdom-based Scotsman newspaper.

"But we believe that Klinsmann and his skipper Ballack will see to it over the next few weeks that they are once again a force to be reckoned with. And that the strong sense of togetherness overshadows individual quality. If there is one team that can beat Brazil, look no further

than Germany."

Journalists in South America also clearly subscribe to the iron will of the Germans. "We will see you in the Final," was the headline in the Argentinian paper Olé after the Colombia result. Klinsmann's team have the respect of the football world. What more could he ask for?

Past tournaments have taught us that the atmosphere in the host nation can very quickly change. And anybody who

believes the German public will stay behind their team no matter what happens and that their support will continue if results go against them may be gravely mistaken.

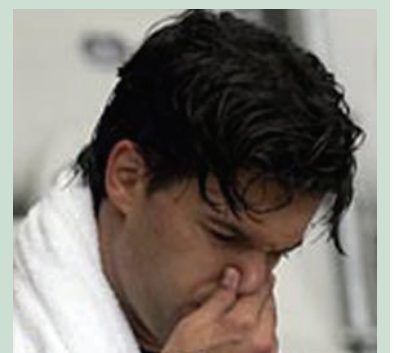
The home team will be walking a tightrope at the 2006 FIFA World Cup. Not least because 22 months ago, the nation was told of how the coach had foreseen the path to lifting the FIFA World Cup - a vision that seemed more like a journey to an undiscovered planet at the time. Now the rocket has been ignited, the fuel tanks are full and we are ready for lift-off.

Let us hope that the mission at least gets into orbit, or the hosts will come crashing down through the clouds of euphoria for the hardest of landings. And nowhere more than in the headlines of the fickle press.

Source: FIFAworldcup.com

Ballack plays down injury fears

Midfielder Michael Ballack has played down concerns in the German camp over whether he will be fit for Friday's World Cup opener against Costa Rica.



Ballack

Ballack missed training on Monday with a calf injury but took part in an indoor workout on Tuesday.

The German captain said: "I think it will continue improving day by day. I assume I'll be able to play on Friday."

German assistant coach Joachim Loew added: "It's just a little calf muscle problem but it is a nagging injury."

After joining in the indoor session, Ballack is hoping to work with a ball on Tuesday evening.

Loew added: "We hope that after a little rest and the work of the medical department he will be fit."

Ballack scored a goal in Friday's 3-

0 warm-up friendly win over Colombia and also played against Japan.

However, he missed the friendly against Luxembourg because of a sprained ankle.

Source: BBC News

Ronaldo fit for Brazil Cup opener

Ronaldo will be fit for Brazil's World Cup opener against Croatia on 13 June, despite a mystery foot problem.

Before the friendly with New Zealand, Real Madrid sent Ronaldo some old boots as it was thought new ones were causing blisters and pain, but they persisted.

"The healing is almost complete. He won't have any more problems," said team doctor Jose Luis Runco. "We are very comfortable. There is nobody with complaints and the players are all at the right level of fitness."

Japan and Australia are the other teams competing in Group F. The 29-year-old, who was the



Ronaldo

top scorer at the 2002 finals, with eight goals, missed the end of the Spanish domestic season because of injury.

Source: BBC News

الفرق المشاركة		الترتيب		النتيجة	
البحرين	1	1	1	1	1
الكويت	2	2	2	2	2
قطر	3	3	3	3	3
السعودية	4	4	4	4	4
البحرين	5	5	5	5	5
الكويت	6	6	6	6	6
قطر	7	7	7	7	7
السعودية	8	8	8	8	8

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Social work as a career: What relevance to Yemen?

By: Essam Al-Shaif

Social work as both a concept and a career path is relatively new to Yemeni society. While its arrival in Yemen is recent, social work in advanced and other developing countries, including Arab and Islamic ones, has developed into a stable and well defined endeavor.

As a humanist branch of study, social work is geared to help human beings meet their various demands, problems they face in their daily lives, as well as helping find the resources to build a person's competence and social stamina, which in turn will modify a person's behavior accordingly. All of these components are packaged in a social worker's endeavor to help the person they assist into leading a normal and effective

life within the person's particular circumstance.

In an effort to understand and advance the historical roots of mankind's behavioral needs in the context of its social life, social work has become one of the modern careers of the 20th and 21st centuries. In general careers like social work are in themselves social constructs used to act on social designs as they exist and help modify the individuals of these societies so that they try to find their place in society, effectively integrating themselves regardless of their original condition. In essence social work is part of the material that acts as a cohesive element in an evolving society. Its nature therefore is essential and vital to a functioning society whose unrelenting demands need constant modifying and gratifying.

If we were to "map-out" on

transparent overlays how social work would and does permeate with in society, we would have to go ahead and map out a conceptual plan of the basic design of societal needs and the resources available to meet these needs. Because of the structure found in almost all developing societies by default all plans would be developed at different levels. Our map, therefore, would have various layers that when placed one on top of the other would show first where the needs for basic human functioning are located. Then the next layer would delineate where the resources to fulfill these needs are located. The next layer would show the societal connections made between the needs and the resources, which in essence are the various systems of institutions set up as parts of networks whose prime interest is to serve as links between resources and needs. The next layer would reveal the

gaps that social work would find and have to fulfill as linking agents. These gaps are found in the breakup of societal structures of Family, Tribe, and Neighborhood as well as the more outwardly, public structures of Political and Social Institutions.

With this top layer we come to the realization of social work's importance as a constructed back-up to the linking institutions that dispense the resources necessary for human needs. In nature it is both invasive and persuasive, since it necessitates the social worker to get to the root of the person's needs and then become the agent that would reach out to the institution with the necessary resources to meet these needs to comply with the agent and the individual. The range of human needs is as varied as the humans who at various stages in their lives require an unending need of evolving resources.

From infancy through adolescence through adulthood to the end of one's life a human needs change with age, health and social circumstance. Social work is geared to help at all these levels and all of its permutations.

Social work is specifically tailored to fit into societies where the needs of infants, women, adolescents, senior citizens and those with what are called special needs with regards to health and education need to be addressed on

a constant basis. Many of these needs also come into play post natural and man-made disasters such as wars or other types of conflicts. The general assumption is that Social work is indeed for all societies and for all times; it is a field of study and endeavor that necessitates for every society to seriously look at its social defaults and allow social work to help address them and in concert help dissolve them.

Grown-ups cry too

By: Manal

When I was three years old I did not exactly realize what was happening around me and could not understand what adults talk about or think of. As a small child, I was used to crying and screaming just to be given one dirham from my father and considered that as one of my rights. Sometimes I would cry to prove myself, to make those show me love and to attract their attention. On that day I asked my father, offering him my help to mitigate and soothe his pains. I realized and comprehended there was a serious situation going on when I saw my father carefully watching the

television showing pictures of adults who were weeping too. For what and why were they crying? They were carrying a banner similar to a large handkerchief, wiping their tears with it. I was confused and bewildered. I was trying to ask in wonder about what was going on, but the sound of the question was getting broken under my breathing, and could not find an answer for my question of: "Why are adults weeping?"

I asked my father if he was complaining of a sort of pain and started to wipe his tears away from his eyes. In his response to my gesture he started hugging me and kissing me. Strange! My father could not find an answer for what was causing him to weep. I thought he might be experiencing financial strain as he

used to apologize to me sometimes when I asked for my pocket money. Therefore I reached out for my safe, bringing it to him. He gazed at me with gratitude as if showing he was satisfied with what I had done!

My father had then realized my bewilderment in what I had seen and began to explain to me the whole situation with simple words suitable to my age, his words had inscribed in my heart the memory of that handkerchief which I did not realize nor recognize even in its colors. The only thing I knew then was that those adults were drying and wiping their tears with it. Then they began to unfold it. I also noticed that my mother's eyes too were full of tears, like the others. Long after my father's explanations I understood and knew

that that banner was the "Flag of the Republic" and those people holding it were the leaders of Yemen whose hands had woven "my unity" which I have heard much about yet did not comprehend its meaning. My father told me, "Those were the tears of joy, my dear daughter!"

I asked him astonishingly if adult weep when they were happy, to which he replied, "Yes, they all shed tears of joy by wiping the tears of the past's sorrows and agonies. Then I wept as adults do. Nevertheless I will not wipe my tears so that they would water the path of my life. Tears of the adults have become a memory inscribed in my heart that has not known the translation of the tears of sorrow and joy! That was the 22 of May 1990.

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- 2. Accountant.**
constructor companies accounting. Computer literate and proficiency in English and Arabic.
- 3. Secretary.**
5 years experience in secretarial work with a constructor company. Computer literate and proficiency in English and Arabic.

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Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Mantel piece?
- 5 Dieter's temptation, sometimes
- 10 Throat-clearing sound
- 14 Irish author O'Brien
- 15 Type of barrier or boom
- 16 Flintstone's pet
- 17 Type of rough football
- 19 Some old Fords
- 20 Wrestling duos
- 21 Storklike wading birds
- 23 Solutions
- 24 Suspect's out
- 25 Pay or can ender?
- 26 Sudden cool-down
- 29 Kisses in Mexico
- 32 French capital, in song
- 33 The max is 4.0, traditionally
- 34 "___ Lang Syne"
- 35 Cruise stops
- 36 Ran in the washing machine
- 37 Choral syllable

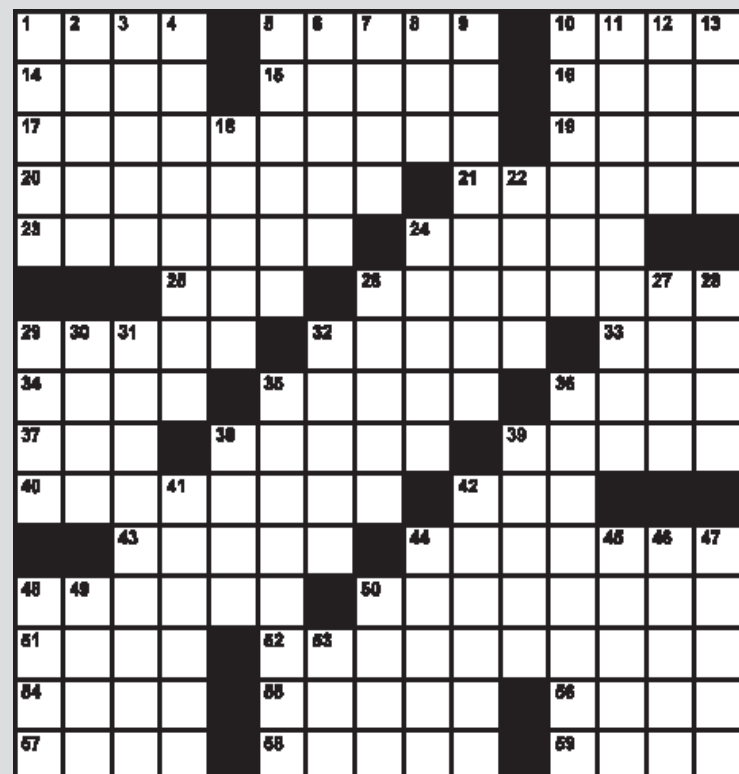
- 38 Actress Garbo
- 39 Sorority sisters, usually
- 40 Kewpie-doll features
- 42 Coney Island container
- 43 They may be held for you
- 44 Complete list of systematically arranged things
- 48 Hider's whisper, perhaps
- 50 Shakespearean locale
- 51 Any time now
- 52 Pitcher's target
- 54 Fretted instrument
- 55 2204.62 avoirdupois pounds
- 56 "... unto us ___ is given"
- 57 Org.
- 58 Knight ride
- 59 Words with "world record" or "precedent"

DOWN

- 1 Third-largest asteroid
- 2 Commercial designer?
- 3 Stumbling blocks

- 4 "Unforgiven" director
- 5 Capital of Eritrea
- 6 Motel units
- 7 Difficult burden
- 8 Sch. near Harvard
- 9 "Iliad" hero
- 10 Lines that are not rehearsed
- 11 Billboard listing
- 12 "The NeverEnding Story" author Michael
- 13 Velvety growth on stones
- 18 Loaf ends
- 22 ___ one's time (wait)
- 24 Main heart artery
- 26 They may be in grocery store aisles
- 27 Impersonated
- 28 Hippies' quarters
- 29 Sheet of matted cotton, e.g.
- 30 International money
- 31 Some NHL attempts on goal
- 32 "Dead ___ Society"
- 35 Activities for some activists
- 36 Windfalls
- 38 An angry dog might do it
- 39 Living doll
- 41 Damon Wayans' brother
- 42 Enjoyed the sun
- 44 Patsy of country music fame
- 45 Like some lips or change
- 46 "Believe it ___!"
- 47 Oscar winner Davis
- 48 Cuba, por ejemplo
- 49 Entre ___
- 50 Certain coastal bird
- 53 Little kid

"ROUGH AND READY" by J.R. Richardson



PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

BERG SETTO JONI
UVEA OPIUM ONOR
BELF LILLE LEDA
TRAFFICLIGHTS
ESTER PARUAR
DOE OSHA SHAGGY
ASHORE PARE
INSTANTCAMERA
OBOE GUTTER
NEWGAR ROAD SEM
OTO YES ISOLA
NONSTOPACTION
ALDO TAPED ERIE
WEBB ULTRA TEST
LORY PESKY SEES

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مكتب أحمد محسن الرئيسي
للخدمات العقارية
حده - الحي السياسي - الأصحى - بيت بوس
سيار: ٢٨٥٥ - ٧٣٣٨ - مكتب: ٦٧٩١٦٦

استثمر في العقار المؤجر بالدولار
للبيع فيلا في المدينة السكنية حدة، قريبة جداً من السوق، وتم تحديثها وتحسينها بدرجة ممتازة، حديقة خضراء، وإلا يمكن تأجيرها مفروشة من 600 دولار إلى 700 دولار سعر البيع: 140.000 دولار بدون الأثاث
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- فيلا نورين وبدر، مساحة الأرض 34 لينة، 3 شوارع أحدهم تجاري ش 30 متر، مؤجرة شهرياً 5000 دولار
سعر البيع: 1.150.000 دولار

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• للبيع: تلفون الهدد ٦٥١٠ - نظيف
السعر: ١٠٠٠٠
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٣٦٨٨ -
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للتواصل: ٣٣٣١٥٢٢٠
• بكالوريوس
محاسبة + خبرة
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+ القدرة على استخدام الكمبيوتر
للتواصل: ٧١٩٣١٤١٧
• عصام عبد الولي عبد الله
نعمان - بدولم نظام ثلاث سنوات بعد الثانوية - تخصص كهروميكانيك بتقدير جيد جداً - خبرة في مجال صيانة الآلات الصناعية + التصميم ببرنامج أوتوكاد
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٧٢٩٧٤٩

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معا نحو كل جديد

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• دورة في صيانة أجهزة السيارة G.S.M
• برامج في صيانة الكمبيوتر وتركيب الشبكات
• عمل أجهزة وأدوات الأجرة
• دراسة أعمال التجزئة بواسطة الخريطة
• التطبيع العملي على اجهزة الأجرة
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المالية TTS ٣٧٨٤٢
بغداد: ٤٤٧٢٥/٨-٤٤٧٢٥/٨-٤٤٧٢٥/٨ فاكس ٩٧٧-٤٤٧٢٥

مستشفيات

مستشفى حدة الأهلي ٤٢٣٨١
المستشفى اليمني الألماني ٤١٨٠٠٠
فاكس: ٤١٨١٦٦
المستشفى الألماني الحديث ٦٠٠٠٠/٦٠٠٠٠
فاكس: ٤١٨١٦٦

فنادق

صنعاء
فندق تريم لل ٢٥٥٥١١/٦
فندق بست وسترن حدة ٤١٥٢٢٢/٥
حدائق تاون ٤١٥٩٠٠
عن
فندق اليفنت بي بيتش ٢٠-٢٠٠٥٥

معاهد

معهد اللغة الألمانية ٢٠٠٩٤٥
المعهد البريطاني لغات ٤٤٠٧١٩/٤١٥٨١٢

شركات للتأمين

الشركة العربية للتأمين (EAC) صنعاء
٦٠٣٨١٠/٦ فاكس: ٢٤٠٧٥٣/٢
عن: ٢٤٠٧٥٣
فاكس: ٢٢٠٧٥٣

الحديدة: ٢٤٠٧٥٣
السكاهة: ٢٠٠٩٤٤
صنعاء: ٢٠٠٩٤٤/١٢
عن: ٢٤٠٧٥٣
تغز: ٢٤٠٧٥٣
الحديدة: ٢١٩٥٤٨
صنعاء: ٢١٩٥٤٨

شركة اليمن للتأمين
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين
صنعاء: ٢١٩٥٤٨

مدراس

المدرسة الكندية الدولية ٤١٨٥١٠/٤٢٣٢٠٦
مدرسة التركيب الدولية ٤٤٢٥٨/٨
مدرسة الصين الوطنية ٤١٢٣٦/٧
مدرسة الناجد اليمنية ٢٠١٥٩٩
مدرسة رينبو ٤١٤٠٠٠/٤١٤٠٠٠

سفرات

مركز أبوال تجارة والسفرات ٤٤٤٠٠٠/٤٤٤٠٠٠
الانشط للسفرات والسباحة ٤٤٠٩٣٠٠
الجزيرة العربية للسفرات والسباحة ٤٤١٧٥٥٠
السفرات ٢٧٠٧٥٠
مرجان للسفرات ٢١٤٠٠٠٠
العالي

مطاعم

مطعم مخبزة الشيباني
(باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)
تلفون: ٢٦٦٣٧٥ - ٥٠٥٢٩٠ فاكس: ٢٦٦١١٩

وفي المراسلة التجارية عبر الإنترنت
- يرغب في العمل نصف دوام في أي مجال في صنعا
للتواصل: ٧٧٦١٣٩١٨
• أمين عبد الله - ثانوية عامة (قسم علمي) - دبلوم كمبيوتر - خبرة كبيرة في مجال الإنترنت - خبرة في السكرتارية وإدارة شؤون الموظفين
- يريد العمل في أي مجال مناسب
للتواصل: ٧٧٥٨٨٩٧٧

• وليد سيف - تعليم دراسي في بريطانيا منذ سنة ٩٨ إلى مايو سنة ٢٠٠٠ دراسة اللغة الإنجليزية + Business IT وإدارة أعمال + خبرة عملية ٥ سنوات في البي والتسويق في كبرى الشركات في الخليج + القدرة على عمل دراسات إستراتيجية وأبحاث في التسويق للشركات + القدرة على التطوير وفتح منافذ و قنوات للتسويق لزيادة المبيعات + حسن الشكل والمظهر - يرغب في العمل في مجال التسويق كمدير في اليمن أو في إحدى دول الخليج أو أوروبا
للتواصل: ٣٠٠٠٩٤٩ - ٠١-٠٠-٧٣٣٦٨٠٦٣١

• يحي محمد الكحلاني - ثانوية عامة - خبرة في مجال الفندقية والسياحة - لبق ويجيد الإقناع - يجيد التعامل مع الكمبيوتر مع خلفية جيدة في اللغة الإنجليزية مستعد للعمل في العلاقات العامة في نفس المجال أو في أي مجال آخر يبحث عن وظيفة مناسبة ويراتب مشجع
للتواصل: ٣٢٨٨٤٥ - ٣٢١٥٨٠
٧١١٢٢٧٨٠٩

• مروان عبد الرحمن سيف - سنة ثالثة - قسم تسويق - دورة في اللغة الإنجليزية في الهند + دورات في المعهد الأمريكي YALI للغة الإنجليزية (level4) + دورة في الكمبيوتر في معهد أبتك - خبرة ثلاث سنوات في مجال العلاقات العامة في شركة المضاء للملاحة - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أو في مجال آخر

عقارات

• نظراً لعدم التفرغ نعلن عن بيع بيت نوبه وسط العاصمة
للاستفسار: ٢٤٤٤٢٨٠ أو ٧١١٥٤٤٤٣٣/٧١١٢٢١١٧٧

• للبيع فيلا جديد دور واحد، ٩٠٧٥ لينة حجر واجهتين على شارع ١٢ متر في دار سلم، ٤ غرف وحمامين ومطبخ
سعر البيع: ١٥ مليون ريال
للتواصل: ناصر ٦٧٩١٦٦

• للبيع: عمارة ٧ شقق و ٣ فححات في الصافية وقريبة جداً من الدائري - شارع أمامي وشارع خلفي الواجهتين حجر - مساحة الأرض ٥ لبن. عمر المبنى حوالي ٩ سنوات
سعر البيع: ٥٠ مليون
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٨٠٢٨٥٥

• للبيع: مبنى ضخم على مساحة ٧٥٠ متر مربع - ركن على شارعين أحدهما الشارع الرئيسي للسوق في عدن
السعر: مائتين الف دولار
للتواصل: ٢٢٠٩٠٩ أم محمد

• للبيع: منزل ماحته ١٦٨ متر مربع

وظائف شاعرة

• مدرس متخصص في اللغتين العربية والإنجليزية يريد إعطاء دروس خصوصية لجميع المراحل خاصة الثالث اعدادي والثالث ثانوي
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٩٤٦٣٣٥

• توفيق القباطي - دبلوم كمبيوتر بعد الثانوية - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه أوفى أي مجال آخر
للتواصل: ٧١١٢٦٤٢٦٠

• إبراهيم الفهيدى - تقني (صيانة كمبيوتر) - خبرة سنتان في الصيانة ولديه مشروع شبكات في خدمات الإنترنت والبريد الإلكتروني
للتواصل: ٧١١٨٤٦٠٤٩

• محمود الحميدي - حاصل على بكالوريوس هندسة كهربائية وخبرة ٧ سنوات في تصميم مشاريع الشبكة الكهربائية العالية والمنخفضة
للتواصل: ٧٧٦٣٣١٢٧

• أحمد شريف عباس - بكالوريوس محاسبة - تقدير جيد جداً - من أوائل الدفعة - خبرة في الحسابات والمراجعة والإدارة المالية في شركات معتبرة - نظام محاسبي متكامل (يمن سوفت) - قدرة على التعامل مع أنظمة محاسبية مالية - جيد اللغة الإنجليزية - ويوجد المراسلات عبر الإنترنت - يرغب في العمل في مجال تخصصه
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٩١٣٢٠٩

• م/ عمر طاهر الكاف - بكالوريوس برمجة كمبيوتر ودورات بمجال هندسة الشبكات MCSE2003 وCisco بالإضافة إلى صيانة الحواسيب المتقدمة A+ وقواعد البيانات Oracle9i - خريج المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية - عمان - الأردن - تدريب بمطار علماء الدولي لمدة ٥ أشهر بالأردن
للتواصل: ٧١١٠٩٧١٦٩

• هاشم سيف بن سيف الزيايدي - بكالوريوس محاسبة (كلية العلوم الإدارية) - دبلوم سكرتارية في الكمبيوتر والإنترنت - دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية ودورات في التسويق - خبرة سنتين في هذه المجالات

باحثون عن وظيفة

• خريج إدارة أعمال - خبرة سبع سنوات في نفس المجال - إجابة تامة للغة الإنجليزية والعربية - حسن الشكل والمظهر
للتواصل: ٧١١٧٧٢٣٥٩

• عبد المعين الصوفي - مهندس كهرباء - تخصص الكترولون خريج سوريا - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية والفرنسية - خبرة في مجال الكمبيوتر - يبحث عن عمل مناسب
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٤٨٧١٦١

• سعيد محمد علي - دبلوم مساعد طبيب عام ونو كفاثة جيدة وخبرة طويلة
للتواصل: ٧٧٥١٧٩٤٣

• ماجد سيف - ليسانس آداب لغة فرنسية - دبلوم عالي في الاقتصاد السياحي - دورات في الكمبيوتر - ثلاث دورات في اللغة الإنجليزية - خبرة في مجال قسم المبيعات والتسويق لمدة ٣ سنوات - خبرة في مجال المراسلات التجارية لمدة ٢ سنوات - خبرة في قسم العلاقات العامة لمدة سنة - خبرة في تدريس اللغة الفرنسية
للتواصل: ٧٣٣٩٧٥٥٩١

• بكالوريوس إدارة أعمال - خبرة في مجال الإدارة ثمان سنوات - حاصل على شهادات في مجال السفريل - خبرة سبع سنوات في نفس المجال - إجادة كاملة للغة الإنجليزية - حسن المظهر والشكل - يرغب في العمل في المجال الإداري
للتواصل: ٧١١٧٧٢٣٥٩

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Believe it or not!

Half-ton man lost 144 kg

A man who once weighed 482 kg (1062 lb.) has lost 144 kg (317 lb.) under the care of a team of doctors. He hopes to lose another 203 kg (448 lb.).

42-year-old Patrick Deuel who is just under six feet tall weighed 482 kg when he was admitted to Sioux Falls' Avera McKennan Hospital eight weeks ago. It

took months to find a hospital. The doctors advised him a 1,200 calorie-a-day diet.

Fred Harris, the doctor who's supervising the treatment, said: "If we hadn't gotten him here, he'd be dead now".

Before Patrick was admitted to hospital he battled heart failure, thyroid problems, diabetes, pulmonary hypertension and arthritis. He also needed help just to roll over in bed! Patrick even needed a special ambulance and an extra wide bed to accommodate for his unusually large body. "Until recently, I wasn't able to see any light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

(Un) fortunately he is not the heaviest man in the world. According to the Guinness World Records Web site, the record for heaviest man in the world is 629 kg (1387 lb.), held by Jon Brower Minnoch of Bainbridge who died in 1983.

According to Dr. Fred Harris the care could cost millions of dollars, much of which the hospital may have to cover.



A smelly e-mail?



Sniffing the scent of the ocean while booking a vacation online or the smell of whisky and cigars while digitally listening to jazz. The British cable company Telewest adds a whole new dimension to internet: Smell!

The technology makes it possible to send and receive a large number of odours through e-mail. The user has to attach a special scent device to his computer. This device contains 20 aromas that, while mixed properly, can produce about sixty scents.

The sender will have to send a code along with the e-mail to attach a special odour to it. The scent device translates this code into a special smell that will be spread all around the computer.

Think about it! The scent of fresh bread while doing your online shopping or a relaxing aromatherapy.

The scent device can easily be connected through on of your serial ports on your computer. The hardware can be bought for the price of 250 British pounds.

Paying by fingerprint at the supermarket

Customers of a German supermarket chain will soon be able to pay for their shopping by placing their finger on a scanner at the check-out.

An Edeka store in the southwest German town of Ruelzheim has piloted the technology since November, cutting

out on time otherwise wasted scrabbling for coins or cards.

The company plans to equip its stores across the region with the new technology.

Store manager Roland Fitterer said: "All customers need to do is register once with their identity card and bank details, then they can shop straight away".

The technology is based on comparing the shopper's fingerprint with those stored in its database along with account details. Edeka bosses said they were confident the system could not be abused. The chance of two people having the same fingerprint is about one in 220 million.

Source: www.stunning-stuff.com

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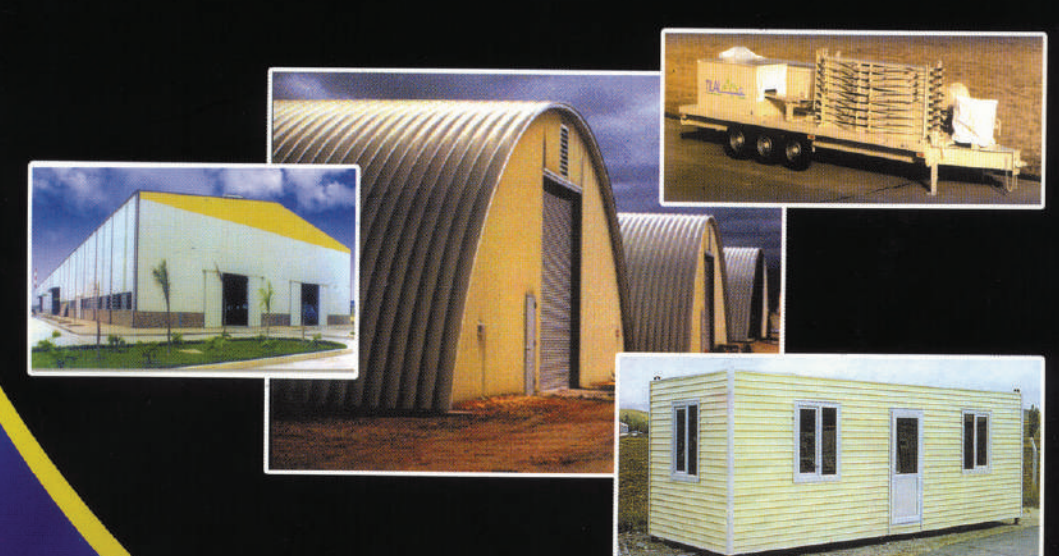
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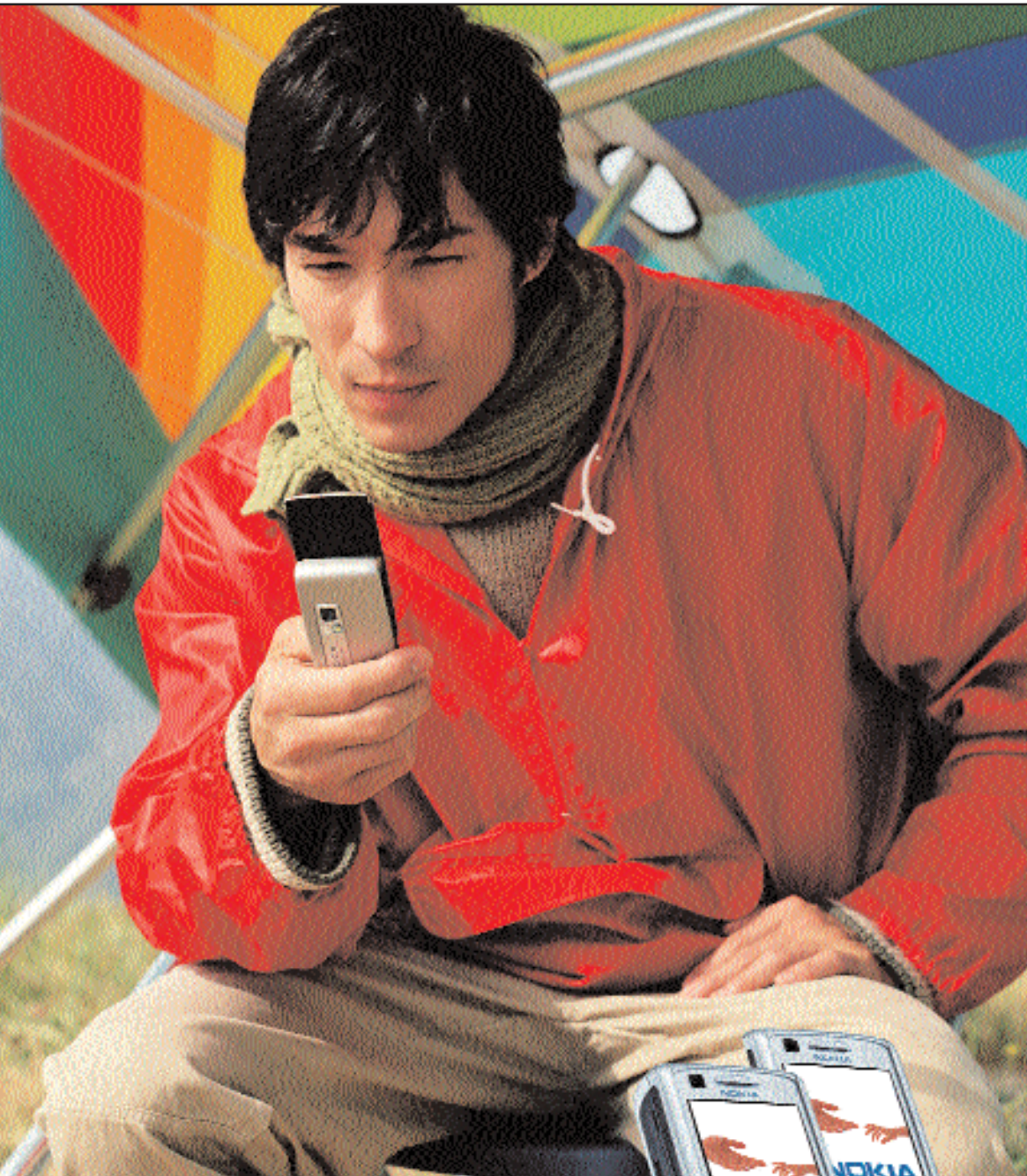
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