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YEMEN TIMES

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After 2 years in prison

Iraqis acquitted of terror accusations

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 3 - The specialized security primary court decided to clear four Iraqis, one of whom was tried in absentia. The Iraqis were accused of planning to detonate bombs at the American and British Embassies in Sana'a. They were also cleared of the accusation of being members of the former Iraqi intelligence.

The defendant's lawyer said that the evidences against the suspects was taken from the political security records and that they were imprisoned for more than two years in security prisons. These are illegal procedures that make the procedures against them void.

The court confirmed that the period which the released suspects had spent in prison was a precautionary measure which prevented a plan for attacking the American and British Embassies. Judge Mohamed Albadani declared in the court's verdict that: "The court accepted the defendant's lawyer plead and the irrelevance of the prosecution's accusations". The judge also

confirmed that the reports that were broadcast by media about the suspects were not true. He described the measures and investigations of Ministry of Interior and Security as necessary for preventing a terrorist action that was targeting the embassies of the USA and Britain.

The trial of three of the suspects started in the beginning of August. They were accused of planning to hit western interests. A fourth, named Ali Rashid Aladdin and nick named Abu Fatma, was declared in the gazette as a fugitive. The suspects were caught in late March this year and 5 days later, war broke out in Iraq.

The four were accused of participating in forming an armed gang in 2002 that would have destabilized peace and security of the country. They were also accused of planning to attack diplomatic missions, and these attacks might have been carried out, had it not been stopped by security people a day prior to its execution.

Former accusations said that bags containing TNT, detonators, electrical circuits and remote control devices were found. The suspects denied the accusations and said that they had



PHOTO BY KHALID AL-HAMMADI

been forced to give false statements. They also denied having worked with Iraqi intelligence, and that the first suspect, Ali Rashid Alsadi, used to

pressure them as he was the head of the Iraqi teachers in Yemen. Before they were detained, the suspects used to be seconded teachers in Yemen.

The prosecutor did not comment on the verdict but he said that he will appeal it. The verdict gave the second, third and fourth suspects the right to

choose whether or not to live in Yemen. They were also given the right to bring their families from Iraq according to the Yemeni regulations.

Decreasing crisis between authority and al-Houthi

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 5 - President Ali Abdullah Saleh has ordered a committee to be formed in order to release the remaining of the detainees linked to rebel cleric Al-Houthi. The committee will include Ministry of Interior, Political Security, Public Prosecution, and some religious scholars.

A source from the Ministry of Interior said that the government has released 404 persons so far. They are all followers of al-Houthi. They were set free on condition that they stop repeating slogans against America and Israel.

Still, al-Houthi followers in al-Naq'aa district on the Yemeni-Saudi borders insist on repeating slogans against America and Israel, because they feel it is their right as a religious

group. And Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said that his followers will go on repeating the slogans. He accused the authority of delaying its decisions and also accused the governorate leadership of trying to extend the crisis, because the government leaders want to escalate the crisis for their benefit.

A tribesman from Th'ulah was killed during the confrontations and three others from both sides were wounded close to Naqa'an district. But the full number of confrontations between al-Houthi and tribal elements is not known.

Many prominent al-Houthi followers have been detained, and the courts have not released the 36 persons who stood trial along with prominent Zeidi scholars. Scholars included Yahya Hussien al-Dailami and Mohammed Meftah who have been sentenced to death, Mohammed Ali Luqman who has been sentenced to 13 years in prison, and Sharaf al-Nu'aemi. Around 800 people were detained after the events in Saada, which caused 800 people to die.

Presidential amnesty was issued on the anniversary of the 26 September Revolution to mark the decreasing crisis between the authorities and al-Houthi followers. The amnesty also

lessens the tension and complaints of the detainees' families.

The continued apprehension of a number of believing youths is a clear indication that the authority wants them to meet some conditions in exchange for release, so that it is possible to avoid confrontation in the future. Some of these youths have never been involved in such confrontations with the government, but have been detained because they are followers of al-Houthi.

On the other hand, security forces carried out a number of arrests among the Zaidis in Harf Sofian area in Sada'a, north of Sana'a. The arrests took place in some mosques last Monday morning. 60 persons were detained and sent to prison. The arrests came shortly after the amnesty declared by the president.

No one of Alhothi followers has been freed so far. Hasan Zaid, member of Alhaq Islamic opposition party, said that there are government parties who want to undermine the president's amnesty resolutions and who want to escalate the crisis for their own benefit.

In a related event, battles took place between Alhothi followers, who are entrenched in the mountains, and a group of Al-naalah tribe, who tried to storm these mountains. One person died and three persons from both of the tribes were injured.

The crisis between the authorities and Alhothi followers is still going on. Sources say that more than 800 people are still in prison due to the bloody battles that broke out in June 2004.

Peaceful exchange of power demanded

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 5 - Under the title of 'Peaceful exchange of power' the organization called "Journalists without boarders" held a two-session symposium last Saturday.

The first session was about the declaration of President Saleh not to run the next elections, and the second one about the peaceful exchange of power and the role of opposition parties in president Saleh's previous period.

A number of participants requested the president not to change his decision about his withdrawal from the next elections. They also demanded that the achievement of peaceful exchange of power should start with the next elections.

There was consensus that Yemen is not ready for peaceful exchange of power, due to the previous totalitarian period, in which the authority had wealth and military powers. There was a demand for the opposition to have a nominee at the 2006 presidential election and participants called for parliamentary reforms to pave the way for political reforms.

Mr. Mohamed Qahtan head of political bureau in Islah Party, said that the way out from what he called Yemen's historical plight is to establish a parliamentary system. He added that many women are just as qualified to lead the country as men. He added that women who ruled in the past, proved to be better rulers than the men.

Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf, head of the Future Center for Strategic Studies, expressed serious skepticism about the fact that president Saleh will leave office. He said that the President either will live up to his word, and by doing so become pioneer among rulers who leave their posts vol-

untarily. Or it will turn out that his word was not a deliberate decision, but has now become an obligation.

Dr. Abdullah Alfaqih, political sciences lecturer in Sana'a University, said in his paper that the prospects of peaceful exchange of power are not favorable, because the President has not prepared the political arena for some one to succeed him.

Mrs. Tawakol Karman, head of women without boarders, confirmed that this symposium is one of the political activities that aim at mobilizing the political and intellectual spectrum. Their results will be fruitful for both decision makers and opposition. She assured that their organization will be neutral and not an affiliate to neither opposition nor authorities.

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HONDA

Arab biologists conference to be held

SANA'A-Oct. 4th - Hodeida University will host the 12th Arab Biologists conference on November 19-24th, the subject for the conference being "Towards future horizons for developing fish industry and human health preservation".

Dr. Ibrahim Omar Hijary deputy rector of Hodeidah University for higher studies and scientific research, told Yemen Times that the conference is a cooperation between the Hodeida university and the Arab biologists. A number of Arab and

Yemeni universities, national institutes, and the Yemeni Ministry of Health, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Life and Ministry Tuberculosis and leprosy center, will join in this conference.

The conference will discuss the modern technology and their part in discovering some endemic diseases and how they are transferred and how to combat them.

The conference will study the physical, chemical and biological sea environmental characteristics.

SFD grants 150 million dollars to Yemen

SANA'A- Oct. 3- The Yemeni Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation signed an agreement with the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD), in which the latter contribute 150 million dollars to the implementation of suggested projects.

The projects cover the establishment of a medicine faculty and a teaching hospital in Taiz University, establish-

ment of the Hodeida Central Hospital and the faculty of science in Amran University. Additionally, there are many development projects in the fields of electricity, road building, education, water and healthcare in the governorate of Sa'ada.

The Yemeni part presented a proposal of the rural projects that need to be funded by the SFD with a total cost of

\$107 million.

Engineer Abdullah Hassan al-Shater, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation for the Projects Sectors, represented the Yemeni government, while Engineer Mohamed Salman al-Arifi, General Manager of the fund's Projects Department, was the representative of the Government of Saudi Arabia

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

After being detained in security prisons for 2 years, 3 Iraqis were cleared of terrorism accusations. Do you think that their trial delay was illegal?
Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

Do you think that the President would respond to an appeal by families of Qaida prisoners and order their release?
No 67%
Yes 25%
I don't know 8%

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

According to Geneva International Institute:

9 million weapons found in Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Oct.2- The international weapon expert Dick Miller from the High Institute for International Studies in Geneva, made clear in a survey that Yemen only owns 20% of the formerly estimated 50 million weapons.

He said that the amount of weapons in the hands of the tribes, markets and army reserve does not exceed 7 millions and 300 thousand.

The study places Yemen close to the high level of countries in which people

own small weapons, but America is still the leading country in that category.

The report focuses on cultural norm behind the demand of weapons in Yemen. The increase in population increases the number of weapons, and consumption rate reaches 200 thousand weapons each year. Weapon expert Dick Miller stated that Yemen is not the most dangerous country in the world, but that he still believes it is an unsafe country.

The report explains that the source of the weapons is the ex- Eastern bloc countries and China, and that the import

of weapons from these countries goes back to the 19th century. Miller's report says that Yemen exports arms to the African Horn countries such as Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan. These weapons are legally imported.

It is stated in the report that tribal domination gives way to government power, and it is added that the three tribes Bakael, Hashid, and Mathhaj are still dominant in the north. These tribes together are formed of 30 smaller tribes whose male members carry arms when they reach maturity age.

German's car bombed

HADRAMOUT- Sept. 30- A group of unidentified men bombed on Tuesday the car of a German citizen and set his house ablaze in Mukalla. He works in Yemen as the General Manager of the Middle East Social cooperation Society (MESCS).

A security source told al-Shura Newspaper that the unidentified men also sent a threatening letter, demanding his departure from the governorate.

The source confirmed that the letter reads: "Today we burnt your house and bombed your car and tomorrow we will murder your children unless you leave the governorate of Hadramout. This

letter is from a Muslim, jealous of his religion". The source said that there is no confirmation whether the bombers belong to a terrorist group.

The source affirmed that the perpetrators accused the German of belonging to a missionary group that sent him to Yemen in order to Christianize Muslims. He also affirmed that it is the first time terrorists assault foreigners in Hadramout.

The source said this attack was launched after an unknown person hurled a bombe before one of the buildings in the governorate. However, nobody was held accountable for the blast.

Chinese Embassy holds glorious celebration

SANA'A- Sept. 27- The Chinese Embassy in Sana'a celebrated last Tuesday the 56th anniversary of the establishment of the Communist Republic of China.

Meanwhile, China is celebrating the 50th anniversary of granting autonomy to the religion of Sching Yung, which is inhabited by a Muslim majority and located in the north south of the country.

The event was attended by hundreds of Yemeni party leaders, social distinguished personalities, citizens, senior government officials, traders, businessmen and media personnel, as well as several ambassadors of other countries and representatives of international organizations operating in the country.

Workshop on communication Strategy

BY ISMAIL ALI AL ALGHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Oct.1st - Ministry of International Cooperation and Planning organized a workshop titled 'Communication Strategy' on Tuesday.

The aim of the workshop was to fulfill the strategies of poverty alleviation. Government joint commitment will help to achieve a sustained development that can guarantee a decrease in the poverty rate, and policies. Development policies which concentrate on poverty alleviation and which both government and community are

responsible for, are seen as a good guarantee to achieve this.

The participants had several inquiries; among others was the demand to know the state's role in executing infrastructure projects, which have its role in alleviating poverty.

The government and the civil societies help the poor to adopt the projects that they have learnt through the poverty alleviation strategies. Mass media has also got a role to play in addressing the poor.

Among the symposium was attended by Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation.

American help for local councils in Aden

BY MARIUM SALEH

ADEN-Oct.2nd - Mr. Abdulkareem Shaif, deputy of Aden Commissioner and chairman of the local council, discussed the perspectives of know-how with the USA ambassador, Mr. Thomas Krajewski. They discussed the subjects such as exchange of experience, support of trade relations and activation and support of local councils. Mr. Shaif spoke of the achievements of the local councils that are realized by the completion of 65% of the infrastructures projects. The completed projects constitute roads, street-lights and the City Mountains. Mr. Saif praised their good relations with the central government that helped in completing the projects of the communications, health, sanitation, post, roads and education.

Mr. Shaif said that Aden should be a peaceful city and that the future strategic sectors of the free zone, the airport and the port will be available for the younger generations once they are operated: "The unemployment is a headache for the local councils and we are looking forward to the help from our American and European friends to help to find opportunities for our youth."

The American ambassador praised Aden, saying that it is a model for other governorates in establishment of democratic system and security, which they achieved by qualifying and training coast guards. The ambassador

said, "I am sure that the economy and trade of the port will attract the European investments if we support it. We will support the local councils' elections in order to make them a good model for the other governorates."

Yemen takes part in Greece civilization conference

SANA'A- Oct. 4 - The Government of Yemen is making the necessary arrangements for partaking in the civilization conference that is organized by the Center of National Glory of Russia in Greece.

The event started on the 5th of October and is expected to last till 9th of the month.

Yemen has prepared a paper on the religious dialogue and its role in fighting terrorism to be presented at the conference. The paper included the

Yemeni efforts and experiences in this regard. Prior to his departure, Judge Hamoud al-Hitar, Chairman of the Theological Dialogue Committee, said that the conference would discuss a number of papers concerning the civilization rights, especially what was cited by the beginning of 21 century. The conference would also address contemporary issues such as youth and teaching, as well as the situations in the Middle East and Balkan, al-Hitar said.

Czech Embassy celebrates national day

SANA'A- Sept. 28- In its premises, the Czech Embassy in Sana'a staged a celebration on the occasion of the national day of the Republic of Czechoslovakia.

The event was attended by a number of ambassadors of foreign countries, diplomats and representatives of international organizations, as well as many senior Yemeni government officials,

military leaders, media personnel and businessmen.

On the occasion, the Czech ambassador gave a speech in which he mentioned the growing bilateral relations between Yemen and the Republic of Czechoslovakia in different fields. He expressed his hope that such friendly relations between the two countries will become even stronger in the future.

Aden Golden Tulip Hotel farewells ex-manager

BY ADEN BUREAU

ADEN- Oct. 1- The Aden Golden Tulip Hotel held a celebration on Saturday to farewell its ex-manager, Mr. Fadhil al-Hilali.

Several speeches were given that emphasized the successful achievements that have been made under Mr. Fadhil al-Hilali during his post and from which the Aden Golden Tulip Hotel got a good reputation on the regional level.

Mr. Fadhil al-Hilali said that the hotel was improved in different respects during his post that spanned over five years.

He pointed out that although he left the hotel, he will keep in touch with the new management of the hotel.

Vacancy Announcement

Korean National Oil Corporation (KNOC) invites Yemeni National to apply for the following position with its office in Sana'a

Position : Accountant

Qualifications:

- 1- University Graduate-preferable college of commerce.
- 2- Experience minimum 5 years
- 3- Speak and write English and Arabic

Candidate requested to send the CV with picture to the Company

P.O. BOX 16955 before the 11th Oct.2005. Shortlist candidates will be notify for final interview



The British Foreign & Commonwealth Chevening Scholarship Scheme



British Embassy
Sana'a

The British Embassy invites applications for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Chevening Scholarship Scheme. This highly-competitive scheme offers full-time postgraduate scholarships of varying length to Yemeni women and men who will play a key role in promoting Yemen's political, economic & social development.

Applicants who must be under 40, should have a university degree and very good written and spoken English. Candidates will be selected on the basis of their potential and motivation to rise to positions of authority.

Spouses and children are not funded under the scheme.

The deadline for applications is 21st November 2005.

The application form and full information are available on line from the British Council web site:

www.britishcouncil.org/yemen

Applications are to be submitted by hand to our office, by mail to PO Box 2157, Sana'a or Fax to 44 83 60.

For further information on the scheme please visit the following web site:
www.chevening.com



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Number of German language freshmen at Sana'a University doubles

Breaking down the language barrier



Last Saturday, 1st October, the German Embassy's Cultural Attaché Hendrik Selle invited all first year students of the German Department of Sana'a University to an already traditional reception party. The fact that the event had to be transferred for reasons of space to the large mafraj of the

Yemeni-German Friendship Society is a remarkable testimony to the rising interest in German language and culture among young Yemenis. 80 freshers this year (i.e. an increase by nearly 100 per cent in comparison with 2004) – a record figure for the German Department of Sana'a University's

Language Faculty, which was doubtless helped by the promotional 'German Day' held at Sana'a University earlier this year!

After the warm reception speech held by the host and vice chairman of the Friendship Society, Mr Amin Dirhem, Mr Selle praised the excellent Yemeni-German relations on all levels and highlighted the important role of the German language for the professional career of Yemeni students.

Feasting on coffee and cake almost

like in Germany, and with the presence of German Department's director Prof. Dr. Ali Mansoor, Mrs Judith Zepter and the language assistant Rafael Sánchez (both representatives of the German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD), the students then had the chance to ask all their questions about Germany and everything that goes with it. A wide range of different aspects were discussed: the system of academic studies in Germany, the most famous German universities (a question easy to answer for Mr Selle, whose home town is Heidelberg, known worldwide for its ancient university), the most important sights for tourists, the international role of the German language. But also questions having to do with recent and forthcoming events, like the German elections and their results, which not only Yemeni observers are finding dif-

ficult to understand, and of course the Football World Cup, which will take place in Germany in 2006.

As far as the relations between Germans and Muslims are concerned, the students learned that there are nearly 3.5 million Muslims living in Germany and that in many German cities Turkish and Arab life-style is quite common and visible in the streets.

Mr Selle also pointed out that the German language is on its way to enter the Yemeni school curricula. Actually, German is being taught as a foreign language at six secondary schools in Sanaa and Taiz.

The reception party was a perfect chance for all the participants to get to know each other and to start the adventure of learning German with fresh information and motivation.

SIEMENS

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SIEMENS AG Communications -Mobile Networks , Yemen Branch is seeking highly qualified Yemeni personnel for:

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if you fulfill the above requirements, please send your CV and application letter to the following address not later than 15 October 2005.

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Sana'a Yemen

Turkish embassy marks national day

The Turkish embassy in sanaa held Sunday evening a grand reception party in celebration of Turkish national day attended by a host of Yemenis social political and media figures .

The reception party was also attended by a number of arab and foreign diplomats and representatives of regional and international organizations .

The Turkish ambassador H.E. Ambassador Türel Özkara delivered a welcome speech saying

Honorable Minister, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,

I am honored to welcome you at the Turkish Embassy on the occasion of the Turkish National Day. I also would like to thank you all for coming to celebrate this very special day with us.

My special gratitude goes to H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Mujawwer, Minister of Fisheries, for being with us this evening.

Please allow me to say a few words about Yemen, as well as about Turkish-Yemeni relations.

Yemen has achieved so much in the past decade. Furthermore, by advancing so far such a short time, Yemen has set an example for many other countries in its region and beyond. We are closely observing Yemen's efforts to implement political and economic reforms, its fight against terrorism and its endeavors to bring security and stability to the Horn of Africa. Needless to say, Turkey stands ready to support Yemen in these commendable efforts.

In a recent and very encouraging development, Turkey, Yemen and Italy have joined forces in the Democracy Assistance Dialogue, which was initiated after the 2004 G-8 Summit held in the United States. Our support to Yemen in this area will continue.

All in all, I am proud to be able to state that relations between our two countries have gained serious momentum and are moving towards a high level of cooperation which will benefit both Yemen and Turkey.

Bilateral trade between the two countries has been steadily on the rise for the past 4 years. Some weeks ago we concluded a very successful Joint Economic Committee meeting. We are continuing to search for ways to further strengthen the economic and trade relations between Turkey and Yemen.

As you know, H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdo_an, Prime Minister of Turkey, will be visiting Yemen towards the end of this month, at the invitation of H.E. President Saleh This visit will be the first of its kind after Turkish Prime Minister Özal's trip in 1987. We have a very different, yet extremely ripe political environment today. I believe our Prime Minister's visit will provide both countries with many new opportunities for cooperation.

Announcement

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INVITATION TO TENDER FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SHIP REPAIR FACILITIES AT THE YPA TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT, PORT OF ADEN

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MARIE STOPES INTERNATIONAL VACANCY PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Marie Stopes International YEMEN

Marie Stopes International is a marketing focused, results oriented, social enterprise developing efficient, effective and sustainable reproductive healthcare programmes in over 38 countries worldwide. The Head Office is in London.

Marie Stopes International has been working in Yemen since 1998 and operates a clinic-based service delivery programme and a social marketing programme in partnership with the Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population.

We are currently looking for a dynamic individual to fill the position of Programme Director of Marie Stopes International in Yemen. MSIY currently has 4 reproductive health centres across Yemen, runs community based health activities and manages a contraceptive social marketing project. We expect to recruit a highly motivated, well organised person to run the Yemen programme and actively develop the capacity and scope for continued expansion and improvement.

The Programme Director's responsibilities include: leadership of a diverse well-established team, strategic planning, monitoring and development of nationwide marketing plans, project management / implementation, new programme development including the possible opening of new centres, fundraising, liaison with relevant stakeholders including Government, donors and MSI-London, managing the finance department, and human resource development.

The ideal candidate will be educated to degree level with significant senior management experience demonstrating strong marketing, business management and leadership skills. They will be innovative, results-oriented and enthusiastic with strong and proven financial, marketing and general management skills. We particularly welcome applicants with business sector experience. Knowledge of reproductive healthcare is not essential but familiarity with regional culture and social issues is desirable, as is international experience and work in difficult environments. Fluent spoken and written Arabic is essential.

In return we are prepared to offer a competitive salary package and the opportunity to apply your energy and skills to further develop an already sustainable business that is meeting important social goals.

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Fax: +44 20 7574 7419; or e-mail to recruitment@mariestopes.org.uk. Please quote reference M5/861.

A report on the discussion round on the democratic experience of Egypt:

Egypt, rediscovered

REPORTED BY NADIA AL-SAKKAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The close association between Yemen and Egypt has again manifested itself through the friendly well informing discussion round which took place last Wednesday at Yemen 21st Century Forum at the Yemen Times. The discussion was about the Egyptian elections along with reviewing the democratic experience of Egypt in the past and until today. The main working paper was presented by His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Badr Eldin Zayed Egyptian Ambassador to Yemen, who was introduced to the gathering by Dr. Ahmed al-Asbahi Assistant Secretary-General of the GPC. Dr. Al-Asbahi described briefly the good relations between Yemen and Egypt and how the current staff in the Embassy lead by Dr. Badr Eldin has promoted the level of economic, cultural, educational and political relations between the two countries significantly.



Dr. Mohamed Badr Eldin, Egyptian Ambassador to Yemen

“Democracy is not a new concept for Egypt. The Egyptian political process is often misunderstood and to know the truth, the history of Egypt must be revised.”

Dr. Mohammed Badr Eldin
Egyptian Ambassador to Yemen

parts live through the phases of Egyptian history from ancient times to the modern starting with the time of Mohamed Ali Pasha and until today. It was like rediscovering Egypt again through the words of a knowledgeable insider. After thanking the Yemen Times for hosting this special event, and thanking his colleagues in the session, Dr. Mohamed Badr Eldin

“No matter how strong the internal differences are, Egypt always comes first, always has and always will!”

Dr. Ahmed al-Asbahi
Assistant Secretary-General of the GPC

started the presentation by clarifying one important point. “Democracy is not a new concept for Egypt and elections were carried out in the past one way or another! The Egyptian political process is often misunderstood and to know the truth, the history of Egypt must be revised,” he said. With that statement all ears and eyes were hanging on every word he spoke, we were thinking to ourselves how could

elections not be new to Egypt when the recent elections were the first to take place since the revolution? Could there have been a democratic space during the Egyptian Monarchy? To our astonishment the answer was yes.

Dr. Badr Eldin continued indicating that because of the long and complicated political process in Egypt, many tend to miss out vital phenomena that took place during the past. For instance, the great revolutions of the past during the Middle Kingdom of the Ancient Egyptian State were pioneer political movements in history took place even older than the democratic process in Europe and the Western Hemisphere. Mohamed Ali Pasha himself in early 19th Century had come to power because of the political will of the elite political and social figures of the time. The will of the intellectuals was enforced on the Ottoman Empire which was seen as incompetent in protecting Egypt from the French or the British, who were defeated by the Egyptians themselves at a later stage.

“In the early 19th Khedewi Ismael tried to implement some of the manifestations of modern life and established a parliament in a show of democracy without having it in the true sense. But what did happen was when the democratic movements started

to take place in the world such as the Magna Carta movement in Britain things got out of Khedewi’s hands and the members of parliament who were representatives of the aristocratic class started to challenge Khedewi Ismael in demand for true reforms and building a real democratic system. The Khedewi’s reaction then was to dissolve the Parliament an event that led to Orabi’s revolution in 1881 of which the main demand was to establish a democratic society and a parliamentary system in Egypt. Unfortunately, it was the British intervention then that aborted the democratic process in Egypt and turned Egypt into a British Colony. In 1919 the national anti-colonial movement was formed and a revolution took place establishing a constitution in 1923 at a time when democracy world wide was a myth. The period between 1923 and 1952 was characterized as a lively parliamentary democratic phase hindered by two powers: the king and the British occupation.”

“Here comes a new era in the Egyptian political process. Achievements in many domains were recognized on the political, social and economic dimensions, domestically and regionally on both the Arab and African fronts. There were mistakes also that led to the defeat in 1967, Gamal Abdel Nasir, the then President, admitted to these mistakes himself in a famous 30th March speech, when he emphasized the need to establish a democratic system. This was followed by President Sadat’s welcoming of a multi-political system and a degree of freedom of expression was initiated. During President Mubarak’s rule the freedom-margin expanded greatly as President Mubarak’s first political move internally was to meet with the opposing political forces. The fall back was when Egypt was drawn into endless struggle against terrorism that made the speed of the democratic process relax.”

The above were quotes from Dr. Badr Eldin’s narration of the democratic process in Egypt over the years. One point became clear after this information was given; the democratic experience in Egypt is not new. However, we all had questions regarding the recent elections experience. The participants ranging from journalists and media people, to intellectuals and political party representatives had a few questions for Dr. Badr Eldin and Dr. Al-Asbahi in mind.

The discussion:

The Muslim brothers

Q: A question was raised about the influence of the Ikhwan al-Muslimeen in the political arena and why the ruling party could not embrace such a movement although it is more of charity work than an organized political movement.

A: Ambassador Dr. Zayed was clear in his reply; there is not enough appreciation in the Arab World and elsewhere for the Egyptian Christian population which constitutes a sizeable number of the whole population. He added that Egypt provides a model of coexistence that is studied by many throughout the world. The Egyptian government is determined to jeopardize this for the sake of having religious parties especially that everyone can participate through legitimate parties.

Low participation

Q: Many questions were raised regarding the low participation in the elections, 23% is really low, and what do you say to that?

A: The percentage of participation in any country is governed by many factors. There is no cut off limit for a credible percentage. However, if you consider recent referenda and elections you would notice that there has been an increase. It takes time for people to adapt to the new experience and realize the importance of political participation.

Many candidates and huge difference in votes

Q: There were 10 candidates and some of which seemed rather feeble to stand against the President, yet the strongest opposition came with a huge difference in votes, what do you think that is so?

A: There is no limitation to the number of candidates and I hope that the profile of the opposition candidates would improve in future elections as they have learned from this one. The difference in votes could be attributed to the trust people have in Mubarak along with the fact that the second place came to a person who participated only recently in the political stage.

Government and opposition

Q: To what extent does the government support the existence of opposition? And shouldn’t it?

A: The opposition should gain its



“We should learn from each other’s experiences without prejudice, the culture of dialogue should dominate because this is its time and place.”

Dr. Ahmed al-Asbahi
Assistant Secretary-General of the GPC

grounds on its own using the existing legal framework especially that the government has promised that political reform is continuing. Opposition parties obtain their legitimacy from addressing the basic needs of the Egyptian people. You should not expect the government to support the opposition. It never has and never will.

Vice President

Q: Each Egyptian President until Mubarak had a Vice President who eventually took over. How come there is no current Vice President for Mubarak?

A: Probably this was his political will to allow space for a better choice and elections. The current political reforms will address the role of the Vice President.

Egypt and the Arab world

Q: Another question was raised concerning the impact of the recent Egyptian elections.

A: Dr. Ahmed al-Asbahi replied to this question by saying that although every country has its own peculiarities the essential priority is to have space for dialogue and try to observe and learn from each other. “You can not simply compare an experience in one country and say why this is not happening elsewhere because every country has its own peculiarities and its current status depends greatly on its historical progress. However in our hearts we know that Egypt is considered the heartbeat of the Arab world and as long as that heart is fine, we would like to think that the good health would be spreading to the other parts of the nation. We should learn from each other’s experiences without prejudice, the culture of dialogue should dominate because this is its time and place,” he said.

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الحساب موجه لجميع أبنائنا وبناتنا الاطفال دون السن ١٥ سنة

مع حساب التوفير الصاعد

التعلم والتوفير والربح

يمكنك منح أطفالك المزيد من الثقة وانت تعلمهم كيفية ومفهوم وممارسة التوفير الامثل للمستقبل وبحضور الممثل الى المصرف لتوديع في حساب تجريبية جديدة وممتعة في ان واحد . ويجري فتح الحساب ببروح الطفل حضارة التامل . وسيكون له الفرصة لتدوير باكثر من جاذبة والتي سيخصمها المصرف في البرنامج الترويجي . انكل بربح الحساب توفير الصاعد والذي سيبدأ من اول شهر اكتوبر الى نهاية شهر مارس من عام ٢٠٠٦ م .

الشهر	القياس	إحدى هدايا نهاية الشهر
من أكتوبر ٢٠٠٥ الى مارس ٢٠٠٦	اقل من حساب جديده او اقل من حساب قديمه	١٠٠٠٠ ريال
من نوفمبر ٢٠٠٥ الى مارس ٢٠٠٦	اقل من حساب قديمه	٣٠٠٠٠ ريال
من ديسمبر ٢٠٠٥ الى مارس ٢٠٠٦	اقل من حساب قديمه	٤٠٠٠٠ ريال
من فبراير ٢٠٠٦ الى مارس ٢٠٠٦	اقل من حساب قديمه	٥٠٠٠٠ ريال

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Germany celebrates the 15th anniversary of its unification

Different worlds, similar problems

By KLAUS HEYMACH
AND SUSANNE SPORRER

Being asked about reunification, the old man does not hide his anger: Of course it would be better if the country was divided again and if those from the other part just cared for their own business. And of course everything was better in those times of socialism.

His two missing front teeth in the upper jaw would have been replaced for free; his dwelling would be paid by the state, whereas these days the rent alone devours almost half of his pension. That's why the rawboned pensioner has to supplement his income as a taxi driver – in Aden, not in East Berlin, notabene.

With a South Yemeni complaining like an East German about the outcome of reunification, the experience in both unified countries seems quite the same. Fifteen years after Germany's unity, an anniversary to be celebrated this 3rd of October, the gap between the two parts of the country is still considerable.

Two thirds of East Germans don't feel represented by either of the two leading parties in unified Germany, the Social or the Christian Democrats. Last month, a study was published in which something close to 50 per cent of the population said it was dissatisfied with the political system.

Anyway, in the beginning, everything seemed so easy. With a comfortable majority, then Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats together with the Liberals won the first joint elections in December 1990, two months after the unification. Kohl had seized the opportunity and opted for a quick merger of both parts, with the East integrating into the West.

Neither the constitution nor the economical system was changed at that time. Not until nine years later did the federal government move from Bonn to Berlin. Little time, if any at all, was left for the well-protected citizens of the East to adapt to the components of capitalism: a free labor market, private insurance and competition in most fields of society.

Should the Germans have accepted President Saleh's offer when, shortly after May 22nd 1990, he offered his officials' help in unifying their country? In the end, Yemen doesn't seem much better off concerning mentalities and prejudices in the once divided parts of the nation.

"After the war, the North imposed its traditions even though our society was much more civilized," complains a socialist in Aden. "The time of equal



Alexanderplatz is the main square in East Berlin.

PHOTO BY MARKUS WIERZ

rights between the two parts was quickly over." The criticism will sound similar in many less developed East German regions. Happily, difficulties between the parts of the unified Germany didn't result in a war as was the case in Yemen.

Not real war, but verbal battles do



Prefabricated concrete buildings in Aden's al-mansurah neighborhood.

PHOTO BY KLAUS HEYMACH

still go on. "Besserwessi" (know-it-all from the West) and "Jammerossi" (whiners from the East) have been common caricatures with which half the country pokes fun at the other half. "The frustrated must not decide on Germany's fate," grumbled the leader of the southern Federal German state Bavaria, Edmund Stoiber, this summer with regard to the inhabitants of the

East. They are considered the main reason why he could not beat Chancellor Gerhard Schröder as a candidate for the Christian Democrats in the federal elections three years ago. Angela Merkel made it this year, even though much less easily than generally expected. Provided that she

Socialist Unity Party, now just called the Left.

It's not only politics which makes the difference; also on the surface the East and the West still differ. Take popular dress, for example. As much as the djambia dagger and the white men's robe are reserved for the Northerners, with a little practice you'll be able to tell the typical West Berliner from an East Berliner flocking out of the same theater just by looking at their kind of fashion and hairstyles. Or listen to them: As much as Southerners stick to their "G" and

Northerners prefer to pronounce the "Q" the soft way, listening to the East German dialect from Saxony makes you right away think of former socialist party and state leader Erich Honecker.

Many people don't mix, anyway. Why take the underground to West Berlin if you have your cinemas and shopping malls in the East? After the wall came down in November 1989, many East Germans' preferred destinations were Spain or Italy, not Munich, Hamburg or Frankfurt in the West. You'll find the same sentiment in Aden. "Too conservative," is one of the reasons why some Adeni students are not eager to visit the old town of Sana'a.

Religion is a criteria in Germany, too. One can witness it in the churches, which by and large are noticeably emptier in the East than in the Catholic South and Protestant North of former West Germany. While three quarters of West Germans believe that faith is important for life, in the East it's only every second, according to a study published this summer. Religiosity was all but welcome under the socialists, and it has – this time contrary to Yemen – not really gained pace after reunification.

The speed of the economic unification lagged behind expectations, too. The "flourishing scenes" once promised by Kohl to the impatient East Germans in many regions rather resemble meager brownfields. Until the end of last year, 25 billion Euros have been invested in streets and railways in the East, but many streets of houses in the eastern cities will still remind you of the prefabricated concrete buildings in Aden's Mansurah neighborhood.

The unemployment rate of almost 20 per cent on an average in the East is still the double of the West. Thus, especially young people are still moving away and look for jobs in the West. During the next 15 years, East Germany is expected to lose eleven per cent of its inhabitants.

In contrast to South Yemen, little resources are to be found in the East, between the Baltic Sea and the Erzgebirge mountains. Five decades of socialist rule ruined the whole economy. And just as in Aden, people in East Berlin, Leipzig and Dresden were not used to muddle through as those in the booming West. The comrades of former socialism were naïve and professionally incompetent, people backbite in northern Yemen as well as in western Germany.

Many Yemenis saw both unifications. Aden University's main building was built by the GDR, the Soviet Union and Bulgaria and once was the home for the Socialist party's central committee. Here, every fourth lecturer has studied in Germany, mainly in the

Half the World

By Nisha



Women and environment

Until now one does not hear much discussion on environmental issues in Yemen. And if one does come across a discussion, it is often limited to the island of Socotra or the World Bank or the Dutch grants for water projects. One does not come across points of argument around how women and men are affected differently by changes in environment. This is a challenge as well as an opportunity. Since there is no set discourse around environment and keeping in view the rise in consumerism, it is challenging to give a voice to the concern for environment. However, the absence of a set discourse also presents an opportunity to develop gender responsive dialogues on environmental conservation and protection. This could lead to formulation of interventions to address the different situation of women and men in relation to their dependence on environment or their different vulnerabilities to environmental degradation.

Experiences from different parts of the world suggest that the negative effects of environmental degradation are likely to hit the poorest people the hardest. Women among the poorest share a disproportionate share of responsibility related to meeting household needs such as fuel wood, drinking water, fodder for livestock and so on. They also depend on environment for raw material such as date palm leaves that helps them augment their family income. So scarcity of resources like water, for instance, will affect the entire population but it will affect women more adversely because they are more dependent on local water resources for fulfilling their traditional roles in the family, ie, drying up or pollution of natural springs means women have to walk longer in search of water, lack of irrigation water means decline in fodder production and that means walking longer distances in search of vegetation for livestock to graze, etc. In other words, disproportionate share of care responsibilities make poor women disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of environmental degradation. This vulnerability is made more serious by the fact that differences in property rights and actual ownership of agricultural property, poor access to information, and poor opportunities to acquire knowledge. Segregation between women and men and lack of mobility among women keep women and their concerns away from the decision-making. In other words, not only women and men are affected differently by environmental degradation, their abilities to change their situation in relation to environment are also different. Women, due to their exclusion from the public space, do not get opportunities to engage in environmental conservation and protection interventions.

An immediate consequence of environmental degradation for poor women is that their workload increases. A long term impact of increased workload is that women will have less time for leisure, and to find and use opportunities to improve their skills and move into non-traditional activities. This entire process that is centred around women spending more time fulfilling traditional reproductive

roles, reinforces traditional division of labour and prevents women from shifting to productive work. To make discussions on environment and interventions associated with environment and livelihoods responsive towards women, it is important that gender based differences in immediate and long term impacts of environmental degradation are analysed and addressed.

Differences in dependence on environment, awareness about impact of environmental degradation and the opportunities to protect environment affect women and men's motivation to protect environment. In Yemeni context, it is hard to say if women are more inclined to protect environment and change practices that harm environment. A tremendous change in lifestyle is going on in Yemen and both women and men are part of this change. There is a greater emphasis on imported consumer and basic everyday use products. Exclusion of concerns for environment from public discourses act as a barrier to the development of a larger concern for environment. But one can say that socio-cultural factors like ghettoisation of women in the private sphere and perception of environmental conservation and protection as technical matters and women as technically incompetent leads to blocking of opportunities that might get women to develop a stake in environmental debates and interventions. Also, given poor women's dependence on natural resources to fulfil their traditional reproductive responsibilities, one can say that women would be more prepared to adopt environment friendly behaviour and participate in conservation efforts.

To understand the potential to improve environmental situation in Yemen, there is immediate need for research about gender aspects of environmental degradation. For example, with regard to water projects being implemented in Yemen there is a shortage of gender analysis. Such a gap means that water projects may not actually meet women's needs. Since these projects slant towards technology based interventions rather than traditional knowledge based conservation and protection, the jobs created through these projects are more likely to go to men than women. It is important, therefore, that women with understanding of gender relations and roles and environment are involved in environmental projects at all levels so that gender needs are analysed and addressed. There is also a need to meet the general information gap regarding Yemeni environment as well as information needs of women that could help them participate in environmental debates and interventions.

If gender needs in relation to environment are not taken into account, both deficit of interventions and the presence of gender blind or neutral interventions would have a negative effect on gender equality. Moreover, without participation of women at all levels and in decision-making, the mission of protecting and conserving environment may not be possible. Women's participation in environmental debates and interventions will improve their effectiveness and also offer greater potential of their sustainability.

former German Democratic Republic (GDR). "Now we earn as much as a professor in Sana'a University," admits one professor. "But apart from that, we feel we are as second class as the East Germans." New ideologies, new behaviors, all imposed by the powerful north: "Not everything was bad under the socialists."

Economic and social problems prepare a fertile ground for nostalgia and transfiguration of the past. In Germany, this paved the way for successful TV shows almost glorifying the former police state. After being temporarily replaced by West German products, coffee, detergent and sparkling wine, produced in East German factories,

reappeared in the supermarkets. And a new word was born: "eastalgic."

Despite all complaints, neither in Germany nor in Yemen do people seem to seriously question their country's unity. It is true that still in last month's poll, every eighth East German wanted back the wall "protecting" him from the capitalist West, as the construction was justified in the early 60s. But none of the political parties in Germany has that choice to offer in their programs, with one exception: a party, simply called "The Party," founded recently by the editorial staff of the (Western) Frankfurt satire magazine "Titanic." In the September 18th elections, they only got 10,300 out of 48 million votes.



"Neues Deutschland" ("new Germany") is the title of the (former Eastern) Socialist party's mouthpiece; the picture shows the headquarters in East Berlin.

PHOTO BY MARKUS WIERZ



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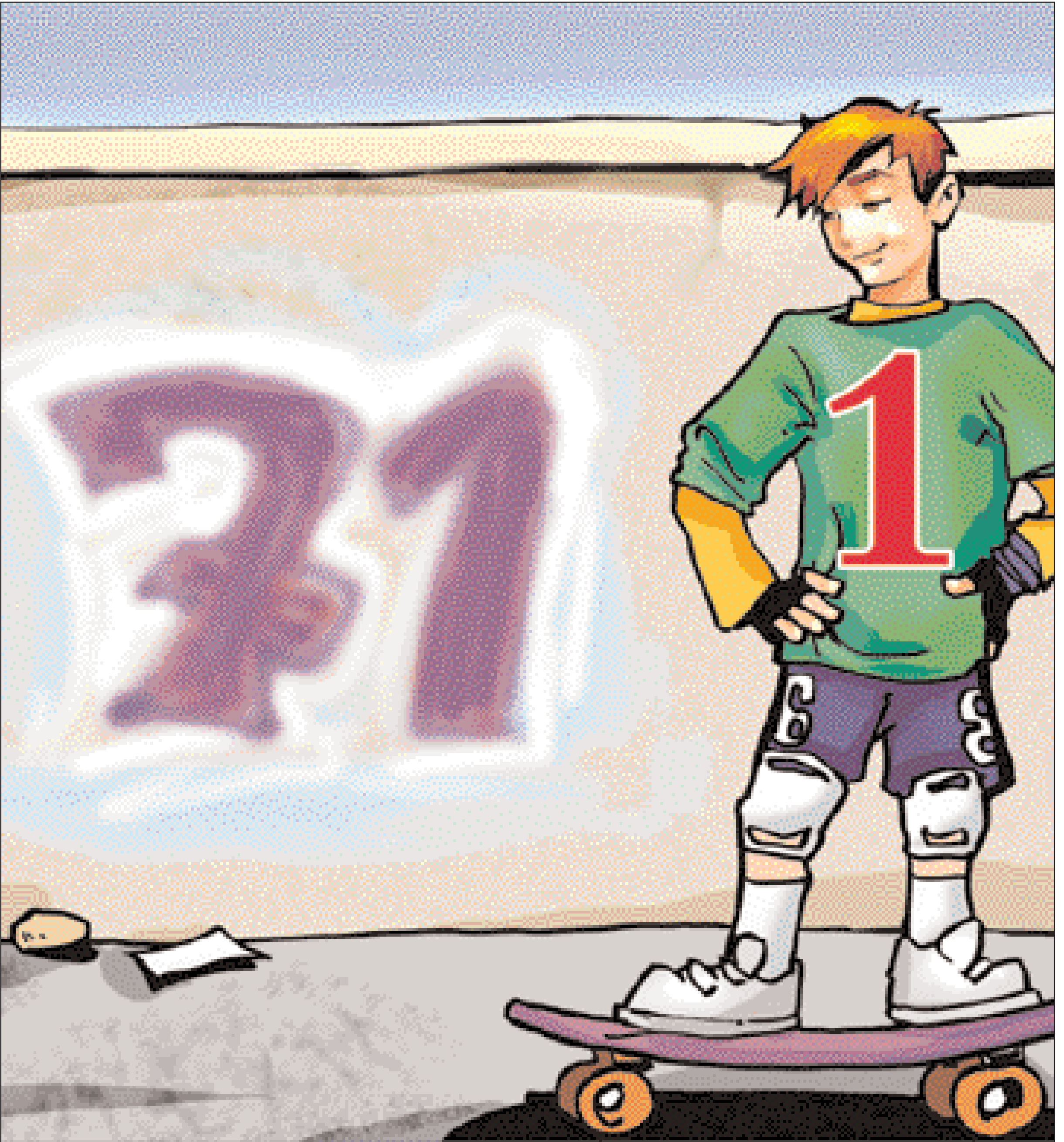
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Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR
OPINION

The scary equation

What defines the power of a country is not just how many resources the country has, but more importantly how many of the resources are in the hands of the people. This is very related to the people's ability to purchase. If one cannot afford the merely basic needs, one is on the boarder of the poverty zone. The more one is able to purchase, or rather to spend money on other than basic needs, the further one is from the economic poverty line. There are many factors that play a role in people's ability to work, also termed as "productivity". There are factors of age, education and skills, opportunity and some times gender. Let us take Yemen for example. Yemen's vast population is very young: 50% of the population is in the age group between 0-15 years old. Adding two percent for people above 60 years of age, the supposedly productive percentage is only 48% of the population. Considering that 50% of the productive group is females, the productivity of females in Yemen range between 3-15% of the women able to work, according to gender statistics. There are many reasons influencing on this aspect, such as education and the fact that one of two women in Yemen is illiterate, and in the rural areas as much as 70%. Besides the problem of illiteracy, cultural barriers stand against women's participation in the public sphere. This means that in spite of the fact that 50% of the productive group is female, only 15% (at best) of the women are able to work.

In the end it is only 27.6% of the whole population that are being productive. Taking unemployment into account, which according to government statistics is 30% (while other non-government statistics give higher percentages), this leaves us with only 19.32% of the population actually productive.

Around 23 percent of the population is shouldering the responsibility of feeding the 21 million inhabitants of Yemen. Even though there is a theoretical 19% of the population earning, only 30% of that group are able to spend money on other things than food. This is the percentage of people above the poverty line. These other things may include health, education, housing, clothes and other, but it does not include tourism or purchase of high technology for example.

Coming back to our calculation: of the 19.32% able to earn, only 30% (5.79% of the total population) is able to spend on non-basic issues. This 5.8% defines the target market for technology, tourism, brands, style, etc. Just below 6% of the Yemeni population are able to purchase a digital camera or branded shoes. 6% of the population are supposedly able to go to a different city on holidays or if lucky enough to a neighboring country.

Although this percentage is theoretical and could have been calculated in many other ways, the fact remains that it is an extremely low percentage. This means that in spite of the large population in Yemen, the percentage that the business sector is competing on only constitutes 6% of the total population (1.3 million people).

The point here is not about Yemen being a good consumption market for international companies; it is the fact that although Yemen has a large population, it also has more human and natural resources than many other countries. Still, it's per capita income is very low, hardly exceeding 400\$ per year, while countries such as Lebanon, which is a war battered country with no oil resources, have a per capita income that reaches 7000\$ per year. There are many reasons why the Yemeni economy is so low. Among others is the high growth of population, weak infrastructure, feeble economic system and strategies. Yet, what is most important is the spread of corruption and lack of good governance. This creates an environment not suitable for investment, economic growth, development or progress. The bottom-line is that good governance is the only way forward if we want to utilize our resources right.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

Turkish embassy celebrates National Day

The Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in Sana'a celebrated the 82nd anniversary of the proclamation of the Turkish Republic on Sunday, October 2nd, on the Embassy premises. The reception was attended by Yemeni officials, members of the diplomatic corps, Turkish and Yemeni businessmen, media representatives and members of Sana'a's Turkish community.

A secular, democratic republic founded by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk on October 29th, 1923, the Republic of Turkey is strategically situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and is surrounded by three seas and twelve neighboring states. Turkey's role as a physical and cultural bridge between the two continents is reflected in its international relations. Guided by its founder Atatürk's dictum "peace at home, peace in the world", Turkey pursues a peaceful foreign policy with Western, Middle Eastern and Asian nations. It is a member of most international organizations including the Council of Europe, NATO and the OSCE as well as the Organization of the Islamic Conference. A founding member of the United Nations, Turkey has contributed to the maintenance of international peace and stability for over fifty years by participating in UN-mandated peacekeeping missions across the globe.

Turkey, for many years an associate member of the European Union, is currently an accession candidate to the EU. Taking into consideration the comprehensive political and economic reforms carried out in Turkey in recent years, EU leaders agreed last December to start accession negotiations on October 3rd of this year, with the aim of granting full EU membership to Turkey.

Turkey, with a dynamic population of over 70 million, is one of the most populous countries in its region. It is also among the most industrialized, and the Turkish economy has registered a steady growth in recent years.

Turkey's average GDP growth rate rose to 8.9 percent in 2004, from 5.8 percent in 2003.

Turkey's economy and financial markets went through a process of liberalization in the 1980s. Turkey now boasts the world's 20th largest economy with a GDP of \$302 billion, and the private sector has become the economy's driving force. The most competitive Turkish economic sectors are textiles, the iron and steel industry, construction, industrial and agricultural machinery as well as the agro-industry. A wide range of products are manufactured in Turkey, from durable household products to electronics, automobiles and aircraft. At present, over 70 percent of Turkey's exports are industrial goods and 60 percent of its exports are directed towards European markets.

In recent years, Turkey has become one of the world's most popular tourist destinations. Turkey's geographic placement as a melting pot of civilizations over the millennia has endowed the country with a large number of historical and cultural treasures, including sites dating from the ancient Greek, Assyrian, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman periods. Tourists are also drawn to the country's beautiful beaches, fascinating landscapes and rich culture. In this regard, and in terms of accessibility, Turkey ranks among the nations with the highest tourism potentials. Over 17.5 million tourists visited Turkey in 2004, including more than 2200 tourists from Yemen.

Yemen and Turkey enjoy friendly relations which stem from historical and cultural ties. Bilateral cooperation between the two countries has been increasing continuously since respective embassies were opened in Sana'a and Ankara in 1988. Turkish Embassy officials state that relations between Yemen and Turkey are developing satisfactorily to the benefit of the brotherly peoples of both countries. Cooperation continues in many fields, ranging from international politics to

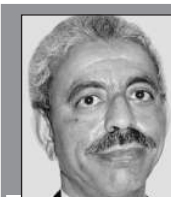
cultural affairs. Numerous agreements and protocols were signed in recent years covering economy and trade, energy, health, sports, higher education, national archives, transport and aviation, standardization, tourism, security and the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking. Turkey wishes to further develop its relations with Yemen in all areas, and Embassy officials believe that a huge potential exists for such increased cooperation.

Turkey welcomes the democratic and economic reforms achieved by Yemen after the nation's unification in 1990, and highly appreciates the Yemeni Government's poverty-eradication program as well as Yemen's efforts and cooperation with the international community in combating terrorism. Since 2004, Yemen, along with Turkey and Italy, is also a co-sponsor of the Democracy Assistance Dialogue of the G-8's Forum for the Future.

A highly successful third session of the Turkish-Yemeni Joint Committee, concerning trade, economic and technical cooperation, was concluded in Ankara this September. This meeting has paved the way for the signing of an agreement on the avoidance of double taxation between the two countries, which is expected to be finalized soon.

The trade between Yemen and Turkey has also been on the rise. Last year's bilateral trade volume exceeded \$214 million in 2004, marking an increase of 25 percent from 2003. Yemeni businessmen are of the opinion that Turkish industrial products are of good quality and that their prices are competitive.

Political, economic and trade relations between Yemen and Turkey are expected to receive a further boost at the end of this month, when Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan will conduct a three-day official visit to Yemen accompanied by a delegation which will include over a hundred Turkish businessmen.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The Moslem World:

Are we truly a nation of good standing

On the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadhan, aside from the worship rites and duties ascribed to the month for Moslems to engage in throughout the world, Ramadhan is also a month of reflection and meditation, in which Moslems should take a hard look at themselves. Are we truly portraying ourselves as a nation that is joined together by one of the greatest universal messages delivered to mankind? Are we being true to our religious concepts of upholding human rights and brotherhood and affirming that all Moslems should be concerned for the plight of their brother Moslems everywhere? These are important questions that Moslems must delve into, especially these days, with the Nation so fragmented and facing so many challenges, not just from enemies outside the faith, but within our own frameworks as individual states and regional agglomerations and a Nation that is bound together by a universal message.

The difficulties faced by Turkey in joining the European Union raise many questions and understandably are a clear indication that Moslem states will always be viewed as obviously out of tune with Western alliances, blocs or associations. Thus, it is not surprising that Turkey should find many obstacles towards being regarded as a bona fide European state. It is also understandable that the Europeans would have their doubts about a Moslem state being in cohesion, with the more secular outlooks of modern European states. For one thing, although the Europeans are more secular in orientation, there is still a long historical divide of a cultural nature that the Europeans have yet to fully wrest from their minds in their prognosis of Moslems in general and of Turkey, in particular. With the Ottoman Turks holding the banner of Islamic Nationhood for close to four hundred years, the European front for Turkey was a challenging battleground, many Europeans are not inclined to look with favor upon. Turkey has gone through great efforts to portray itself as a secular state, and a state that has broken away from its Ottoman "Caliphate" status. Yet, the Europeans are still not at ease with Moslems already numbering in the millions in their midst and to infuse a Moslem state in the political frameworks of a united Europe is bound to raise eyebrows among many Europeans. The latter see this frankly as a "threat" to the homogeneity of European culture, since there are many aspects of Moslem culture, which rightfully or wrongfully are viewed as out of tune with modern European societies.

That being set aside, it is really pathetic for us as Moslems to have to look outward for seeking more strength and security for our societies, when it would be more appropriate and actually obliging to look towards greater cohesiveness among Moslem states. There is simply no better way for Moslems to seek security and greater economic prosperity than through the encouragement and active support to greater cohesion between Moslem states. They are after all under a religious obligation to do so and the challenges most Moslem states are often shared by most Moslem states, if not all of them. This should not be viewed as an advocacy for the formation of an alliance of confrontation with the West, but rather as a logical approach for peoples, who share so much culture, beliefs and interests to pool their resources to overcome the many problems that have rendered most Moslem states as stagnant in terms of economic and social development. Moreover, any moves in this direction will certainly be welcomed by most of the constituencies in the jigsaw puzzle that makes up the Moslem World stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the heart of the Pacific Ocean and crossing three continents. About the only drawback that one sees in getting any sort of effective international Moslem collectivity are the governments of most of the Moslem states that are for the most part out of tune with the true affinity most Moslems have for one another, which is clearly visible wherever one goes in this wide expanse of territory. In fact, grass roots Moslems throughout the world are always ready to express the aspirations and hopes of a united Moslem world and are quick to blame their respective governments for actually standing in the way of a real genuine effort to get the Moslems of the world to realizing their true potential as a viable interactive international community. One hears this wherever one goes in the Moslem World and can see the looks of regret at the way their respective states are not showing any signs of responding to their constituencies in this respect, not to mention their governments' failure to deal with most of the domestic problems faced in their respective countries.

If there is anything that can be learned from the success of the European Union it is that much of it is due to the empowerment that the European governments grant to their respective citizenries. With the people having a greater say in the way their governments manage affairs of state, it is easy to discern that governments will be inclined to respond affirmatively to the wishes and aspirations of their constituencies. One is convinced that had the citizens of Moslem countries had a greater say in the management of public affairs, not only will we see Moslems opting for greater cohesiveness with other Moslem countries, but we will also find our governments behaving more responsibly in the management of the domestic affairs and doing away with all the stumbling backs that are hampering the development of their respective societies.

It is time to start thinking about the reasons of our past successes as a nation and the motivating forces that brought them on. Those successes kept the Moslem World ahead culturally and economically. In the month of Ramadhan, it might be a good idea for Turkey to start seeking greater rapport among Moslem states. It might find more favorable responses from fellow Moslem states than the cold reception its desire for membership in the EU. This response can at least be counted on from the standpoint of Moslem at the grass roots level, who will be ready to welcome any efforts in this direction with open arms. If Turkey was able to maintain the leadership of the Moslem World for four centuries amidst greater animosity, there is no reason why that should be any more difficult now than it was then, with the world moving towards globalization, which is an inherent Moslem concept as all Moslems know full well.

Where is the so called civilized world?

By SADIA ALI ADEN
Sadiaden@gmail.com

On a letter I sent to London Times on July 27, addressing the people of England in regards of the July 7 London bombing clearly conveyed the concerns I had for the people of England. That letter entitled "please do NOT make the same grave mistake my America made", simply pleaded with the British people to restrain their government as governments have the tendency to overreach and condemn communities across the board and add insult to injury. I asked them to say NO to aggression and abuse toward their Muslim citizens and together find a way to heal their wounds and preserve the bond of their diverse community that makes their beautiful country. Of course, that letter was neither published nor allowed to witness the light of the day. However, my concerns still stand and are in fact more relevant today than they were in July 27.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, American-Muslims were victimizing three times. They found themselves between rock and a hard place, as they have suffered and grieved as Americans; their noble religion of Islam was attacked by the perpetrators of these evil acts (terrorists) and they were victimized and betrayed by the same very government that supposed to protect them. There was a missed opportunity, when President Bush stood before America and the world in his State of the Union Address of September 20, 2001, and alleged that "They hate our freedoms: Our freedom of religion, our freedom of speech, our freedom to vote

and assemble and disagree with each other". His simplistic remarks made us believe that we were attacked because of our values. I was very disappointed with my President's remarks, yet, I yearned for a peaceful solution.

Although, hundreds of Muslims were among the victims of New York and Washington, DC massacre, what ensued was constant violation toward the Muslim community. Muslim boys and men were herded like cattle, women were humiliated and Muslim homes and businesses were constantly occupied by the law enforcing groups. Muslim community's civil liberties were eroded, as American born and raised Muslim men were held incommunicado for years without due process. Women and children were constantly harassed and humiliated and ignorant parts of American public were unleashed to complete the assault. Despite the unrelenting abuse by our government and the silence of the mesmerized and the uninformed American public, we remained steadfast to America, the only country we knew, loved, and instead unleashed our own campaign to educate that reluctant America. It is slow process and a pain-staking course of action, but we are slowly but surely succeeding the educational campaign. However, I constantly ask myself, where is the so-called civilized world?

I am writing these words, not to relive the memories of September 11, but to plea with the people of England to refrain from alienating their Muslim citizens. The British police have stated that there is 6 folds increase on violence against Muslims in Britain. The Westerners are amazed of the uncivilized acts against their civilians as they

should, yet they turn around and violate innocent Muslims around the world and constantly harass and humiliate their own citizens whose only crime is being Muslims, all along trampling their very own established norms and practices. Hence, where is the so-called civilized world?

One Muslim scholar in England named Dr. Zaki Badawi advised Muslim women in England to avoid wearing Muslim garments if believed their lives are endangered. Dr. Badawi has made the above statement because of the fear he has on the fate of the Muslims particularly the Muslim women who are more visible than the Muslim men are. His statement reminded me of advised I received that faithful September 11, 2001, as friend of mine suggested that I consider removing my scarf. Of course, my friend was simply feared for my life, but compromising such a dear value would have been a defeat of cherished principles. Thus, I once again ask, where is the so-called civilized world?

As I did my daily run on the BBC world service web site, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/uk/05/london_blasts/victims/default.stm, I came across the victims of the London bombing and noticed at least 3 of the 52 victims who turned out to be Muslims. Those victims among the innocent London bombing were Atique Sharifi refugee from Afghanistan, Ihab Slimane whose parents were Tunisian origin and Shahara Islam whose parents were Bangladeshi origin. As is apparent from the faith of these victims, it is clear that terrorism does not discriminate, and neither does the so-called western civilized world.



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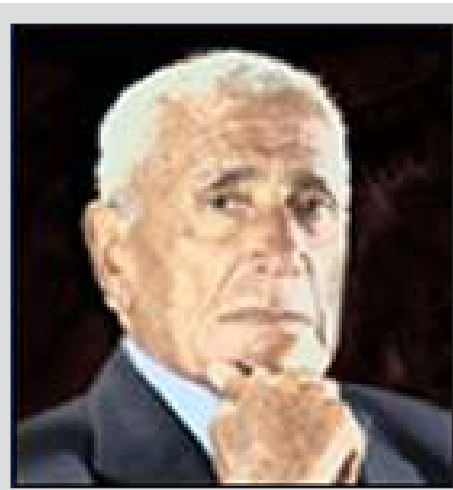
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Haikal: larger than a life's experience

Mohammed Hasanien Haikal is an Egyptian writer and intellectual who has contributed for many years to Arab and Western media on various occasions. He is a prominent figure in the Middle East and has achieved high reputation around the world for his astonishingly frank and far sighted visions, reading through history and between the lines of time. Al-Jazeera TV has created a number of interviews with Haikal in which he talked about his life journey as a human



Mohammed Hasanien Haikal

about my experience as a journalist who was closely related to politics throughout 60 years starting from the second half of the forties to this current post the cold war period. During these 60 years the world went through a violent series of events; the rise of the nuclear powers, the cold war, the breakdown of USSR, the fall of legendary kingdoms and the advancement of the United States to lead the world of today...

During my recall of my experience through life I will not limit my memory to the chronological order of time,

rather I would like to divide my talk into different stages and naturally the first stage would be to mark the start of this journey and describe the environment and circumstances of that time.

There is nothing to compare with being there

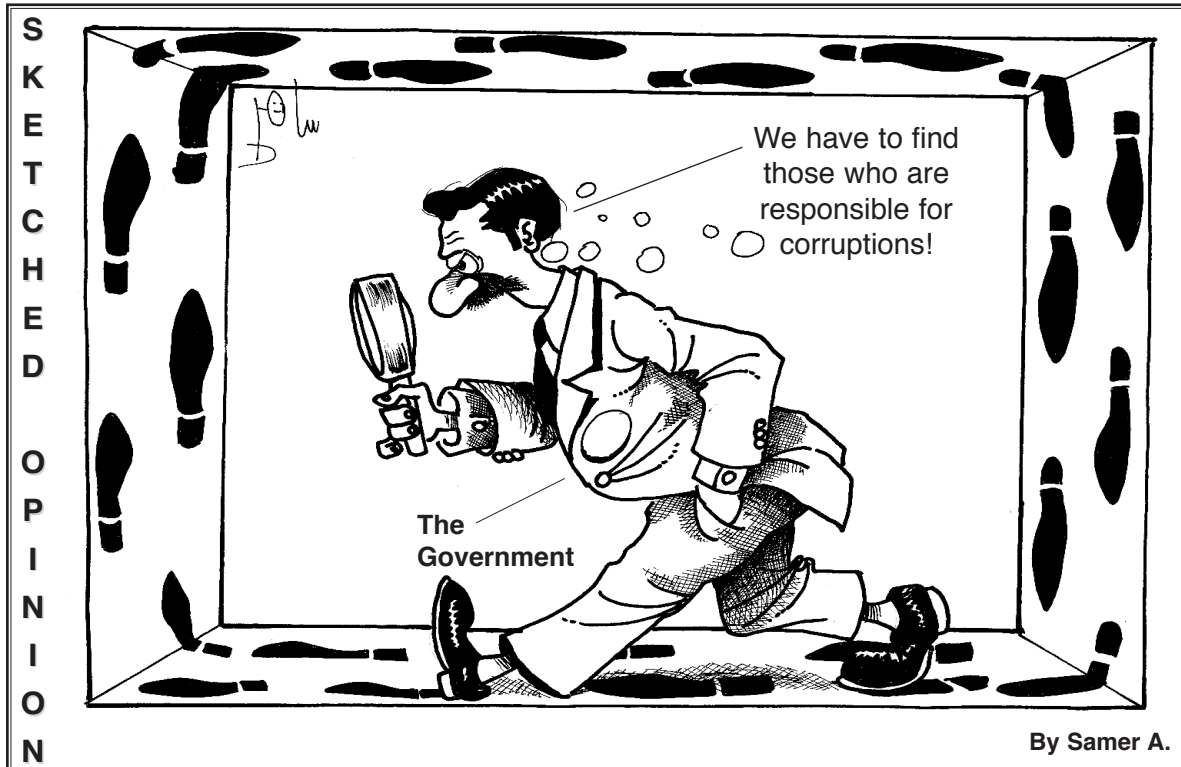
It was 1942, when I was just a young man starting my career as a journalist under training at the Egyptian Gazette. My generation was one that was aware of what is going on around it, and was clear about the generation's demands and priorities of their time. Basically, there were two issues of concern then: independence and progress. The first issue was the struggle to out throw the

and observer of how history is made through 60 years of work in the media and in politics. The Yemen Time selected a number of his interviews and translated them in order to share his openness with our readers.

He says:

First of all I would like to emphasise that this is not a narration of history. It is rather sharing a human experience; how societies were born, grew and progressed, the story of the ever-ending struggle between nations to survive, mature and conquer. We are talking here about life and events that marked history and not numbers. I want to talk

This is not an account of history to blame and point fingers, it is a chance to look back, contemplate and rearrange our papers.



By Samer A.

British occupation of Egypt, which lasted for 70 years, and the second concern was the way forward and at that time eyes were directed towards Europe which was an inspiration for

had clear intellectual choices and the orientations that were offered for adoption were either the liberal school of thought represented by al-Wafd political party or the Islamic trend

were also two clear choices either the Arab nationalism with the affiliation to all Arab nations or else the Egyptian nationalism considering Egypt as an isolated priority for the Egyptian people. In other words there was no confusion of identity or priorities, however today things got terribly mixed up and the current generation does not know what the issues of discussions are. For example, I clearly remember in 1963 Mustafa al-Nahas Basha was talking to Sir Mice Larson the British Ambassador then and conveyed to him that the "Egyptian people will not accept the establishment of a Jewish state at its borders, I am here talking for the Egyptian's people and not just for myself."

The difference between past and history is that history lives on to the present creating the features of today

many Egyptian intellectuals at that time. Unfortunately today's generation is lost doesn't know what it needs and doesn't know the options it has. My generation

represented by Ikhwan al-Muslimeen (Muslim Brothers) or the Marxism movement as expressed by the communists. In terms of identity there

Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

Yet another youth organization: AISIEC

BY ALAA QASEM (CALGARY - CANADA)

"AISIEC is an international, non-political, non-profit, student-run, independent, educational foundation. It is comprised of students and recent graduates of institutions of higher education who are interested in economics and management."

Why AISIEC?

AISIEC is the leading organization developing future leaders for global society. The organization focuses on expanding the exposure of students by involving them in trainee programs that cross the natural boundaries of their countries.

The main mission of AISIEC is to empower today's students with the

necessary skills to become tomorrow's leaders.

What are they doing?

AISIEC is a student organization that is run completely by students. Student members are responsible for securing partnerships with employers who will accept international trainees. The students will also coordinate the activities required for bringing the trainee to the country and settling them down.

AISIEC members also get involved in training programmes to develop their own personal and professional skills. Members attend and organize conferences across the Canada and the globe. Cultural nights and social events are ongoing activities that are aimed for enriching the members' cultural awareness and sensitivity.

Who would benefit from joining in?

AISIEC is a great opportunity for students regardless of their discipline. Individuals looking to improve their leadership skills will find AISIEC a valuable experience. The organization promotes cultural awareness and community involvement. It emphasizes the role of youth as today's active agents and tomorrow's promising leaders.

How can I get involved?

To get involved with AISIEC, first check if the organization has a representing body in your country. If you are in North America, AISIEC has local offices in Canada and the US through the universities.

In the Middle East, AISIEC has offices only in Egypt and Tunisia.

How can I contact AISIEC?

AISIEC on the web: <http://www.aiesec.org/contact/>

Seasons' rose

FUAD NOMAN
fn_001@yahoo.com

*Due to the circle of frost,
my soul was shivering in the cities
of ghost
My heart has also been frozen for
long centuries!
That is why I could not touch its
beats
While I was wandering in valentine's
countries
I saw it but inside me was not crept
Believe me it was not died, but it
overslept
When the fate's flute started to
strum,
So, the snow of past melted for some
And the demarche of love has come
For every dawn, there is always sun
For every heart, there is only permanent one*

*Out of my sunny dream
Sometimes, I feel my Heart's Ocean
violently flows
Whereas, my soul's leaves constantly
browse
That you are only my Seasons' rose
Maybe, I have been waiting for you
Then, for the rest how we are setting
off to do?
Guess how many times I feel
warm?
Only for Once,
Once Your lips become my private
wine
And your smiling dream is my clear
sign
In every minute, in our days we
spend
The Time has already begun and it
has no an end*

*However, I am not bothering my
sunny dream
We save a new fruitful love realm
I am not that one,
Who is always complaining from the
fate tune I chose.
All that, in my soul's land, permanently
grows
Whereas, my soul's leaves constantly
browse
That you are only my Seasons' rose*

Whispers

By Fahmia Al-Fotih

Congratulations but...

Last week Yemeni people celebrated the 43rd anniversary of the 26th September revolution. Yet, most people wait for this day for no reason than to enjoy a day off. Many Yemeni journalists wait for this day to elaborate on it and Yemen's great achievements during those 43 years and they make one feel that Yemenis live on the moon. They draw a beautiful image of a prefect land called Yemen.

No one can deny the achievements of the revolution so far. There are many schools and hospitals and the situation is much better compared to how Yemen is used to live before the revolution. However, throughout these long years that are so close to half a century, Yemenis have not worked hard to successfully and perfectly fulfil the goals of the revolution for which many innocents gave their lives. There is development in Yemen but it is very slow and is hardly noticeable since 1962.

The revolutionists purposely fought and struggled against poverty, illiteracy and illness. Sadly, all these long years and in spite of the sacrifices, the ghosts of poverty and illness still haunt many Yemeni houses.

In my opinion, the martyrs would regret and sorry for the corrupt situation of Yemen.

They would feel sorry for the illiteracy that still persistently prevails in most of Yemen areas with a large of number of Yemeni, most of them the women in rural areas, deprived of the possibility of either entering school or completing their primary education.

The martyrs would be disappointed if they knew that most of the Yemeni population lived under the poverty line against which martyrs paid with their lives cheaply for it as it was the ghost that governed Yemen and

Yemenis suffered from. Today, Yemenis still live with a pathetic and shaky economy.

Still, patients hesitated before going to a hospital due to the lack of a qualified cadre of staff and the lack of the facilities and equipments that should be provided in any hospital. As a result they wish to be treated abroad but, due to their economic conditions, they are forced to take risks and go to the nearest hospital.

On the other hand, until now some people who live in rural areas are deprived of the medical services and they have to go to distant centres and they may be face to risk death. The rate of the maternal mortality is very high in Yemen.

It is so clear that the reason behind our plight and various problems is corruption. Yemen is a potentially wealthy country and has many different resources but corrupt hands absorb all of the revenues from these resources and deprive more than 20 million of an enjoyable life in this great country. The martyrs would be more distressed now as those who corrupt the country and take its wealth are not outsiders, but Yemenis.

I wish I could say something nice on the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the Revolution. However, I think we have to stop on this glorious day and review the situation, pointing out the shortages and obstacles and try to correct our mistakes while attempting to find ways to improve our country, instead of talking about the past and elaborating on the achievements of dead people.

For all the Yemeni brothers and sisters try to find a way to complete the liberal being. Struggle to fight the three enemies (poverty, illiteracy and illness) along with the new enemy (corruption) and push it forward to make Yemen a prosperous country, which will one day be at the top of the developing countries list.

Shame on us

BY NAJWAN AL-JUNAID (CALGARY - CANADA)

It was ten o'clock, a pleasant, dark night with frequent soft breeze. Everything was calm and quiet, death silence at some moments, nevertheless a pleasant night. I was chitchating with some family members until we heard a male ranting and a female screaming in our neighbourhood. The man continued shouting and accused the woman of some acts. The woman kept screaming and uttering meaningless words and frightened screams. The cries were very disturbing. We all paused for five minutes trying to figure out what is this all about. The man's voice became more threatening and kept getting louder and madder. The woman's screams penetrated my very brains, especially when I realized that the man started beating her. The pleading, frightened screams left bitter feelings in us and killed the joy of that night.

I could not forget this event. I kept thinking of it the next day. Regardless

of the reason behind the unusual event, I was stunned that this incidence was in public and in the street. Loud and shameless. And where? In my country: Yemen. Weren't many people criticizing the domestic violence happening in Western societies? And how "corrupted and immoral" the West is? And how women in the West are abused even more? Since when does domestic violence reach the public in my home country? Most probably, no body approached or stopped this quarrelling couple in my neighbourhood. It was late and many will not disturb their quiet night to rescue a beaten woman in the street. Her incidence was just buried in the darkness of that night.

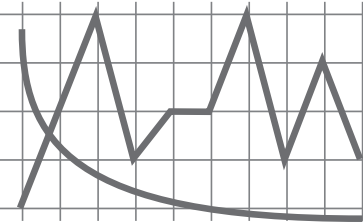
I was concerned about the well being of the Yemeni society. Many would say I am exaggerating and over concerned about a mere domestic, violent incidence. But let's not forget that the incidence was in the street, few saw it by their naked eyes, many heard it, I heard it but no body interfered or rescued her. Many would say, "a husband is beating his wife, why would I interfere?" The

least one can do is to call the police to stop this incidence. I am sorry but I forgot we do not have 911 in Yemen!

I was ashamed that I could not do anything to stop this incidence. I am sure the group surrounding me felt the same. The five minutes pause ended and after that we continued our night, as if we slotted bricks in our ears to block her cries. We continued our night and each one of us knew it was ruined. We tried to continue our night and rummaged for anything to forget that incidence - just like many things in Yemen that continue no matter on what wrong bases they are.

Shame on us. Shame on many absurd things that continue to happen every single day and people continue to keep a blind eye, in silence. This silence is consent. The consent starts within small things and most probably will end on a bigger scale. Let's not talk about the "West corrupted society" whilst our society needs more attention. Let's not throw people's houses with stones when our houses are made of glass.

YT Business



Public participation in future development plans

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Like all developing countries, Yemen wants to get rid of its economic problems that have undermined its development for so long. The international community was aware of this and a summit called the Earth Summit was held in 1990. Other summits were held in 2002/2003 in Monterey and Johannesburg. A number of decisions known as the Millennium Declaration were made at these summits.

These decisions were meant to enhance development all over the world. Among these aims are the freedom from want, education for all, equality between men and women, empowerment of women, decrease of child mortality and increase of motherhood health, the fight against AIDS and other diseases like malaria. In addition to these goals is the creation of sustained global cooperation. The success of these aims has been set to be assessed through 1990 to 2015.

Yemen has perspectives for poverty fighting, which is contained in its third five-year plan and poverty alleviation for 2006-2010. This plan has been prepared by Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. During August the ministry held a number of symposiums and workshops in different governorates, which witnessed a wide public and official participation. Public needs and proposals were raised



Dr. Yahia Almotwakil



Dr. Motahar Albasi



Mr. Hizam Al-slahi



Mr. Ba-mashmoos



Ibrahim Aljabri



Mrs. Iman M. Abdullah

and these will be considered in the plan.

Yemen Times was present at a many of these workshops and symposiums and noticed the exciting public participation and the brilliant points raised by participants that would have been missed by executives. All the proposed projects had focus on the need for education, health and portable water. The plan really gained from these discussions and proposals, because they were the real needs of the cities and governorates.

Alongside these symposiums, Yemen Times met a number of persons who came from different governorates and some of the officials from the Ministry of Planning. Dr. Yahia Almotwakil, Deputy in the Ministry of Planning, said that the plan was engineered according to the resources, taking the international, regional and local trends into consideration. He commented on the symposiums and meetings with the people in the governorates, saying that these would keep the officials in touch with the needs of

the public. Dr. Yahia urged all parts to play their roles in supporting the plan. He confirmed the vital role of the private sector, the civil societies and the donors.

Dr. Motahar Albasi, Deputy Minister of Planning Affairs, said that the basis of the plan for poverty alleviation constitutes the strategic perspectives of the Millennium Development Goals of 2015, as well as supporting financial development, creating new jobs, revitalizing partnerships with the private sector and developing local governance to strengthen development. He also spoke of the importance of the regional and international financial partnership and the activation of local governance for sustainable development. He added that development of the local communities would help solve major problems that pose major threats in most of developing countries.

Private sector and public participation were prominent at the symposium. Ibrahim Aljabri, General Director of the Sabah District in Al-bidha, said that the public participation in the prepara-

tion will give the planners an important hint as each of the participants will present the real needs of their areas.

"Take me for example. I presented all development needs in my district. We have bad infrastructure, education and health establishments in spite of the dense population of the area," he explained. Aljabri continued to say that such symposiums will create public awareness. He said that they organize meetings for men and women about how to use economic resources better and why agricultural production is important. The exact priorities can be set through close study of community problems.

A businessman who participated in the symposium, Mr. Mohamed Omar Ba-mashmoos, head of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden Governorate, said that the third five-year plan should cater for business needs, so that the private sector could

play its role in the development plans. He said that they have presented several work papers on investment deficiencies. In these papers they demand that all investment impediments in the free zone should be resolved, because Aden is the trade capital and should have a different economic status. Local governance laws should also be activated because absence of local governance has a negative impact on investments. Mr. Ba-mashmoos also said that investors should rapidly be invited to industrial zones in Aden, Lahj and Abian, and that partnership and coordination between authorities is important for development efforts.

Mr. Haidrah Saleh Al-shadadi, manager of the International Planning and Cooperation office in Abian, said that the plan has given a chance to let public and private sectors participate in decision making for the first time. He added that in Abian they concentrate

on making a development plan for their governorate, as their economy depends mainly on agriculture, tourism and industry. He said that the plan will provide better job opportunities. Here, civil societies have participated for the first time in preparation of the plan. From 2001 to 2005 we benefited from a number of other plans because we participated in this one, Al-shadadi says.

Mrs. Iman Mohamed Abdullah Obied, head of Poverty Alleviation in Aden, said that their participation as a non-governmental organization enabled them to present their comments that were based on their studies on Aden's governorate. She said that they are working on bridging the gap between men and women and encouraging women to study and merge in the community, and that these activities need funding. She also said that they are being listened to now and the support they are receiving will contribute to their success.

Mr. Hizam Al-slahi, a businessman and representative of the private sector of Al-bidha, praised the participation in setting the plan and said that he was critical to any plans where the preparation had been rushed. He added that any development that excludes the private sector will not have the desired success, because the private sector plays an important part in decreasing unemployment.

Would foreign investment push forward development in Yemen?

Mahyoub al-Kamali
Yemen Times Staff

The Yemeni government has embarked on offering facilities, it describes as tempting, and to the local and foreign private sector through granting it plots of land in areas possessing economic advantage. Nonetheless, the government emphasizes he stabilization of security and stability for the attraction of capitals for investment in Yemen.

Parliamentary sources say there is conciliation with the government regarding amendments in the investment law that is considered by the ministry of finance in participation by the committee of development and oil, especially pertaining the principle of encouraging investment and curbing unjustifiable exempts for investors. The parliament mentions that those unjustifiable exempts open gaps for those it described as exploiters gaining exempts for projects encouraged by the law and through follow-up it appears they are unreal.

The sources indicate in statements to the Yemen Times that the committee has delayed discussion of investment law as it is being connected to the amendment of the income tax law which revealed that lowering it is the most important incentive for investors. They indicate that the committee has urged the government to speed up presenting a new law for the income tax. While businessmen view that there are very many impediments

making investment in Yemen as risky and needs exceptional courage, they also view that foreign investment is declining and the country is in need of law and order and stressed the importance of reforming the judicial system for the realization of justice and enabling it to resist dealers of investment, as the Yemeni businessman Mahmoud Shamakh points out.

On the other hand the Yemeni government affirms it has been endeavoring to create circumstances that should be available for causing success for private investments. Democracy represented the first of orientations that provided the suitable atmospheres for the aspired for developmental launch and helped adopt convenient economic policies, revising existent laws and legislations and the work for achieving efficiency and decency of the judicial system. After issuance of the investment law and its amendments that simplified measures of acquiring licenses and limiting bureaucracy and administrative complication, a group of privileges have been available for investors and their projects. The prominent among those are the exempts of projects from profit taxes for seven years starting from the date of production, the immovable property imported for the building, development and expansion of investment projects from customs duties, requisites of animal, agricultural and fish production and the exempt of projects from the income tax on profits the projects distribute. The law has also provided a group of guarantees

for investors and their investments, such as freedom for investors to choose the field of their investments, guarantee the freedom of running their projects according to their own considerations of the economic circumstances and situations of their works as well as their freedom in re-exporting the invested capital outside at time of liquidation, whether that capital was in cash or in kind. They can also have the freedom of transferring the net of profits resulting from investments of foreign funds in investment projects abroad besides the equality between the Arab and foreign capital with the Yemeni capital and the Yemeni investors with the Arab and foreign investors without any discrimination in rights and duties and procedures.

According to official statistics, growth of local and foreign investments in Yemen during the past four years it has been clear that in 2001 the number of investment projects amounted to 363 at a cost of YR 79 billion and 614 million, in 2002 382 at a cost of YR 104 billion and 868 million, in 2003 YR 339 projects at a cost of YR 106 billion and 218 million and in 2004 their number receded to 263 projects with a cost realizing an increase amounted to YR 120 billion and 11 million.

Those results confirm fluctuation of the investment process and retreat that requires more research for investors and supporting them in order to realize advance in this domain.

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Reflections on Ramadan

Ramadan: A month of unity for Muslims

The Qur'an, to which falsehood can never draw near, which leads people out of the darkness and into the light and onto the path of our All-Wise, All-Knowing and Praiseworthy Lord, which is a guide, a source of glad tidings and a mercy for all Muslims,



By HARUN YAHYA
www.harunyahya.com

global peace and prosperity. All attempts to solve the region's problems have so far failed. But a review of its history shows that a strong central authority, ruling according to the Qur'anic morality and tolerance, as well as respecting all people's rights and belief systems, had enabled this vast region to live in

relations with other countries or civilizations, and cooperate with the global community and the UN on such issues as controlling weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, international crime, and the environment.

4- Deal with the minority rights of Christians and Jews, as well as foreigners who migrate to Islamic countries, consider their safety a priority, and value interfaith dialogue and cooperation.

5- Seek fair and peaceful solutions whereby both sides make compromises to end conflicts between the non-Muslims and Muslims in Palestine, Kashmir, the southern Philippines, and other regions. It must defend the rights of Muslims as well as prevent radical Islamic movements from driving the situation to a dead-end.

Such a rational, considered, and just leadership will benefit the 1.2 billion Muslims who are struggling with so many problems, as well as all humanity at large. An Islamic Union founded upon Qur'anic principles will enable humanity to find peace and justice, and the good character prescribed by the Qur'an will deliver happiness. Since the era of the Prophet Mohammed (may God bless him and grant him peace), Muslims led the way in science, reason, thought, art, culture, and civi-

peace. The Ottoman Empire was the most recent example of this. And now, it is time to bring about a new Islamic Union, for the current system, based upon nationalism, materialistic philosophies, and atheism can only worsen the current situation. Such an Islamic Union would enable the Muslim world to live in peace, both internally and externally, and allow the entire world to benefit from its vast natural resources.

One of the first things we notice when analyzing the state of the Islamic world is its many internal divisions due to deep-rooted distrust and disputes. Recent history has seen the Iran-Iraq war, Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, and East Pakistan's (Bangladesh) war of independence from West Pakistan. The

The month of Ramadan is the one in which the Qur'an was sent down as guidance for humanity, with clear signs containing guidance and discrimination. Any of you who are resident for the month should fast it. But any of you who are ill or on a journey should fast a number of other days. Allah desires ease for you; He does not desire difficulty for you. You should complete the number of days and proclaim Allah's greatness for the guidance He has given you so that hopefully you will be



thankful. (Surat al-Baqara, 185)

The month of Ramadan, which is also revealed to be "better than a thousand months." (Surat al-Qadr, 3) is also a fruitful one containing the Night of Power. This month has a particular importance, purity and beauty for Muslims. As described by Bediuzzaman Said Nursi in the words "In the holy month of Ramadan, the Islamic world comes to constitute a single masjid [mosque], and this is such a masjid that in every corner of it millions of hafiz [those who have memorized the Qur'an] read the Qur'an, the word of Allah, and cause others to hear it," throughout this month the Muslims of the world fulfil their obligations to fast, maintain the bounds set by Allah in the verses, realize their helplessness and give thanks to Allah for His blessings, pray with all sincerity and endeavor to tame their earthly desires.

As emphasized by Bediuzzaman, one of the most important attributes of the month of Ramadan is that it unites all the Muslims of the world. By means of this precious month the extent of all Muslims' need for unity and union, and the powerful force for world peace they can constitute if that unity is established, once again become apparent. The fact that the forces opposed to Islam are expending such great energy, and the suffering being inflicted on believers in Palestine, Iraq and Afghanistan, must encourage all Muslims to reflect on the importance of "acting in unison, leaving their differences aside and working to disseminate Islamic moral values."

The Islamic world covers a huge geographic area populated by 1.2 billion Muslims. Unfortunately, it is characterized by tension, conflict, and disorder, all of which continue to threaten

civil wars and internal conflicts in Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon, Iraq and Algeria due to political and ethnic differences made it obvious that something is wrong with the Islamic world. In addition, very divergent religious views and models are being practiced in the Islamic world, because there is no central authority to determine what is and what is not compatible with Islam, establish consensus, and provide guidance to the general public. Catholics have the Vatican and Orthodox Christians have the Patriarchate, but there is no religious unity or central authority for Muslims.

However, solidarity is central to Islam's character. After the death of our Prophet Mohammed (may God bless him and grant him peace), the Islamic world was for a long time led by the institution of *khilafah*, which provided religious guidance to the Muslims.

In our day, too, a progressive central authority could be formed. Establishing an Islamic Union and a central Islamic authority, based on democratic principles and the rule of law, would be major steps forward in resolving the Islamic world's current problems. (For further reading see, "A Call For An Islamic Union" by Harun Yahya)

Several aspects of this proposed Islamic Union, such as its ability to:

1- Reach all of the Islamic world. Therefore, it must be founded upon Islam's core principles and not become the organ of a particular denomination or sect.

2- Support human rights, democracy, and free enterprise, and seek to achieve its mission of economic, cultural, and scientific development in the Islamic world.

3- Establish friendly and harmonious

zation, and produced many benefits for humanity.

When Europe was in its dark ages, Muslims taught the world science, reasoning, medicine, art, hygiene, and countless other subjects. In order to restart the rise of Islam, powered by the Qur'an's light and wisdom, present-day Muslims have to acquire guidance based on the Qur'an's morality and the Prophet's (may God bless him and grant him peace) Sunnah (His example, or way of life).

An Islamic Union: The Only Way for Order and Stability

The developments especially in the recent years clearly show that the Islamic world is ripe for great and fundamental change. The Qur'an and the hadith literature suggest that the approaching period will be a bright one for the world's Muslims, God willing. Setting up the Islamic Union will speed up the process and begin a new era of plenty and prosperity for humanity in general.

The current situation may seem to be very negative at first look, whereas in reality each negative development signals the approach of a blessed period. War, destitution, famine, oppression, and tyranny against Muslims across the world are signs of the End Times foretold by our Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace). That all of these events are taking place is also a clear sign that the global rule of Islamic morality is approaching, as prophesized by our Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace) (God knows best).

To purchase the works of Harun Yahya, please visit:
www.bookglobal.net

Ramadan Kareem

Fasting and moments of compunctions

"Some students eat and drink secretly. They told me. I wonder why they should lie to others! Doesn't Islam say 'A believer can never be a liar'?" a senior Indian expressed his boredom and uneasiness to me.



By Mohammed al-Hakimi
hujary@yahoo.com
For the Yemen Times

The story of the first survey:

Last year, for the Yemen Times, I wanted to survey one of the greatest enterprises achieved in Ramadan. I had to stop my attempt for my camera was confiscated the time I wanted to take some photos of people eating together at the mosque to show readers how charitable societies play a major role in helping the poor and to show to others how Muslims show love courtesy and solidarity with each other.

Never take photos:

This time I am quite hopeful and enthusiastic. I will survey, "Ramadan in here" without using a camera in order not to be attacked again or beaten up (God forbids) by people who believe that taking photos is haram.

Worn-out welcome:

Villagers got even ready to welcome Ramadan a week earlier. They often sing songs, do chanting sessions (Mawalid) or listen to a worn-out cassette whose lyrics are very popular among them. The words go like this:

"Oh, Ramadan. Welcome you, welcome,

Oh, Month of repentance and forgiveness:

You are mostly welcome.

It seems nobody could write better or

try to compose new lyrics on the occasion. "Poets are pre-occupied with other trivial topics and love is blind," a fellow countryman commented.

What adds insult to injury is that the "A" side of the cassette welcomes Ramadan while the "B" side says "Oh, Ramadan,

adieu, adieu

Oh, Ramadan, May God forever bless you!

May you come back to us;

We will dearly miss you.

History of the cassette:

Since time immemorial, this cassette has passed down from one generation to another and it has become the part and parcel of our Ramadan tradition, maybe.

Masbaha (rosary) is a characteristic of fasting:

Many fasting people will have beards, long Masbaha, white Thobes (dresses), and Miswaks (natural toothbrush) to brush their teeth at every prayer.

Many others will visit Makkah in Saudi Arabia (either for the sake of fame, money or for seeking repentance and God's forgiveness. Many (I swear) will dust the Holy Qur'an book that had been put aside safely for the whole eleven past months.

This is the way life goes:

Most families stay up till al-fajr (dawn) prayer and then they go to sleep. Some go to sleep in the morning and get up an hour or so before the sunset (the end of the stat-

ed fasting time) to avoid feeling hungry and thirsty.

Working hours discern the effect of fasting on them. Many employees and students absent themselves from work and learning institutes/colleges. Streets are free and rather empty.

Get up for Sahoor:

A person with a drum goes around villages shouting: "Get up and have your Sahoor. Fast, repent to Allah."

This happens at 3:00 a.m. while in the big cities and town, there is a cannon that is fired producing a big sound to indicate the time of fasting commencement and breaking. The time of Sahoor is the most appropriate for reciting the Holy Qur'an and performing prayers.

Hungry man is angry man:

Streets get very crowded the period before and after Iftar (breaking of the fasting). Regarding the period before Iftar, fasting people are buying things for their breakfasting meals. After Iftar they rush to buy qat and visit one another. Violent fighting and accident might take place the period before Iftar, the rush hour, as a result.

Fasting superstition:

Some people believe that the Night of Al-Qadr might visit them any time throughout Ramadan nights. Some believe it is seen descends from the sky like a shaft of light and goes into houses. If you touch your money or food stuff the time it comes, you will, it is believed, be rich forever. Some claim they get knowledge and become well-versed scholars. In fact, whatever is wished by you will be certainly fulfilled according to the superstition.

To be continued next issue

External Vacancy Announcement #05/05

The United Nations Children' Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified staff members for the position of a Secretary GS 4 based in Sana'a. Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Project Officer – Health (L-4), the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

Responsibilities:

1. Provides secretarial support tot the project officer (Health) and other staff of the section insuring the smooth and efficient flow of information to and from the section.
2. Prepare regular reports on implementation status of the health section.
3. Screens all telephone calls for the Health Section and obtains connections to outside UN agencies, NGO's and government offices.
4. Files retrieve letters/reports/documents for the project officers and Assistant Project officers. Assist Project Officer to prepare donor reports and end of year reconciliation reports.
5. Translate letter/documents from Arabic to English and vise-versa.
6. Maintain filing system for all programme monitoring and control documents.
7. Carry out any other tasks as required by the supervisor.

Qualifications:

- Minimum secondary school education and training in typing and secretarial practice.
- Five years of progressively responsible experience at professional level in a related field in support of development programme of a governmental organization;
- Proven experience of working in a multicultural environment;
- Good knowledge of common computer applications'
- Fluency in English and Arabic.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to the – **Operations Officer, UNICEF Sana'a, P. O. Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. Applications received after 15th of October 2005 will not be considered.**

UNICEF encourages qualified women candidates to apply. UNICEF is a non-smoking environment.

Fig: the medicinal fruit of the Quraan

DR. QAZI SHAIKH ABAS BORHANY

There was a fig tree in the garden of Heaven, and for different reasons the fig is the most discussed fruit in the Bible. According to Biblical literature a fig tree provided the first clothing. Also, the word sycophant, meaning an informer and one who seeks favors by flattery, comes from Greek and means "to show the fig", because when the valuable and sacred figs were stolen for export purposes, someone revealed the figs, accused the robbers and was therefore a "fig shower". In the first Quraanic verses in sura al Teen, the medicinal advantages of the fig are discussed - the Quraan says: "I swear by the Fig and the Olive" (Sura no. 95: verse no. 1). Fig plant is one of the only five plants mentioned in the Quraan, along with olives, grapes, pomegranate and dates. Hadith literature provide us with an event related to the fig: According to Abu Darda someone presented figs to the prophet Mohammed (God's blessing and peace be upon him) and he began distributing it among his followers. He said: "Eat it as it cures various diseases". According to Ibn Seereen, a scholar in the science of dreams, figs, if seen in dreams, denote wealth and prosperity. The benefits I have restricted myself to mentioning here is an indication of the compassion, Allah feels for human beings. Other medicinal benefits are the following:

• Figs are high in dietary fiber and a rich source of magnesium as well potassium.



• Figs contain a relatively high amount of vitamins A, B, and C and are low on calories - about 50 calories each.
• Imam Jafar Assadiq advice eating figs to remove bad breath.
• One large, raw fig contains 77.5 percent water, 8 g protein, 2 g fat, 23 mg calcium, 4 mg Iron, 50 IU vitamin A, 2.1 g dietary fiber, 3.8 mcg foliate, 3 mg niacin and 1 mg vitamin C.
• Figs help to reduce some forms of cancer.

• Choosing figs more frequently means that you will naturally choose potentially harmful foods less frequently, which is great for your lifelong health.

• According to the California Fig Advisory Board, it is believed that the antioxidants in fruit and vegetables protect against a number of diseases.

• In one study performed by the University of Scranton, it was determined that compared to other fruits, dried figs have a much higher level of the phenol makeup, which is rich in antioxidants. Phenol is used as an anti-septic to kill microorganisms.

• Figs are ideal for those trying to lose weight. It contains the digestive enzymes for all the three components of diet: Proteins, carbohydrates and fat.

• Figs are also thought of as a fruit that gives strength and energy to long-term patients as they seek to recover.

• Figs are also recommended in the treatment of asthma, coughs, chills and even diabetes. Syrup made from methi seeds, figs and honey is very effective when it comes to cough and bronchial asthma.

• The phosphorous content of the fig benefits the nervous system.

• It is recommended for athletes and children.

• The medical scientist, Al Shaikh al Raess, Bu Ali Ibn Sina, recommended

figs to treat constipation, liver problems, urinary problems, heartburns, chest pains, piles and epilepsy. It is recommended to eat at least five figs early in the morning for four to ten months regularly, if you want to completely eliminate piles.

• It benefits pregnant and nursing women, helps in reducing acidity, rheumatism and helps the brain.

• Their ash, when taken with oil, treats pimples, skin pigmentation and whitens the teeth.

• For treating wounds it is used in a preparation made with hot milk.

• Figs are used widely for the treatment of major diseases like cancer and paralysis. Dr. Kochi from Japan, who specializes in using figs for its medical value, has treated twenty kinds of cancer with figs. According to Japanese tests, figs and the fig syrup (benzaidihyde) have helped shrink tumors.

• The fruit contains a proteolytic enzyme that is considered an aid to digestion and is used in the pharmaceutical industry.

• Due to its high alkalinity it has been considered to be beneficial to people who wish to quit smoking.

• It can dissolve and expel kidney and urinary bladder stones, and can help patients suffering from kidney failure and patients who has had a kidney transplant. It can clear the obstruction of liver and gall-bladder and relieves inflammations of kidney and urinary bladder.

• It is a good nourishing tonic and provides protection against the effects of toxins.

• It is useful in pharyngitis, chest congestion, bronchitis, and also for liver and spleen ailments. It is a good expectorant too.

• During fevers, if it is chewed, the patient feels relief from the dryness of mouth.

• It clears the intestinal obstruction, as if has laxative, anti-ulcer and anti-bacterial powers.

• It is carminative and expels the gases from the intestines.

• It is also useful in colics and is a good diuretic.

• It is useful for mental illness if taken regularly.

• If you bake dry figs until they are properly roasted, crush them and you will have a powder for dental ailments, and the powder will remove different stains. Similarly, this powder can be used against spots on the face and the skin in general.

Dr. M. Laiq Ali Khan, an eminent scholar discussed that no reference to the existence of figs is available before the advent of Muslims in India. Therefore, it is considered that either Mughals or Mongols from Asia Minor or the Muslim physicians introduced it to India. Figs of Pune are famous. Growing in western Asia and the Mediterranean area, the fig is one of the earliest fruits known to humans.

The fig, a member of the mulberry family, is one of the sweetest fruits when fully ripe. Fresh figs are highly perishable. Try to pick the fruit daily and either use or preserve it the same day for best quality and flavor. There are literally hundreds of fig varieties. Although considered a fruit, the fig is actually a flower that is inverted into it. The round fig becomes soft and drops to the ground when it is ripe, and is collected, compressed and preserved by dipping in salt solution and fumigation of sulphur. This compressed fruit is, like a big tablet, being used for the purpose of medicine in Tib al Nabawi.

Sources:

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By Dr. Saleh Al-Habshi
M.Sc. in Public Health

Public Health Affairs

The threat of smallpox terrorism

Following recent events that culminated in the deliberate and malicious use of anthrax to incite terror, the potential threat has returned. Suspicions that smallpox virus may be held somewhere else than the two officially designated institutes, have raised questions about whether the virus may be deliberately used to cause harm. Responding to current concerns about the possibility that terrorist organizations might deliberately infect populations with smallpox, World Health Organization (WHO) officials asked their smallpox advisory group to review the guidelines on smallpox vaccination. Current guidelines recommend vaccinating only individuals who are directly at risk of exposure, such as laboratory workers conducting smallpox research. But WHO considered changing these recommendations and take the potential use of smallpox virus for bioterrorism into account. Smallpox and other biological agents that might be deliberately used to cause harm are once again in the spot light. A single confirmed case of smallpox would set off an immediate global state of emergency. Although it spreads slowly, requiring direct personal contact, it is highly contagious. The incubation period is long: 12-14 days. Since 1979 immunity has waned and world population including the new generation are vulnerable. The current vaccine, though highly effective, has rare but serious and potentially fatal complications.

In 1967, when WHO launched its plan to eradicate smallpox within 10 years, the disease was common in 31 countries with total population of over one billion. Most of these countries presented formidable obstacles: Crowded cities, poor health care systems, fragile governments, civil unrest, famine, war and remote, inaccessible areas.

The global eradication of smallpox, certified in 1979, is one of the greatest public health achievements in history. It marked the end of a disease that in the past had killed 3 million people every year and scarred and blinded millions more. It also commemorated a decade, during the Cold War, when all countries united behind a common humanitarian cause. The United States was the largest donor that provided major logistic and staff support, and the Soviet Union was the largest supplier of vaccine. No effective treatment against smallpox was ever developed. Vaccination, supported by surveillance and containment, was the cornerstone of the eradication drive. When the last natural case occurred in Somalia in 1977, one of history's longest chains of transmission, at least 3000 years old, was broken.

In the immediate post eradication era, the commission responsible for certification of eradication charged WHO with ensuring that smallpox was gone and would have no chance to return. It also recommended that smallpox virus (variola virus) stocks be destroyed or given to WHO for safekeeping in two institutes. By 1983, smallpox virus stocks were officially kept only in the United States laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia, and the Research Institute of Viral Preparations in Moscow in the Soviet Union. Both are WHO collaborating centers (the first source of poxvirus), and a WHO team inspects these laboratories periodically.

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The second source of poxvirus

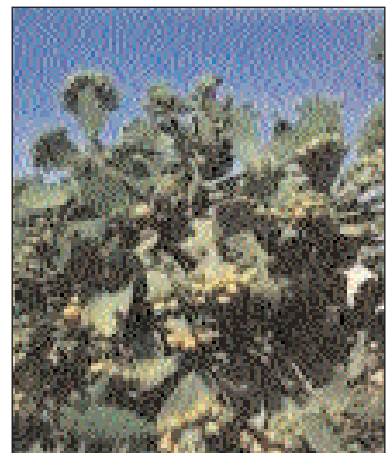
Human infections with animal poxvirus have become a matter of considerable concern in recent years. Two poxviruses: the monkey poxvirus and the tana poxvirus have attracted considerable attention as potentially capable of infecting humans. Human monkey pox is not a new disease. It is very like smallpox, but being a rare disease, had never been recognized until smallpox was eradicated. Monkey pox virus is a distinct species from variola virus. Since 1970, over 400 patients suffering from monkey pox have been reported in 7 countries in Western and Central Africa; Zaire has accounted for 95% of them. Most victims have been young children. Human monkey pox is an infrequent and sporadic zoonosis. Humans can contract monkey pox by close contact with infected wild animals. However there have been episodes of person-to-person transmission. Infrequent contact with monkey pox virus, the low transmissibility of the virus, which may be an important factor limiting its spread among people living in enzootic areas. Human monkey pox does not pose a significant health problem. Smallpox vaccination protects against monkey pox infection. With elimination of vaccination and waning herd immunity against smallpox, an increase in human monkey pox cases may occur, as it occurred in Zaire in 1982 and 1983, but experts hold the view that monkey pox does not constitute a public health problem. This disease is now under WHO surveillance in West and Central Africa. Tana pox has been reported in East and Central Africa. Persons at risk are those entering wildlife habitats, and those in contact with pets or wild animals in urban environments. Smallpox vaccination does not protect against the tana poxvirus. Thus, animal poxvirus could be accessible to be used in a malicious bioterrorist attack in some suitable regions.

Smallpox eradication was a triumph for preventive medicine and for the power of international cooperation. The success of this global effort raised the profile of public health in the eye of politicians and economists as well as in medical and scientific circles. It provided guidance for other WHO-led programs aimed at curbing deaths from diarrhea and respiratory diseases. It spawned the expanded program on immunization and created momentum that has continued to swell. Expressed most recently in the creation of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization. The smallpox threat was consigned to history, a public health problem once and forever solved, that could now be forgotten. Vaccination of civilian populations ceased everywhere.

Action to face a suspected bioterrorist attack

In collaboration with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and other partners around the world, WHO has reissued training materials for smallpox recognition, differential diagnosis, vaccination technique, and the management of an outbreak. Archival video films are available, showing how those who contracted this now-extinct disease looked and how containment operations worked. A global survey of smallpox vaccine stocks and vaccine seed virus has been conducted. Manufacturers who supplied smallpox vaccine during the eradication program were contacted to gauge the world's production capacity. Meetings between experts and advisors were held to confirm that the search and containment strategy remains valid and to consider the continuing need for research using variola virus to produce safer vaccines and therapeutic drugs. To generally guide international preparedness an updated edition of a guide on the Public Health Response to Biological and Chemical Weapons was issued. The backbone of preparedness for a bioterrorist attack is a good system of disease surveillance and response designed to deal with known infectious disease risks. The epidemiological and laboratory techniques needed to detect, investigate and contain a deliberately caused outbreak are the same as those for natural outbreaks. Mechanisms for performing these functions on a global scale are firmly in place. The infrastructure for detecting and responding to outbreaks, natural or deliberate, is The Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, a partnership that links more than 100 existing networks and operates within the framework of the International Health Regulations. Together, these networks possess much of the data, expertise and skill needed to keep the international community alert and ready to respond. A computer-driven tool for real-time gathering of disease intelligence supports the network, which was formalized in April 2000. The challenging question is whether developing countries are ready to face such threatening attacks?

Observing the current political, economic, social and health situation in many developing countries, it is doubtful that they can face and stand against such dreadful attacks. Developing countries are still suffering from contagious diseases. The WHO is continuously reporting about outbreaks of for instance poliomyelitis, cholera, yellow fever, rift valley fever, dengue fever and Ebola virus in developing countries and the efforts of the governments in addressing these issues are still weak, due to local constraints. Outcomes of such health problems increase the burden on each country in terms of human and economic losses. The existence of outbreaks is a result of poverty, inappropriate health planning, inefficient surveillance systems and improper resource allocation. Combating health problems and building preparedness to face outbreaks and bioterrorist attacks can not be achieved until a strong political commitment to accelerate prevention and control of diseases, potential policies, strategic planning, resource allocation and intention for action take place. It is more realistic in such situations, to start simply by giving priority to capacity building, improving surveillance system and strengthening collaboration with regional and international partners. Let us hope that the deliberate use of smallpox shall never come to pass. But if it should, there is a system in place, alert and prepared to respond.



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لأول مرة في اليمن إنضمام نخبة من الأطباء المتميزين

د / محمد عبد الرحمن

إستشاري جراحة زراعة القرنية وتصحيح عيوب الإبصار بالليزر وعمليات المياه البيضاء بالفاكو.
(إستشاري جراحة الليزر والقرنية بمستشفى مغربي بالقاهرة)

د / محفوظ عبدالله بامشموس

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أخصائي أمراض الشبكية والجسم الزجاجي

د / أمال نعمان الذبحاني

أخصائية أمراض الحول وتجديل العيون والجفون

50

عينك في عينا

للحجز والإستفسار

Cardinals, White Sox and Yankees pick up Game One wins

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Reggie Sanders hit a grand slam homer and drove in six runs to lead the St. Louis Cardinals to an 8-5 win over the San Diego Padres in the opening game of the National League playoffs at Busch Stadium on Tuesday.

In American League action, the Chicago White Sox trounced defending World Series champions Boston Red Sox 14-2 to open their series and the New York Yankees beat the Los Angeles Angels 4-2 in Anaheim.

Sanders's grand slam in the fifth inning gave the Cardinals an 8-0 lead behind a sharp Chris Carpenter and handed the defending NL champions a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five National League Divisional Series.

Game Two is also at Busch Stadium in St. Louis on Thursday.

Sanders set an NL Division Series record for his six runs batted in.

"(Manager) Tony (LaRussa) gave me the green light, so it was one of those deals where, if I wanted it, I had the opportunity to swing," Sanders said of his grand slam.

Jim Edmonds got the Cardinals going quickly with a solo home run in the first and scored three more runs in the third, with Sanders contributing a two-run single and another run scoring on a wild pitch.

Sanders then hit his grand slam in the fifth off starter and loser Jake Peavy and the Cardinals had enough of a lead to hold off a late Padres comeback attempt.

"We'd obviously like to give up less runs, but I think in the long run it will be nice that everybody got in the game today," Edmonds said.

Carpenter, a leading contender for the NL Cy Young Award, allowed just three hits while striking out three and walking three over six innings.

He was pulled after six innings due to cramping in his left hand, but still turned in one of his better starts.

"I thought early on I got away with a couple pitches, but we made some nice defensive plays," Carpenter said.



St. Louis Cardinals Reggie Sanders hits a grand slam against San Diego Padres Jake Peavy in the fifth inning during Game 1 of the National League Divisional Series at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri Oct. 4. REUTERS

"I felt like after the second, I started to settle down and get the ball down in the strike zone and make the quality pitches I had to make. And again, we had three key double plays that stopped some rallies."

Four relievers finished up, including Jason Isringhausen, who got the final two outs to end the game in the ninth, despite allowing four hits as the Padres scored three runs in the ninth.

Peavy allowed eight runs on eight hits over 4 1/3 innings, striking out

three and walking three.

Edmonds wound up with three hits, three runs scored and an RBI for the Cards. Sanders had two of the St. Louis 10 hits.

Eric Young homered and drove in two runs for the Padres, while Ryan Klesko, Brian Giles and Mark Sweeney all had two hits for San Diego.

Trailing 8-0, the Padres scored single runs in the seventh and eighth before a three-run rally in the ninth fell short.

Convincing win

In Chicago, A.J. Pierzynski hit a pair of home runs as the White Sox opened up their American League Divisional Series with a convincing win over the Boston Red Sox.

Paul Konerko, Juan Uribe and Scott Podsednik also homered for the White Sox, who host Game Two in the best-of-five series on Wednesday.

Pierzynski drove in four runs while Podsednik and Uribe both added three RBI for the White Sox, who had 11 hits.

Jose Contreras went 7 2/3 innings for the win, allowing two runs on eight hits with six strikeouts and two walks.

Matt Clement was hammered for eight runs on seven hits over 3 1/3 innings and took the loss.

David Ortiz and Trot Nixon both had two hits for the Red Sox, who had nine hits.

In Anaheim, Robinson Cano had a three-run double in the first inning and the New York Yankees made that stand up for their victory over the Los Angeles Angels in the opener of their ALDS.

Jason Giambi added an RBI double in the second for the final Yankee run as Mike Mussina out-dued Bartolo Colon in the series opener.

Game Two is in Anaheim on Wednesday.

Mussina went 5 2/3 shutout innings, allowing just five hits with four strikeouts and no walks.

Four relievers finished up, including Mariano Rivera, who allowed a run in the ninth but still picked up the save.

Derek Jeter, Giambi and Gary Sheffield all had two hits for New York.

Colon allowed four runs on eight hits over seven innings and took the loss, striking out six and walking one.

Juan Rivera had two hits for Los Angeles.

Woods hunts record to put gloss on campaign

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Tiger Woods can break another record and put the gloss on a brilliant campaign with victory at the WGC-American Express Championship this week.

A second World Golf Championship title to add to a Presidents Cup win and victories at the U.S. Masters and British Open would be a satisfying finish to a year that has seen him return to the top of the world rankings.

Woods will also be bidding for an unprecedented 10th WGC individual title as he returns to the Harding Park Golf Course, a course he played several times as a student.

The world number one says he has fully recovered from a rib injury that hampered him at the Presidents Cup two weeks ago.

"I feel pretty good," said Woods. "I did some good work. I was in Vegas seeing my trainer and we were grinding pretty hard for about four days. He got me feeling really good."

"I just had those ribs issues there at the Presidents Cup. I had to get those things calmed down, get the muscles relaxed and strengthen them."

The WGC events have proved a happy hunting ground for Woods and he has mined 20 percent of his career earnings from them, winning more than \$11.6m from nine wins in 18 starts.

Woods won the biggest check of his career when he picked up \$1.3 million for winning the Invitational in August and a win on Sunday would put him within striking distance of the earnings record of \$10.9 million set by Vijay Singh last season.

"When I had the record and the money title, it's very misleading," said Woods. "It changes because obviously the purses go up."

"I'd much rather keep having the highest total for wins every year. If I keep doing that, things will be all

right."

Woods might not remember much about Harding Park from his university days as the municipal course has undergone a \$16 million renovation to restore the layout to its former grandeur.

High Regard

There is some question whether the par 70, 7,086 yard layout can withstand an all-out assault by the world's top players but there is no disputing the high regard Woods has for it.

"It's different and it's fun because we don't get a chance to play these courses very often," said Woods. "It's nice to play a golf course we can shape balls again."

"It's a lot different golf course than when I played it. It's certainly not the same golf course. It's unbelievable how much they've changed the golf course."

"If the wind doesn't blow, then the guys are probably going to shoot some pretty good scores out here."

"The golf course has some good holes on it, challenging holes, but the par-fives are reachable."

The \$7.5 million event, the third of the four stops on the WGC, involves the leading 30 players in the PGA money list, the top 20 in the European order of merit and leading performers from other tours.

Singh, the world number two, and PGA champion Phil Mickelson will be among those teeing off on Thursday but South Africa's Ernie Els will not be able to defend his title because of a season-ending knee injury.

"It's very similar to a major championship," said Woods. "We don't get a chance to play against the best very often anymore. Everyone plays their own tours."

"When we do get together, it's not as often, but when you do it's pretty exciting."

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Axed softball plots course to 2012 London Games

LONDON (Reuters) - Axed from the Olympic program three months ago, softball is refusing to go quietly.

Its governing body is gearing up for a massive push to persuade International Olympic Committee (IOC) members to allow the sport into the London 2012 Games.

"It's not too late to get on to the London program," International Softball Federation president Don Porter told Reuters on Tuesday after high-level talks in Lausanne with IOC president Jacques Rogge.

"We had a very positive meeting, a good discussion. There is a possibility we could still make the London Olympics.

"The door is open that in Turin (in February) the IOC members could reconsider their decision to wipe us

from the program."

Softball and baseball were dropped from the Olympic program in a controversial vote at the IOC's July Session in Singapore to become the first sports to be cut from the Games since polo in 1936.

All 28 sports on the program of the 2004 Athens Olympics were put to the vote in Singapore and each needed a simple majority to remain on the schedule.

The exact scores of the ballots for each sport were not divulged but Porter told Reuters that softball had missed out by one vote.

"The score was 52-52 with one abstention," he said in a telephone interview. "That's terrible when you start to think about it...to go out by just one vote.

Work hard

"But I guess we just have to do a better job in getting the support of the IOC members. We are going to work very hard over the next few months to get that support and hopefully to get that Singapore vote overturned in Turin.

"We have some plans."

Under the IOC's charter, the decision taken in Singapore by the Session cannot be overturned by the decision-making body of the IOC, the Executive Board.

However, if one third of IOC members were in agreement they could introduce a motion at the next Session at the Winter Olympics in Turin in February.

That motion would have to be

accepted by half the members present at the Session and there would then be a new vote to admit softball to the Games program.

Baseball chiefs are watching developments closely and have also now asked the IOC for their voting figures in Singapore, the IOC said.

Unless the IOC is prepared to perform a dramatic U-turn on the program, London will stage a reduced Olympic Games in 2012.

London's showpiece will feature 26 sports rather than 28 after the IOC also rejected proposals to replace the axed sports with two from rugby sevens, golf, squash, karate and roller sports.

The last Olympics to be staged with 26 sports was Atlanta in 1996. The minimum number required for a Games is 15 while the maximum is 28.

ITF to unify anti-doping program

LONDON (Reuters) - Tennis is stepping up its fight against drugs cheats by unifying the sport's anti-doping program.

The International Tennis Federation, which organizes grand slam tournaments and the Davis Cup, is to manage and enforce the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme at men's ATP events from next year.

The move will unify drug-testing in the sport and the ITF also hopes to bring organizers of women's tennis, the Women's Tennis Association, into the fold.

"We believe that a unified program under one management is in the best interests of tennis, and we hope that the WTA Tour will soon join with us and the ATP to achieve this goal," ITF President Francesco

Ricci-Bitti said on Tuesday.

The Tennis Anti-Doping Programme is fully compliant with the World Anti-Doping Agency's code. Ricci-Bitti is on the WADA board.

The agreement between the ITF and the Association of Tennis Professionals extends to 2010 and will include at least 600 tests a year at ATP events in addition to the 500 tests on male players at tournaments under ITF jurisdiction.

The ITF already tests women players at grand slams and at the Fed Cup.

ATP chairman Etienne de Villiers said: "This is a positive step. To us it is a logical step to integrate one programme for all players. This is a model of cooperation."

Leyland replaces Trammell as Tigers manager

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Jim Leyland was hired as the new manager of the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday, just one day after former Tigers shortstop Alan Trammell was fired.

Leyland, 60, began his baseball career as a catcher in the Tigers minor league system and joins a Detroit team that lost 300 games in the past three seasons under Trammell.

A two-time NL manager of the year, Leyland led the Florida Marlins to the 1997 World Series title.

"The decision to name one of the

top managers in the game of baseball in recent time, to bring him back to this organization, is a very big day for our franchise," said Tigers president and general manager Dave Dombrowski.

Leyland has not managed since 1999 with Colorado, however, spending the past six seasons as a scout.

The Tigers will be his fourth managerial stint. Leyland has also managed at Pittsburgh and Florida.

Detroit has posted 12 consecutive losing seasons, finishing 71-91 in 2005, and the Tigers have not won a division title since 1987

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Subcontinental royal (Var.)
- 5 Items that may swell
- 9 Showy success
- 14 Fruit spray, once
- 15 Hunky—
- 16 Vestige
- 17 Trashy paperback
- 19 This puzzle's theme
- 20 Quite sharp, as a pain
- 21 Hush-hush
- 23 Summer TV fare
- 25 Primitive home
- 26 Figure at State U.

- 29 Exhortation for a panicky person
- 34 One-named Nigerian singer
- 38 Athena's breastplate (Var.)
- 40 Scalawag
- 41 Certain U.S. Open figure
- 44 Tuck of fiction
- 45 Sermon finisher?
- 46 Pot foundation
- 47 Mortarboard place
- 49 Compost part
- 51 Radial fill
- 53 Docile creatures
- 58 It has its ups and downs

- 64 First Hebrew letter
- 65 Dictator's asst.
- 66 Beatles hit
- 68 Unintended spot
- 69 Peter Fonda role
- 70 Old music halls
- 71 Law school subjects
- 72 Type of bargain
- 73 Despot of old (Var.)
- 30 Popular beverage
- 31 Once more, Dogpatch-style
- 32 A deadly sin
- 33 Distribute (with "out")
- 34 Architect's meas.
- 35 That certain something
- 36 Lectern platform
- 37 Important times in history
- 39 Webmaster's work
- 42 High crimes
- 43 Actress Patricia
- 48 Three sheets to the wind
- 50 Globe production
- 52 Tear to shreds
- 54 Dispense
- 55 Medieval quaffs
- 56 Sleep lab subject
- 57 One way to acquire wool
- 58 "You there"
- 59 "Beetle Bailey" canine
- 60 Paraphernalia
- 61 Words with step or sleep
- 62 Peep's place
- 63 Anterior cruciate ligament joint
- 67 Orchestra's funding org., perhaps

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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"CHANGE IS GOOD" by Elizabeth C. Gorski

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Tracy and Dodgers part ways after losing season

NEW YORK (Reuters) - The Los Angeles Dodgers released manager Jim Tracy on Monday, after the team recorded its first losing season in five years.

The Dodgers said on the MLB website that they and Tracy had "mutually agreed to part company",

ending the manager's five-year tenure in charge of the team.

"Jim Tracy has been a passionate and valued member of the Dodger organization. I have an extremely high regard for him professionally and personally," Dodgers general manager Paul DePodesta said.

"However, we felt strongly it was time for a change."

The 49-year-old Tracy, had just completed the first season of a revised two-year contract, but he had a clause that would allow him to void the upcoming year. Last month he requested an extension.

تقدم بخالصه و اجمل التعان و التبركات للأخ /
 صفوان أمين السقا
 بمناسبة حصوله على الماجستير بدرجة الامتياز في الادارة برسالته الموسومة
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DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE EVERYBODY JUST SHOUTS AT EACH OTHER NOWADAYS?

I THINK IT'S BECAUSE CONFLICT IS DRAMA, DRAMA IS ENTERTAINING AND ENTERTAINMENT IS MARKETABLE.

FINDING CONSENSUS AND COMMON GROUND IS AWFUL! NOBODY WANTS TO WATCH A CIVILIZED DISCUSSION THAT ACKNOWLEDGES AMBIGUITY AND COMPLEXITY. WE WANT TO SEE FIREWORKS!

WE WANT THE SENSE OF SOLIDARITY AND IDENTITY THAT COMES FROM HAVING OUR INTERESTS NARROWED AND EXPLOITED BY LIKE-MINDED ZEALOTS!

TALK SHOW HOSTS, POLITICAL CANDIDATES, NEWS PROGRAMS, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS... THEY ALL BECOME SUCCESSFUL BY REDUCING DEBATES TO THE LEVEL OF SHOUTED RAGE. NOTHING GETS SOLVED, BUT WE'RE ALL ENTERTAINED.

HMM, YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

WHAT A BORING DAY THIS TURNED OUT TO BE!

GARFIELD

SSSHHHHHHHH

SLUUCK

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Saadah: Astonishment of place and human



COMPILED BY:
YASSER AL-MAYASI
ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

"Al-Maqla, Al-Sa'di, Al-Hardha, and Al-Sa'diyya.

The Markets:

There are a number of weekly markets held in different parts of the governorate on different days, the most important being Al-Talh, 10 km to the north of Saadah, which is held every Saturday, and considered as the biggest market in Yemen.

Archaeological and tourist Sites in Saadah:

As the relief in Saadah vary so does the living of the population, there are mountains, towns, plains, and grass lands such as the eastern region of Saadah. This natural, human, cultural and historical map can be summed up as follows:

Saadah City:

The city is surrounded by a fortified wall considered and as one of the tourist attractions of Yemen similar to Sana'a Wall, but Saadah Wall is still intact with all its components. It is built of mud bricks in a wavy manner interspersed 52 towers and four gates:

Najran, Swedan, Mansourah and Hamdan inside the wall are 16 staircases. The wall measures 3.326 m in length 8 m height from the outside and 6 m from the inside, the thickness at the ground is 5 m and as the top 3.5 m. It is in an excellent condition even though it was built in the 16th century.

Old Saadah:

The city of Saadah is distinguished for its architecture style which resembles old Sana'a to a great extent; yet there is another style prevalent in Saadah and Eastern Yemen, which is the Mud Bricks Style, constructed according to stages with determined heights in the form of belts. This style is noted in many villages of Saadah governorate.

Al-Hada Mosque:

Al-Hada mosque dates back to the 9th century and is considered one of the oldest and most beautiful mosques in Yemen. It contains tomb and domes, of which the most important is the tomb of Al-Hada Yahia Bin Al-Husain, founder of the Zaidite dynasty in the 3rd Hegira

century (9th century AD). Saadah town and Al-Hada mosque were famous, in addition to other mosques as schools used for theological studies. This gave the city an academic aura, which is comparable to that of Sana'a, Zabid, Tarim, Dhamar, and Jiblah. Al-Hada Mosque still possesses many invaluable manuscripts and reference books.

Beautiful Villages Surrounding Saadah:

Beautiful villages are scattered around in Saadah and in parts of Qa'a Al-Hosn, characterized by the classic architectural style of Saadah, and surrounded by fertile gardens. The villages of Al-Talh, Al-Abdainn and Rahban deserve special notion.

Forts and Castles Of Saadah:

Saadah governorate was a cross point for trade caravans across different historical epochs: for the Olibanum and perfume caravans at the time before Christ, the caravans from the As'ad route, the proprietors of the elephant route during the pre-Islamic era, and for pilgrims since Islam.

The construction of forts and castles, therefore, seemed necessary to protect the travelers. Some were built close to Saadah, such as Al-Sinarah, Sama'a fort, Tulmus fort and Al-Abla fort, and the Razeh fortress "Humrum" 60 km to the northwest of Saadah. The most important of the forts is "Om Laila" at Baqim north west of Saadah.

Old Yemeni inscriptions confirm that this is a most significant archaeological site and contains stone paved roads, reservoir, grain stores and defense constructions; for example towers and fortified walls.

Rock Drawings and Primitive Paintings:

Saadah is an area that boasts of ancient paintings and signs dating back to the Hunter Gatherers Society. Many of the caves and rocks in the mountainous areas are full of inscriptions and paintings of goats, hounds, cows, snakes, plant and geometrical shapes. The two areas especially rich in such drawings are Al-Khaza'in, 15 km to the northwest of Saadah at Om Laila, and Musalhaqat 20 km to the northwest of Saadah.

The governorate of Saadah lies in the north of the Republic of Yemen, 243 km from Sana'a. Saadah City played an important role during the Islamic eras. It is the center and first capital of Zaidism and it was a station for pilgrims and merchants on their way to Mecca. The governorate has a variety of relief: high mountains to the north and west, such as Khawlan, Baqim and Razih mountains, that are 2,800m above sea-level and which are linked to the Juma'eah mountain chain. The flatland of Saadah is among the most fertile areas in Yemen, with farmers growing black grapes, pomegranates, peaches, apricots figs and other fruits.

High mountains and inner deserts characterize Eastern Saadah, with a number of a valley streams flowing through to the Empty Quarter desert.

The houses in Saadah seem to come out of the ground like mushrooms. Unlike Sana'a or Hadhramout, houses here are not built with adobe. Applying the so-called "sabor technique", bulbs of clay with a thickness of some 60 cm are used for the construction of houses of four and five stories.

The old city of Saadah is characterized by its wonderful houses with their decorated wooden doors, and surrounded by a beautiful city wall that still retains its original features.

Saadah is famous for its high quality of iron, traces of which can be seen in various parts of the governorate, and some of its people still work in the mining of iron-ore from the mountains. They melt it in primitive furnaces to make tools, because of its high quality and due to the lack of imported iron in the local market. Other handicrafts include Leather goods.

Saadah is also famous for domestic utensils made from palm leaves and clay. The residents of Saadah are very skillful in the making of kitchenware from stone, extracted from the Razih Quarries. Such stones are called Harradh and the utensils made from these stones are very popular and called



Customs, Traditions and Folklore:

Saadah is also rich in its folklore dances and music. Some of its residents have traditions found nowhere else. For example, the male residents on the outskirts of Saadah governorate wear wreaths of flowers around their heads and their hair is grown down to their shoulders. This part of Saadah has retained a lifestyle, unaffected by time.

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