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“Only if Saleh wouldn’t stand office!”

Yemen Times Staff

SANA’A—Nov. 22 - Former Deputy President Dr. Abdulrhman Al-Baidani has declared that he will run the next presidential election conditional if President Ali Abdullah Saleh would not seek a new mandate.

In his statement, Al-Baidani promised intense reforms in order to “alleviate the sufferings of the people and start real economic development and renaissance”.

In a statement he said: “Corruption has spread and inverted the interests towards achieving progress and development. We have become a nation dependent on foreign aid, loans and grants, while the wealth of the current corrupted officials disappears abroad in overseas banks, the current regime left the Yemeni people eating the crumbs from the garbage, that is if hungry stray dogs and cats left them any.”

Al-Baidani referred that the announcement of President Saleh not

to seek a new mandate has paved the way for the peaceful handover of power, an aspiration blocked by constitutional provisions that limit nomination for the presidency to the candidate of ruling party. The fifth article in the constitution stipulates handover of power only in word, but factually presidency is limited to the current ruling party.

For that reason, Al-Baidani laid down a set of standards for candidacy: “The MPs and shura council members should have a say in seconding any qualified candidate that is nominated for presidency. There should be an all-party coalition government that will be responsible for running the elections peacefully and not through arms and detentions. The third point is the commitment towards forming a state of institutions in which the government will be responsible before the parliament which would have the power to approve, hold accountable and dissolve it. The forth point is the cancella-

tion of all the procedures that prevent supervision institutions such as Central organization for Control and Audit, and Public Money Prosecution from referring all corrupted persons to judiciary.”

Al-Baidani stressed in his statement on the importance of establishing authentic local governance, in which the people in each governorate elect their representatives. The commissioner of the governorate should be elected by these elected councils, and should only be sacked by the consent of the majority of the governorates’ council. The national mineral, marine and petroleum wealth should be distributed equally to all governorates.

He also mentioned that the term of office of the president should be four years, and he can run for only a second term. The president will not be able to run for a third and fourth terms unless another president had taken office after him. This will be an application for handover of power principal.

“The vice president should be in the same president’s election list, to be elected together so that the vice president would have a public legitimacy. The constitutional power of the vice president should be defined. Promotion the authority of the control and audit should be considered in order to follow up the military and civil officials’ handling of loans and grants. It is important to form a judiciary unit that investigates illegal wealth of the president, ministers and their deputies. A special court is to be formed to try those who are suspected of guilt. The parliament is to suspend their mandate till they are proven innocent. Any official should submit his wealth quittance, for himself, wife(s) and sons before taking office. Then he should do the same at the end of his mandate locally and abroad.”

Al-Baidani considered that the application of this plan would reveal the need for specialists. According to him, this paves the way for an educational

plan that will furnish these specializations in a developing series. It will be the base for progress that invests in enhancing the energetic powers of both sexes through furnishing free education and granting scholarships for excellent students.

The preparation of the plan will reveal the need for reconsidering the administrative procedures. The procedures that undermine the progress of modern administration will be removed. Development of judiciary will also be achieved by shortening their procedures, in order to make investors enjoy the fruits of their investments while they are still alive.



Al-Baidani

Opposition Parties object to reduction of voters’ register committees

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA’A—An official source in the leadership of the Joint Opposition Meeting Parties (JOMP) confirmed the adherence of the opposition parties to the legal standards concerning the formation of committees for reviewing and modifying voters’ registers, which are expected to start operations by the advent of January next year.

However, The High Commission for Elections and Referendum (HCER) decided to reduce the number of these committees from 5620 to 2400. It announced that it has given opposition parties one week to revise their plans and submit a new list for selected members of the committees as per the revised and reduced numbers. It also threatened to select members of the committees without notifying the opposition parties should they fail to submit the new list of names of their nominees within the assigned time period.

Politicians hold the view that such a stance of the HCER leads to crisis with the opposition parties which had originally formulated 5620 field committees as per the law. Therefore, the HCER

declaration has shocked the opposition parties that are planning to take a unanimous decision and confront it.

On another front, The HCER acknowledged the existence of 400 thousand minors who have been enlisted on the election registers. However, it has not undertaken any rectifying measures to delete minors from the list despite claims by the opposition parties to modify the elections register as early as possible.

The HCER declared last Saturday it formulated a mechanism for the participation of political parties and organizations in the committees responsible for the revision and modification of voters’ registers, set the number of committees at 2400 and established a general woman unit at the HCER for increasing women’s awareness on how to practice their legal and constitutional rights as voters and candidates.

For his part, Abdu Mohamed al-Janadi, Head of the Information Sector at the HCER said in a statement to the state-run al-Thawra daily: “what is claimed by the opposition parties is unreasonable and it stems from prohibitive measures...The HCER allowed the opposition parties to clarify their viewpoints that reached to the public skepticism on the neutralism and independence of the HCER, and therefore, they withdrew without any justification,” al-Janadi said.

“Despite what has happened, the HCER is keen to invite all the Join Opposition Meeting Parties to discuss some of the prohibitive measures that are the consequence of the large number of committees and to reach a joint viewpoint on this matter.” He added.

Al-Bukari juits Journalists Syndicate

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA’A – Nov.22 – Mr. Hafiz Albukari, General Secretary of the Journalists Syndicate, has resigned last Monday from his post at the Syndicate. In his resignation letter he indicated that feels frustrated because of the Syndicate’s inability to help Yemeni journalists after over eighteen months of continuous hard work towards the protection of journalists and the freedom of the press.

He added that he could do anything for journalists in terms of improving their career and living conditions, in addition to the alarming deteriorating in press liberty. Mr. Al-Bukari indicated that the main reason behind his resignation is upcoming endorsement of a draft media law that will eventually destroy the freedom of the press which is currently at its infancy. Mr. Al-bukari believes that the new media law will make journalist’s rights more vulnerable, and will not protect journalists of any violations of their professional, human and constitutional rights.

Al-bukari criticized the Syndicate’s failure to adopt a unanimous clear program to protect journalists and stop the continuous violations against journalists’ rights, which have been escalating recently. Al-Bukari himself has suf-



Hafiz Albukari

fered immense personal abuse while undertaking his post as General Secretary of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, most recent of which is a defaming campaign led by government run news papers against him and against his wife prominent journalist Rahma Hujaira.

Al-Bukari admitted that he didn’t achieve his promises to the journalists through the Syndicate and confirmed that he will always be by his colleague’s side in search of a better future for freedom of the press in Yemen.

Al-Dailami rejects court procedures

SANA’A- Nov. 23- Ali Hussein Al-Dailmai, brother of cleric Yahya Al-Dailami, who has been imprisoned since September last year on charges of promoting hatred, has announced that his brother Yahya has rejected all the court proceedings in his case and described them as unfair and unlawful: “I personally express concern over what is happening to my brother who is a prisoner of opinion, and I request all international organizations to take quick action against the illegal and arbitrary practices against humanity

and human rights taking place in Yemen”.

Cleric Yahya Al-Dailami demanded that the legal authorities stop harassing Zaidi people because of their belonging to the Zaidi sect, he also claimed that was subject to assault by the authorities in the Sana’a Central Prison.

Cleric al-Dailami also demanded the court should bring to justice all those who commit acts of hatred against him, his family, and members of the Zaidi sect as well as citizens who expressed solidarity with him.



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Yemen: Large-scale refugee registration to start shortly by UN agency

UN News Service, 22 Nov. – To better protect and assist them, the Government of Yemen and the United Nations refugee agency are about to begin a large-scale operation to register thousands of refugees in Yemen, most of whom have crossed the Gulf of Aden to flee the long-term unrest in Somalia, the agency announced today.

Beginning on Sunday, six newly-created centres around the country will begin registering refugees with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Government authorities, which the agency said have been highly cooperative.

"UNHCR wishes to highlight the exemplary cooperation displayed by the Yemeni authorities in dealing with refugees," Jennifer Pagonis, a spokesperson for the agency said in Geneva.

"Yemen is one of the few countries in the region to have signed the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and has been very generous in receiving refugees," she added.

Registration is due to start next week in the capital Sana'a before moving on to other parts of the country. Each of the six centres will then become a permanent registration

centre, UNHCR said.

Thousands of Somalis cross the gulf every year, many of them on unsafe vessels run by smuggling rings. Hundreds perish in the attempt, prompting High Commissioner António Guterres earlier this year to call for international action to address the root causes of the problem.

The Yemeni authorities automatically grant refugee status to Somali citizens arriving in Yemen, Ms. Pagonis said. At the end of last month, there were some 79,000 refugees registered with UNHCR in Yemen, more than 68,000 of them from Somalia. Most Somalis live in urban areas, with some 7,500 staying at Kharaz camp, in the south of the country.

UNHCR staff in Sana'a also reported that dozens of Somali refugees have been staging protests calling for resettlement to a third country outside their office in the Yemeni capital since last week.

"We are engaged in a dialogue with these refugees in order to clarify some of the principles of resettlement, a procedure which consists in finding a host country for refugees other than the first country of asylum, in this case Yemen," Ms. Pagonis said.

Hope Society donates books to Sana'a University

SANA'A – Nov. 22 – Sana'a University received a donation of 36,000 academic books in Science, medicine, Sociology, American literature and governance from the American Hope Society (an organization for international health care) and the Yemeni American Society of Professionals and Scientists.

The books were handed over by Dr.

Naser Zaoiah, head of the Yemeni-American Society for Professionals and Scientists, to the Rector of Sana'a University, Dr. Saleh Ba-Sorah, in a ceremony that was attended by Mr. Nabeel Khori, deputy of the American ambassador, and the cultural and information attaché accompanied by a number of the university lecturers and students.

40 prisoners released in Taiz

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Taiz – Yem. Nov. 21 – More than 44 prisoners were released from the Taiz central prison on Monday 21st, Sheikh Saleh Abo Hatim, Head of the Appeal Prosecution attended the release operation.

In a release to Yemen Times Amar Al-Mua'alim Media Director in the governorate stated that the cases of those who were released were of theft and security nature. He said that they

were released after they have exhibited good conduct. He added that the prisoners have been reformed and can be included in the community as good citizens.

The amount that the state paid for the release of these inmates was around YR 26 millions, which was paid as compensation for the victims of theft crimes incurred by the prisoners, which, otherwise, wouldn't have been paid due to the bad economic conditions of the prisoners.

(Financial) Commercial attache praises Qat sessions democracy

TAIZ- Nov. 19 – Participants in a symposium held in the Shamsan Hotel in Taiz on Wed. Nov. 16 praised democracy.

Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) was the organizer of this symposium. Mr. Joy Hood, the financial attache in Sana'a participated in that symposium, together with David Crocks and Mrs. Lora Abrahams. They all spoke of their admiration of the Yemeni democratic spirit, especially in Qat sessions.



The symposium was also attended by representatives of civil society organizations, syndicates, political and media persons. They raised a number of issues on the democratic dialogue issues, and the method of

promoting the democratic program. The participants criticized the American policy in the Middle East and their practice of double standard measures, especially in Iraq and Palestine.

Japanese supports to Yemen

FOR YEMEN TIMES

In recognition to the medical services extended by Al-Shortah Hospital to a dense population in Sana'a, the Government of Japan has decided to extend to Al-Shortah Hospital a grant aid amounting up to US \$75,442 under the scheme called "Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects", which aims at supporting small scale community-based projects in basic human needs fields, such as primary health care, basic education and public welfare in

developing countries.

With this grant, Al-Shortah Hospital will procure a number of medical equipment necessary for further improvement of the medical services to the people.

Mr. Hisatsugu Shimizu, Charge de Affaire ad interim of the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of Yemen, signs today the agreement to this effect in Sana'a with Mr. Hamoud Al Qudaimi, General Manager of Al-Shortah Hospital.

During this Japanese fiscal year (April 2005 – March 2006), the num-

ber of the projects funded by the Government of Japan under this scheme has reached 14 projects in total up to 1.38 million dollar, including the above project. It is noteworthy that the Japanese Government under the scheme financed.

Another grant from the Japanese embassy was for a sports project. A Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroot Project was signed on 22 November at the Embassy of Japan in Sana'a.

In accordance with this agreement, the Government of Japan will extend

a grant up to eighty six thousands and fifty two USD (\$ 76,052) to the Yemen Karate Federation. This grant is planned to promote Karate in Yemen through procurement of Karate training equipment in the five main Karate centers as well as the four branches in nine governorates.

Japanese support to the sports activities included a cultural grant agreement was signed three months ago to procure sports equipment for the Yemen Olympic committee aiming at promoting women sports and educational activities in Yemen.

Course on journalism skills concluded

By ISMAIL AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Nov. 21- A 9-day training course on the skills and basic principles of journalistic writing organized by Media Training Institute in cooperation with the Capital Secretariat was concluded last Monday, training 22 employees working in the Capital Information Office and its local councils in the event.

The course aimed at helping partic-

ipants gain the necessary skills for news editing, journalistic writing and interviews and show them how they differ from each other. At the end of the course, Dr. Abdullah al-Zalib told the Yemen Times that this course was a real opportunity for participants to be acquainted with the arts and forms of journalistic writings and other types of essays. He also commended the interaction of trainees to make the course a success and said that training is the base for polishing the skills of workers in the field of information.

Discrimination against female journalists discussed

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Nov. 21- Under the auspices of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS), the International Journalists Union (IJU) and the Danish Movement for Media Development (DMMD), a national conference on discussing the situation and needs of Yemeni journalists was held on Monday.

At the symposium, Dr. Wade al-Azazi, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Media, Sana'a University, reviewed a valuable study, which he conducted over the last six months

focusing on the situation of press employees in Yemen and the issues related to gender-based discrimination and the challenges that face female journalists compared to their counterparts in the world and male journalists.

The study involved 275 journalists from different media at various parts of Yemen, and included descriptive and exploratory analysis aiming at researching the discrimination phenomenon and shedding light on it. The methodology of the study was described as a well-organized scientific effort for obtaining adequate data on the phenomenon.

Deutschland Cruise ship arrived at Aden

By RIDWAN ALSAQQAF
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ADEN – Nov. 19 - German cruise ship 'Deutschland' arrived at Aden port last Friday carrying 489 tourists from different nationalities. Deutschland is the first cruise ship to visit Aden during the last decade. The Gulf Agency Company has successfully arranged for the visit, Mr. Hisham Al-Saqqaf, General Manager of the company and agents of the ship said: "The German vessel reached Hodieda on the 17th of this month from Egypt. 123 of its passengers departed in Hodieda with a tourism program to visit Hodieda, Sana'a, Taiz and finally join the ship in Aden.

He added that 250 tourists who came to Aden spent eight hours touring the town, its markets and the coasts, the tourists expressed their admiration for the Yemeni beautiful nature and its ancient monuments that date back to thousands of years. They said that they were surprised to find Aden to be a developed civilized place with warm sandy beaches.

Mr. Al-Saqqaf praised the cooperative spirit at Aden and Hodieda ports. This had a good effect on the morale of the tourists and the crew of the ship. He confirmed that their company is cooperating with the ministry of tourism to promote Yemen as a tourism destination especially in the European continent.



Hisham Al-Saqqaf



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the project "Decentralization and Local Development Support Project (DLDSP)".



Post Title: Donor Program Monitoring Officer SC-B

Responsibilities

- Develop a methodology and then carry out a survey of current and pipeline donor programs and identify those, which are relevant to decentralization.
- Document the scope, scale, geographic location and focus (sector) of such programs and projects.
- Carry out a review of the implementation modalities used and the institutional arrangements put in place for such projects at the local level.
- Identify donor project personnel both administrative and technical and identify reliable contacts to facilitate communication and coordination with DLDSP.
- Function as PR officer for the DLDSP and produce a monthly newsletter summarizing program activities.
- Assist program management in preparing for and holding donor coordination meetings.
- Any other related tasks that are of relevance to this scope of activity.

Qualification:

- A master degree in the field of public administration, business administration, public, international relations or other related discipline.
- A minimum of 5 years demonstrated experience in the field of local governance and local development.
- He/she shall have strong analytical and writing skills and experience in dealing with or working for donor agencies in less developed countries.
- Proficiency in Arabic and English Languages.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org.ve/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ve@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 03rd December 2005

Tribal sheikhs release Swiss nationals

BY SWISSINFO & HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

MARIB- Nov.22- Tribal sheikhs in the Yemeni tribe of Abida, Marib Province managed to persuade a group of kidnappers, led by Mohamed Bin Salim al-Dhimn, to release the Swiss husband under the name of Bayer and his wife Katerina who have been kidnapped for 48 hours.

The group kidnapped the two Swiss nationals while they were on the way to Shabwa, and then released them upon pledges by the tribal sheikhs to free their relative who has been arrested in the capital city of Sana'a for chewing qat during daytime in the fasting month of Ramadan.

According to a security source, the man was detained for being suspected of car robbery.

One of the Swiss hostages confirmed that they were being treated well by their kidnappers.

The Swiss government on Monday said the couple had been freed, based on information obtained from the Yemeni authorities by Swiss diplomats in the region.

"The Swiss couple, abducted in Yemen, has been freed. Both are safe and well," the Swiss Foreign Ministry in Berne said in a statement on its website.

But Mohamed al-Dhimn, leader of tribesmen holding the pair, said he was still in possession of the Swiss tourists and that demands that his imprisoned brother be released by Yemeni officials had not been met.

"My brother is still being held by authorities, and the tourists are still here. They are sleeping now," al-Dhimn told Reuters by telephone.

A Yemeni official said he had no information about the hostages being freed.

A Swiss Foreign Ministry spokesman was not immediately available for comment. Both victims were seized early on Monday morning.

"They remain in good health," the Yemeni Interior Ministry said. It did not release their names.

"My brother is 30km away and being brought over to us now by authorities. As soon as he is here, I will personally hand over the tourists," al-Dhaman said by telephone.

Al-Dhimn earlier cautioned that the pair would be killed if the government tried to free them by force.

"I hold the government responsible. If they launch an attack, we will all die together as we are in the same house," he said. "The two tourists are in good health and being treated well."

Speaking by telephone from an undisclosed location in Marib Province, the Swiss man, who refused to identify himself, told swissinfo: "We are being well treated, and are now waiting for the issue to be resolved and refuse to comment any further until we are back in our hotel."

He said he did not want to reveal his or his wife's identity before they had had a chance to inform their relatives.

They were kidnapped by a local man demanding the release of his teenage brother, who was apparently arrested three weeks ago for chewing the natural stimulant qat during the fasting season of Ramadan.

The kidnapper, who gave his name as Mohamed al-Dhaman, told swissinfo that his brother stood accused of selling a stolen car and that he had been transferred to a prison in the country's capital, Sana'a.

He said he abducted the Swiss tourists to exert pressure on the provincial authorities.

The Swiss foreign ministry told swissinfo that its Yemeni consulate was actively trying to secure their

release, but that the couple were still being held.

"They are in good health," confirmed ministry spokesman Jean-Philippe Jeannerat, who hoped for a rapid end to the hostage-taking.

A local guide and translator, Amer Al Deen Al Houthi, who is also being held, told swissinfo that the hostage-takers "are good... hospitable and treating us well."

"We have not seen any bad gestures from their side. They are cooperating with the state and they are negotiating with them."

The kidnapper assured swissinfo that "nothing will happen to the hostages, but we want you to warn the Yemeni authorities that we put the responsibility of what will happen if any troops try to attack us on them".

The couple was kidnapped while exploring the country as part of a package tour booked through the Zurich travel agency, Holiday Maker.

The owner of the travel agency, Plinio Raselli, told swissinfo that the company's website did not inform customers of the danger of traveling in Yemen.

"We have been offering Yemen packages for 15 years and this is the first time something like this has ever happened," said Raselli.

He said he was aware of the explicit warnings against travel to the region published by the Swiss foreign ministry

A Yemeni security source said, "The two hostages will continue their tourist trip in Yemen in spite of what has happened to them"

Tourists have often been seized by armed tribal groups in Yemen, a poor country at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula, where central government control is weak in many areas. They are usually released unharmed after negotiations.

Thaar revenge kills 8 in al-Jouf

BY HASSAN ALZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

ALJOF, YEMEN – Nov. 23 – A family of eight – four men and four women were killed as their vehicle was shot at by live ammunition by members of the Ma'atrah tribe in al-Jouf governorate, the family belonged to the Thu-Mohammed tribe which has a history of armed conflict with Ma'atrah tribe.

Observers believe that this incident is Thaar revenge of an older dispute which resulted in killing six men of Ma'atrah

tribe, Therefore the vehicle transporting a family of ten: four men, four women and two children was stalked until it reached the 'Rahob' area, where gunmen shot the vehicle and killed the four adults and injured the two children.

The reaction among Thu-Mohammed tribe members was extremely volatile as it is considered a dishonorable disgrace to kill or injure women and children in tribal conduct, indicate the launch of a massive tribal conflict which is expected to cost dearly.

Nevertheless, A source in Aljouf governorate said that military forces are

yet to react to the incident or taken any steps to stop the expected armed conflict between the tribes. Tribal sources indicated that there are arrangements through which military forces do not interfere in tribal disputes and let the tribes resolve their issues themselves.

Earlier this year a brief tribal conflict between Alsholan and Hamdan tribes resulted in 23 casualties were claimed in al-Jouf governorate. Estimates indicate that casualties of Thaar revenge exceeded 5000 lives during the past two decades.

Training workshop for journalists concluded, journalism contest announced

Sana'a, Nov 23 - A 5-day training workshop for 12 journalists on the 'Principles of News Writing' was concluded with the announcement with the first journalism contest in Yemen. The workshop and the contest were sponsored by the Alfred Friendly Press Fellowships and the Daniel Pearl Foundation.

Journalist Walid Al-Saqqaf conducted the workshop as the first activity of Al-Saqqaf's fellowship program and focused around the basic principles of news writing, methods of journalistic writing, structure of stories, communication skills, and information gathering and verification abilities.

Mr. Al-Saqqaf said he was impressed by the desire of Yemeni journalists to learn universal principles in professional journalism. "I was amazed to see many journalists being enthusiastic in learning as they



lacked the basic knowledge of how to write news reports." he said.

Trainees admired the learning experience through the workshop, which they described as 'unique and new' considering the interactive style of training and the rich content, emphasizing the need to undertake similar workshops on timely bases to uplift the standard of reporting in the

country.

The trainees also wished to thank the sponsors for their generous contribution in undertaking the workshop, especially through Mr. Al-Saqqaf who is a capable trainer and a distinguished journalist with over six years of work in media development in Yemen and in the United States of America.

- MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH IN YEMEN - Terms of Reference for Yemen Consultant to Support and Strengthen a Rights Based Approach

1.0 Background

UNICEF is willing to contribute to reduce maternal and newborn mortality by strengthening government capacity to ensure provision of and access to quality midwifery and obstetric services. The Maternal and Neonatal Health Project will also provide technical support to develop a Rights-Based Approach (RBA) with strong linkages to social and institutional change.

2.0 Objectives

TA will be provided to strengthen a rights-based approach through ensuring that all elements of the programme operationalise principles of accountability for participation, inclusion and willing obligation. Rights-based best practice will evolve through demonstrating approaches in which state and citizens can contract and work together to promote fulfillment of maternal and newborn health entitlements. Three specific objectives for the TA:

- support in embedding rights-based approaches throughout the project; building teams of personnel and programme constituents from central government, and each of the programme governorates, who will work to ensure that mutual roles and responsibilities for maternal and newborn health are defined and acted upon, and that obligations of all stakeholders are being met;
- provide continual input to the work of the project to increase understanding and facilitate the development of rights-based programming culture. She/he will liaise between UNICEF, Ministry of Public Health and Population and the international RBA Consultant on all project RBA related aspects.
- support to ensure that systems of practical, participatory, rights-based monitoring, and evaluation, involving all stakeholders, are in operation at Local and Regional levels and are informing the development of Central level policy and strategy for maternal and newborn health;
- support District Maternal and Neonatal Health Teams in implementing ongoing participatory rights appraisals with project constituents and the development of local participatory, inclusive MNH improvement plans which are rooted in systems of participatory rights-based monitoring and evaluation
- Working with an International Consultant so as to develop capacity to give effective assistance which will embed RBA within the project. This objective will include support to UNICEF in securing engagement of all relevant stakeholders at Central, Regional and Local levels in promoting changes which can enable maternal and newborn health rights to be met.
- In agreement with UNICEF Health and Nutrition Officer, the Yemen RBA Consultant will develop and implement effective systems to communicate with the international RBA Consultant and will be responsible for ensuring that regular updates on project progress are available to all relevant stakeholders.

3.0 Qualifications, tasks, duration

Qualifications

The technical Assistance would require:

- Socio-anthropology professional qualifications and experience in working with, mobilising and organising communities
- Good understanding of Rights-Based Development concepts
- Good understanding of MNH policy and practice in Yemen, including understanding of the Ministry of Health structure at central, governorate and District levels
- At least 8 years experience working in health and/or social sectors in Yemen
- A deep understanding, extending beyond the health sector, of issues of structural inequity and social development in Yemen
- A proven ability to encourage structural change in development and to work with men and women at all levels – from communities through to central government
- Experience of working with communities on Development issues
- Experience of working between Arabic and English in facilitation roles and ability to translate complex development concepts and approaches
- Proven report-writing skills
- Ability to move freely, and independently throughout Yemen (in accordance with security requirements)

NB: Female application is highly encouraged

Duration:

The duration of the consultancy is for one year to be extended if needed.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their applications along with the CV:
The Operations Officer, UNICEF Sana'a, P.O. Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.
Applications received after 7th of January 2006 will not be considered.

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extends his deepest and
heartfelt condolences to

Mr. Salah Mohammed Al-Attar

on the departure of his father,
Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar.

May Allah rest his soul in peace.

Yemeni Americans drowning in U.S. culture

By HAKIM ALMASMARI
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YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Since the beginning of time, Yemenis have traveled from place to place searching for a better future and a life of prosperity. Yemeni people are known to have roots in almost every part of the world. Spreading from Asia, Africa, and even Europe and North America. During the 1950's and towards the end of the Imamate regime, people in Yemen went through unstable situations, which forced many to look for a new future in a different country.

The United States was at this time in the height of its progress, which made many Yemenis consider it as a destination for the generations to come. During the 1960's and early 1970's, many of today's Yemeni Americans arrived to the United States, fleeing the war which broke out and consequently destabilized the country, in search for a chance of having a prosperous future.

Small communities consisting of Yemeni immigrants started in places like California, Michigan, and New York. No exact figure of Yemenis living in America could be given as they are scattered throughout the vast nation. However, according to many analysts the number is as high as 700,000, nearly double the number 10 years ago. Most Yemeni Americans are from places like Ibb and Rada'a.

Unfortunately, most Yemeni Americans are uneducated, as only 2% hold university degrees, while those holding a masters degree could be counted by hand.

Due to the lack of modern education, Yemeni Americans seem to be drowning in a sea of dreams and fairy tales, thinking that America is the land of opportunities while they give themselves no opportunity to achieve education or knowledge. Many work in gas stations, automobile companies, and restaurants to earn their living.

The American culture is so inclusive and full with attractions, in most situations it is almost impossible to ignore the way of life in a country like

America. Many issues that are unnoticeable in a Middle Eastern society such as adultery, drinking, usage of drugs and so on are practiced openly and freely in The United States. These issues are at the same time prohibited and contradict Islamic teachings and Arab values.

Nowadays, and after the 3rd and 4th generations, many Yemeni Americans have completely lost their identity. The difference in culture, society, values, environment, and habits has tremendously changed the structure of the once great Yemeni American society. "My children don't even speak Arabic; they think it's not necessary. They just neglect to understand that we are Arabs and that Arabic is the language of the Quran", said Ibrahim Al-Ba'dani, who has been living in the United States for over 40 years. "It's really unimaginable. I can't even imagine how their children will end up", he added.

It's very common now to notice Yemeni Americans who don't speak Arabic at all and only understand a little of the language when being spoke to. "I couldn't believe a day would come when my children forget their mother tongue and give no importance to it whatsoever", said a concerned father in America.

Many of the younger generations of Yemeni citizens do not understand the Yemeni values until they decide to visit Yemen. Moreover, the visit could be unforgettable and full of exciting memories. They experience a culture

similar to the one their parents followed, and from there, many start to realize the importance of their original values and try to live it for as long as they can. "I don't want to be the one responsible for them losing their identity. At least for the next generation, I will make sure my children stay safe from the strong influence of the American society", said a U.S. born Yemeni American Hafez Ali. "Our prophet Mohammed (peace is upon him) once said: 'time will come when holding on to the practice of Islam is in the same difficulty like holding a burning piece of charcoal' and trust me we realize that every minute of our life in America", he added.

A positive aspect for all of this is that even when going through hard situations, Yemeni Americans are probably still the most cultural people in the United States. Comparing Yemeni communities to other societies throughout America, Yemenis are known to have the Islamic centers and private schools there. Their mosques are very big and in some situations hold over 6,000 worshippers. They live in special societies where they are usually close to family and friends. Quranic classes are offered to youngsters in mosques and private schools.

Many good things are happening, but we have to keep in focus the problems that the younger generations are

facing now, and the bigger problems the next generation of Yemeni Americans will surely have to deal with. Furthermore finding solutions for these issues.

Many Yemenis seem to have lost their identity in the United States, due to lack of importance given to them on parents forget to educate their children on the importance of their origin and background. Parents must keep in mind the tragic outcome in the end for their children before it is too late. If no effort is made to end such phenomena, it would be expected that the existence of Yemenis identity to disappear in the United States by as early as 30 years to come.



Cultural shock: Many of the younger generations of Yemenis in USA do not understand the Yemeni values until they decide to visit Yemen.

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Despite threats, Iran insists on using nuclear energy

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a presentation about Iran's nuclear dossier delivered Tuesday at the Strategic Studies Center in Sana'a the Iranian ambassador to Yemen Hussein Kamalian confirmed that Iran was committed to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. He said attempts by the U.S. and some European countries to doubt credibility of Iran was merely foolishness, aiming to force Iran to abandon many regional and international issues. A number of Arab and foreign ambassadors and diplomats attended the presentation.

He said: "The issue of the Iranian nuclear dossier has become the most important one in the international arena, as each day witnesses the publication of new viewpoints and different reports on Iran's nuclear dossier by several media sources worldwide."

"The western media exaggerate in publishing such news and you already know that the Iranian Nuclear Research Project, or what is called Iranian Nuclear Call Organization, established in 1974, was employed for manipulating the nuclear fuel cycle, producing 23 megawatts of electricity," Kamalian pointed out.

"Later on, the name of the project was changed into "The Iranian Nuclear Research Center", which reached the first agreement with the U.S. on the nuclear fuel enrichment in 1974 and some U.S. companies used to process the nuclear fuel cycle for ten years. Iran also reached other agreements with Germany in 1976 and France in 1977 for the same purpose."

"At that time, there was a strong competition between European and U.S. companies for introducing new technology into Iran in the field of uranium enrichment and processing the nuclear fuel cycle," he added. "There was no discussion of the issue of the use of oil and gas for producing electricity in lieu of the nuclear energy in Iran. The U.S. and other western countries encouraged Iran to bring nuclear

stations to be utilized in the production of electricity."

The Iranian Ambassador said: "Due to an increase in the consumption of fuel, its skyrocketing prices and nuclear use for different purposes, we believe that the attempt of the U.S. and some western countries is a kind of double standard policies bearing political aims. They tried to stop Iran from using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes."

The Iranian Government, in response to the Iranian Islamic Shura Council's Resolution, authorized certain bodies to establish nuclear stations for producing electric power with a capacity of 20 thousand megawatts per year until 2020.

"Over the last 20 years, the consumption of electricity grew by forty-folds compared to earlier years. We believe such consumption to grow due to the rapid development in the country," Kamalian mentioned. "This means that Iran should profit from other energy sources. So we affirm that we, since we started our peaceful nuclear activities, were and are still an effective member in all international agreements on the peaceful nuclear activities," the ambassador added.

Since 2003, Iran has voluntarily implemented the additional protocol in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for passing these decisions. Over the last two years, the Iranian Government offered great opportunities to the IAEA to conduct field inspections and view all the matters related to the Iranian nuclear activities. It allowed the IAEA to install the monitoring cameras to observe the Iranian workers and record their movements, according to Mr. Kamalian.

"22 years passed after the establishment of the IAEA and we have never seen or heard any procedure like this and Iran is the only country all over the world that faced such a procedure," Kamalian mentioned. "I want to emphasize that it is Iran which granted the right to the Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency



Irani ambassador Hussein Kamalian (center) during the event.

in the eighties to visit the nuclear establishments and we cared to work transparently and reveal any work related to the nuclear activities in compliance with the international rules."

In its reports, the IAEA recurrently commended the constructive cooperation of the Iranian officials and confirmed that Iran's nuclear activities proceed on the right path, the Iranian diplomat signalled out.

"There is no evidence or indicators that such activities took another direction, and Dr. al-Baradie, who published three days ago the use of the same of what I said, praised the earnest and constructive cooperation shown by Iran."

He added, "Despite Iran's coopera-

tion with the IAEA, the world media speaks of absence of cooperation with IAEA officials."

"I think there are no indicators in international laws preventing countries from using the nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and I think the big powers want to create a kind of monopoly in the nuclear fuel cycle intended for peaceful use. These countries ignore the right of Iran to possess this technology, employing all the political means and media attacks against Iran," Kamalian commented.

"Transferring the Iranian nuclear dossier to the International Security Council is not the best solution; it will not tackle the issue, it will make it more complicated. The U.S. and

European threats will never affect Iran's determination in defending its right and its position in this regard will not change," he added.

The Yemen Times forwarded a question to the Iranian Ambassador about the suspicions of the powerful countries on the Iranian nuclear dossier if it shifted to the manufacture of weapons, as they believe that Iran's possession of nuclear weapons will lead Saudi Arabia and Egypt to get such weapons in order to bring about a strategic balance in the region, as is the case in Pakistan and India. Consequently, the big powers believe that Iran's possession of nuclear weapons will threaten peace in the Middle East.

The ambassador responded: "In my

speech I never mentioned military activities since there is no status for the nuclear weapons in the Iranian military strategic perspective. I think the production and storing of nuclear weapons contradict our religious ideologies, and we want to profit from the nuclear activities in the peaceful fields. We are not obliged to remove suspicions of the western countries and the U.S."

He further confirmed that Iran has no tendency to the manufacture of nuclear weapons in its military strategic perspective, however, the western countries talk on this issue only through media and there is no indicator of any intention of Iran to possess nuclear weapons.



Sana'a University International Tender Announcement

Sana'a University announces an international tender regarding preparation of the studies and engineering design for **The Faculty of Information**, and invites interested consultant companies and offices (residing in and outside the Republic) wishing to participate in this tender to submit their offers, at the following address:

**The General Administration for Financial Affairs,
Sana'a University
Wadi Dhahr Road
P.O. Box (1247), Sana'a
Republic of Yemen
Tel: (01-464677)**

Tender documents can be obtained upon submitting a written request to the General Secretary, against a non-returned amount of US\$200. Bids should be submitted in 2 envelopes sealed by red wax, original bid + 3 copies and duplicated (in Arabic and English).

A primary security (bid bond) at 2.5% of total bid value, by payable cheque from a bank recognized in the Republic of Yemen or a bank guarantee valid for 120 days from the envelopes opening date to be attached with the bid.

The date of opening bid (technical envelopes) shall be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 in the presence of the bidders or any party representing them.

Kenyans sting Kibaki by voting No to constitution

NAIROBI (Reuters) - President Mwai Kibaki suffered a humiliating defeat on Tuesday in a constitutional referendum that galvanized Kenyans' disillusionment with their leader three years after he took power vowing to end graft and tribalism.

The "No" vote in a country traditionally seen by the West as a lynchpin of stability in turbulent east Africa may lead to a major realignment of political forces before a 2007 election.

Counting from Monday's plebiscite on a proposed new charter backed by Kibaki gave his foes an unassailable lead with about 60 percent of votes. The run-up to the referendum split the ruling coalition, deepened tribal tensions and ignited unrest in which eight people died.

"We have blown the trumpet and sent for the suits and champagne," said Tom Kajwang, a senior official from the "No" team whose supporters danced and sang in the streets of Nairobi.

Critics say the proposed text failed to curb the president's huge powers, a major issue in the nation of 32 million people fractured by years of so-called "Big Man" rule.

Electoral Commission figures at 11 a.m. local (0800 GMT) showed the "No" camp with 3.3 million votes, against 2.3 million for "Yes", with fewer votes left to count than the margin.

"It's a revolution for the orange," said political analyst Kanyih Karoti, referring to the fruit symbol adopted by the "No" camp championed by the main opposition Kenya African National Union (KANU) party and a party in the ruling coalition.

"No" supporters were in party mood, while "Yes" proponents were hard to find. "They're probably drowning their sorrows in orange juice," the "No" camp's Nazlene Rajput told Reuters.

With much of the counting taking place in far-flung areas, however, formal final results were due only later in the day.

Electoral officials declined to call the result until full counting was completed. "The score is there for you to see," spokesman Mani Lemayian told Reuters.



Kenyan Maasai women wait in a line to cast their votes outside a polling station in Kiserian village, 25 miles west of capital Nairobi Nov. 21.

REUTERS

WHAT NOW?

With the Orange lead untouchable, speculation turned to the political ramifications.

Top of the agenda was how Kibaki, 74, would deal with seven rebel ministers who campaigned for a "No" vote in a move that split the ruling National Rainbow Coalition.

During the campaign, he had threatened them with the sack.

But one leading "No" proponent, KANU shadow attorney-general

Mutula Kilonzo, said instead that Kibaki's attorney-general and justice minister should resign over their roles in drawing up a document overwhelmingly rejected by the Kenyan people.

Analysts were also trying to work out how much concrete damage the vote had done to Kibaki's re-election chances.

"There is a lot of work to do in terms of healing," analyst Patrick Kiage said.

Kibaki supporters said there was no

need to panic.

"We said previously we will abide by the results, however disappointing," Water Minister Martha Karua told Reuters. "There is no crisis, there is no vacuum, and there is a constitution in place that will continue governing this country."

Kibaki's campaign, using the symbol of a banana, often seemed lacklustre in comparison to the raucous energy seen at mass rallies staged by the opposition and the dissident govern-

ment faction the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

Kibaki swept to victory in 2002 elections on a wave of resentment at rising poverty and corruption under the 24-year rule of his predecessor Daniel arap Moi. But many Kenyans say he has failed to create enough jobs or end graft.

A rift opened in the government early on when Kibaki abandoned a pledge to appoint ambitious LDP leader Raila Odinga as prime minister,

making him roads minister instead, a move that rankled with Odinga supporters for three years.

At Monday's vote, Kibaki had strong endorsement from the Central Province heartland of his own Kikuyu tribe but received uneven support in much of the rest of the country.

The vote on the complicated charter — which would replace the existing text drawn up on the eve of independence from Britain in 1963 — came after a bitter and violent campaign.

Iraqi peace talks rescued after near collapse

CAIRO (Reuters) - Iraqi politicians put aside some differences and agreed a closing statement at a reconciliation conference on Monday, despite last minute objections to the mention of Iraqi federalism and the definition of resistance.

At the end of the three-day meeting sponsored by the Cairo-based Arab League, divided politicians agreed to back a withdrawal of U.S. and British forces from Iraq by immediately set-

ting a timetable for gradually rebuilding the Iraqi military.

"This is only a first step. We have not succeeded in all the differences, but we have succeeded with many ... and reached a consensus," Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa said.

Moussa was speaking at a news conference with Harith al-Dhari, head of Iraq's Muslim Clerics' Association, who had objected to the mention of Iraqi federalism in the closing state-

ment, the association's spokesman told Reuters.

The Muslim Clerics' Association, which represents several thousand Sunni mosques, is one of the more anti-American of Iraq's Sunni Arab groups and has some links to the insurgency.

"One of our reservations was the point which refers to federalism in Iraq. This means we are validating the constitution. It is well known we were of those who boycotted the constitution," spokesman Mohammed al-Fadhi said.

Sunnis have objected to federalism, which is part of Iraq's constitution, because greater autonomy for different regions could see Sunnis, who mainly

live in the Iraq's center, cut off from oil rich northern and southern regions.

Sunni delegates also pressed for official recognition of armed resistance to occupation, but a compromise was reached with other parties saying all peoples have the right to resist.

Delegates agreed to condemn attacks on Iraqi civilians, government institutions and oil installations, and called for the release of all detainees held without trial.

However, Dhari took a strong anti-American and anti-government line, arguing that the insurgency was a legitimate response to U.S. occupation. He accused Iraqi forces of adopting U.S. practices such as torture and mass arrests.

What is resistance?

The most contentious part of the agreement was its treatment of "resistance" — seen by some Iraqis as a just struggle against invaders, by others as futile fanaticism.

The compromise formula said: "Although resistance is a legitimate right of all peoples, terrorism however does not represent legitimate resistance, so we condemn terrorism and acts of violence, murder and kidnapping."

The Arab League, alarmed that Iraq is sliding toward chaos and civil war, called the politicians to Cairo to prepare for a broader political meeting in Baghdad next February or March after

legislative elections in December.

Fawzi al-Hariri, a Kurdish representative and Iraqi foreign ministry official, played down the language on resistance.

"We do not believe there is a resistance because they (insurgents) lack any political ideology or strategy or aim," he told Reuters.

Earlier on Monday delegates said the dispute over policy toward insurgents almost brought the conference to collapse.

The delegates also agreed to "call for the withdrawal of foreign forces according to a timetable", by setting an immediate national program to rebuild the Iraqi armed forces. They did not specify any timetable.

gtz

Office Sana

Vacancy Announcement

The Yemeni-German Reproductive Health Programme (YG-RHP) announces a vacancy for the following post: **Interim Secretary / Receptionist.**

Main Duties/Responsibilities:

Secretarial and reception services such as:

- Typing of documents / correspondence both in English and Arabic languages;
- English / Arabic (and vice versa) translation of correspondence;
- ability to perform simultaneous translation during workshops or meetings will be an asset;
- Maintenance of a good flow of incoming and outgoing communication (manage, sort and maintain letters, faxes, e-mails, etc), and
- Meet guests and answer the telephone (transfer calls, take messages, etc...)

Qualifications / requirements:

Education / Experience & other Qualifications:

- Secondary School Certificate.
- Diploma from Secretarial School or similar.
- Good working knowledge of modern telecommunication systems (phone, fax, e-mail & internet).
- Complete literacy in computer (specially MS Office : MS Word, Excel, and Power Point).
- Complete fluency in English and Arabic.

Place of Duty:

- The main duty station is Sana'a but travelling in other areas may be required sometimes.

Duration:

- From now until 30.3.2006

All candidates with suitable qualifications are invited to submit their applications both in English and Arabic languages to the following:

"Application for Interim Secretary/ Receptionist (YG-RHP)"

Director GTZ Office Sana'a

GTZ Office Sana'a

P.O. Box 692

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Final date for submission of applications will be the 30th November 2005.

Only short listed candidates will be invited for interviews.

Ex-DeLay aide pleads guilty

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - An ex-aide to former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and partner to a powerful Republican lobbyist pleaded guilty to conspiracy on Monday under a deal in which he is cooperating with prosecutors probing alleged influence-buying involving the lobbyist and lawmakers.

Michael Scanlon, 35, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy in defrauding Indian tribes of millions of dollars and lavishing gifts upon a member of the U.S. Congress.

He was ordered to pay \$19.7 million in restitution to the tribes, could serve up to five years in prison and be fined \$250,000 and must cooperate with prosecutors.

Scanlon left DeLay's office and become a partner to wealthy lobbyist Jack Abramoff, who has been indicted for fraud in a separate case in Florida. The plea agreement has been seen as a major advance in prosecutors' efforts to investigate alleged influence-buying involving Abramoff, members of Congress and government agencies.

Scanlon's lawyer Plato Cacheris said

Scanlon has more information to provide to the government, but in an exchange with reporters after the hearing refused to comment on whether more members of Congress might be implicated.

"Guilty, your honor," Scanlon, 35, told federal Judge Ellen Huvelle in formalizing the plea deal.

Abramoff has pleaded not guilty to federal charges in Florida that he defrauded lenders in a casino cruise line deal.

'LOBBYIST A'

According to prosecutors, from January 2000 through at least April 2004, Scanlon conspired with a lobbyist, only identified as "Lobbyist A," to "corruptly" give gifts to government officials. In return, the officials were to perform acts benefiting Scanlon and "Lobbyist A."

In court papers filed last week, Scanlon was alleged to have given a member of Congress and his staff a golf trip to Scotland, sports tickets and other entertainment, as well as meals and cam-

paign contributions.

DeLay has faced questions about whether his expenses for the Scotland trip were paid by Abramoff, which would violate House rules.

The congressman was not named, but Rep. Bob Ney, a six-term Ohio Republican, recently said he had been subpoenaed as part of the U.S. Justice Department's investigation of Abramoff. Ney chairs the House Administration Committee, which oversees operations in the Capitol.

A spokesman for Ney said the congressman was cooperating with the federal investigation and has not been told he is the target of any probe.

Following the plea, Ney's office said the congressman was a victim of Scanlon's illegal activities.

"All that this plea agreement shows is that Mr. Scanlon had a deliberate, secret, and well-concealed scheme to defraud many people, and it appears, unfortunately, that Representative Ney was one of the many people defrauded," spokesman Brian Walsh said in a written statement.

Prosecutors say clients of Scanlon and the lobbyist were defrauded of millions of dollars as part of a conspiracy "to enrich themselves."

The charges say an Indian tribe in Mississippi paid Scanlon's company, Capital Campaign Strategies, about \$14.8 million. According to the charges, Scanlon concealed the fact that "Lobbyist A" would get half of the profits from the tribe's payments to Scanlon.

There were similar arrangements for tribes in Louisiana, Michigan and Texas, according to the court documents.

The plea deal does not preclude other state and federal jurisdictions from pursuing Scanlon in other cases.

He is to return to the federal court in March to discuss the case's progress and possible timing for sentencing.

DeLay, a Texas Republican, resigned as majority leader in September after being indicted on conspiracy and money laundering charges in Texas related to a campaign finance investigation. DeLay has maintained his innocence and hopes to ultimately regain his powerful leadership post.

US troops kill Iraqi civilians

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - U.S. troops fearing a car bomb attack fired on a crowded minivan and killed at least three civilians including a child north of Baghdad on Monday.

The U.S. army's 3rd Infantry Division said its troops had opened fire after first trying to wave the minivan to a stop and then firing warning shots.

"These tragedies only happen because Zarqawi and his thugs are out there driving around with car bombs," said Major Steve Warren, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Baquba, in reference to the leader of al Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Two men and a child were killed and three people were wounded, Warren said. Survivors disputed the military's account, insisting that five family members, including two children, died and four were wounded as bullets tore through the van.

U.S. and Iraqi authorities are investigating reports that Zarqawi was killed in a gunfight with U.S. troops in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Saturday, but there has been no confirmation that Iraq's most wanted militant is dead and U.S. officials said they doubted it was true.

The minivan incident highlighted the delicate balance in Iraq, where a insurgency by Sunni Arabs and foreign fighters against the Shi'ite and Kurdish-led government and its U.S. backers is intensifying in the buildup to December 15 elections.

One of the survivors told Reuters the family had been driving from Balad, a town about 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad, to Baquba for a funeral and had tried to move over to make way for a U.S. patrol when they were shot at.

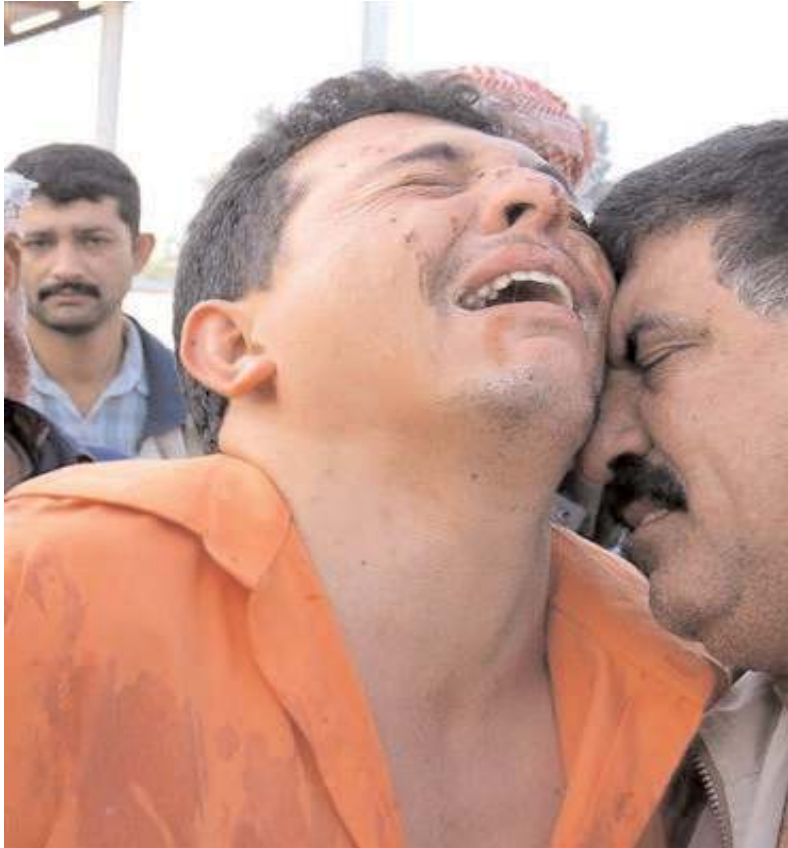
Children dead

Reuters television footage showed two children's bodies in a Baquba morgue and relatives kissing another body on a morgue trolley. One child's head appeared to have been blown off.

"They are all children. They are not terrorists," shouted an unidentified relative. "Look at the children," he said.

Scores of suicide car bombs have been launched at military and police checkpoints, as well as convoys and civilian targets, making soldiers wary of any vehicle.

In the past few days more than 160 people have died in a spate of suicide car bombings and other attacks across Iraq, including attacks on Shi'ite mosques in the northeast and at the



Iraqis grieve over the body of a relative killed in a shooting while the family was on their way to Baquba, 50 miles north of Baghdad, Nov. 21. REUTERS

funeral of a Shi'ite tribal sheikh near Baquba on Saturday.

Speculation bubbled that Zarqawi, blamed for many of the worst attacks in Iraq, was among eight insurgents killed in a gunfight in Mosul on Saturday.

U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad told Reuters in Iraq he did not believe Zarqawi had been killed.

"Of course the days are numbered, we are after him, we are getting closer to that goal but unfortunately ... we did not get him in Mosul," he said.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told Reuters after a news conference in Moscow: "Zarqawi has been active in that city and surrounding areas but unless they get a confirmation from the DNA it will be difficult to say whether it was him or some of his lieutenants."

Zarqawi claimed responsibility for three hotel attacks that killed more than 50 people in Amman 12 days ago.

Reconciliation

An often discordant reconciliation conference of Iraqis in Cairo was saved by a compromise.

Members of Iraq's Sunni minority, dominant under Saddam Hussein and

opposed to the current government, had argued U.S. occupation was the root cause of violence and U.S. troops should leave as soon as possible.

Mezher al-Dulaimi, a Sunni Muslim from the troubled west of Iraq, said the three-day, Arab League-sponsored meeting had agreed to the formula: "Resistance is a legitimate right of all peoples."

Iraqi government representatives said the government would end foreign occupation gradually as Iraq built up its own security forces to replace foreign troops.

President Jalal Talabani on Monday became the first head of state for more than four decades to visit Shi'ite Iran, a deadly enemy under Saddam. He won assurances Tehran supported Iraq's often unsteady progress toward democracy.

There have been accusations that Iran has meddled in postwar Iraq by allowing weapons and insurgents across its borders.

"Such accusations will definitely not affect the expansion of relations between Iran and Iraq," Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told reporters after meeting Talabani.

Sharon bolt boosts him in polls

JERUSALEM (Reuters) - Ariel Sharon is on course to win Israel's coming election, opinion polls showed on Tuesday in an initial boost for the prime minister a day after he quit his rebellious right-wing Likud to form a centrist party.

With an early election likely in February or March, the surveys gave Sharon 30-33 seats in the 120-member parliament, enough to make his still-unnamed party the biggest faction in a governing coalition and virtually ensure him a third term.

Sharon, in a move that could reshape Israeli politics for years to come, bolted the party he co-founded three decades ago, saying he could not push for peace with the Palestinians while "wasting time" battling far-right rivals in the Likud.

However, he gave no ground in his bedrock demand, part of a U.S.-backed peace "road map" whose terms both sides have failed to fulfil, that the Palestinian Authority disarm militants before talks on statehood can resume after five years of bloodshed.

"We will work to set the permanent border of the nation while insisting on the dismantling of terrorist groups," Sharon said.

Appearing to be in high spirits, the 77-year-old ex-general popularly known as "the Bulldozer" ruled out further unilateral Israeli withdrawals from occupied land following a Gaza pullout completed in September that split the Likud.

Later in the day, legislators were due to draft a resolution setting an election date against the backdrop of surveys indicating the biggest gamble of Sharon's long political career could pay off.



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon speaks during a news conference at his office in Jerusalem on Nov. 21. REUTERS

Weak likud

Likud came out a distant third in the polls in the Yedioth Ahronoth, Haaretz and Maariv newspapers, with between 12 and 15 parliamentary seats. Center-left Labour, headed by its fiery new leader, Amir Peretz, was projected to win 25 to 26 seats.

But commentary accompanying the Haaretz poll cautioned that initial enthusiasm over Sharon's breakaway move, a bid to tap into what has been mainstream support for the removal of troops and Jewish settlers from Gaza, could cool.

New parties have historically not fared well in Israel, and Sharon faces stiff opposition from the frontrunner to succeed him as Likud leader, hard-liner Benjamin Netanyahu.

"The new movement we are setting up today will serve the people of Israel for many years to come," Sharon told reporters on Monday. "It will be a new home to those Israelis who want to serve the nation faithful-

ly and responsibly."

Palestinian leaders called the political upheaval in Israel an internal affair and said they were watching events closely.

Despite Sharon's oft-repeated pledge to make "painful concessions" for peace, they note he has vowed to hold on to major West Bank settlement blocs in a final peace deal, a move

the Palestinians fear would deny them a viable state.

On the flip side of the territorial equation, Sharon said at Monday's news conference that Israelis must also assume that some settlements would not remain as part of a treaty with the Palestinians, an apparent reference to isolated enclaves.

Sharon's party has already been joined by a dozen Likud veterans, including Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Justice Minister Tzipi Livni.

Confidants say he may also recruit colleagues from among ex-security chiefs, moderate religious Zionists, and academia.

But hawkish Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said he would remain in the Likud and run for party leader.

Many in the Likud saw the Gaza pullout as a surrender to violence. But foreign peace mediators hailed it as an opportunity to kick-start talks with the Palestinians.

UN investigator Mehlis returns to Beirut

BEIRUT (Reuters) - Chief U.N. investigator Detlev Mehlis returned to Lebanon on Tuesday, preparing to wrap up his inquiry into the killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

German prosecutor Mehlis has until December 15 to report back to the U.N. Security Council on his findings into the assassination of Hariri by truck bomb Beirut in February.

He has yet to get the full cooperation of Syria despite a Security Council resolution last month threatening further action against Damascus if it does not do so.

Mehlis held talks with a Syrian official in Spain last week but could not agree on a venue to question six top Syrian officers over the murder. Diplomats say Mehlis might go back to the Security Council before December 15 if Syria does not cooperate.

Mehlis has insisted on questioning the six Syrians in Lebanon — where he has the power to detain suspects — but Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has refused.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan made calls last week to Assad in search of agreement on a location where



Chief U.N. investigator Detlev Mehlis speaks to the media in New York on October 25. Mehlis returned to Lebanon on Tuesday, preparing to wrap up his inquiry into the killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri. REUTERS

Mehlis could question the officials.

Mehlis ultimately rejected the compromise proposed by Assad and Annan — that he use U.N. offices in the Golan Heights.

Discussions on a venue in a third country are continuing.

The six military and intelligence officials include Assad's brother-in-law and head of Syrian military intelli-

gence, Major General Assef Shawkat.

In an interim report last month, Mehlis implicated senior Syrian and Lebanese officials in the murder. Syria denies any role.

Four pro-Syrian generals are currently under arrest in Beirut on charges of planning the murder. Investigators earlier this month questioned Lebanese President Emile Lahoud for six hours.

Israel kills Hizbollah fighters after border attack

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Reuters) - Israeli troops killed at least three Hizbollah gunmen on Monday during a guerrilla attack near the Lebanese border in which one Israeli was also killed, Israeli and Lebanese security sources said.

The largest attack in five years in the Shebaa Farms area, the scene of sporadic fighting between Hizbollah and the Israeli army since Israel pulled its forces from south Lebanon in 2000, triggered two-and-a-half hours of Israeli airstrikes and fierce artillery and rocket duels.

"Three or four" guerrillas died after storming the border village of Ghajar, exchanging fire with the Israeli garrison there, Israeli security sources said.

The Israeli rescue service ZAKA put the number of dead fighters at four. Hizbollah sources said three guerrillas died.

Witnesses earlier said Hizbollah guerrillas launched a major attack against Israeli army posts in an occupied border area in what Lebanese security sources said was an attempt to

capture Israelis.

Hizbollah has vowed to try to win the release of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners in Israel through capturing Israeli forces. Israel has in the past released hundreds of prisoners in exchange for Israeli detainees or the remains of dead soldiers.

Guerillas on the streets

An Israeli army post in the area went up in flames after it was attacked with Katyusha rockets, mortars and machine guns, a Reuters witness said. A Hizbollah source said three Israeli military vehicles at the post were on fire.

Scores of Hizbollah guerrillas were seen in several villages and towns during the fighting. Rocket launchers were deployed to fire Katyushas at Israeli posts.

Israel retaliated by launching eight airstrikes against targets on the Lebanese side of the border, witnesses said. It also fired artillery rounds.

Witnesses said they counted more than 250 explosions.

Hizbollah killed an Israeli soldier

and wounded five others when it struck Israeli army positions in the area in June 29. One guerrilla also died in the fighting.

It was the deadliest attack since January when an Israeli officer, a French observer and a Hizbollah fighter were killed in clashes.

The United Nations says Lebanon has yet to disarm Hizbollah as demanded by Security Council resolution 1559 in 2004.

It describes the guerrillas' attacks in the farms area, which the world body says is Syrian territory unless Beirut and Damascus change their border, as illegitimate.

Lebanon, Syria and Hizbollah have said the farms, on the foothills of the Golan Heights, are Lebanese. Hizbollah has said it would not disarm even if Israel pulls out of the area, occupied since 1967.

However, a report submitted to the U.N. Security Council in October said even if Lebanon's claim to the farms was legitimate, the Beirut government, not Hizbollah, should address the issue.

South Sudanese bemoan lack of peace

KURMUK, Ethiopia/Sudan border (Reuters) - Mary Nyamom lies by her half-dead child in the bare hospital in Kurmuk on the Sudan-Ethiopia border, declaring she will return to the refugee camp she lived in before because it had better health services.

Nyamom trekked back across the mine-strewn border to her native Sudan, hoping to find her soldier husband after years of living as a refugee in neighboring Ethiopia, where more than 100,000 Sudanese fled the bitter southern civil war.

But almost a year after the war ended in January, the people of the south bemoan the slow implementation of the armistice agreement and the lack of a peace dividend after years of suffering in a conflict which claimed two million lives.

"I'm going straight back to the camp in Ethiopia," Nyamom said. But she would have to wait until she and her son were cured of the severe bouts of malaria which claim many victims in the leafy, mosquito-ridden area.

"Kurmuk hospital with 24 hour emergency unit," said a new sign written in English. But as the run-down buildings with paint peeling from the walls had no electricity, patients lay in beds outside in the courtyard to find shade from the hot sun under the branches of huge trees.

"The peace did not begin with the deal, rather we are in a period of cold war," said Santino Samar, a Kurmuk resident. "If this was peace, the roads would have opened up, the water would flow and we would have education and health — but instead we have nothing."

Ugly scenes

Picturesque Kurmuk, population



White clad Sudanese girls stand inside the yard of a school in Kurmuk town in Sudan's Southern Blue Nile state near the Sudan-Ethiopia border Nov. 21. REUTERS

60,000, saw ugly scenes of fighting as it changed hands several times during two decades years of conflict between the Khartoum-based government and the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

In the shadow of lush tree-covered mountains, children played in the burnt-out wrecks of vehicles kept as trophies by SPLA fighters who eventually conquered and held the town in 1997.

Kurmuk residents complain that the United Nations, despite its plan to spend almost \$2 billion on aid to Sudan in 2005, has done nothing to help them.

"We have suffered years of war and we want roads, health and education," said Azza Mohamed Youssef. "The United Nations and the government have not done anything for peace."

U.N. workers said Kurmuk had been inaccessible during the rainy season because the dirt roads became river

beds.

Kurmuk is in Southern Blue Nile, one of three areas fiercely disputed between the government and the SPLA during the peace talks. The state will remain part of the north, but will be jointly administered by the two parties.

The local population are under strain after years of war and must also cope with 12,000 refugees who have returned home since the peace agreement, living with relatives and quickly exhausting their meager resources.

In January organized returns with the U.N. refugee agency will begin, but locals said they expected disputes as people reclaim their lands which are likely being farmed by newcomers who arrived after the owners fled during the fighting.

Nyamom said she'd come back with the United Nations then. "But right now I cannot stay here," she said.

Words of Wisdom



Parents and family elders are not providing good role models, either. Many adults spend their time chewing qat and watching satellite TV programs that represent the lowest common denominator, the children's recreational needs are mostly neglected, leaving them to wander off into the streets and mix with bad company.

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

OUR
OPINIONThe Finnish
democratic story

Over a hundred years ago, the country with the oldest parliament in Europe understood the true concept of human rights and democracy. Finland introduced the proportional representation in 1906 where it used the d'Hondt constituency list system with only slight modifications. Under this system, elections are based on proportionality rather than on plurality, and seats are allotted to parties commensurately with the number of votes polled. Votes go to individual candidates, however, and voters indicate their preferred politician by circling the number assigned to him or to her on their ballots.

This electoral system enabled minorities to be represented in the parliament and hence yielded a true representation of the people. To think that this was done a hundred years ago makes the Yemeni experience in elections seem rather miniscule. Why not? Especially that the democratic experience of modern Yemen is just a little older than 15 years.

Today as the hype about elections and the electoral process increases with the approach of the 2006 presidential elections, one needs to wonder whether we are actually doing it right at all. This includes evaluating the Yemeni electoral system and the procedures used so far in the past three elections since the unity in 1990. Moreover, one wonders how aware the Yemeni population is. The population who is supposedly casting the votes and deciding the future of this country. How much does the layman (or woman for that matter) understand about the electoral system, the value of a vote and of the democratic alternatives? A fair election is not only one in which the votes are transparently counted and results are announced fair and square. It is rather one where the whole process is done fair and square. The process includes people's awareness of their rights, their alternatives and their worth. Unfortunately this did not take place in any of the previous elections in Yemen and I am not sure we have enough time for so in the approaching one.

Going back to our example of Finland, in the beginning of the previous century during the early years of independence acts were passed introducing compulsory education, prohibition of alcohol, freedom of worship, freedom of speech and freedom to form societies. These acts were not just written legislations; rather they were implemented in real life practically and transparently. These measures defiantly ensured that the Finnish people had the ability to participate effectively in the democratic progress of their country. The government wanted the people to be an equal partner, if not a monitoring power of the country's development process. The Finnish government proved that it was serious and committed to this process. People who read the Finnish history get amused at the fact that a law was actually decreed declaring education as a pre-condition for getting married.

Perhaps this is the lesson Yemen could learn from a country with a long democratic experience. As we are – both government and people – preparing for the coming elections maybe we should realise that there is more to democracy than just talk.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief



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Compensating
Hamid Ad-Din family

The compensation for properties forcibly taken under the name of the public interest (the construction of schools and hospitals and the building of roads) is one of the rights of equal citizenship, and an application of justice. There are international laws for protecting private properties from arbitrary extortion and nationalization in conformity with laws that were issued after the emergence of the Soviet State in Russia and newly independent states that got rid of occupation.

There are numerous barriers facing the compensation of royalist families at the global extent, as the legislation of republican revolutions is still in place. If we had a look at some experiences in different types we will realize that compensations can not be identical of the same type in all cases.

The first experience was in the Republic of France whose revolution broke out 3 centuries ago. The revolutionaries conflicted with the monarchy. In the time and place contexts, there was nothing called revolution, but there is a history and there is a republic in France. The French people live under the umbrella of equality, justice and freedom, and Republic of France never thought of compensating the royalists.

The second of these experiences took place in Spain which became a republic under the dictator ruler Franco, but the royal system in Spain was converted into the form of constitutional monarchy. Due to closeness between governance, monarchy, this country jumped to a democratic oasis, and since then the monarch can own but it can not rule.



By Abdurrahim Muhsin

The third experience was remarked in Russia and its sisters. These republics did not pay attention to monarchy or the royal families, and the heir of the Bulgarian throne was an ordinary citizen who returned home, formed a political party and won the parliamentary elections. He then formatted his government but did take part in the following elections, and this characteristic did not motivate him to raise the issue of compensations.

In Afghanistan, the monarch returned to pardon Hamid Karzia under the flag of the Republic of Afghanistan and the issue of compensation never had an influence on the Afghan political process. In his electoral propaganda, Karzia did not give any indication to the Republic's forgiving the Afghan monarch who lives in dignity in his country.

In Iraq, Ali Bin al-Hussein lifted the flag of royal Iraq for the first time after 55 years on post of the palace in which he had been living. Ali Bin Hussein is the sponsor of the constitutional monarchy via a public referendum. Such existence of the sons of monarchs who ruled Iraq had not faced any economic thought as what happened in July 14th, 1958, the republicans assembled near the palace claiming for approving the 14th of July a national day for Iraq. What has Yemen learned from such experiences?

I think the general lessons can be found in the provision of equal citizenship, justice and freedom for every one. People of the royal age who lost everything and took refuge in other countries are aware of these values.

Letters to the Editor

God bless Yemen

Yemen Times is to be commended for its diverse and outspoken coverage of the news. As Chairperson of the Anti-Communist International (ACI) I honor the ancient Yemeni nation for its resistance to atheistic Communism during the Cold War, and its traditional opposition to any form of extremism that has so harmed the image of Islam in the United States since 9/11/2001.

Yemeni Americans have been a part of our national fabric for many years now, and are good Americans as well as upholders of the great traditions of the ancient land of Yemen, birthplace of the Arab peoples, and the moderate non-violent Islam that is a basic part of the fundamental Yemeni social fabric.

The position of women historically in Yemen, whether the Queen Bilqis of Sheba who came to worship God at the time of King Solomon, or the saintly Queen Arwa of Islamic times, clearly symbolizes the opposite of the too narrowly stereotyped world view too often held in the outside world.

Yemen 3,000 year history is all in all remarkable in its religious tolerance and its united opposition to any kind of foreign rule.

Yemen gave to the world the delight of coffee through its cultivation of the coffee plant, an achievement no less than that of the other ancient nation of China that gave to the world the delight of tea. As China struggles to liberate itself from the atheistic Communist ideology, I am sure that the desire of the Chinese people for the 2500 year old Confucian philosophical virtues of "benevolence, faithfulness, propriety, righteousness, and wisdom," which are also intrinsic within Islam, Christianity and Judaism, are morally supported by Yemenis in brotherhood with the millions of Chinese Muslims, and Chinese Christians as

people with a book, as well as for all Chinese who have yet to know the message of the prophets.

The prayers of Yemenis for orderly peace and transformation of China are appreciated by all spiritually inclined people everywhere, and Inshallah, shall help to lead to a better world of peace and non-violence, and the equality and opportunity always so desired by the Yemeni people over three millennia. May God bless Yemen.

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The Anti-Communist International (ACI), founded in 1959, has been included in the authoritative reference work, The Encyclopedia of Associations, for many years.

The al-Jazeera interview
with Jane Novak

The I have been following the live debate program broadcast by Al Jazeera on 15/11/05 with regard to the visit of President Ali Abdulla Saleh to Washington DC but was disappointed to see Jane Novak persistently evading to answer the question repeatedly posed by the presenter of the program Hafiz Mirazi as to why she decided to become an expert on Yemen Affairs when she has never been to Yemen herself and the fact that she doesn't speak a word of Arabic. One must therefore conclude that her decision is based on the principle of "eenie meenie miney moe catch a nigga by his toe"

One prime fact which Jane Novak is, or pretend to be, unaware of is the fact that there are handful self-styled Arab liberals, mostly born or bred in America, who are working hard to paint a good picture of America and these now face an up-hill job. This is

The private lesson is meant for the current rulers and their sons and the situation will remain if they continued to hide the facts. The questions were raised after the address of the Makarim on forgiving and compensation from the point of view of the legitimacy of the address, which was no based on a friendly historical background.

The culture and the address of hatred have been spanning since 1962 and is still going on until reaching the fact that there is no place for the corpses of Al Hamid ad-Din Family to be laid. In other words, the system of the current governance does not allow corpses to enter Yemen. So it is known that the leaders of the 26 September Revolution do not forgive the family of Ali Hamid ad-Din and those who back them. Bloody battles against the family of Hamid ad-Din continued up until 1970, the year of equation between the Saudi government and the government of Sana'a with the radical condition that Hamid ad-Din family must not be allowed to return to Yemen.

The presidential addresses have lost their objectivity, as one can realize that any presidential address focuses on the matrix of accusations against leaders of the Yemeni Specialist Party. The presidential address is possible to fall down to the square of instigation and hatred which locals in Sana'a including grandchildren of Al-Hamid ad-Din used to hear.

The matter is very important, not for ethnic or electoral domain, but because the family of Hamid ad-Din lacks the rights of citizenship. This dynasty possessed numerous properties and they are capable to buy a property, which is three times as big as Sana'a. So, they are in need of a national identity to be equal to others.

evident in the fact that all those who are regarded as friends by the US automatically become suspects and vice versa. Under this vicious circle of mistrust and counter mistrust, between the US and the Arab World, even dictators of the region have now found safety and refuge amongst their own people since they are now regarded by their own people as 'their own sons of a bitch' an expression coined by Henry Kissinger when he spoke of the former dictator and president of Indonesia, General Suharto, also former US ally, saying: "He may be son of a bitch, but our own son of bitch". There are indeed quite many "sons of a bitch" currently running the show in our countries, but these are our own nonetheless. It is better to live under them than under foreign occupation as the situation is in Iraq now. Important factor for Jane Novak to realize is that bitterness towards the US isn't in short supply in the Middle East and is now transforming itself into hatred and is on its way to becoming immeasurable. She should therefore concentrate to make things better at home first. Perhaps, she could work for the change of the biased American policy against the Arab World.

According to Thomas Friedman, on BBC Hard Talk, Americans seem to care less about Anti-American feelings in the Arab World, and this what makes things even worse, because it puts the spin on the already existing vicious circle of bitterness at a time when handful Arabs liberals are losing the battle and President Bush still firmly clings on his favourite expression of the "The civilized world", when referring to anything western, forgetting the fact that it is the "civilized world" that started the two world wars including holocaust.

By Taha Abdulla Baharoon
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Closing Europe's
Defense Deficit

By KLAUS NAUMANN

The gap between Europe's security needs and its military capacities is widening, and most European leaders lack the will to do what is necessary to close it. Forces built to defend the European heartland from a Soviet attack are unsuitable for the kinds of operations that define today's post-Cold War environment.

Today, Europe needs improved capacity to combat terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, deal with failed or failing states, contend with regional conflicts, and respond to humanitarian crises. Yet defense spending across Europe remains flat or in decline.

The problem is more than budgetary. The fragmented nature of European defense procurement, the Byzantine rules of the European defense trade, and industrial capabilities shaped by the Cold War legacy all sap Europe's ability to meet its military needs.

Given these hurdles, the obvious way to improve European defense capabilities is by coordinating the efforts of individual countries, the European Union, and NATO to create a set of enhanced collective defense capacities. The overlap in membership between NATO and the EU makes such defense cooperation both possible and logical, if not unavoidable.

Of course, difficult choices lay ahead. Political leaders must create incentives and financial headroom for their forces to undergo the necessary changes. First and foremost, savings generated from restructuring must be reinvested in transforming military forces. After all, generals will be more inclined to identify efficiencies if they believe that doing so will ultimately enable them to enhance their capabilities.

Political leaders should also seek to stabilize defense budgets by creating separate funds for unforeseen multilateral peacekeeping operations, like the Balkans and Afghanistan, and by putting defense planning on a multi-year rather than an annual cycle.

Such predictable budgets will better enable European leaders to establish defense planning targets that address the priorities of military transformation. At a minimum, 25% of annual budgets should be allocated toward research, development, and procurement, with no more than 40% spent on personnel.

This won't be easy, because there is a basic conflict between modernizing an army and the political pressures to maintain military wages and jobs. But these trade-offs must be made if Europe's military is to meet the Continent's security needs. At the most basic level, governments must take a hard look at conscription and territorial defense forces, which eat up far too much of Europe's military budgets.

Because no European state can afford to "go it alone," military reform demands greater integration and information sharing, as control of information will be key in future conflicts. Pooling of infrastructure (bases and ports) and logistical assets (transport), including training facilities for common equipment, will generate big savings, as individual countries rationalize the long "logistical tails" of manpower and equipment that support armies in the field. Nations should forge partnerships across national lines with like-minded allies – a model exemplified by the new joint Spanish-Italian Amphibious Force.

Nations that cannot afford to field expeditionary forces capable of performing the full spectrum of 21st-century missions should make greater use of specialization to enhance their contribution to Europe's collective defense. But states that specialize in a capability should do so as a part of a "country cluster" to minimize the risk of a nation facing a military challenge that its forces are unprepared to meet.

The EU can help by strengthening its defense planning. It should articulate more clearly Europe's future military roles and missions, determine the military capabilities required, identify shortfalls, and develop projects and initiatives to address the most critical gaps.

The EU should also take steps to improve its ability to conduct operations. New EU "Battlegroups" should be strengthened through regular training and certification, preferably using NATO standards, and the EU Military Committee should hold regular Battlegroup conferences to solicit country contributions to future formations.

For the EU to do its part, larger budgets appear unavoidable. Battlegroups should be expanded to include naval and air components for missions such as maritime interdiction and close support for ground troops. Common funding for operations should be increased, and member states should continue to be encouraged to make civilian and police forces as readily deployable in peacekeeping operations as their military.

All of these reforms demand coordination with NATO. While NATO and the EU have improved their working relations, more steps need to be taken to eliminate mistrust, unhealthy competition, and information-sharing blockages. The two bodies must expand their strategic dialogue beyond their current focus on the Balkans and Afghanistan.

To do this, the often pre-scripted and stale dialogue between the North Atlantic Council and the EU's Political and Security Committee should be opened up to include topics such as combating terrorism and the proliferation of WMD, or regions such as Ukraine or Moldova. This would enable NATO and the EU to assess future scenarios and find ways to work together to prevent and manage crises.

European industry is also a vital factor in European defense integration, but it suffers from fragmented demand, counter-productive intra-European trade regulations, and a mostly outdated Cold-War military infrastructure. Specialization of military capabilities and industrial efforts by certain member states shows some promise, but needs to be coordinated to avoid redundancy and ensure interoperability.

Moreover, transatlantic defense trade must be used to augment European capabilities at the lowest possible cost. Both NATO and the EU have roles to play in working with industry to enhance Europe's defense capabilities.

Greater military integration in Europe will require sustained leadership by heads of government, military officials, and NATO and EU leaders. This is no small challenge, but there is no viable alternative. Greater defense integration in Europe is not just an appealing or interesting idea; it is an imperative.

General Klaus Naumann is a former Chairman of NATO's Military Committee and a former Chief of Staff of the German Armed Forces.

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Attacking French hopelessness

By MICHEL MARCUS

As French cities have burned, other countries have been very severe in judging France. Embassies have issued warnings to tourists and their citizens living in France; television news programs have shown hours of footage of burning cars. Other countries' governments, it seems, have been trying to distance themselves from the problem, fearing a contagion that they know is likely to spread.

Mayors across Europe, however, have responded more moderately, feeling and showing solidarity with the plight of their French colleagues. They know that their cities are also vulnerable to urban violence, in so far as they have pockets of social inequality, including marginalized and excluded young people.

The specificity of the French situation is that the revolt is targeted against the state, and more precisely against the police forces. Unlike recent riots in the United Kingdom, which were inter-ethnic, the confrontations in France put their participants face to face with the police. Indeed, there is no specific religious or ethnic character to these riots, in so far as

youth from various ethnic backgrounds have taken part.

Minority youth are, to be sure, over-represented among those involved. This is easily explained by their geographic segregation, higher levels of unemployment, higher school dropout rates, and disproportionately frequent interactions with the criminal justice system.

But, in view of the diversity of the young people convicted so far, it would be a mistake to say that these riots are the result of Muslim radicalization. There is absolutely no indication so far that organized networks or religious groups are manipulating these youth. Of course, this is not to say that Muslim radicals will not exploit the disarray if a satisfying resolution is not found rapidly.

The rioting may not be organized - no clear leaders or political demands have emerged. Yet these violent acts can be viewed as a political conflict in the sense that young people are directly challenging the state by attacking its representatives. The violence seems to be proportional to these disenfranchised young people's sense of perceived injustice and the lack of opportunities for them to express themselves.

In this sense, France is paying the price

for the lack of continuity, coherence, and appropriate funding given to social development policies over the past 30 years. Although these policies have undoubtedly helped residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods, they have not been sufficiently ambitious to dampen resentment.

One example of overly timid policies involves policing. In the last few years, France has distinguished itself from other European nations by gradually abandoning community-based policing, which the government considers too "social" and prevention-oriented. While European police forces place prevention at the top of their agendas, France has chosen to treat it as a marginal goal. As a result, tensions between the police, who are increasingly perceived as "outsiders," and residents have grown to all-time highs.

In the absence of a community-based approach, interactions with law-enforcement authorities are now limited to tense, conflict-ridden situations, reinforcing the confrontational atmosphere between rebellious youth and the police. At the same time, the fact that police agents must intervene in places with which they are not familiar severely impedes their



effectiveness.

In the current violence, the police have unfortunately been placed in the position of sole representative of the state. But all public actors, not just the police, must respond to urban problems.

First and foremost, mayors should be mobilized as mediators, because they are on the front line in implementing urban policy. When these policies fail, citizens hold mayors responsible. But mayors are also the most knowledgeable about communication links within their communities, and are thus the most capable of

organizing effective partnerships to address and resolve local issues.

The events in France also point to the need, at the European level, to reinforce policies against discrimination and that promote social equality. Although these policies must be implemented at a local level, they should be catalyzed and supported by European institutions. Efforts in this area already exist, but it has become increasingly urgent that these efforts be strengthened.

Equality and social cohesion form the backbone of liberty, justice, and security

for European cities. This is why Europe's mayors call upon European institutions to focus on social cohesion with the same commitment that has been invested until now in asylum and border controls.

Michel Marcus, a magistrate, is Executive Director of the European Forum for Urban Safety, an NGO with some 300 European member local governments, and Secretary of the Montreal-based International Center for the Prevention of Criminality.

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Elections are not enough

By RALF DAHRENDORF

There can be no liberal order without political democracy, but today we are frequently reminded that political democracy alone does not guarantee a liberal order. Free and fair elections may lead to the ascendancy of a president of Iran who wants to "wipe Israel off the map of the Middle East." Or to a president of Venezuela whose intolerance of the business class causes jubilation in the streets, but emigration by those whose initiative is crucial for the welfare of the people. Less damaging, yet problematic, is the election - as in Poland - of a minority government that ruthlessly pursues its members' personal interests and breaks all promises of cooperation made before the polls.

In other words, elections are not

enough if one wants to bring democracy to the world. Elections can lead to illiberal democracies and worse. They must be embedded in a much more complex institutional framework, which I would describe as the liberal order.

The first feature of the liberal order is that democracies must not tolerate those who set out to destroy democracy. Some countries, like Germany, have laws that make it possible to ban political parties whose programs are recognizably anti-democratic. In the past, the law has been used to curb parties of both the extreme left and the extreme right. This has clearly contributed to preventing any sign of a possible return to the totalitarian ways of the twentieth century.

However, it is not always evident when people and parties stand for election what they are going to do if they win. This is where rules that impose term lim-

its on officeholders, such as the Twenty-Second Amendment of the United States Constitution, have their place. Many constitutions contain such a rule, and even President Vladimir Putin of Russia has stated that he will abide by it.

Let us hope that this will in fact be the case. Elsewhere, notably in many of the Soviet Union's other successor states and in Latin America, those in power have often simply changed the constitution - including rules on term limits - to their advantage. This is where the second pillar of a liberal order comes into play: the rule of law.

It cannot be said too often that democracy and the rule of law are not the same thing. There are lawless democracies and undemocratic "states of law" (*Rechtsstaat*). The constitution of liberty requires both, and the rule of law is the more difficult of the two to establish and

maintain, for it requires not just a constitution but, almost more importantly, an independent judiciary that is sensitive to violations of constitutional and other legitimate rules.

It is extremely important that Iraq held elections to a constitutional assembly. This has produced - albeit with a certain amount of external pressure notably on behalf of the Sunnis - a document that may provide the basis for the rule of law.

But the task of finding, appointing, and accepting independent judges remains. It will be particularly difficult in an environment in which the *sharia* - that is, Islamic religious law administered not by judges but by priests - is never far away. The rule of secular law is the most delicate prerequisite of a liberal order.

Even then, we know from history that it takes but one Enabling Law to unhinge the rule of law and replace it by an ide-

logical tyranny, as happened when Hitler came to power in Germany.

This is where the third element of a liberal order comes into play: civil society. A plurality of civic associations and activities - regulated but not controlled by the state, and free to express its views and even to demonstrate its (diverse) sentiments publicly - is the most powerful pillar of a liberal order. A vibrant civil society will mobilize when the rule of law is violated, and it can also check the illiberal inclinations of democratic majorities.

The near-universal availability of information makes it much easier than it was in earlier times for the voluntary non-governmental organizations that form civil society to emerge. However, there is no ultimate guarantee against the abuse of power, especially if that power is democratically gained. The interna-

tional community must therefore recognize that it is not enough to promote, organize, or monitor elections in hitherto undemocratic countries.

The program of spreading the liberal order requires a much more sophisticated approach. Above all, it requires international agencies and groupings that remain alert to the risks of illiberal democracies.

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How Musharraf survives

By PERVEZ HOODBHAY

The devastating Kashmir earthquake is once again testing the skills of one of the world's great political survivors. General Pervez Musharraf, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, has few friends and many enemies. Pakistan's major political parties oppose him. For the religious right and the mullahs, he is an agent of America, the great Satan, and has thus betrayed the cause of Islam.

Somewhere out there, gunning for Musharraf, are Islamic militants furious at being dumped after they fought his covert wars in Afghanistan and Kashmir. Many in Musharraf's own army despise him for the same reason. For Pakistan's small and embattled liberal and left-wing forces, he is yet another military dictator who seized and holds power by force, undermining the development of democracy.

So how does Musharraf survive? In large part, he can thank 9/11. Faced by a United States bent upon bloody vengeance, Pakistan's military establishment scurried to join the US-led coalition and take up arms against its own creation, the Taliban. Only a few senior officers with an Islamic bent resisted this straightforward betrayal. They were soon marginalized, drawing praise from Washington.

With US help, an economy that had nearly run aground was suddenly righted by a wave of international aid and loan write-offs. Even more important was a decision, taken in the hope of choking off funds to extremist groups, to require all expatriate Pakistani earnings to be remitted through official banking channels.

In a curious way, nuclear weapons also are crucial to Musharraf's survival, for they create conditions that distract Pakistan's highly ideological army from its objective of war with India. The dis-

pute over Kashmir had occupied the minds of military planners throughout Pakistan's history, and war had been the *raison d'être* for maintaining the world's eighth-largest standing army. But nukes, a belief in deterrence, and the growing realization that Kashmir is a lost cause, have freed the army from the hard life of the trenches. Ideology is increasingly irrelevant as the officer class scrambles to build vast personal fortunes.

A look at Pakistan's economic landscape says it all. The CEO's of many, if not most corporations, public and private, are retired military officers - many fairly young. The military owns airlines and freight companies, petrochemical factories, power generation plants, sugar mills, cement and fertilizer plants, construction firms, banks and insurance companies, advertising agencies, and more. Vast tracts of prime real estate in cities, sold to officers for a pittance, have turned into mega housing developments.

Musharraf defends the military acquisitions, claiming that they are economically efficient, and angrily dismisses criticism as the ranting of unpatriotic Pakistani pseudo-intellectuals. But they are "efficient" only in the sense that they dampen the threat to Musharraf posed by the military.

No so Pakistan's Islamists, however, whom Musharraf infuriated yet again last month, when he ordered his foreign minister to initiate the first official contact with Israel. But the Islamists' call for nationwide protests flopped. The military, after decades of rule, has dismantled all forms of political organization - parties, trade unions, and student associations - leaving a Pakistani society immobilized, apathetic, and incapable of articulating its preferences.

As Islamists' anger at Musharraf's betrayals increases, so does his global standing and image as a world statesman. Scenes of wild-eyed mullahs demonstrating in the streets of Pakistani cities

are a boon to his position. Surely the Pakistani public needs to be tamed by a strongman. No harm if it is an army general.

But the truth is more complex. Musharraf flits effortlessly between personae. At one moment he is the "responsible" world leader who speaks charmingly to the international media about moderate Islam; at the next, he is the cunning conspirator who rigs elections, destroys political opponents, breaks promises on relinquishing power, enters into mutually beneficial relationships with mullahs, and castigates human-rights activists as "Westernized fringe elements" that "are as bad as the Islamic extremists."

To forestall the possibility of a coup, the army is being cleansed of hardline Islamists. Soldiers charged with mutiny have received the death penalty. This process has deepened pro- and anti-US divisions within the army, both among commissioned and non-commissioned officers, but nothing in Pakistan today suggests that radical change is imminent.

To be sure, more incidents of global terrorism associated with Pakistan, such as July's London bombings, will bring new pressures. The US and Europe will make their usual demands to close down the country's hate-spewing madrassas, and to reform a public-school system that, unhindered by the government, churns out young militants burning to kill and die for Islam.

For Musharraf, this means that continuing to hunt with the hounds and run with the hares might get harder. But the current constellation of forces suggests that, barring unforeseen developments, his survival instincts will serve him well for years to come.

Pervez Hoodbhoy is a Professor of Physics at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.

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Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

Martyr

Fuad Noman
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*O Martyr
Great Spirit
Up I can't raise my neck
It is a matter of Respect
Sleep in peace
O Martyr Great Spirit you are!
Let not your soul return to
that miserable land whence you
came
So, Sleep in peace over there*

*Freedom in an empty plate is a strike
of disease!*

*The growth of red roses doesn't
cease
Kleptomania
Imagine those who are illegal heirs
Of your glory and sacrifice
Disabled to nominate an occasion
of Martyr Day to celebrate
Maybe they suffer from aphasia*

*Silence is not always a smart wis-
dom!*

*Once we demonstrate our pain
we are accused by apraxia
Moving around, unable to know
which path is to decide better and
sound
It is a case of ataxia*

*Just they whiff and claim a false vic-
tory gain
It can not be called a real happiness
It is a lesion of Euphoria*

*It is only a matter of shame
What is expected by whammy's
hand?*

*A soul of evil and revenge
Just imagine when I feel thirsty
Always, my glass is empty
If it is found full, it becomes dirty
If we are starving hungry
Waiting for charity*

*Our flesh goes to be free as a tasty
meal
For rabid dogs to treat and heal*

*At the end we receive a merciful
amnesty!*

*How come! Angels Amazing appeal!
Do not regret
Only your soul is closer to Angel*

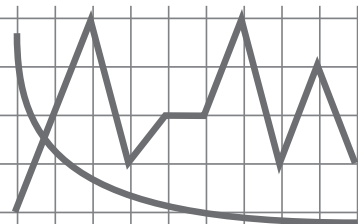
*Every year goes and comes
The light of heart you own made
the tide of dream smile proud
for the bright star that sleeps in the
bed of night
But the tunnel nights are still alike
What though if it is dark?*

A new vision

By MOHAMMED ALI AL-RA'AWY
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*When I loved you
The sky appeared quite blue
Roses began to grow
Rivers started to flow
When I loved you
My past died
And I am born new
When I loved you
My tears turned out
To be dew
When I loved you,
I reached the sun,
I ruled the moon
I grasped the glow
When I loved you,
I became the prince of love
The king, the emperor
And all titles old and new.
When I loved you,
You were the only woman
Others disappeared
In my view.
When I loved you,
We mingled in one identity
You , love and me.
That's what I always knew.
That's what I always knew.*

YT Business



Oil price increase leads to economic growth

The ESCWA region, is expected in this year achieve an economic 5.2% growth rate according to the Yemeni economic expert Mansour al-Bashiri. ESCWA countries include the GC states, Yemen, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq. This growth rate is attributed to the increase in oil revenues which benefitted ESCWA countries economies, except for Jordan. In August this year, the oil prices hit 56 dollars per barrel.

The economic researcher told Yemeni Al-Thawra newspaper that pursuant to new expectations of growth in the ESCWA region in this year, it is expected that would be reflected positively on performance of the Yemeni economy. Improvement in growth rates of the countries of diversified economies is ascribed to a number of reasons, mainly the increase in oil returns, as they are also oil exporting countries, with the exception of Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, also the

increase of money transfers of expatriates in those countries, particularly the Gulf states as a result of the economic recovery the region has seen.

Economic prosperity would have probability of increasing remittances by Yemeni expatriates living in the Gulf countries. In addition the flourishing of Gulf economies would contribute to an increase in demand for Yemeni non-oil exports and consequently improvement of the economic growth.

The Yemeni economic researcher also pointed out that the regional area of the ESCWA had witnessed positive economic developments during the year 2004 reflected on the achievement of high economic growth rates. The expert added that growth rate in Yemen in 2002 had attained to around 3.6% and rose to 3.8% in 2003 then to 3.9% in 2004, and that is considered among the good rates.

He also said that the average production of crude oil in the region

amounted to 91 million barrels per day and realized big annual revenues amounted to \$312 billion with an increase reaching 92% compared to the year 2003. That had opened the opportunity to the region's countries to pursue expansive spending policies serving development purposes.

Mr Al-Bashiri pointed out that in 2003 the ESCWA region countries had registered a big growth rate reached 4.7%, adding that the countries of more diversified economies achieved an economic

growth rate a little more than the oil producing GCC states.

Mr al-Bashiri also said that Egypt and Jordan had achieved the highest growth rate among the more diversified economy countries during the year 2004, amounting to 5.5%. The state of Qatar occupied the first place with regard to growth rate among the Gulf oil states reaching 6%. He affirmed that it was the highest rate inside the ESCWA region because of improvement in its natural gas exports.

France's ghetto economy

BY GUIDO TABELLINI

The youngsters who are ravaging France realize that they don't have a future. That is why they are burning cars. But how many French politicians realize that their beloved "social model" is partly to blame?

Poor second-generation immigrants in France have no economic prospects for two main reasons. First, the economy is growing far too slowly. As in most of continental Europe, economic performance has been enormously disappointing over the last two decades. But France managed to do even worse than its neighbors.

During the period from 1980 to 2000, only two OECD countries, Germany and Greece, recorded slower growth in income per capita than France. But Germany had to go endure the huge costs and trauma of re-unification with East Germany. Greece was hurt by the wars in the Balkans. What's France's excuse?

Second, whatever growth there is in France does not trickle down to the poor. Many young second-generation immigrants are virtually excluded from the labor market. Average unemployment has been stuck at around 10% for several years – one of the highest rates in the OECD. But the unemployment rate is more than double among the young. And it reaches 40% and over amongst those who drop out of school in the *banlieues*, which have

become no-go zones of hopelessness.

Unemployment is high and concentrated amongst French minorities because of specific labor-market institutions. France has strict hiring and firing regulations that make it costly to dismiss workers and thus reduce job creation. Those with a job are protected, those without one are hurt.

Moreover, salaries cannot fall below a legislated minimum wage, which is so high that the least productive and least skilled workers remain shut out of the labor market. Wages are set in centralized negotiations by monopolistic unions, and apply throughout the economy. But the unions don't care if the sons and daughters of immigrants living in ghettos have no opportunity of even starting a working life.

These French social institutions are designed with a purpose: to protect the French labor market's "insiders." Regular workers enjoy secure and well-paid jobs, with much leisure time and little stress, particularly in the public sector. The poor minorities that remain excluded are provided with some social assistance. But too little is done to integrate them into society and increase their opportunities.

The economic harm done by this corporatist social model is aggravated by widespread state intervention in all parts of the economy. Services are sheltered from competition, hindering both productivity growth and job creation in these sectors. Government intervention distorts the prices, leading to inefficient

allocation of resources in areas such as healthcare, education, and agriculture.

French civil servants, convinced that they can spot profit opportunities better than the market, engage in a proactive industrial policy with a variety of tools, including the retention of minority or controlling stakes in a number of large enterprises. All of this results in an economy that grows too little, where the weakest are condemned to a life of exclusion and are deprived of any opportunity for upward mobility.

Why has France fallen into this trap? Not only the myopic pursuit of insiders' economic interests is to blame. France is also burdened by strongly held ideological convictions.

According to opinion polls collected in many countries by the World Value Surveys in 1999-2000, the French on average fear income inequality much more than citizens of other industrial countries. Compared to other countries at about the same level of development, France stands out as being highly suspicious of the benefits of competition (only Belgium fares slightly worse in this regard).

French political institutions also bear heavy responsibility. France is a stable democracy, and large majorities in Parliament often support its governments. But this stability comes at the expense of change.

Barriers to entry into the French political elite are exceptionally high. The current president, Jacques Chirac, was elected 10 years ago; he was already in

government in 1969. His predecessor, Francois Mitterand, was elected president for the first time in 1981, and made his first appearance in government in 1956.

France is also a heavily centralized State, where most civil servants are recruited from a close circle of policy advisers to the top politicians, often educated at the same institution. Little wonder that change occurs so seldom in France.

To be sure, the corporatist welfare state is not the only causes of today's Gallic *intifada*. Violent riots by immigrants and ethnic minorities have taken place in other countries as well, from London to Los Angeles. But, ultimately, the best way to address them and prevent their resurgence is to make sure that economic opportunities are available to those who are determined to try. Social assistance with no hope of individual improvement is not enough. It is time that France starts questioning its economic model.

In a recent statement about the burning suburbs, Chirac declared: "We will have to draw all the lessons from this crisis, when the time comes and order has been restored, and with a lot of courage and lucidity." But those lessons imply reforms that are more far-reaching than Chirac is ever likely to envisage.

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Projects for better roads

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government has brought about projects of maintenance of 398.3 km of paved roads in all governorates which have deteriorated to the extent that they no longer meet the standards for driving and safety standards. Maintenance works includes the renovation of asphalt layers, the rebuilding of road foundation and general overhaul of roads.

This has been carried out as part of the works implemented by roads maintenance fund and as a result of the state keenness on taking care of roads and maintaining them to facilitate safe driving conditions and prevent existent roads from collapse.

Information derived from the fund of the ministry of public works and

roads indicates that the reinforcement projects that have been implemented are 14km of the Shibam-Thala-Hababa road, maintenance of 30km of the Mareb-Sana'a road, 14km of the Shareeja-Thala-Hababah road, km 20 of the Sana'a-Mareb road, and maintenance of 26-km Ameen-Naqbah road, 65-km Thamar-Radaa road, 42.3-km Sana'a-Mareb road, 30-km Sana'a-Arhab road and maintenance and reinforcement of the 45-km Shaqrah-Ameen-Luder road, amounting to YR one billion, 777 million and 926 thousand.

There are other three projects under implementation with an estimated cost of YR 613 million and 115 thousand. They are the roads of Sana'a-Mareb, 50km long, Hais-Mafraq road, 72km long and the road of Shaqrah-Hujain of 25 km long.

Let the Doha Round fail

BY DANI RODRIK

Imagine that the world's trade ministers simply walk away from their forthcoming Hong Kong meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with this simple declaration: "We failed to reach an agreement; we'll try to do better next time." This would bring the so-called Doha "Development" Round to an unsuccessful conclusion, but it would be no disaster.

Talk to World Bank and WTO officials, and you will get an earful of inflated claims about the benefits that a successful Doha round would bring. These officials often make it sound as if the livelihood of hundreds of millions of poor people in developing nations hangs in the balance. Look closer at these claims, and you find that they are built on sand.

The World Bank's most recent

estimate is that complete trade liberalization (including in manufactures and by developing nations themselves) would produce a net gain to the developing world of half a percentage point of their income. But that hasn't stopped the Bank doing its best to hide this meager impact behind impressive-sounding claims.

The fact is that the world economy is more open today than it has ever been, and will remain so even if the Doha talks collapse. Most developing nations have opened themselves significantly to foreign trade and no longer employ the most damaging policies of the past (such as quantitative restrictions on imports).

The political balance in these countries has tilted decisively in favor of pro-trade groups with an outward-looking orientation. In the advanced countries, trade barriers for manufactured goods and many

services are at a historic low. It would be hard to identify any poor country whose development prospects are seriously blocked by restrictions on market access abroad. Any country with a sensible development strategy has the opportunity to make its economy grow, with assistance from trade.

But what about agriculture? Don't the farm subsidies and other forms of support in the United States and European Union undercut the livelihood of millions of poor farmers? Wouldn't phasing them out make a big dent in world poverty?

The reality is that the global impact of agricultural liberalization in rich countries would be relatively small and highly uneven. These policies may hurt agricultural producers elsewhere, but they also benefit poor urban consumers. The balance depends on the poverty profile of individual countries and on whether

they are food exporters or importers.

Of course, there would be some big gainers from agricultural reform, but they are chiefly consumers and taxpayers in rich countries. Some large middle-income food exporters (such as Brazil and Argentina) would also reap gains. Such outcomes are not unimportant, but they represent a far cry from the picture painted by free-trade fundamentalists.

Indeed the only serious risk from the Doha round's "failure" is that rich countries would take their own rhetoric seriously and react in unproductive ways that prove self-fulfilling. The US, in particular, could intensify its pursuit of bilateral deals, by which it is able to impose increasingly inappropriate policy priorities on smaller nations.

The silver lining in an amicable break-up of the trade talks is that it would give negotiators a chance to

focus on issues that are of much greater significance to developing nations. The next time around, trade talks should take up the two most glaring omissions to date:

- A comprehensive effort to enhance the mobility of temporary workers from poor countries to rich countries. This is where the gains from liberalization would be the largest, because it is here that the barriers are the highest.
- Creation of a "policy space" for developing countries in WTO agreements. Developing nations' pursuit of growth-promoting trade and industrial policies are increasingly running afoul of restrictive WTO rules. Growth superstars such as South Korea, Taiwan, China, and many others would not have been able to adopt the growth strategies that they did if today's WTO strictures had applied

to them. Trade officials must acknowledge the lessons from these countries' experience and reform the rules accordingly.

There remains a possibility that trade negotiators will patch together a last-minute deal in Hong Kong and emerge claiming victory. We will then end up with an agreement that will have been wildly oversold and is certain to lead to disappointment in the future – especially in developing nations. We will also have given up the opportunity to have a real development round next time around.

Sometimes there is no success like failure. The Doha round is a case in point.

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Tarim...the town of mosques and schools

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Tarim is a town situated about 22 miles northeast of Sayun. It was anciently the capital of Hadramout Kingdom, when it had been named after king Tarim Hadramout ibn Sheba in the tenth century. History books have recorded that in Tarim there were once 365mosques, and over 300 clerics and preachers! People of Hadramout call this town “the agriculture splendor “ given the profuse quantity of palm trees that are giving shelters to the number of palaces built all over the town of Tarim. As soon as the visitor arrives Tarim, the feelings of ancient eras of Yemeni civilizations struck him with owe. He begins to let go of his rein while his eyes wander around the majestic edifices, the walls of which are “crowned” by the chromes of ripped dates, with decorations drawn through usage of “Al-Noora”- a white plaster-like substance, covering them. The Sayun-Tarim road is rugged, and has not been maintained for many

years, but on its two sides the lofty palm trees grow high, thus bestowing on the whole area of Wadi Hadramout an eternal pleasant green color. The town had been founded between two hilly-plateaus, and had in the past been encircled by a wall made of muddy-clay. The wall had two gates for entrance and exit. Moreover, the town had once its fame by being famous as a center for scholastic enlightenment. However, currently there is a renown scientific institute called “Rabat Tarim”.

Many students, particularly from East Asia and Latin America, are coming annually to study in this institute. Some citizens of Tarim had also graduated in various scientific, and religious fields of study. A number of them have themselves become authors and publishers in the Tradition , Interpretation of Quraan and other branches of religious knowledge. The most famous scholar among them was probably Abdul Rahman Al-Mash’hoor. He provided all local mosques of Tarim one single timetable for prayers that are calculated

according to sunrises and sunsets around the year.

It is true that Tarim can be ranked one of the most beautiful Yemeni towns in the Republic due to the existence of the palaces, and particularly for the fact that the local citizens built them from three local building materials: hay clay and Al-Noora. These materials gave the constructions the look of an indescribable charm and an architectural uniqueness. The craftsmen and builders of the town were so skilled that they were able to integrate the Islamic architectural arts with Greek and East Asian influences in them into the traditional system of building.. The most famous of such palaces are known to belong to the “Al-Ahqaf” dynasty, including Al-Quba and Al-Munaisooraa palaces that are surrounded by two beautiful gardens.

At the heart of Tarim, Al-Mahdhar minaret is built of clay stands proudly. It is undoubtedly the landmark of this town. It was designed by the local poets Abubakr bin Shihab and Alawi Al Mash’hoor. The building was

completed in 1915, with a height of 175 feet, and 140 stair-steps. It is considered one of the most famous Islamic architectural works by virtue of the fact that its unique design of construction made it over the last 83 years withstand all adverse weather conditions.

Al-Ahqaf Library of Manuscripts is also located in Tarim featuring some seven thousand titles. In fact the library is the second in size of contents after Sana’a Library of Manuscripts. In 1996, the estimated number of visitors to Al Ahqaf Library hit the mark of 4780 persons. The manuscripts themselves are on various aspects of Islamic cultures. Some of them are on philosophy, logic, medicine, and the eight-volume of Al-Hamadani’s “Al-Iklil”.

What distinguishes these manuscripts is the fact that most of them belong to Yemeni authors and editors who resided in Wadi Hadroamout area. Nevertheless, there are others that belonged to scholars from Morocco, Kurasan, and other Islamic regions.



Al-Mahdhar Mosque with its remarkable minaret

From Tihamah to Aden with Ibn Battutah

By TIM MACKINTOSH-SMITH*

Ibn Battutah (hereafter, IB) was born in Tangier in 1304. At the age of twenty-one, he set off on the pilgrimage to Mecca . Along the road he caught a serious dose of the travel bug, with the result that his journey took him far beyond the holy city. There was nothing unusual in this: Maghribis were famous for their itchy feet, and IB met compatriots in many parts of the Old World . What does make him unusual is that, as far as we know, he went much further than any other individual traveller – as far north as the Volga, as far south as present-day Tanzania, all the way to China, and back west to Mali. Just as important, he returned safely home and wrote his story; or, to be precise, dictated it to a young man of letters called Ibn Juzayy (on whom more later). The outcome was that master-work of travel literature, Tuhfat al-nuzzar fi ghara’ib al-amsar wa ‘aja’ib al-asfar – something like An Armchair Traveller’s Treasure: the Mirabilia of Metropolises and the Wonders of Wandering. We had better shorten it to the Travels.

Although IB didn’t devote many pages of the Travels to his Yemen visit of about 1330, what he has to say about the country is important (if, in a couple of places, questionable). In particular, it gives us a picture of court life under Sultan alMujahid (r. 1321–63), the longest reigning ruler of the brilliant Rasulid dynasty. Under the Rasulids Yemen enjoyed far-reaching international relations: exotic gifts, including ‘grammatically correct female parrots’, arrived at al-Mujahid’s court from India; a glass vase from the sultan’s workshops in Yemen and bearing the symbol of the Rasulids, a six-petalled red rose on a white ground, has turned up in China; and you can find a brass incense-burner with the same device, and al-Mujahid’s name and titles, in the Islamic Museum in Cairo. IB himself gives a list of ten Indian destinations of ships from Aden, and mentions the Indian and Egyptian merchants who lived in the city. Aden was also his point of departure for a voyage with traders down the East African coast. From there he returned to Zafar, that other great southern Arabian emporium of the age, situated next door to present-day Salalah in the Sultanate of Oman but then part of the Rasulid sultanate. But we must backtrack and follow IB’s Yemen itinerary in the right order; and we’ll stay within Yemen’s current borders, as you can read in detail about his visit to Zafar in my Travels with a Tangerine.

IB arrived on the Yemeni coast from Jeddah. Almost incredibly, for a native of a famous port, it had been his first ever experience of sea travel. A lesser man

might have been put off sailing: IB made the passage in a jalbah, a notoriously cramped type of Red Sea tub in which the earlier traveller Ibn Jubayr had felt ‘like a chicken in a cage’ (paradoxically, jalbah has gone into English as ‘jolly-boat’). The sea was unaccommodating too, and IB was blown off course to Africa . But he eventually made it back to the right continent and (via Haly, now north of the border with Saudi Arabia) to a small port he calls al-Sarjah. This has disappeared from the map and apparently, as I found out when I once tried to locate the site, from the memory of the local fishermen. But we know from al-Qalqashandi, who wrote a few decades after IB and calls the place al-Sharjah, that it must have been somewhere near al-Luhayyah. IB sang the praises of his hosts in al-Sarjah/Sharjah, who he says were famous for their ‘generosity and open-handedness, for feeding wayfarers and for helping pilgrims by transporting them in their own vessels’. You may recall that Niebuhr was to have a similarly encouraging introduction to Yemen, and on the same stretch of coast – he found the people of al-Luhayyah ‘intelligent and polished in their manners’.

The people of Zabid, too, were ‘courteous in their manners’ – this is IB again, who had coasted south from al-Sarjah/Sharjah – and lived in a city with ‘groves of palms, orchards and running streams, the pleasantest and most beautiful town in Yemen’. We might have hoped for a description of the buildings of the Rasulid winter capital; but IB was distracted, as he often was, by ‘the exceeding and pre-eminent beauty of its women’. (To prove that he wasn’t the first to draw attention to this, he quotes part of a hadith in which the Prophet Muhammad warns Mu’adh, his missionary to Yemen, not to linger in ‘the vale of al-Husayb’ – identified by the commentators with Zabid – ‘for there are women there who resemble the black-eyed maidens of Paradise’). IB then describes the city’s subut al-nakhl, or Palm Saturdays. These were festivals held when the dates ripened and, according to the racy late-12th-century account by Ibn al-Mujawir, included mixed bathing sessions which resulted in ‘many marriages and many divorces’. Although Ibn al-Mujawir is notorious for his sensationalism, there may be some truth in what he said: the historian al-Khazraji, our best authority for the Rasulid period, tells the story of a certain scholar who blundered into a Palm Saturday and was so shocked that he ran away to Ethiopia. IB himself admits that the women of Zabid had ‘a predilection for the stranger and do not refuse to marry him’, but at the same time assures us of their ladylike virtues. (I’ve heard

that a version of subut al-nakhl still takes place, now suitably genteel.)

Apart from beautiful women another major interest of IB’s was holy men, both alive and dead, and after leaving Zabid he went to visit the tomb of a very distinguished one in the village of Ghassanah . The tomb is still there, although Ghassanah is now known after its occupant as Bayt al-Faqih, the House of the Scholar of Jurisprudence. In order to understand the story IB tells about the eponymous faqih, Shaykh Ahmad ibn Musa ‘Ujayl (d. 1291), we must bear in mind that the Moroccan was a very orthodox Sunni of the Maliki rite, and one who could never resist getting in a dig at his non-Sunni brethren of whatever persuasion. To summarize, some visiting Zaydi scholars fell into a discussion with Shaykh Ahmad about predestination. At the time, Zaydi thought rejected the notion of absolute predestination and allowed created beings a certain amount of what we would call free will; or, as Shaykh Ahmad’s Zaydi visitors put it in IB’s account, ‘the creature who is made responsible for carrying out the ordinances of God creates his own actions’. Hearing this, Shaykh Ahmad said to them, “Well, if the matter is as you say, rise up from this place where you are sitting’. They tried to rise up but could not, and the shaykh left them as they were... until the heat of the sun afflicted them sorely... and they recanted their false doctrine.’ At which point, of course, they were freed from their supernatural paralysis.

As with many of IB’s taller tales, it’s hard to imagine him making it up. I’ve always been mystified by it; not because it seems to appear in no other source, but because it seems thoroughly out of character with what we know about Shaykh Ahmad from other works. IB tells the story under the heading karamah, ‘A Sainly Miracle’, and yet al-Khazraji says the shaykh was always criticized for his lack of karamat (to which he would reply, ‘Each karamah empties the vessel; I want to meet God with a full vessel’). Furthermore, al-Siraji, one of the greatest Zaydi scholars of the day, was actually a student of the Shafi’i Shaykh Ahmad. In short, even if Shafi’i sultans and Zaydi imams contested political power on and off through centuries of Yemeni history, the sort of sectarian theological bickering explicit in IB’s story seems largely



Ibn Battutah (1304-1377) traveled nearly the entire Medieval Islamic world over 30 years and covering some 75000 miles

absent, wa ‘I-hamdu li ‘Ilah. I remain mystified.

If IB approved of the beauty of Zabid women and the orthodoxy of Tihami fuqaha – and, on the way there, the fertility of Jiblah – he was more equivocal about his next destination, Ta’izz. ‘It is one of the finest and largest cities in Yemen,’ he says of the main Rasulid capital, ‘but -’ and there’s quite often a ‘but’ in IB’s descriptions - its people are insolent, overbearing and rude, as is generally the case in towns where rulers have their seats.’ I hate to say it, for fear of offending the now charming people of Ta’izz, but on this point al-Khazraji does confirm what IB says. Writing on 1330, the probable year of IB’s visit, the historian comments that the Ta’izzis were ‘at their most horrible in contrariness, violation of dignity and abominable abusiveness’. To be fair, though, they had had to put up with years of intermittent fighting, including a siege, caused by inter-Rasulid squabbles over the succession. But by the time of IB’s visit Sultan al-Mujahid was firmly in power, and making it known: ‘The method of saluting him is that one touches the ground with one’s index finger, then raises it to the head and says, ‘May God prolong thy majesty!’ ‘IB duly made his obeisance, and was invited to a luncheon stiff with sultan’s protocol.

IB gives a long, detailed and valuable account of courtly etiquette, but is infuriatingly silent on his physical surroundings. To fill them in we must turn to his exact contemporary, the Egyptian encyclopaedist al-‘Umari, who described not only the Rasulid palaces

but also the court dress of their amirs, down to their akhfaf their long soft boots made of satin and tabby silk. The glory of Ta’izz, says al-‘Umari, was the Palace of Tha ‘bat (or Thu’bat, as the people who live there call it now). As well as the main palace buildings, gleaming with marble and gilt and lapis lazuli, there was a garden where a majlis overlooked a large rectangular pool with zoomorphic fountains. This earthly paradise joined the fruits of India with those of Syria ... Nowhere could you behold a garden more beautifully comprehensive, or more comprehensively beautiful, nor one more perfect in form and content. It is a place where the breeze moves the folds of your very soul, as though you were in a remnant of Yemen from the time of Sheba...

Today you can still follow the line of the defensive walls Sultan al-Mujahid built round the palace; inside them it’s still extraordinarily green, and hard to believe that the concrete centre of Ta’izz is only a couple of miles away. The buildings of this Yemeni Alhambra are gone, yet not entirely forgotten: where the majlis stood are some nondescript modern houses, but the large rectangular field they overlook is still called Hawl al-Birkah, the Field of the Pool.

If IB was silent on the palatial splendours of Ta’izz, he does have something to say about the architecture of San’a: ‘it is well constructed, built with bricks and plaster... the whole city is paved... its Friday Mosque is one of the finest of mosques’. The only problem is that he wasn’t the first person to say it or – as he also did – to talk about the predictability of its rains, its good water and its healthy climate. In fact, his single paragraph on the city looks suspiciously like a compilation of verbatim quotations from the earlier authors Ibn Rustah and al-Idrisi. And of the journey there from Ta’izz, and the subsequent leg back down to Aden, he says precisely nothing. Granted, landscape didn’t interest him much unless it got in the way; but that jaunt would have meant about three weeks’ slog over some of the highest mountains in Arabia . Besides, if he really had been in the main Zaydi city of Yemen, and at a time when – as the Yemeni scholar Isma’il al-Warith has pointed out – there were no fewer than four claimants to the imamate, it would have been out of IB’s character not to jump at another chance of libelling the

Zaydis, their ‘false doctrines’ and political squabbles. I’m the first to admit that IB is an unusually trustworthy traveller, one who can be cross-checked both with contemporary records and – as I’ve discovered following him from Morocco to India – with the evidence on the ground; that literally ninety-nine percent of his book is undebunkable; that, as a major fan of both San’a and IB, I wish for sentimental reasons that he really had visited the city that is my home. But I don’t think he did. At least we’ve got someone else to blame for that fishy paragraph – that young and very widely-read man of letters, Ibn Juzayy, who took down IB’s dictation, edited it, tweaked the rather plain style in places and, to make it more geographically comprehensive, pasted in a couple of places the traveller almost certainly never visited. Perhaps Ibn Juzayy knew the old saying, la budda min san’a: one must visit San’a...

There’s nothing fishy about IB’s Aden. As well as shipping destinations he mentions the famous tanks, the water shortages and the merchants – all plagiarizable features, a sceptic might say, and with some justification. But IB also tells a story he heard which, for me, is proof positive that he was there. Two slaves, he says, were bidding against each other in an auction for a ram, the only one in the suq that day. Eventually the price rose to a staggering four hundred dinars, enough for a dozen flocks of rams. The victorious bidder ‘went off with the ram to his master, and when the latter learned what had happened he freed him and gave him a thousand dinars. The other returned to his master empty-handed, and he beat him, took his money and drove him out of his service.’ Those of you who know Ibn al-Mujawir’s account of his visit to Aden about fifty years before IB’s may recall that he tells almost the same story, but about a fine specimen of that excellent fish, the dayrak. More literary borrowing by IB’s editor? No; the likelihood of Ibn Juzayy having known Ibn al-Mujawir’s book is as close as possible to absolute zero. The tale is just one of those anecdotes that hangs around the quayside for generations, mutating in the telling. For all I know, the Adenis may still tell a version of it, perhaps about the last bunch of qat in the suq.

Source: The British Yemeni Society
Tim Mackintosh-Smith is author of ‘Yemen : Travels in Dictionary Land’ (1997), and of two books about Ibn Battutah: ‘Travels with a Tangerine’ (2001), and ‘Hall of a Thousand Columns’ (2005); he is now writing a third volume. This article is based on his talk to the British-Yemeni Society at the Middle East Association on 21 April 2005.

A curable disease of anger

Dr.Qazi Shaikh Abbas Borhany

Anger is a part of a human nature, its base is the natural instinct which exists from birth, and reflects in extra ordinary circumstances and occasions. Anger covers every part of the body, eyes and face become fiery. Hands and tongue shivering, legs tremble and spit foam from his mouth. All parts of the body become out of controlled by nerves system. Senses can not play properly in angry mood. There is no difference in between an angry and a mad. It is possible, that in anger, such blunders may commit which penalty remains continue for long, as a result.

Ali Ibn Abi Talib says: "Be aware of anger; it starts from madness and end on shame and regret". Imam Jafar Assadiq says: "Anger is a key of crimes and sins. It sabotage religion and damage the good deeds". A Hadith says: "The anger spoils the faith in such a manner as vinegar spoils the honey. Under the shade of anger, person utter nonsense and commits incorrect acts, which exposes him totally and make him degraded before the eyes of others". Ali Ibn Abi Talib says: "Anger is a bad companion, who exposes person's inner defects. It is a thing which closes the person towards the sins and creates a long distance towards the good deeds". A constant anger has an adverse effect on the nerves system and heart which make them weak. So a person who has care about health and peace, faith and creed, should try to remove this weakness forcefully. One should be careful that Anger may snatch nerves control and destroy totally his peace, honor, believe and prestige.

This point should always be kept in mind; angry nature is dangerous for health and wealth. It will create problems everywhere. Do anger where it is required and situation cannot be ignored? It is a good quality



Dr.Qazi Shaikh Abbas Borhany

of human temper for humanly treatment in the best possible manner. In Jihad, in the defense of Islam, in the establishment of Maruf (Favor) and restrained Munkar (abominable action), anger is necessary. For the safeguard of one's honor anger is allowed. Similarly for tyrant, apostate, and hypocrite extend displeasure and anger is compulsory. If through the anger one can provide any kind of relief and protection to a deserve person, it is allowed.

An honest, sincere and responsible Muslim, whose life passed through the hard experience, in war against tyranny can not lose his patient. Islam do not allow this, anger should not conquer the intelligence. Ali says: "If you follow your anger then surely it will lead you towards the destruction", (Mustadrak, Vol. 2, pg. 326, Iran).

This is not possible that the power of anger completely eliminates and a person should remain un-concerned with this. It is not meant, but one should be away from excesses. This power should be properly handled and used, so that it can be utilized in better way on proper occasions.

Power of anger, generally flourish in human from one's childhood, side by side, with other faculties. This is a part and parcel of a human nature, but its excess and decrease relates upon

nourishment and upbringing of each person. The behavior of the parents with child can brought this human habit on equilibrium or to the minimum or excessiveness. This point should always be kept in mind that all human habits are not the same. Some have high anger nature and some get it very less from the childhood. Wise and fore sighted parents treat their kids according to their temperament. They always try to control the child from any kind of excessiveness or abnormalities of nature.

Child cries in anger and creates disturbances, its body shivers, its face appearance changes. In this situation, baby shouts and wants to be aloof from others, and hide in a corner. It is advice able to find the reason of child's anger and remove it. Anger is the result of some trouble and pain feeling or displeasure. It is a result of many things which is not possible to describe in a few lines. Some are the following:

- Less sleeping
- Hunger
- Thirst
- Hot climate
- Cool weather

These are cause of anger too, to impose unnecessary restrictions upon the child, such as, harsh attitude, unjust act, insult, torture, always handle strictly, bound to follow the orders. To entrust anything strongly against child's wishes deforms his self confidence. Child feels unsuccessful and weak in that position. Unpleasant manner of handling turn the child in to anger. The repetition of such attitude forces the child to revolt against this situation. It is the parents who damage the personality of child and convert its temperament by their harsh treatment. Parents are responsible for such defects. If your child is in an angry mood, then you should not be angry with. You must be sure that child's aim is not to commit an ill. You find out the reasons behind

anger and the remedy is that you remove his grievance. Remove as soon as possible thirst and hunger of the child. If child is tired, get him sleep. If child is disturbing due to your own working, then stop that thing to ease your child for that time. If child is disturbed with any particular thing then divert his attention. If child has any genuine demands try to fulfill it. When child becomes normal, tell in a good way and make him understand that the child may realize the difference between good and bad. Full cooperation of the child is much necessary to control his mood. The conclusion of discussion is an advice of Ali Ibn Abi Talib says: "Beware of anger. It should never be stressed upon you and not become a permanent habit", (Ghurair Hikam, pg. 809, Beirut).

A father selected a unique manner to remove the bad habit of anger from his child. The father gave his son a bag of nails and asked him that whenever he lost his temper, must hammer a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learned to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He informed his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper. The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said: "You have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there." A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one.

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Soulless Bodies

BY PAUL BLOOM

The world's leading scholar in artificial intelligence once described people as machines made of meat. This nicely captures the consensus in the fields of psychology and neuroscience, which tell us that our mental lives are the products of our physical brains, and that these brains are shaped not by a divine creator, but by the blind process of natural selection.

But, with the exception of a small minority of philosophers and scientists, nobody takes this view seriously. It is offensive. It violates the tenets of every religion, and it conflicts with common sense. We do not feel, after all, that we are just material bodies, mere flesh. Instead, we occupy our bodies. We own them. We are spontaneously drawn to the view defended by René Descartes: We are natural-born dualists, so we see bodies and souls as separate.

This dualism has significant consequences for how we think, act, and feel. The philosopher Peter Singer discusses the notion of a moral circle – the circle of things that matter to us, that have moral significance. This circle can be very small, including just your kin and those with whom you interact on a daily basis, or it can be extremely broad, including all humans, but also fetuses, animals, plants, and even the earth itself. For most of us, the circle is mid-sized, and working out its precise boundaries – does it include stem cells, for instance? – can be a source of anguish and conflict.

The nature of these boundaries is related to our common-sense view that some objects have souls and others do not. If one attributes a soul to something, then it has value; if one sees something as a mere body, it does not. This is often explicit; historically, debates about abortion, for example, are often framed in terms of the question: When does the soul enter the body?

This reasoning can apply as well to how we regard adults. Normally, when we interact with others we see them as both body and soul. We appreciate that they have beliefs, desires, and consciousness, and we recognize that they are solid physical things that take up space and are subject to gravity.

Both stances coexist well enough in the normal course of things. But when we emphasize one perspective over another, there are moral consequences. Social psychologists have shown that simply getting an experimental subject to take another person's perspective will make the subject care more about the person and be more likely to help.

Focusing on the soul, then, leads to moral concern, and can expand the moral circle.

The opposite can occur when someone is viewed solely as a body, and one emotion that supports this outcome is disgust. The psychologist Paul Rozin has shown how disgust, as Charles Darwin first noted, is an evolutionary adaptation that deters us from bad meat, so it is naturally triggered by animals and animal waste products. But disgust can readily extend to people. People, after all, are made of meat. Hence, every movement designed to stigmatize or malign some group – Jews, blacks, gays, the poor, women, and so on – has used disgust. Once a group of people is viewed as disgusting, attention shifts away from them as moral individuals. They become soulless bodies, and the moral circle closes in to exclude them.

Our reaction to soulless bodies is well illustrated in a story told about Descartes after he died. It was known that Descartes had an illegitimate daughter, Francine, who died when she was five years old. According to the story, Descartes was so struck with grief that he created an automaton, a mechanical doll, built to appear identical to his dead daughter. The two were inseparable. When Descartes crossed the Holland Sea, he kept the doll in a small trunk in his cabin. Curious about the contents of the trunk, the captain of the ship crept down to Descartes' cabin one night and opened it. To his horror, the robot Francine arose. The captain, struck with revulsion, grabbed her, dragged her up to the deck of the ship, and threw her overboard.

This story captures how disturbing – in some cases, revolting – we find a body without a soul, and it embodies the emotional pull that our common-sense dualism often has. But it also raises a serious problem. Science tells us that common-sense dualism is wrong. There is no consensus as to precisely how mental life emerges from a physical brain, but there is no doubt that this is its source. Thus, if a "soul" means something immaterial and immortal, then it does not exist. All of us are soulless bodies, no less than the robot Francine.

This is perhaps the main reason why the scientific rejection of dualism may be so hard to swallow: it seems to diminish the moral status of people. If we are to accept scientific facts, we need to construct morality on a new foundation, one without souls.

Paul Bloom is Professor of Psychology, Yale University.
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Public Notice

Watani Bank for trade & Investment is pleased to announce that by the Grace of God, has reached to an agreement with (OITC) to enter as a strategic shareholder as to enable the Bank to strengthen its financial and technical ability to participate effectively in the economic development of the country in various economic activities.

Based on the above, the Bank will be one of the first Banks in Yemen to comply with the Central Bank of Yemen's decree No. 12 for the year 2004 dated 8/12/2004 pertaining to raising the capital to (Six Billion Rials). The Bank is in process of completing the necessary formalities required by the prevailing laws in connection with obtaining the approval of the Central Bank of Yemen.



climate change puts fish at risk, WWF warns

World Wild Fund (WWF), which is independent conservation environmental organizations, warned last Friday that Climate change is warming oceans, rivers and lakes and threatening fish stocks. WWF's report titled "Are we putting our fish in hot water?" showed that global warming is causing the world's waters to warm while rainfall patterns, currents and sea levels are changing.

"The balance is set to tip, as climate change continues the pressure on fish populations already strained by overfishing, pollution and habitat loss," said Katherine Short, a fisheries officer with WWF's Global Marine Programme. "We must act to protect fish, both marine and freshwater, they are one of our most valuable biological, nutritional, and economic assets."

According to WWF report that Higher temperatures means hotter water means less food, less offspring and even less oxygen for marine and freshwater fish populations. The report shows that hotter temperatures are expected to stunt the growth of some fish, resulting in fewer offspring. Normally fish metabolisms speed up as temperatures rise, but insufficient food supplies could slow their growth and reproduction rates. Some temperate fish like salmon, catfish and sturgeon cannot spawn at all if winter temperatures do not drop below a certain level.

The WWF report explained that freshwater fish particularly may not have enough oxygen to breathe as waters grow warmer. Fish filter oxygen from water, but the amount of oxygen dissolved in water decreases as temperatures rise.

Meanwhile, hotter temperatures mean



that fish populations could move to cooler waters in an effort to maintain the temperature normal for their habitat. However, this can leave other species in dire straits that are dependent on these fish as a food source. For example, in the Gulf of Alaska in 1993, as fish moved into cooler waters around 120,000 sea birds starved to death as they were unable to dive deep enough to reach their relocated prey. Even slight changes in temperature can force economically important fish to move their feeding and breeding grounds, hurting local, small-scale fishing activity most. For example, cod, plaice and halibut are expected to become scarce in U.S. and southern Canadian waters, and cod is likely to disappear from the southern North Sea, one of its main spawning areas, the WWF said.

The WWF urged a coming United Nations meeting in Montreal, Canada, from Nov. 28-Dec. 9 to set tougher targets for reducing greenhouse gases from power plants, factories and cars, which many scientists say are driving up temperatures worldwide.

The meeting will review the U.N.'s

Kyoto protocol and ways to widen it to non-participants including the United States and developing states like China and India when it runs out in 2012.

WWF said it was critical to hold any rise in global temperature to below 2 degrees Centigrade, considered the trigger level for dramatic climatic and environmental changes.

Temperatures have risen by 0.7 of a degree since the industrial revolution, but some scientists forecast they could climb by 1.4-5.8 degrees this century.

Worldwide, marine and freshwater fisheries generate over US\$130 billion annually, employ at least 200 million people, and feed billions of people reliant on fish as an important source of protein.

"If we fail to secure deeper reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, we will increase the pressures on fish and billions of people that depend on them as an important source of protein," said Stephan Singer, Head of WWF's European Climate and Energy Policy Unit.

"Unless governments slow the rate and extent of climate change we're all going to feel like fish out of water."

Bell and Pietersen lead fightback



England's Kevin Pietersen celebrates with Ian Bell (L) after scoring a century against Pakistan on the third day of the second test match in Faisalabad, Pakistan, November 22. REUTERS

FAISALABAD, Pakistan (Reuters) - Kevin Pietersen and Ian Bell scored solid hundreds as England fought back to reach 391 for seven wickets on the third day of the second test against Pakistan on Tuesday.

England were 71 runs behind Pakistan's imposing total of 462 after Pietersen (100) and Bell (115) put on 154 runs for the fourth wicket to rescue the team from a shaky 113 for three.

Ashley Giles was unbeaten on 23 and Shaun Udal had made six when play ended 12 overs early due to bad light.

Pietersen, who had managed just 40 runs in six innings before the test, came good just when England needed him, rekindling the form that brought him a total of 473 runs in the Ashes series against Australia.

He took the attack to the Pakistani bowlers with a brilliant 100 runs from 137 balls with six fours and three sixes for his second test century.

"It was disappointing not to score runs," Pietersen said. "I like to do well,

I like to succeed but I knew a score was around the corner for me. It was a case of being patient.

"We all know patience is the way to build an innings and I think I played with more confidence and control. I was a lot more calculated today."

The 25-year-old said he and Bell, who played a patient 272-ball innings, had complemented each other.

"We are young lads making our way in test cricket. It was good to bat together for three to four hours out there. He manoeuvres well while I like to play positively."

The pair went through the extended first session without any problems as England reached 217 for three at lunch but then fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar took two quick wickets with the second new ball to raise Pakistan hopes.

He had Pietersen caught at mid-on by Mohammad Yousuf and then removed Andrew Flintoff's middle stump for one.

Pietersen, who was on 70 at lunch,

hoisted Shoaib Malik for a six in the first over after the break and then launched another off Kaneria.

Racing to 94, the 25-year-old hooked Shoaib for a six to deep square leg but next ball he tried the same shot and miscued to Yousuf.

Bell, who survived an easy stumping chance on 38 and then received a let off on 90 when Salman Butt failed to hold on to a sharp chance at square leg, reached his hundred by cutting Shahid Afridi for four.

"It is the best day of test cricket for me, Bell said. "It is satisfying to get big figures against a good side like Pakistan. I would have liked to be not out at close."

Geraint Jones (55) and Giles added 51 runs for the seventh wicket.

Jones fell just before the close, trapped leg before by Afridi playing across the line after a plucky innings that included eight boundaries.

Pakistan won the first test in Multan by 22 runs.

Edinger boots Vikings to win

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Paul Edinger kicked a 27-yard field goal as time expired to lift the surging Minnesota Vikings to their third straight win, a 20-17 victory over the Green Bay Packers at Lambeau Field on Monday.

It was the second time this season Edinger had booted a game winner against the Packers, leaving the Vikings (5-5) just two games back of the Chicago Bears (7-3) and in the thick of the playoff race.

After a 1-4 start to the season, the Vikings have rallied behind veteran quarterback Brad Johnson, who stepped in for injured Daunte Culpepper and guided Minnesota to three consecutive wins.

The 37-year-old quarterback completed 18-of-30 passes for 196 yards and got plenty of support from a prowling defense that also produced a touchdown on an interception return by rookie defensive back Dovonte Edwards.

Mewelde Moore also had big night for the Vikings, rushing for 122-yards on 22 carries.

"I had a dream I might do something big and it came true," Edwards said. "We're just hungry."

"We've had a lot of adversity and we will overcome it."

Packers quarterback Brett Favre delighted another soldout crowd on a cold night at Lambeau Field when he hit Donald Driver with 15-yard touchdown pass late in the opening quarter to put Green Bay in front 7-0.

But with time running out in the opening half, Favre was picked off by Edwards who jumped in front of Andrae Thurman and raced the ball back 51-yards into the endzone to tie the contest.

Only touchdown

Favre immediately atoned for his miscue on the Packers next possession, finding Driver again with 53-yard touchdown strike to head into the intermission up 14-7.

The Packers, however, were unable to build on that momentum and the Vikings scored the only touchdown of

the second half as Johnson engineered an 88-yard third quarter drive that was capped off one-yard plunge from Ciatrick Fason.

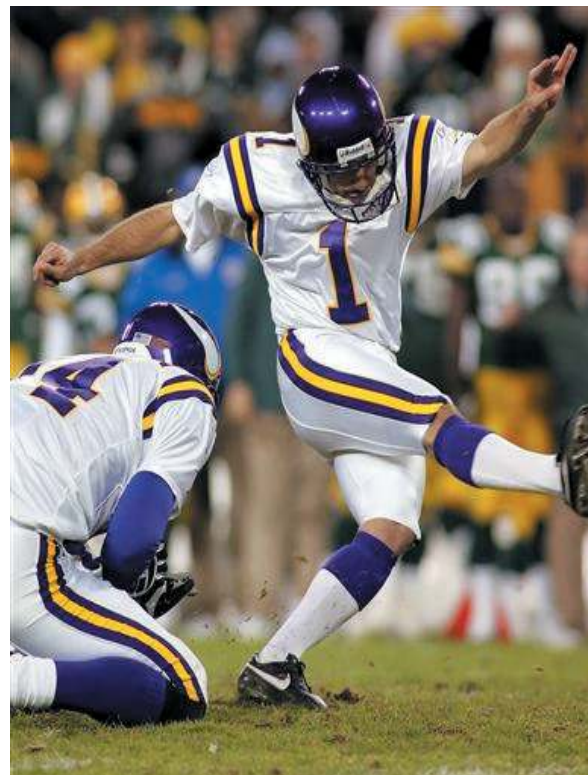
The offensive touchdown was Minnesota's first in three games.

The Vikings took the lead for the first time 17-14 early in the fourth quarter on a 24-yard Edinger field goal, only to have the Packers answer back with a Ryan Longwell three-pointer seven minutes later.

With just over three minutes to play, Johnson marched the Vikings 59-yards inside the Packers' 10 where he let the clock tick down to three seconds before Edinger was sent on to boot the winning field goal.

Farve finished the night with 20

completions on 33 attempts for 227-yards and a pair of touchdowns but was also picked off twice.



Minnesota Vikings kicker Paul Edinger (R) follows through on a 27-yard field goal to defeat the Green Bay Packers 20-17 in their NFL game in Green Bay, Wisconsin November 21, 2005. REUTERS

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علي
ابنه السيد / مغير صالح نعمان
قاله الله مبروكه
المهنتون /
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"On a roll" Cavaliers beat Celtics

NEW YORK (Reuters) - LeBron James poured in 36 points and Larry Hughes added 25 and seven rebounds to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to their eighth straight victory, a 115-93 demolition of the Boston Celtics on Tuesday.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas contributed 19 points to the Cleveland effort while Drew Gooden had 13 points and 15 rebounds as the Cavaliers remained unbeaten at home this season, improving to 6-0.

Ricky Davis paced the Celtics with 27 points while Paul Pierce had 24 along with 15 rebounds and Mark Blount recorded a season-best 21 points in the losing cause.

"We're on a roll," said James, after scoring 36 points for the second consecutive game.

"It would be incredible to go 41-0 at home and the way we're playing now it looks like it could happen."

Cleveland stamped their authority on the contest early, jumping out to a 27-18 lead after the opening quarter and 58-51 at the intermission.

The Celtics rallied in the third to pull to within two but then James took charge, scoring all the points in a 10-1 run to send the Cavaliers into the final quarter 84-73 ahead.

In Washington, Carmelo Anthony nailed 28 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and Marcus Camby added 24 points and 14 boards to lead the Denver Nuggets past the Wizards

108-105.

Earl Boykins helped out with 20 points as the Nuggets stretched their winning run to four games.

Gilbert Arenas had a game-high 36 points and dished out 10 assists for the Wizards while Antawn Jamison had 26 points and 12 rebounds.

In Memphis, Darius Miles had 22 points and Zach Randolph and Juan Dixon each chipped in with 20 helping the Portland Trail Blazers to a 95-87 win over Grizzlies.

Shane Battier led Memphis with 21 points while Pau Gasol collected the double-double with 18 points and 16 rebounds.

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki drained 31 points and Jason Terry added 29 as the Mavericks rolled to their sixth straight win, dumping the Houston Rockets 102-93.

Rookie Luther Head, starting in place of injured Tracy McGrady, had a career-high 28 points for the Rockets while Yao Ming chipped in with 20 and Derek Anderson added 19 in the loss.

In Phoenix, Shawn Marion hit for 28 points and pulled down 18 rebounds and Steve Nash had 23 points and nine assists guiding the Suns to 90-82 win over the Toronto Raptors.

In Seattle, Mehmet Okur scored 24 points and snared nine rebounds as the Utah Jazz held on to claim a 93-87 win over the SuperSonics.



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) breaks toward the basket as Boston Celtics' Al Jefferson guards him during the third quarter of their NBA game at the Q Arena in Cleveland, Ohio Nov. 22. REUTERS

Milan under pressure on return to Istanbul

LONDON (Reuters) - AC Milan have every reason to regard their Champions League Group E clash with Turkish club Fenerbahce on Wednesday with some trepidation.

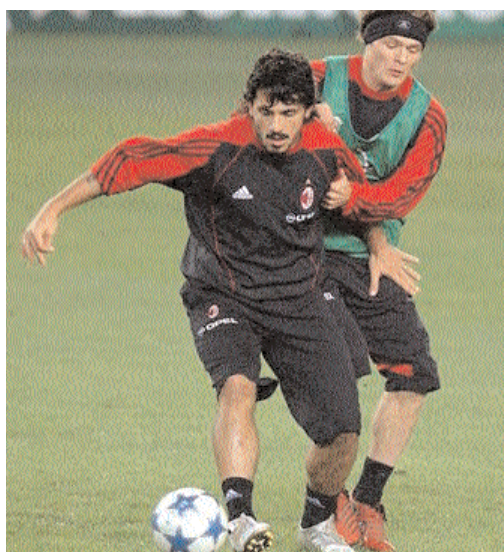
The last occasion the six-times European champions were in Istanbul was in May when they lost a memorable final to Liverpool after blowing a 3-0 halftime lead.

Another loss in the historic city would leave their chances of qualifying for the last 16 out of their control.

Fenerbahce are bottom of a tight group with four points, one behind Milan and German club Schalke who host group leaders PSV Eindhoven. PSV will go through with a victory.

"We need to make sure that for every step Milan take, we take two or three. We must control the flow of the game," Fenerbahce coach Christoph Daum said on UEFA's website.

Fenerbahce will rely heavily on in-



AC Milan's Gennaro Gattuso (front) and Johann Vogel (rear) fight for the ball during a training session in Istanbul, Nov. 22. Milan will play against Fenerbahce in a Champions League Group E soccer match on Wednesday night. REUTERS

form striker Tuncay Sanli who scored a hat-trick in his country's World Cup playoff second leg against Switzerland last Wednesday.

Fighting in the tunnel marred the game as Turkey went out on the away goals rule after a 4-2 victory in Fenerbahce's Sukru Saracoglu stadium.

In other Wednesday action, 2004 European champions Porto must beat Scottish champions Rangers at home to breathe life into their campaign. Defeat would knock them out.

In Group F, Real Madrid have an early chance to redeem themselves after the 3-0 humiliation by Barcelona in La Liga at the weekend.

Ferguson says United face most important game

MANCHESTER (Reuters) - Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is under no illusions about the importance of the Champions League Group D match against Villarreal on Tuesday.

United are facing the prospect of failing to reach the knockout stages of Europe's top club competition for the first time in 10 years, trailing the Spanish group leaders by a point and French side Lille with two games left.

"I can't think of a more important game for us in Europe over the last few years," Ferguson told a news conference on Monday. "We have to win this game to qualify for the next stage."

United's last home game was a 1-0 victory over Chelsea which ended the English champions' 40-match unbeaten run, and Ferguson is hoping for another rousing display at Old Trafford.

"We know we must deliver the kind of performance that beat Chelsea and, given our excellent home record in European football, I'm sure we have a great chance of getting back on track to qualify," he said.

Ferguson's side did not play well in their last home game in the Champions League, drawing 0-0 with Lille just as they did at Villarreal two months ago.

"Lille did not really try to win the game but I think Villarreal will do," Ferguson said. "They have some very good players but if we do our job we will be ok."



Manchester United's manager Alex Ferguson watches their English Premier League soccer match against Charlton Athletic at The Valley in London, November 19. REUTERS

Defeat for United and a Lille victory over Benfica would send Ferguson's team out of the competition before their final match against the Portuguese champions, and the manager admits his team lacks experience.

"At this moment in time, we do not have enough experience and that is a handicap," he said. "If you look at the graph of teams who win the European Cup they are mainly experienced teams with an average age between 28 and 30. You can't say that about us at the moment."

"What you can say is that we have incredible ability. In the next two or three years we hope for experience and consistency to go with that ability."

United, who had striker Wayne Rooney sent off in the first match against Villarreal, could welcome back England right back Gary Neville after three months on the sidelines.

Ferguson's side reacted positively to the departure of their captain Roy Keane by easing to a 3-1 win over Charlton Athletic on Saturday, and the manager refused to dwell on the Irishman's shock exit.

"You have to make changes quicker than other clubs because the demands of our club are great," he said. "The expectation is great and hopes are high."

"When we make moves it is not for any other reason than to make this club better and to keep us at the top."

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Does some aggressive dancing
- 6 Significant person?
- 11 Timer's start?
- 14 City near Cleveland
- 15 Capital near Alexandria
- 16 With-it
- 17 Taggart in "Blazing Saddles"
- 19 Dander
- 20 Philately offering
- 21 Potential taxpayer
- 23 Orchestra areas
- 26 Presents proudly (with out)
- 28 Greek peak
- 29 Jacob's eighth son
- 31 Seek redress
- 32 Pliable leather
- 33 Want ad word
- 35 Telephone style
- 39 Work unit
- 40 Word with horse or lion
- 42 Place to raise your spirits?
- 43 Negative replies
- 44 Bill Withers hit
- 47 Ethiopian king slain by Achilles
- 49 GM labor gp.
- 50 Windy City trains
- 52 One-time TV angel
- 53 Decorative

- 55 Alpine ridge
- 57 Lemon and lime drinks
- 58 Lane with lines
- 60 Distinctive airs
- 62 "We Meet Again"
- 63 Malnourished pet or disbanded Canadian band
- 68 Addition to percent
- 69 Distribute proportionately
- 70 Greek Muse of lyric poetry
- 71 N.Y. time zone
- 72 Some still-life subjects
- 73 Assembly line item

- 22 Make into a ball
- 23 "To Tell the Truth" inquisitors
- 24 Grenoble's river
- 25 Eastwood film
- 27 Maryland collegian
- 30 Seed for a new season
- 32 Burning coal
- 34 Kind of mother
- 36 Periodic table suffix
- 37 Gallows item
- 38 Anglo-Saxon slaves
- 41 Pt. of U.S.A.
- 45 Poet Ogden
- 46 First name in a Beatles hit
- 48 Ascertain

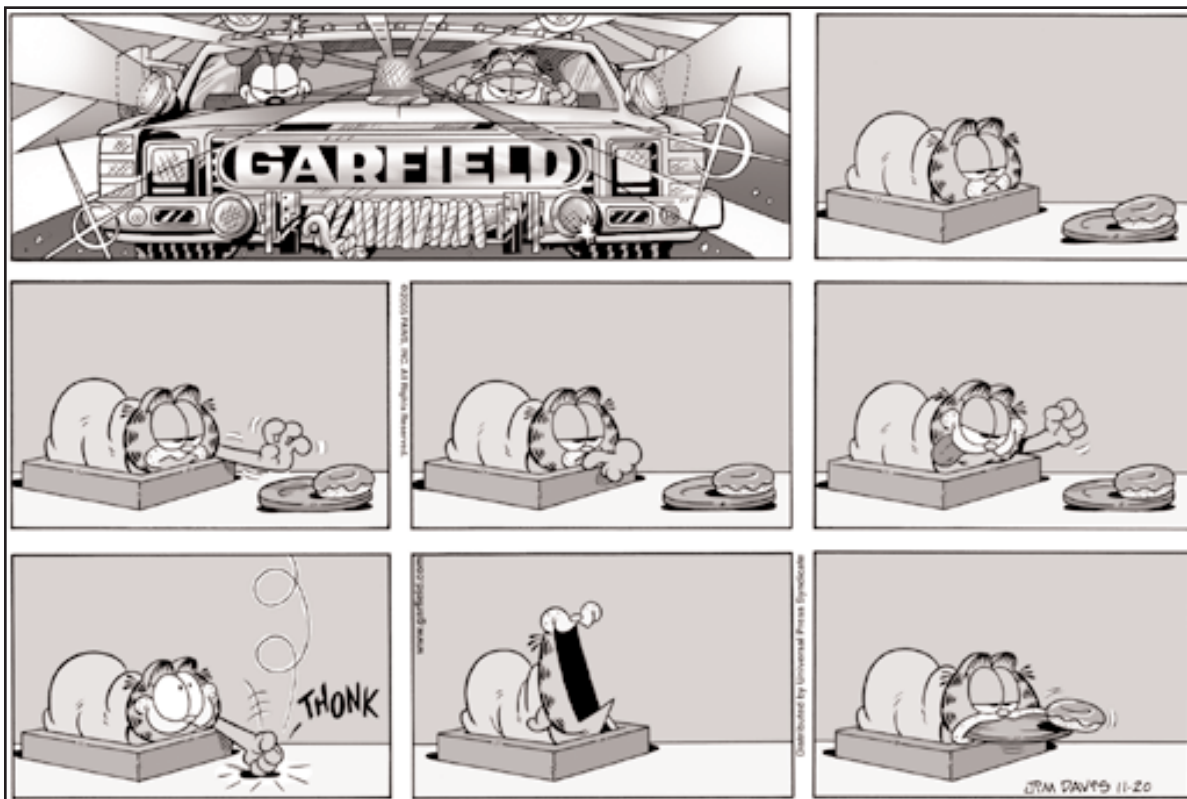
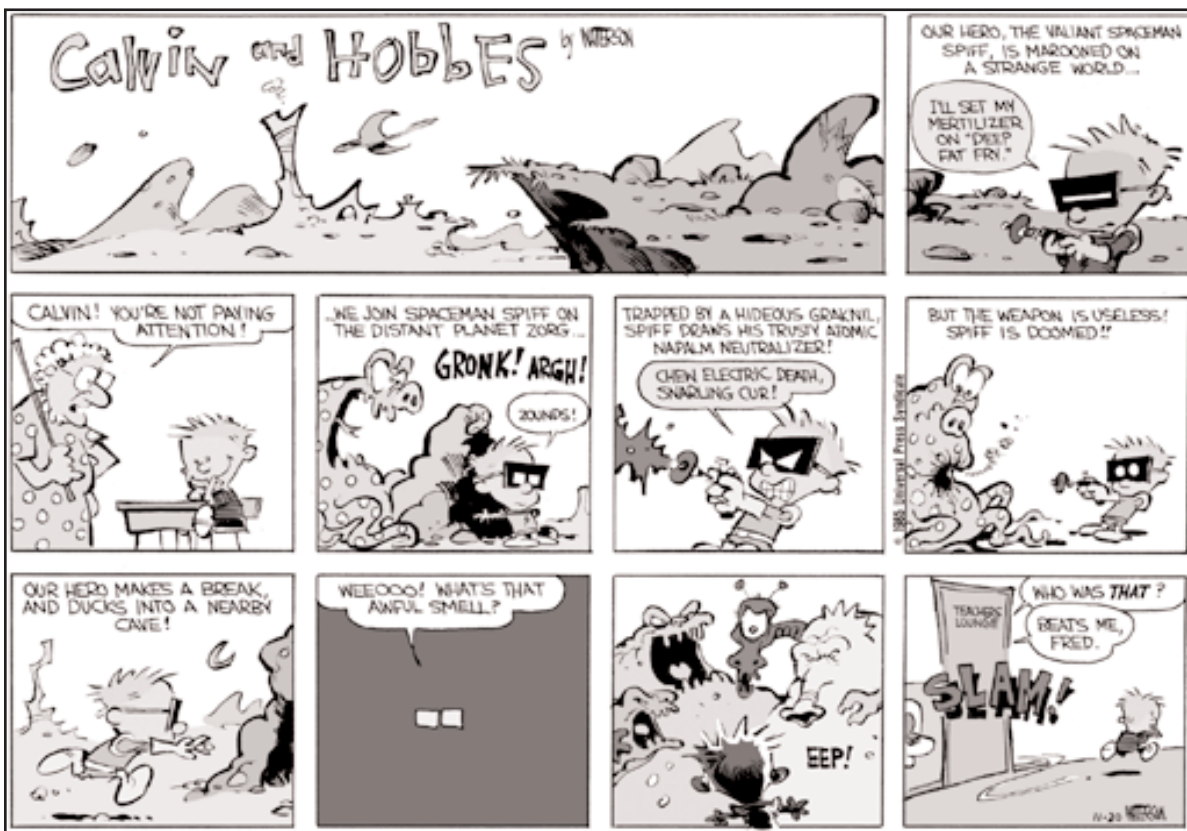
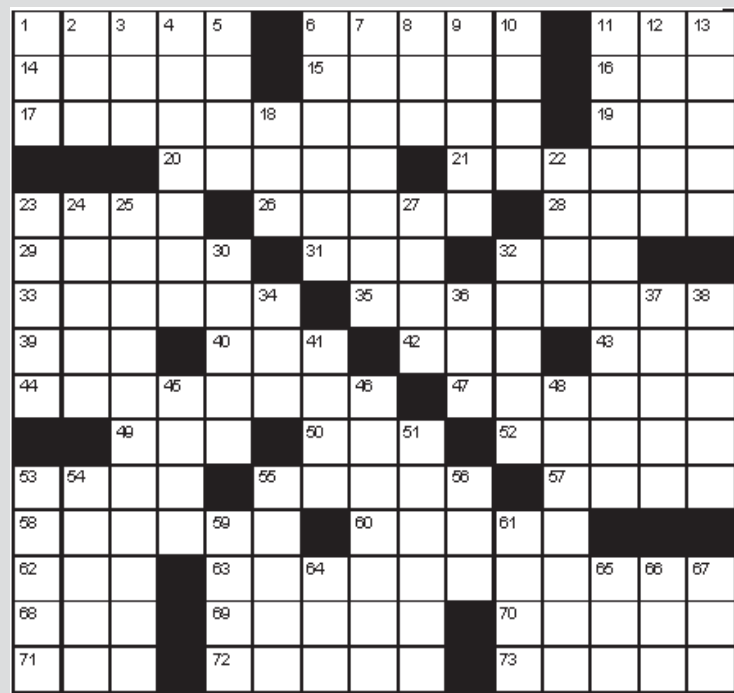
- 51 dimensions
- 53 Checks the growth or development
- 54 Release, in a way
- 54 Complains bitterly
- 55 Fibula's terminus
- 56 Ending for hatch or brew
- 59 When the boss wants it
- 61 Simians
- 64 Stevedore's gp.
- 65 Quarters in the '60s
- 66 Elem. school group
- 67 Pointer's direction

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	D	A	P	T	O	L	A	F	F	A	M	E
T	R	U	E	R	F	A	D	E	I	V	A	N
T	U	T	T	I	F	I	Z	I	E	O	U	T
A	G	O	P	L	E	D	A	L	I	V	E	
P	I	L	A	R	S	H	U	D	D	E	R	
I	B	I	S	E	S	C	H	U	G	S		
F	A	L	L	T	H	R	O	U	G	H	F	E
F	L	O	E	P	A	W	N					
V	E	T	B	I	T	E	T	C	H	E	D	U
C	A	C	U	S	E	D	W	A	I	S	T	
C	H	U	M	S	B	O	L	T	B	O	O	
H	I	T	B	O	T	O	M	M	A	G	E	
E	V	E	L	K	O	N	A	O	A	T	E	N
S	E	R	E	O	P	E	N	N	O	S	E	S

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"DIETING?" by Ritchie Hearne



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AI-DHALE': Cynosure of tourism and remedy



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FOR YEMEN TIMES

Al-Dhale'a city is located to the south of the capital Sana'a, linked to it by a highway running across Dhamar governorate. The road is 250km long. It is bordered with several governorates, Dhamar

on the north, the two governorates of Al-Beida'a and Abyan to the east, Lahaj to the south, and the governorates of Ibb and Taiz to the west.

Al-Dhale'a's area is about 4344 kilometers; divided into nine districts, Joban is the largest and Jahaf is the smallest one. Its relief varies between mountains plateau and valleys including fertile lands, however the mountainous characteristic is prevailing, especially in the northwest, southeast, and southwest of the gover-

norate.

The weather is moderate and the rains pour down in summertime. The main economic activity in Al-Dhale'a depends on the seasonal agriculture. This profession is thrives in summer and spring and that also depends on floods and rainfall water that falls heavily in these two seasons.

Although this governorate is constructed as a new governorate nevertheless, it is considered one of the famous governorates of Yemen and

that because of its important archeological sites and historical landmarks, which are still representing and reflecting the successive civilizations in Yemen.

Al-Dhale'a governorate has a very large civilized cultural heritage and numerous tourist historical sites and archeological milestones spread over around its districts. Some of these landmarks are effaced while others are still standing as live landmarks of the greatness of their kingdoms.

The most important archeological site in Al-Dhale'a governorate is Dei-Harran site in Al-Dhale'a province where there are some engravings that had been inscribed on stones, proved that the areas were submitted to Hameirat Empire.

Besides, there are many other historical sites discovered in certain areas of the governorate. Tahiride landmarks are still live as evidence of its magnitude in Yemen's previous eras, such as the bridge of Aamirr Bin Abdul Wahab discovered in Damt area and AL-Mansoreah school in Joban.

Not only these but also a colorful wall archaeological painting



that extends about 22 meters and found on a wall of AL-Nabeerah Cave at Qatabah province.

The most important archaeological and historical sites in the governorate:

Al-Dhale'a Town:

Al-Dhale'a Town is the administrative center, amid the distance on the road between Qatabah in the north and Al-Habilain in the south. The famous mountain in the area that overlooks it, is Jahaf Mountain.

Joban Town:

It is located on the road linking Qatabah to Rada'a, 55 km away from the southwest of Rada'a and 35 km far from the northeast of Qatabah Town.

Joban is one of the most important towns of the Tahiride Dynasty. In Joban there is a miniature of the Aamiriyah Mosque, also the school of Rada'a, representing an attraction place in the governorate.

Many historical features are attrib-

uted to Sultan Aamirr Bin Abdul Wahab Al-Tahiri. Among those are mosques, schools, water cisterns, channels, fortresses and walls, and the Aamiriyah School and Mosque were also built in his time.

Damt Area:

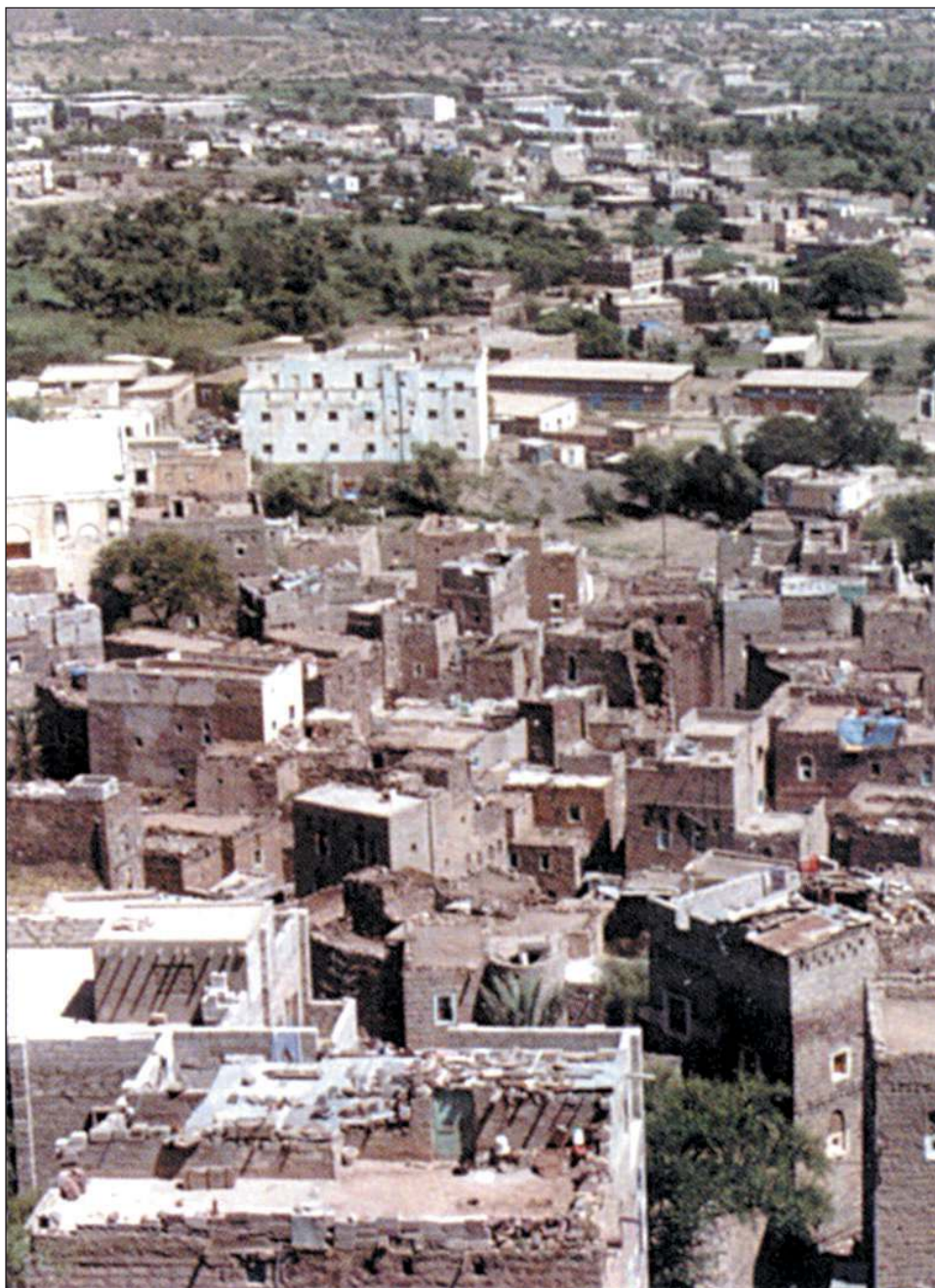
It is located on the tourist way linking Yareem and Wadi Bana, runs across other tourist route beginning in Aden, and runs through, Lahaj, Al-Dhale'a, Qataban and Damt.

It is an area consists of many of many springs of mineral water where numerous visitors of this place seek for a kind of rest or remedy.

There are many other historical and archaeological sites in Hosain, Shuaib, Azariq and Hasha in Al-Dhale'a governorate.

The most famous mountains in Al-Dhale'a governorate:

- Jahaf Mountains.
- Al-Hasha chain of mountains.
- Almaan Mountain and Yarakh Mountain.



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