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# YEMEN TIMES

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**PORSCHE**

## Yemen wants to see Somalia stabilize

By PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Two weeks after Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed was sworn in as Somalia's new president, hope continues to run high for Somalia to reach stability.

According to Abdissalam Moalim Adam, Somalia's Ambassador based in Yemen, the Somali people are not only confident in President Yusuf to be able to unify the country, but that each tribe in the country is represented in the interim parliament showing a democratic

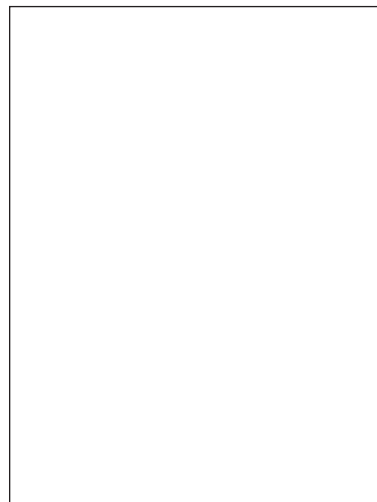
system that could lead to a peaceful solution.

"There have been so many attempts to reconcile the conflicts in Somalia but have failed each time because of the differences between tribal warlords," said Adam. "But now warlords are members of the parliament and signed an agreement on peace and disarming the militias. This is a democratic system that has brought tribal leaders together, and they are committed because they elected the new president with a strong majority."

*Continued on page 4*



Ahmed Al-Bashar, Head of the African Department at Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)



Abdissalam Moalim Adam, Ambassador of Somalia based in Yemen (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

## GPC refutes reports by UPI

By Yemen Times Staff

A press source at the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) Party on Monday 25 Oct. denied that it had accused the Pentagon of pushing thousands of American-Arabs particularly of Yemeni origin troops to the war in Iraq.

The source was so surprised at the news, which he described as absolutely "lacking credibility or ground," urging media to make sure, they report true and reliable information.

Earlier American news agency UPI had reported the GPC as accusing the Pentagon of pushing American-Arabs, especially Yemenis, to the hell of battles in Iraq.

According to the agency report, Yemenis returning from Iraq were saying they were surprised to find thousands of American soldiers of Arab origin fighting in Iraq, who speak Arabic and with a Yemeni accent in particular.

The news story quoted Mukhtar al-

Sharaabi, a Yemeni student who had recently returned from Iraq, as saying he met two American marines of Yemeni origin who told him there were many soldiers of Arab origin who were fighting as part of the American occupation forces.

The student quoted the two marines as saying the U.S. Defense Department uses American-Arab soldiers especially in areas where resistance against the occupation is fierce, such as Fallujah.

The soldiers reportedly said they oppose the idea of confronting their Iraqi brothers, but have no choice but to follow orders.

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## Yemen, Sudan & Ethiopia Foreign Ministers meet Friday

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Ministers of Foreign affairs in Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia (composing Sana'a Gathering for Cooperation) will meet in Ethiopia Friday. A Yemeni official source said. Foreign Minister Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi said that the meeting which will include the political and economic committees, will

look into several issues including the arrangement of the meeting of the presidents of the three states in Sudan by the end of December.

The meeting will also discuss drafts for a number of agreements to promote investments and organize commercial relations aiming to set up a free trade market between the three countries. The situation in Darfur as well as in

Somalia particularly after the election of the new Somali president Abdullah Yusuf will be considered. The meeting of the foreign ministers will be followed by another meeting for the security committee in the three states.

The agreement concerning the establishment of the gathering was signed by the end of December 2003 at a summit of the three countries in Ethiopia.

## It is time embargo on Cuba be lifted

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

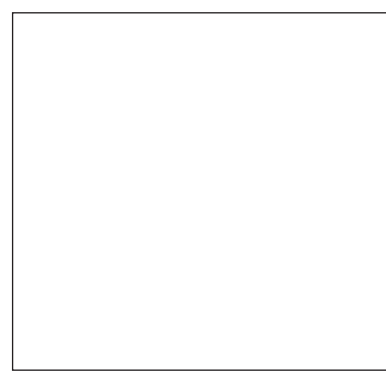
The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the U.S.A was the subject of a press conference held on Sunday October 24 at the Cuban Embassy's residence.

Mr. Roberto Rodriguez, Cuban Ambassador, attended the conference along with the commercial attaché and first secretary in the Embassy.

A group of pressmen participated in the conference as well.

The ambassador gave a review of the history of the embargo, and a minute account of different unjust measures taken by the US against Cuba.

"The US seized about \$180 million from Cuba's accounts in American banks at the beginning of the embargo. It has been preventing goods from entering Cuba and exercising pressure on other countries to cut their ties with Cuba," the ambassador said.



Cuban ambassador Roberto Rodriguez

With the embargo starting in 1962, the majority of the Cuban people were born during the embargo period.

"According to Geneva Conventions, the embargo is a genocide," said the ambassador.

The embargo involves a large num-

ber of unfair sanctions. For example, Cuba is deprived of dealing in the US dollar; there are restrictions on people who travel to Cuba; US companies are prohibited from having any kind of relation with Cuba.

It is estimated that the more-than-forty-years-old embargo has inflicted a loss of \$79325.2 million on Cuba.

The cause of the embargo goes back to early 1960s when Cuba nationalized properties. According to international laws, it offered compensation for damaged US companies, but the US government rejected that. Despite the UN General Assembly's resolution against the embargo, the US is still flouting the international system, victimizing other less powerful countries.

At the end of the conference, the ambassador answered several questions forwarded by journalists, clarifying some points of interest.

TAIZ BUREAU

A released detainee complained of discrimination between him and other detainees whom had been blame for the same thing. Ali Muqbil Ahmed, from Wadi al-Madam, Taiz, said that he with a number of people had been accused by the political security of supporting al-

Qa'edah Network.

Having no evidence against the detainees, the authorities could do nothing but release them. They were later employed in many places except for him.

Ali now appeals to the authorities to give him a job so as to make use of his time in something beneficial for himself and his community.

## Al-Mithaq newspaper fined YR15 million

A sentence was issued against the mouthpiece of the ruling PGC -Al-Mithaq. According to the verdict, the newspaper has to pay a 15-million fine to the member of Yemen Congregation for Reform Sheikh Hamoud Hashim al-Tharihi, special preacher for the president Juma'a

prayers. A suit of defaming was filed against the newspaper by al-Tharihi.

This is considered the first sentence to be issued against one of the ruling party's or state-run newspapers that try frequently to defame many of the opposition leaders in Yemen.

## World Bank supports Taiz fishery sector

TAIZ BUREAU

A mission from the World Bank, within the frame of the UNDP, conducted a number of field visits to Taiz province in order to boost fisheries.

The mission held a meeting on Sunday October 10 at the Governorate Bureau with Taiz Governor Judge Ahmed Abdullah al-Hajri, discussing economic and social studies of Mokha, Thubab, and Bab-al-Mundab areas.

They reviewed the needed require-

ments for facilitating the study of the coastal areas and improving the conditions of fishermen, the possibility of supporting them with conventional fishing tools and preparing the Fifth Fishery Project.

The meeting was attended by Taiz General Manager of Fishery Wealth, Mr. Muhammad al-Dabbely, and the Consultant to the Environmental Department & Environmental Resources Development, Dr. Khaled al-Hareery as well as the Project Coordinator, Dr. Omar Awadh Subayh.

## After prison, young man wants equal employment opportunity

## Girl found dead

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Several suspects are in custody after the body of a 16-year-old girl was found by locals living in Taiz Street, last Wednesday.

Investigating officers got information about the perpetrators when they saw blood drops in the vicinity of an apartment belonging to one suspect, after he confessed to the crime.

The sources also said that one of those found guilty prepared a vacant apartment belonging to his relatives and summoned the girl, who was also living in a neighboring apartment.

It's believed one of the perpetrators sexually assaulted the victim.

The security authorities arrested the perpetrators and they are now conducting the necessary investigation.

## New airbus

A new airbus plane (A330-200) joined the fleet of Yemenia planes on Oct. 27.

The Air-Bus plane has arrived from Toulouse, the French town where it's made.

The Chairman of the Yemenia Board of Directors, Capt. Abdul Khaleq al-Qadhi, said the craft is welcome, as it has efficiencies and advanced technology.

It comes within the company's plan to broaden and modernize Yemen Airways routes to meet travelers' requirements.

## Hail Sa'eed Company organizes cultural contests

TAIZ BUREAU

National Food and Diaries Company, represented by Rami Mohammed Abdu Saeed, organized the activities of the first cultural contests of Hayel Saeed Group under the slogan "Group Resources are Stars and Creativity" in the hall of the company in Taiz from Oct. 19- 30.

These activities aim to promote the cultural role of the group's employees and create a cultural and intellectual link among them.

In his speech, Rami Mohammed

thanked the preparatory committee of the contests including the information consultant office that was so enthusiastic in this event.

"We hope this activity will fulfill what's hoped in finding and developing talents. We were amazed by the wonderful participation. The talented participants have excelled and showed more than we expected in terms of culture and intellectualism."

There was a photo and painting gallery, poems recitation, and different activities run by the participating groups.

## Qat: 22 million working hours wasted every day

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor announced that it is preparing for a national conference on qat and its environmental, economical and health effects.

Location of the conference is still to be announced.

Statistics show that qat chewers in Yemen are 6 million and the average of chewers is expected to increase to in a few coming years. The average now is 80- 85 per cent among men and more than 30 per cent among women.

The daily expenditure paid by students and officials on qat is YR 300 - YR 800 per person and it is YR 1,000 - YR 4,000 among the middle and rich classes. This number exceeds the expenses on the daily food and com-

modities among the class of students and officials.

The statistics of the ministry of agriculture point out that the lands having been used in planting qat in 1990s was 77.7 per cent of the agricultural lands, reaching a 7.8 per cent annual growing average. This rate is slightly more than that of the average population growth, which is 3.7 per cent. The lands that are for planting all kinds of fruits equal only a third of the lands of qat.

The average of what is bought of qat by the Yemeni person is YR 300 - 800 for about 6 million citizens making the daily expenditure of selling qat is between YR 1.8 - 4.8 billion (\$10 million - \$26.5 million per day)

The wasted time, that's spent in chewing qat, can be estimated as 22 million daily working hours and 8.5 billion annual working hours.

## Certain flour and sugar, suspect Consumer Protection Society issues notice

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Sana'a-based Yemeni Society for Consumers' Protection issued on Wednesday a precautionary notice warning citizens that certain quantities of Australian flour packed locally have now become inedible due to improper storing.

In a statement sent to the press and

other governmental and non-governmental establishments, the society stressed the need to track down those packs, which are marketed in the capital city and a number of other neighboring governorates.

The society also warned that quantities of Brazilian sugar have solidified as a result of improper storing, and have very close expiry dates.

The society called upon the authorities to carry out its duties in tracing those packs and hold merchants who continue to sell them to the public accountable.

The society also expressed its willingness to provide further information about those packs and up-to-date information to concerned citizens and organizations in Yemen and abroad.

## Taiz Local Council withdraws confidence from public servant

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Local Council of Taiz Governorate has decided to withdraw confidence from Eng. Najeed al-Hemyari, General Manager of the Public Works & Roads Office.

The decision was taken during the conclusion of the third regular session for the Year 2004, which was held on Sunday, October 24, and chaired by the Secretary General of the Council, Deputy of Taiz Governor.

The Council has used its legal authorities against Mr. al-Hemyari because of his not implementing the directives of the Council.

Not only that, he had also committed numerous infringements with the result of damaging his work.

## Police kill Al-Waqidi's son

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- The son of Sheikh Ahmad Ali Al-Waqidi, one of the prominent Sheikhs in Rada'a, was killed last Friday by the police after they attempted to storm Al-Waqidi's house in Khawlan Street.

Sources say that a battle between the police and the son of Al-Waqidi took place when the police wanted him to hand over his personal gun to them. The fatal clashes resulted in the killing of Al-Waqidi son by a policeman with a bullet in his head.

The Ministry of Interior resorted to the arbitration of tribesmen.

This incidence is considered as one

of a series of frequently committed incidents by the security officers, who, prior to this, killed a citizen at his house and before his family members with the belief that the number plate of his bus is not renewed.

Police officers, recently deployed throughout the capital, carry out their duties in the framework of a security deployment plan implemented by the Ministry of Interior since 2002.

The police recruits were ordered to work in the field without adequate training according to the law and the way of dealing with people. According to the source, such inadequate training makes the police recruits face recurrent confrontations with citizens all over Yemen.

### Readers' Voice

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

### This edition's question:

Do you have hope in that the international community will pressurize the government to release Al-Khaiwani?

- No, they wouldn't exert enough pressure
- Yes they will, and will result in his release
- Yes, but their pressure will not be enough

### last edition's question:

Based on the Front page story on religious schools, do you think that these schools should be closed or adapted to a more non-religious system?

- No, leave them alone 61%
- Yes, change or close them 39%

Go to our website at:  
[yementimes.com/#poll](http://yementimes.com/#poll)  
and have your voice heard!

*An interview with Dr. Ahmed Saleh Al-Sayid,  
UNESCO representative to Yemen*

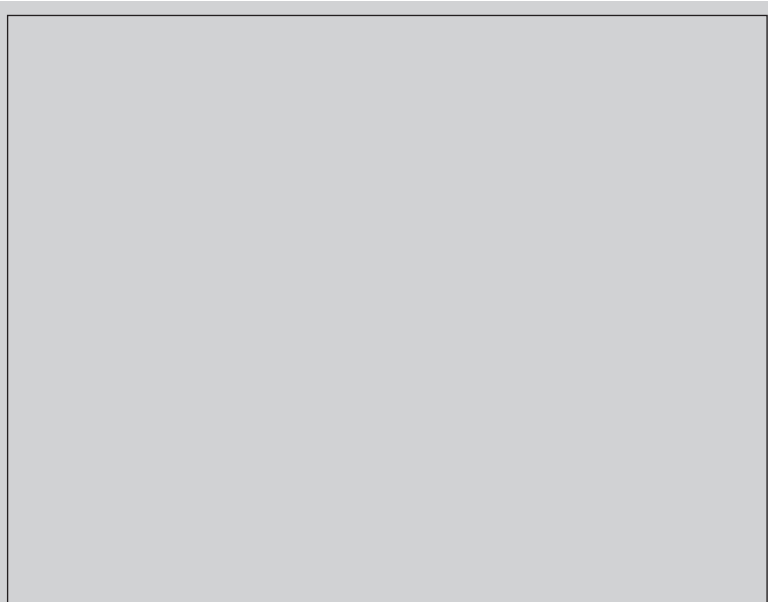
# Bringing nations together

BY RAFAQ YASSIN  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Yemen and UNESCO have had many bright achievements and cooperation for more than four decades. Yemen has received financing and support for many development projects, particularly those related to documentation, maintaining heritage, and preserving many old Yemeni historic cities such as the Old City of Sana'a, Shibam Hadhramout, Zabid, and the Al-Ameriah School in Al-Baidh'a.

Also, the organization gives much care for the diamond of the Red Sea, Socotra, through its repeated emphasis on preserving the environmental wealth of Yemeni natural protectorate. This goal will be achieved in co-ordination with the international organization and specialized scientific centers concerned with protecting protectorates around the world.

We are going to find out more about Yemen and UNESCO through this interview with Yemeni academic, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saleh Al-Sayid, UNESCO representative of Yemen.



Prof. Dr. Ahmed Saleh Al-Sayid

He was a member of the executive council for two successive terms and as assistant general director for foreign affairs in the UNESCO. He has sought improvement of international cooperation between Yemen and UNESCO.

UNESCO's care in its strategies,

programs, and plans of organizing a variety of scientific events in Yemen embodies the distinguished efforts of this talented personality that has targeted the cultural, educational and documentary relations since 1980.

Following are edited excerpts.

**Q: Did the Yemeni Reunification affect Yemen-UNESCO relations?**

A: There's no doubt about that. Yemen's new situation affected meaningfully its relations with the international organizations in general and the UNESCO in particular. Yemen made a qualitative transfer after the Reunification. After this civilized enterprise, I was happy when I was appointed as ambassador and representative of Yemen at the UNESCO. In fact, when I was a representative of the Arab Republic of Yemen before Reunification, I never forgot the cultural status of what was called the southern part, especially that it had no representative. I acted during that period as the representative of Yemen going beyond the borders and had received many telephonic calls from the scientific, cultural and educational mediums in the southern part for the sake of cooperation. I did my best in supporting those foundations in front of the UNESCO officials. Being the representative of the Arab Republic of Yemen was not a hindrance. On the contrary, I was very happy even before the Reunification, these issues are known and documented on the national and international levels.

I worked for both parts at the same time. Since then, Yemen's attitude has been changing. The Republic of Yemen, having only one international identity, gained a better position at the UNESCO that differs from the previous one in terms of international representation, size, population, geography and the future prerequisites. Yemen became in need for many things besides the international participation and the one identity of Yemen. This compelled us as representatives of Yemen at the UNESCO to make a transfer to the new period and new situation.

**Q: Do the state and opposition in Yemen get your academic care? Is there enough study and scientific objective criticism?**

A: The experience of state and opposition is undoubtedly distinctive. It's issues like that of press freedom which the UNESCO contributed to and in international conference was held in Sana'a. There are many issues and documents that recorded Sana'a Declaration of Press Freedom. Concerning the issue of state and opposition, we have many experiences now that are supposed to be taken care of to develop and support them and to enrich political and cultural partisanship. The issues of having many parties and founding opposition can invest all efforts and capabilities in order to improve this country which really needs efforts from all whether in the government or the opposition. The democratic experience in Yemen is of the experiences that we should be aware of improving it and ensuring that it won't be hindered, or it will be trouble to the whole country.

**Q: At the beginning of the 1980s,**

the Palestinian cause was the main factor of the hostile attitudes of the U.S. and against UNESCO. Is there a positive improvement in the US attitudes towards Arab issues discussed at UNESCO?

A: The US has its own policy for UNESCO but we don't intervene in its policy. The organization presents a variety of aids in the fields of education, culture, science, and telecommunication to the Palestinian establishments and there are frequent visits of missions. There is also a joint committee between UNESCO and the Palestinian authority and it is concerned with coordinating and cooperating in the field of offering support for the Palestinian establishments. In fact, the US, after coming back to UNESCO, became a supporter for the organization in financing some enterprises in education, culture, science and telecommunication in Palestine. The political attitude is different. For example, when adopting any draft, the decision comes in favor of the Palestinian cause. We try to make a unanimous agreement but if we don't reach that, we take the votes democratically. But reaching a decision by majority won't be as strong as unanimous agreement. The conference of the organization held one year ago came out with some decisions related to supporting educational and cultural foundations in Palestine. The US and the UK were among the voters. We felt strong because we're executing many projects now; the Palestinian side was happy consequently. We support the Palestinian authority in various fields trying to avoid political attitude because we consider it should be discussed at the UN, New York.

**Q: You once said UNESCO is a political organization that is not intervening in politics. Other consultants have since said it is political. What can you say now in this respect?**

A: Despite our attempt not to interfere in the political issues and we leave them for the UN, politics is still available in the UNESCO programs and directions. This issue was realized by the founders of the UNESCO so when we refer to its basic constitution, we find that the political aspect is obvious. Generally speaking, it is enough to say it was founded after World War II for the sake of continuous international humanitarian work to prevent repeating the same mistakes of human crimes by nations that lead to a third war.

The founders thought of establishing this organization. This is a political thought for planting seeds of peace and culture of dialogue in the human minds. Therefore, the first sentence that was included in the preamble of UNESCO foundation constitution which states that "Because wars are founded in the human minds, castles of peace should be built in their minds." This is seen as a political idea, but we will keep on devoting our international

humanitarian endeavors throughout the fields of education, culture, science, and telecommunications. All that to achieve the goal of protecting humanity from wars and military conflicts and promote for adopting dialogue, developing and spreading culture of peace between different religions, supporting potential issues in the field of dialogue among civilizations and cultures between nations that are desirous for peace and cooperation.

**Q: Are there future plans of the UNESCO in supporting Arab-European ideas and projects?**

A: This is actually a new idea. Adopting such ideas and views is ascribed to the efforts of the national committees in both Europe and Arab area. These ideas were developed in UNESCO taking their way to be able to present the future projects in the field of developing the Europe-Arab dialogue. We discussed many issues in a meeting and an agreement with the people who are concerned with the Europe-Arab dialogue was reached stressing the successive UNESCO support for serving the purpose of improving this direction considering it really embodiment of the UNESCO constitution.

The dialogue, besides, is considered of the basic issues for we find there is misunderstanding among people and nations, though the individuals' dialogue is available. What we aim to get throughout a number of strategies and programs is that to reach to respect of others. I say 'others' meaning anything either culture, religion, credit, man, woman, child.

Thus any dialogue will improve such human issue and the UNESCO surely encourages it powerfully, that's why we'll support the recommendations of the consultant meeting that was held in Sana'a. I think the European and Arab national committees will play a vital role in the future in this respect. It is worth mentioning that UNESCO is considered the only one of the U.N. organizations that's distinguished with national committees for education, culture and sciences in all the country members. We are proud of that, so as soon as these committees get the required capabilities and there is encouragement for them, they contribute to peace and culture of dialogue among nations.

**Q: What are the problems that hinder Europe-Arab relations?**

A: As I have explained before that there is misunderstanding between nations in regard with Arab and Islamic culture and the religions views about each other. They view other religions as opposite, not united work to serve the same goals and human, cultural and scientific issues. In addition, there is a political quarrel when dealing with some issues. The Palestinian issue will stay a problem in the way of developing the potential projects in the field of Europe-Arab dialogue and the general relations unless it is justly

solved by effective European attitudes that support the Palestinian people for regaining all their rights and stopping all the forms of destruction and oppression which are still getting worse and worse targeting their educational, scientific and cultural establishments. There is also another problem that's the inferior look at Arabs by themselves and by European as well. This is in fact a result of misunderstanding and the dialogue in my opinion is of the main issues to get rid of misunderstanding and to go on development of dialogue and exchanged respect for others' principles in order to make each civilization keep its own precepts. In other words, there should be neither marginalizing for others' principles nor opposing, labeling them infidel, humiliating them as happens sometimes by this or that culture or nation.

**Q: Are there different European attitudes from American ones in dealing with Arab issues?**

A: Undoubtedly, in my opinion, the closeness and proximity makes the European attitude much more close to our Arab mentality. Therefore we find positive attitudes by the European Union that are different from the American policies. The European policy is actually facing many troubles that are in varying the political attitudes of the European countries of the union. In spite of that, the members of the union are going in serious scientific steps towards the political unification and a new director for the European commissioner who is the Portugal prime minister. These positive orientations in the commissioner confirm that they are working to unify their viewpoints in order to avoid any problems that may make division between them in the future. Regarding the European attitude about the Palestinian issue, there is a difference between it and the American policy because the Europeans are much more aware of the reality of Arab conditions.

*Life slows down*

## Ramadan's habits and trials

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Ramadhan in Yemen leads to a different scene on Yemeni streets. The nights silence turns at noon time, the noon's movement turns to nights. The movements in the streets and markets decreases and is about to be in-existent in the mornings and afternoons, but the life scenes regain gradually after the prayer in the afternoon.

The Yemeni towns streets witness heavy crowd in the last minutes before sunset's calling (breakfast adhan), because of the natives return from the trips that they perform outside the town and for purchasing qat.

During the last days of Ramadhan, the drop in commercial activity is also noticed. Commercial cheating in the markets also becomes clear. Spoiled grains no longer suitable for humans might be sold by some, along expired chickens, and even expired medicines.

Nonetheless, people don't care to what is going on around them and they practice Ramadhan as best they can. Dining tables in Yemen, and in Sana'a in particular, are decorated by a number of sweets, most famous of which is the Turkish sweets called 'Rawani' and 'Qataeef' which are inherited by the Sana'anis from the Turkish folks during the ex-Turkish reign in Yemen. These Turkish sweets, as well, are inherited by the rest of Yemen people besides currant drinks and barley drinks too.

Ramadhan food in Yemen is distinguished than in the other Islamic countries despite the close similarity in Ramadhan sweets, as the Yemenis tend to cook light meals followed by fatty dishes.

Ramadhan's main two dishes which habitually exist during the month in the whole Yemen are al-shefoot and shurbah. The first is made up of sorghum layers called 'lehooh',

and the other one is made up of half-grind wheat after mixing with milk and sugar or with meat soup, according to the tastes and possibilities. There are also the 'sulteh' known as a main dish in Sana'a, and 'al-asedah', 'al-soosi', al-bajiah, al-ta'miah, and kufteh (kubab) are also popular dishes.

After taking supper, the people come out of their homes heading to the mosques for evening prayer. Some of them stay in the mosques for performing al-taraweeh prayer (self-relax prayer) whereas some others pray too singly or reciting the Qura'an.

Al-taraweeh prayer, in some mosques, is not performed collectively as the prevailing idea in the past used to interpret al-taraweeh prayer collectively as a new adoption which means forbidden in Islam. Thereafter, the citizens meet each other in chewing qat gathering which continues until earlier in morning times i.e. till some time before 4.00 o'clock a.m., during which as well the Yemenis ask each other about their conditions.

In Yemen, the Ramadhan scenes have its own habits. Banks, municipalities, and the general departments employees start their work after the admitted appointment in the normal days by two hours. Despite that, the life in the day time seems to freeze abnormally - as if it becomes night time - except the necessary simple movement that remains normally.

And in lieu of that, the night during Ramadhan, in Yemen, turns as day time with its full movement, shopping, and wandering in the streets too.

Most of the Yemenis spend their night in chewing qat which matter doubles, and in some cases, reach to triple the quantities consumed in the normal times. But, the negative sense realized out of Ramadhan that the activities of the state production establishments are deteriorating because many of the employees go on leave during this holly month!!

Continued from page 1

## Yemen has bad attitude toward press freedom

In a statement jointly released by the syndicate and the Center of -RMDQDLWfreedoms, grave concerns were expressed regarding "the unexplainable ignorance of the Yemeni government to the calls of the local and international community to release Al-Khaiwani who has been subject to brutal treatment in his prison cell."

"Such action is causing tremendous damage to YHPHCs image in the region and the world," the statement said.

The statement concluded with call to the Ministry of Information to "stop using twisted means to punish journalists by filing lawsuits that are used by the authorities to subject journalists to unjust sentences."

"We hope that the ministry would implement the press and publication law in a way that would preserve and promote freedom of expression and not the opposite."

### Decline of freedom in Yemen

A number of Arab countries were worse than Yemen in respect to freedom of the press. Those countries were Saudi Arabia, Libya, Tunisia, Iraq, Syria, Iraq, Djibouti, and UAE. However, the newly issued report is a major disappointment in the eyes of donor countries and local and international observers and organizations, who had bet on YHPHCs model as an emerging democracy in the region and thought that the level of freedom of the press in Yemen would rise rather than decline. The report had given positions that are better than Yemen for a number of Gulf countries in the index, including Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar.

The report mentioned that several incidents of physical attacks, harassment and obstruction against journalists were reported in 2003. "Mass arrests, torture and execution are still a feature of Yemeni life and parliamentary and institutional human rights guarantees have been curtailed

since 2002," the report said.

### Middle East at the bottom

It was not only Yemen that was harshly criticized in the report. The report noted that the level of press freedom in the Middle East as a whole was also in decline. In fact, the title of the recent report by RFS was, "East Asia and Middle East have worst press freedom records".

The report is expected to trigger more action that would support democratizing the region as reformists have been requesting the international community to help support their efforts in reforming laws that hinder democratic development.

It also reinforces the opinion that lack of information and access to free media has been a major factor behind the poor level of development in the Arab world, particularly in the field of human development.

## Yemen wants to see Somalia stabilize

Ahmed Al-Basha, Head of the African Department at YHPHCs Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that Yemen, which has been supporting Somalia to find a peaceful solution during the civil war which has lasted for 13 years, is also optimistic with the democratic peace process that can pull the nation together.

"We always support the democratic system as a way to get out of tribal ruling, a one party system or one ruler over the people," said Al-Basha.

"We support the selection of the representatives of the Somali people, including the president, prime minister, speaker of the house and members of the parliament. We always think that the Somalis should have their own free choice. Democracy is the way to get out of all the problems in East Africa, so we have hope in President

Yusuf and the new government."

Fighting between warring factions began in 1991 after Mohamed Siad Barre regime was ousted. Up to a million Somalis have died from clashes, famine and disease and thousands have fled the country.

President Yusuf took the oath of office on October 14 in Nairobi, Kenya, and is expected to form a new cabinet in the next few weeks. The new government will move to Mogadishu, 6RPDOLdeapital, in the near future.

Last Saturday, a Somali delegation representing the new government held talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh in SDQDD concerning the peace process to bring stability to the Somalia.

The new government will face challenges, however. Education, healthcare and services are

in shambles, and up to 60,000 armed Somalis from different militias are still based in Mogadishu

Yemen and Somalia believe that help from the international community is critical to stabilize and rebuild the war-ravaged country.

"The Somalis agree on a political framework to rule themselves, but there are still people carrying weapons, having no opportunities, no services, no healthcare and no education. The support from the country's neighbors, Arab countries, and the international community is very important to rebuilding Somalia," said Al-Basha.

Adam emphasized that the commitment from other countries to help Somalia rise from the ashes is key. "The peaceful solution not only depends on the commitment of the Somali people, but also on how the commitment of neighboring countries in the international community will be kept," said GDP.IBGRQWKDYHWKHMFRP - mitments to support the changes politically and economically, it will be difficult to reach our goal."

Last Saturday, the new Somali president asked the African Union (AU) to send 20,000 peace-keeping troops to Somalia to help secure the country and disarm the militias. It is said that the AU will accept the request, and the European Union has shown a commitment to assist Somalia in the rebuilding process and form the government administration.

The relationship between Yemen and Somalia is important both politically and economically. Both see the importance of the stability of the Horn of Africa region.

"Stability and security of the Horn of Africa will be a major part of security to the world," said Al-Basha. "These two countries have a common goal of fighting terrorism and fighting the smuggling of weapons and drugs."

Economic ties have also been important over the years. Before the civil war, Yemeni businessmen were second only to the Italians in how much they invested in Somalia.

"Historically, Yemenis have always been involved in business in the Horn of Africa," said Al-Basha. "And Somalia has a lot of potential, such as in agriculture, a very long shoreline and a fish industry, so it can flourish. When Yemeni investors find a good market, a good political system and security, they will be ready to go to Somalia."

And according to Adam, "The relationship between Somalia and Yemen will continue to strengthen through future cooperation. The presence of President Saleh at the inauguration of President Yusuf was significant. It showed YHPHCs support to a peaceful solution and it called on support from the international community."

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# Rebel-held Falluja emptied of women and children

FALLUJA, Iraq, Oct 26 (Reuters) - If U.S.-led forces carry out a threatened full-scale assault on the Iraqi city of Falluja, they will find the rebel stronghold virtually deserted.

Thousands of women and children have long since fled almost daily bombardment of the city by U.S. warplanes.

Shops open for only a few hours a day. Their shutters close when the first shots are fired in frequent clashes between U.S. marines on the edge of Falluja and guerrillas in the city.

"Three-quarters of the people have fled to other towns to avoid the American air strikes, especially the women and children," said Abdel Aziz Ibrahim, a teacher.

"I stayed but my family is in Baghdad so the kids can go to school. No schools are open in Falluja now because of the security situation."

Bank employee Mohammed al-Alwani said: "Whoever looks around Falluja now can only feel sadness. The damage is so heavy the suburbs look like they were hit by an earthquake."

Iraq's U.S.-backed interim government, determined to pacify the country before elections in January, has vowed to retake Falluja by force unless it hands over al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and his followers.

"CITY OF THE MOSQUES"  
Known in Iraq as "The City of the Mosques", Falluja has a population of

**Men walk in the rubble in the wake of an overnight air raid that destroyed one house and damaged three in the Iraqi city of Falluja October 26. The U.S. military said it killed an ally of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in an overnight air raid on Falluja on Tuesday, as the Iraqi government tried to find out how Zarqawi's group managed to kill 49 unarmed army recruits. A statement said the "precision strike" in northwest Falluja at 3 a.m. (2000 EDT) had hit a safe house used by the Jordanian militant's al Qaeda-linked network, adding that a known associate of Zarqawi was present at the time.** REUTERS

300,000 and lies in the central Sunni Muslim heartlands that are the epicentre of anti-American militancy.

The spectre of an all-out battle has prompted hundreds of families to seek a better life elsewhere.

Falluja's schools never opened their doors at the start of this academic year. Even if they had, few parents would have risked sending their children to lessons in a volatile city controlled by heavily armed militants.

Washington says Falluja is a stronghold for foreign Islamic fighters led by Zarqawi and Saddam Hussein supporters, but residents deny the city has become a magnet for militants from outside Iraq.

The U.S. military says its air strikes target safe houses used by Zarqawi's fighters. Residents deny any knowledge of the Jordanian militant and say the strikes exact a heavy toll on civilians as well as bolster home-grown

resistance to the American presence in Iraq.

"These months are the hardest we have faced. Our families have fled north and south," said Farhat Said, 37, who runs a car parts and accessories shop.

"But our will is strong and we will continue to resist the occupation and cleanse our city of occupiers," he said.

Falluja's industrial zone, once an important source of income, has been caught up in the fighting.

Not all families can afford to leave and others refuse to be refugees in their own country, even if it means facing a military onslaught.

Few have forgotten the last major U.S. offensive in April, launched after four American security guards were killed in the city and cheering crowds hung the charred bodies from a bridge.

Hundreds of Iraqis were killed in the fighting.

When U.S. troops left they entrusted a "Falluja Brigade" led by former Baathist army officers to impose security. But by July, the force had collapsed, leaving militants and insurgents in control.

Many fathers and husbands are spending the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan alone in Falluja.

"My family is living in Basra now. I haven't seen my children for two months," Alwani said. "I miss them so much. They are always on my mind."

# Iraq PM blames US-led forces' "neglect" for massacre

BAGHDAD, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said on Tuesday "major neglect" by U.S.-led forces led to the murder of 49 Iraqi army recruits by insurgents this weekend.

"There was an ugly crime in which a large group of National Guards were martyred," he told Iraq's national assembly.

"We believe this issue was the outcome of major neglect by some parts of the multinational (forces)."

He did not explain. Al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility on Sunday for the killing of the unarmed Iraqi soldiers who were dressed in civilian clothes and on their way home on leave.

The recruits were killed with shots to the head by guerrillas posing as police at a checkpoint.

A spokesman for the U.S.-led forces in Iraq said only "terrorists" were to blame.

"This was a cold-blooded and systematic massacre by terrorists. They and no one else, must be held fully

accountable for these heinous acts," he told Reuters by e-mail.

"The Iraqi interim government is investigating this tragic incident. We will provide full support and cooperation to establish the facts and avoid repetition of similar events."

Allawi said he had ordered an investigation into the cause of the attack, one of the bloodiest yet against the country's fledgling security forces.

A source from his office told Reuters on Monday the government was probing whether the attackers had inside information on the movements of the victims and why they had no weapons or armed escort.

A senior Iraqi security source said it appeared the soldiers, based at Kirkush, 90 km (55 miles) northeast of Baghdad, were ambushed by a large well-organised source with good intelligence.

The killings were a major blow to the interim government, which is trying to show its security forces will be able to ensure elections scheduled for January can go ahead.

# Israeli parliament backs Sharon Gaza pullout plan

JERUSALEM, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Israel's divided parliament ratified Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Gaza withdrawal plan on Tuesday, a pivotal step towards the first evacuation of settlers from occupied territory Palestinians want for a state.

After a fierce two-day debate, legislators voted 67-45, with seven abstentions, for the U.S.-backed pullout.

Under the plan, the actual uprooting of settlements, a four-stage process slated for completion in 2005, can begin only after a cabinet vote set for March.

Sharon's hard-fought victory came at a price: his landmark proposal has drawn death threats against the former general, splintered his government and turned many members of his right-wing Likud party against him.

Settlers who ringed the heavily-guarded parliament held placards calling him a traitor.

"We liquidated Rabin and we will liquidate Sharon," said a slogan daubed on a wall in Jerusalem, referring to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, assassinated in 1995 by a far-right Jew opposed to his peacemaking with the Palestinians.

It took the support of Shimon Peres's main opposition Labour Party — a potential coalition partner should Sharon's minority government unravel — to push the proposal to remove all 21 Jewish settlements in Gaza and four of the 120 in the West Bank through the 120-member Knesset.

SHARON STRESSES SECURITY

## Egypt: No sign bomber linked to Palestinian groups

**Supporters of the Jewish settlement movement dance during a gathering of thousands against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip, in front of Israel's parliament, or Knesset, in Jerusalem, October 26. Thousands of rightist protesters accused Sharon of treason as Israel's parliament looked set to approve the first pullout of settlers from land Palestinians seek for a state.** REUTERS

Sharon, once the settlers' champion, told parliament that "disengagement" from the Palestinians in Gaza would boost Israel's security and allow it to seal its grip on larger West Bank settlements.

Such comments have fuelled Palestinian fears that Sharon's real aim is to kill off a long-deadlocked peace process and deny them a viable state in the West Bank and Gaza.

Some 8,000 Israelis live in occupied Gaza in hard-to-defend settlements among 1.3 million Palestinians. Under Sharon's plan, the settlers will be evacuated in return for hundreds of thousands of dollars in compensation per family.

Protesters had hoped to hinder Knesset proceedings by forming a "human chain" and staging a go-slow parade of cars around the heavily-

guarded building.

"When you push someone into a corner, you cannot predict what he will do. The man who helped us build Gush Katif (Gaza settlement bloc) is betraying us now. We don't understand his about-face," said Aharon Tzur, a Gaza settler.

Nationalist hardliners in Sharon's splintered right-wing bloc believe his plan would be a dangerous prize to Palestinian militants after more than four years of violence and undermine Jewish claims to ancient biblical land.

Polls show most Israelis regard Gaza, captured along with the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war, as a liability that Israel should be rid of.

The latest survey, in Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth daily, found 65 percent in favour of "disengagement" and 26 percent opposed.

If implemented, it would be Israel's first removal of settlements from occupied territories since 1982, when the Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt under a 1979 peace treaty.

Sharon was keen for as wide a margin of victory as possible to dampen demands by pro-settler parties and his strongest Likud rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, for a referendum on his plan.

Yedioth said its poll found 40 percent supporting a referendum and 39 percent preferring parliament as the final arbiter, whereas 19 percent called for early elections.

Sharon has described a referendum as a stalling tactic.

helping the bombers.

Egyptian authorities say the attacks were carried out by four bombers, who left three car bombs at Taba and two beach camps south of Taba.

The Palestinian identified by Egyptian authorities as the organiser, Iyad Said Saleh, died in the explosion at the Taba Hilton hotel, along with a Sinai Bedouin accomplice, the Interior Ministry said.

A security official said police were looking for two other men who the ministry said had bombed two beach camps south of Taba.

**Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi (C) meets with members of the Independent Election Committee in Baghdad, October 26. Allawi said on Tuesday "major neglect" by U.S.-led forces led to the murder of 49 Iraqi army recruits by insurgents this weekend.** REUTERS

## Lebanon announces formation of new pro-Syria govt

BEIRUT, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Lebanese Prime Minister Omar Karami became the head of a new, pro-Syrian government on Tuesday to replace the one led by outgoing premier Rafik al-Hariri.

Soheil Bowji, the General Secretary of Lebanon's cabinet, read out a presidential decree declaring Karami the head of a new government.

"This is a government in concord and called on to serve Lebanon," Karami told reporters at the presidential palace. The new cabinet has 30 ministers, including two women — the first to serve in any Lebanese government.

The announcement was delayed by squabbling over the interior ministry and other key posts among politicians loyal to Syria, which has had the last word and thousands of troops in its smaller neighbour since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war.

The government change comes as Washington and the United Nations step up pressure on Syria over its grip on Lebanon, which last month extended the

term of pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud under what lawmakers said was Syrian pressure.

That ruling drew a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning foreign interference in Lebanon and calling for foreign forces to withdraw, a call the council repeated this month. Lebanon and Syria dismiss that demand as foreign interference in itself.

Karami's government faces a vote to approve its programme and lineup in parliament, where a large majority of deputies are likely to back it.

The interior ministry, which oversees security services that are key channels of Syrian influence, went to Suleiman Franjeh, a Christian from northern Lebanon whose grandfather was president when Syrian forces entered the country.

The finance ministry, which has been central to former PM Hariri's efforts to right disastrous public finances, went to economist Elias Saba.

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره  
نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى  
الشيخ/أحمد علي الواقدي

لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى

نجله/ عبد الحكيم

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمده بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه  
ويسكنه فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان  
«وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون»

الأسيفون:

حسن سعيد علي الزايدى - منير محمد علي الواقدي  
شيخ مشايخ قبيلة ال الواقدي (رداع)

## Women comprise 40 per cent of voters

# Afghan militants quiet on Election Day

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Afghanistan's first presidential elections in more than 20 years attracted thousands of security forces to allow the public to vote without fear of militants.

The vote last Saturday attracted about 11,800 Afghan soldiers and 25,000 police to guard the 22,000 polling sites across the country, while 18,000 US troops and a 9,000 strong NATO-led International Security Assistance Force kept watch on Afghanistan's vast terrain.

The remnants of the Taliban regime, ousted in late 2001 after the US invasion, have been threatening to derail the first presidential election in Afghanistan's history. For months, Taliban militants have been launching terrorist assaults, and many expected attacks to be worse on the day of elections.

But, as millions of Afghans went to the polls, problems were not in security but in irregularities in the polling process and complaints that came from the candidates running against President Hamid Karzai.

At some of the polls, the ink that was used to mark voters to prevent them from voting a second time could be washed off. Even though the mistake was corrected early in the day, the 15 candidates rivaling Karzai demanded to stop the election and boycotted the results.

Candidate Abdul Satar Serat claimed that the election was illegal and was "against Afghanistan's national benefits, it was against democracy in Afghanistan and it was against international law."

On election day, the Joint Election Management Body (JEMB), headed by Afghan and UN experts, decided to continue the polling process. A few days after the election, JEMB requested the United Nations to put together an independent commission to look into the complaints.

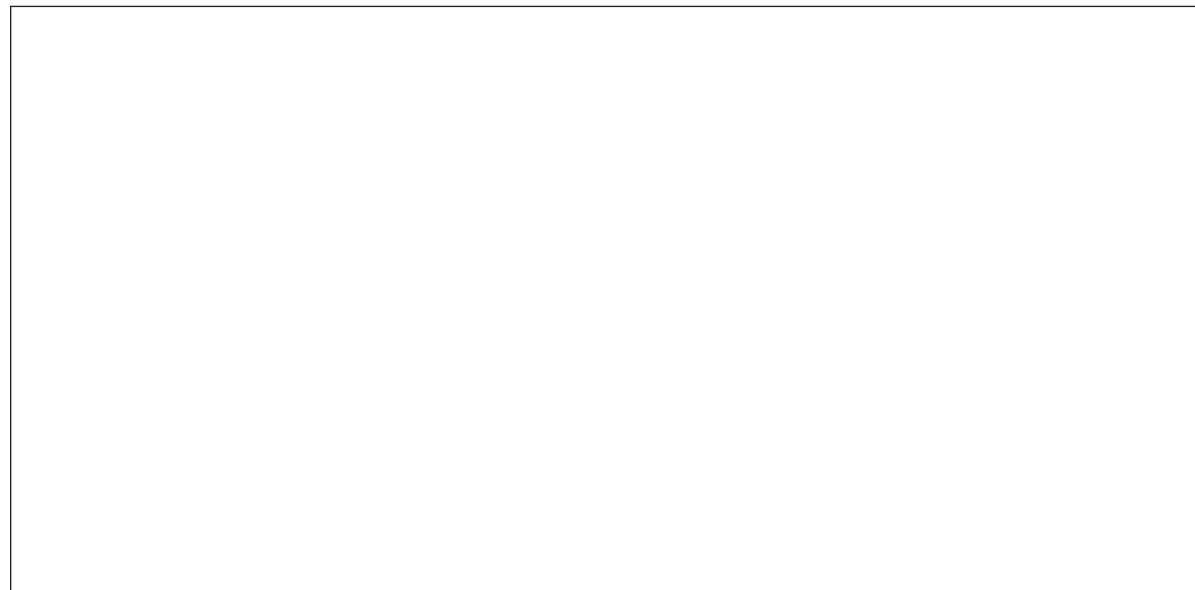
The commission will include a Canadian diplomat, an election specialist from Sweden and another member appointed by the European Union.

A number of candidates have decided to pull out of the boycott by accepting the results of the investigation. The leading candidate running against Karzai, Yunus Qanooni, is one of those who accepted the investigation.

President Karzai is the expected winner of the first elections being held for over two decades in the war-torn country.

"I don't think it was right to boycott the elections by presidential candidates because they and their supporters participated by casting their votes," said Abdul Latif Rahmani, Political Science Professor at Kabul University. "Boycotting usually means not participating in elections, so it was the right thing to do to challenge the results of an election that has irregularities."

The Organization for Security and



Afghan election workers open quarantine ballot boxes at a counting centre in Kabul October 26. With victory all but a formality in Afghanistan's historic presidential election, Hamid Karzai was on Tuesday waiting for the final votes to be counted to confirm his win and for a complaint panel to rule that there were no irregularities that could have affected the outcome. REUTERS

Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which has experience monitoring elections around the world, holds that scrapping the election and rescheduling it a second time is unjustified.

Robert Barry, Head of OSCE, said that canceling the election "would not do service to the people of Afghanistan who came out at great personal risk to vote. We believe that the candidates who have objections should submit them to the kind of investigation that

the joint electoral management body has offered."

The US Administration, which was urging Afghanistan to carry out elections before the US elections in November, said that the elections were a success.

"The Afghan people behaved wonderfully," said US National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice. "It was peaceful for the large part. The terrorists did not succeed in disrupting the

election."

Although the number of voters that turned out has not been calculated, JEMB's Spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva said that there were "massive" numbers of Afghans who showed up to vote.

JEMB was able to register up to 10.5 million eligible voters out of a population of 25 million. Over 40% of the Afghans that registered were women.

The initial counting of votes will be

done this week, but the total count will take up to three weeks due to Afghanistan's rugged terrain and problems in transportation.

It is reported that two voters were killed on the day of elections when their vehicle hit a landmine on its way to a polling station. In the Uruzgan province, 24 Taliban militants and one civilian were killed during clashes between US soldiers and the Taliban.

According to JEMB and US military sources, no voters were killed at polling sites.

Fighting between US forces and Taliban militants has intensified in the south of Afghanistan and over 1,000 people have been killed in the last 12 months. Terrorist attacks, mostly attributed to the Taliban, moved to the north this year which left around 40 aid and election workers dead.

Last month, the Taliban attempted to assassinate Karzai as he was campaigning in the town of Gardez. Just days before the election, Karzai's vice president running mate, Ahmed Zia Masood, survived an attack in a northern province.

But many believe that, despite the irregularities, with violence kept to a minimum and large numbers of Afghans able to vote, the elections have been positive.

"Even though we had a technical problem, the presidential election was carried out better than expected," said an Afghan analyst. "Most of us here in Afghanistan consider it a success."

## Mark Thatcher in court over Africa coup plot

CAPE TOWN, Oct 26 (Reuters) - The son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher appeared in a Cape Town court on Tuesday in connection with an alleged coup plot in Equatorial Guinea.

Mark Thatcher, 51, was arrested in Cape Town on Aug. 25 and faces charges of financing a coup to overthrow Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

His lawyers are challenging a judge's order that he appear in court on Nov. 26 to answer questions set by investigators from Equatorial Guinea, the continent's third largest oil producer.

Thatcher, who has denied the allegations, spoke to a crowd of journalists as he left the Cape High Court on Tuesday afternoon, but declined to comment on the case.

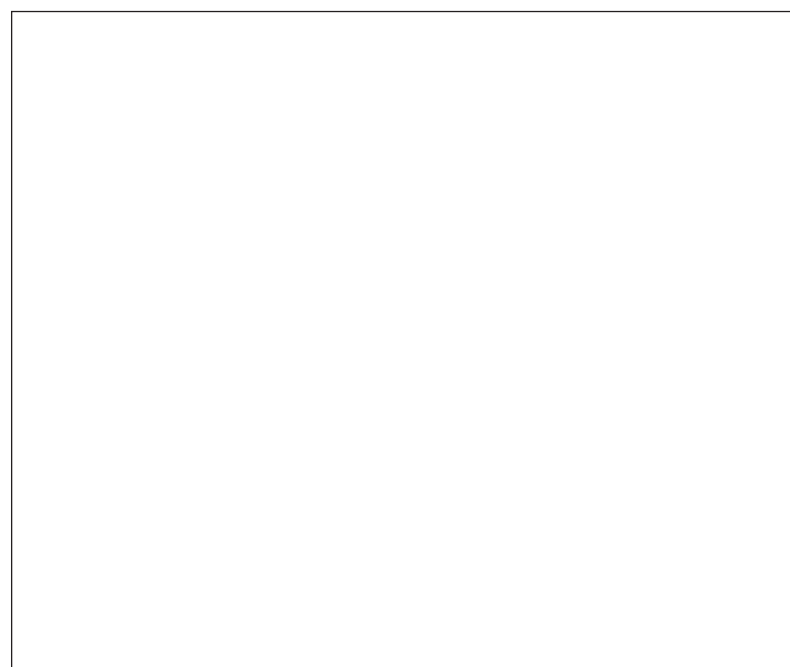
"The only thing that I can say is that since only one side has given its arguments, it would be inappropriate to make any comment at this stage," he said.

"Were I to do so, it would be preempting the decision of the bench, which everybody will understand why I can't do at all, so that's all I've got to say."

Thatcher's lawyers say the subpoena may infringe on his right to a fair trial in South Africa and in Equatorial Guinea should he later be extradited.

Equatorial Guinea has said it may seek to extradite Thatcher to face charges along with 14 suspected mercenaries already on trial in the country, which activists have often accused of human rights abuses.

The subpoena was issued after South African Justice Minister Brigitte Mabandla agreed to a request from Equatorial Guinea's Attorney General Jose Obono.



Mark Thatcher, son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrives at court with members of his legal team in Cape Town October 26. Thatcher's legal team was due to argue as to why he should not answer questions under oath concerning allegations of involvement in an attempted coup in Equatorial Guinea. REUTERS

Thatcher's lawyer Peter Hodes told the court Obono's application said Thatcher's testimony could help ensure a fair trial for the suspected mercenaries, who include several South Africans.

But Hodes said there was no reason to believe that Equatorial Guinea intended to give any of them a fair trial.

"Obono was duty-bound ... to be honest and frank and ultra scrupulous in the request, and not to be guilty of mendacity, which he clearly was ... There was every reason to refuse the request, because there was a lie," Hodes said.

The hearing continues on Wednesday.

South African justice officials say they believe Thatcher could get a fair trial in Equatorial Guinea, but they say no extradition request has so far been received.

He faces separate charges in South Africa over alleged violations of the country's strict anti-mercenary laws.

A Zimbabwe court sentenced Simon Mann, a former British special forces officer and a friend of Thatcher, to seven years in jail on weapons charges last month in a case prosecutors linked to the alleged coup plot.

## Japan quake survivors face rain, tremors, stress

NAGAOKA, Japan, Oct 26 (Reuters) - More than 100,000 exhausted survivors of Japan's deadliest earthquake in a decade bedded down again in schools, cars and tents on Tuesday as rain threatened to trigger more landslides and hamper rescue efforts.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi flew to the devastated area in an attempt to lift the spirits of the thousands left homeless and see for himself the damage caused by Saturday's quake and aftershocks that have killed 31.

"I painfully felt the need for us to take steps to help them get back to normal," Koizumi, wearing blue work clothes, told reporters after visiting several hundred people who had taken refuge in a gymnasium in Nagaoka city.

More than 3,400 people were injured and three, including two children, were still missing after the quakes that rocked rural Niigata prefecture, 250 km (150 miles) north of Tokyo, national broadcaster NHK reported.

About 40 small communities in the mountainous, rice-growing region were still cut off, but it was unclear how many inhabitants had yet to be rescued, a Niigata official said.

While the number of aftershocks had tapered off, worried authorities said it was too early to relax and urged caution around thousands of weakened buildings.

The tremors follow a record 10 typhoons to hit Japan this year, including one that killed at least 80 people last week.

Saturday's initial earthquake, with a magnitude of 6.8, was the deadliest in Japan since the Kobe earthquake killed more than 6,400 people in 1995.

About 47,000 people have been evacuated from their homes in Nagaoka, Niigata's second biggest city with a population of about 200,000.

In all, more than 103,000 people had been forced from their homes as of Tuesday.

"Our house is high up and the hill collapsed, and now the house is tilting over. Lots of homes nearby were demolished," Nagaoka resident Kazuo Hotaka, 76, said at a school gymnasium where he and his 70-year-old wife Taeko had spent the night.

"We don't have time to get sick. There's too much to do, too much to worry about, and too little information," Hotaka said.

The temperature was set to fall below 5 degrees Celsius (41 F) and rain might mix with snow in mountainous areas at night.

"Even a little rain at this point could really raise the danger of landslides," said an official at an emergency centre set up by the Niigata government.

"We will be hopeless if we have snow here now," said a middle-aged man who planned to spend the night in a tent.

### Bare necessities

Regional utility Tohoku Electric made progress in restoring power and the lights came back in the hard-hit rural town of Ojiya for the first time since the initial quake.

"Banzai! The lights are on," cheered retired fishmonger Tetsuo Miyagawa. "Now we just have to get back the gas and water supplies and it should be a enough."

About 29,000 households in the area, however, were still without electricity as of Tuesday afternoon.

Houses tipped sideways by the earthquake clung precariously to hillsides and road signs juttled from piles of earth and trees that had slid down mountains.

Hundreds of bottles for sake rice wine, for which Niigata is famous, lay shattered on the floor of breweries as workers worried about whether brewing, which takes place during the coldest months of the year, could be carried out as usual.

Soldiers were helping to deliver food, but some complained there was not enough to go around.

"Food, water and blankets have not been delivered to all of the afflicted

people. We hope to distribute relief goods to every one of them by tomorrow, but in reality it may be difficult to do so," said a Niigata prefectural government official.

"As temperatures are falling steadily, we need many stoves, but we don't have enough stoves and we don't have enough fuel," he added.

Residents of a remote part of the town of Kawaguchi, who have been cut off by landslides, painted a giant "SOS" on a road with a plea for bread and water.

"It is unlikely that anyone envisioned a scenario in which this society, abounding in affluence and convenience, could be smashed by a natural disaster to the point that a number of people must share a single rice ball," the Nihon Keizai Shimbun financial daily said in a commentary.

More than 2,800 homes were completely or partly destroyed and more than 1,000 other buildings damaged, NHK said.

Providing temporary housing for those who had lost their homes could take a month or two, NHK said.

Some train services were still halted and many roads were impassable, raising concern that businesses in the region, which include high-tech manufacturers, may be affected.

Earthquakes are common in Japan, one of the world's most seismically active areas. The country accounts for about 20 percent of the world's earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater.

## Zimbabwe unions say officials deporting S.Africans

HARARE, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Zimbabwe's main union movement said on Tuesday police had begun to deport a visiting union delegation from South Africa which had defied President Robert Mugabe's instructions to stay away.

A Reuters witness saw police

officials loading the South African delegation into a white minibus outside their hotel in Harare.

"They are being deported right now, the police are here and they are saying they should go," said Mlamleli Sibanda, spokesman for Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions which

invited the delegation from the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).

The 13-strong COSATU delegation flew into Zimbabwe late on Monday in defiance of a letter from Mugabe's government saying their planned fact-finding mission was "not acceptable".

Police officers check a graveyard at Jiganji temple where gravestones tumbled in Ojiya, northern Japan, October 26. More than 100,000 exhausted survivors of Japan's deadliest earthquake in a decade woke up in makeshift shelters for a third day on Tuesday as rain threatened to hamper relief efforts and trigger further landslides. Aftershocks continued to rattle rural Niigata prefecture, 250 km (150 miles) north of Tokyo, after the first big tremor on Saturday that killed at least 25 people and injured more than 2,700. Three people, including two children, were missing. REUTERS

# Bush, Kerry attack over security, taxes



**U.S. President George W. Bush speaks about the economy during a campaign event in Richland Center, Wisconsin, October 26. Bush holds a slim three-point lead over Democratic rival John Kerry one week before the November 2 presidential election, according to a Reuters/Zogby poll released today.** REUTERS

WASHINGTON, Oct 26 (Reuters) - President George W. Bush and Democratic Sen. John Kerry traded sharp accusations on national security, taxes and jobs on Tuesday, with Kerry questioning Bush's credibility and fitness to be commander in chief.

Bush charged Kerry's tax hikes for wealthy Americans would hurt small business owners and cripple their ability to create new jobs and claimed Kerry had been "consistently wrong" on the key national security issues of our time.

One week before the Nov. 2 election, both candidates went on the offensive in the battleground state of Wisconsin as they tried to gain a late edge in a deadlocked race for the White House.

After taking months of pounding from Republicans on his fitness to lead America in dangerous times, Kerry said Bush had "failed in his fundamental obligation as commander in chief to make America as safe and secure as we should be."

He accused Bush of trying to hide until after the election the news that 380 tons of powerful explosives disappeared from an Iraqi military installation after the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

Citing reports Bush would seek up to \$75 billion more in emergency funds to pay for the war after the election, Kerry said there was a pattern of deception on Iraq from an administration that refused to admit its mistakes.

"He failed to secure Iraq and keep it from becoming what it is today — a haven for terrorists," Kerry said in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

"Mr. President, what else are you being silent about? What else are you keeping from the American people? How much more will the American people have to pay?" he asked.

He called Vice President Dick Cheney "out of touch" for describing Iraq as "a remarkable success story" despite the steady diet of bad news there, including attacks on U.S. troops, the murder of Iraqi policemen, kidnappings and beheadings.

"They don't see it, they don't get it, they can't fix it," he said. "I can and I will."

Kerry said Americans "deserve a commander in chief who will tell the truth in good times and bad. This president has failed that fundamental test."

Bush, at a rally in Onalaska, Wisconsin, renewed his questions about Kerry's ability to fight the war on terror after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, suggesting Kerry wavered under political pressure.

He said Kerry did not have the

vision or backbone to lead the United States in Iraq or against al Qaeda.

"On the largest national security issues of our time, he has been consistently wrong," Bush said, citing Kerry's opposition to the 1991 Gulf War and saying Kerry opposed former President Ronald Reagan's stance against the Soviet Union.

"History has shown that Senator Kerry was right, then wrong, then briefly right, then wrong again," Bush said.

### 'You know where I stand'

"Even when you might not agree with me, you know where I stand, what I believe and what I intend to do. On good days and on bad days, whether the polls are up or the polls are down, I am determined to win this war on terror," Bush said.

Bush attacked Kerry's pledge to raise taxes on Americans making more than \$200,000 a year and said it would hurt small business owners and entrepreneurs.

"I understand if you create the demand for goods and services and provide incentives for investment, the economy grows," he said, calling it a "difference of philosophy" with Kerry.

"My opponent believes the economy grows by growing the size of the federal government," Bush told supporters. "I believe the economy grows by growing the size of the coffers of small businesses."

Bush also reached out to Democrats for support, which Kerry aides said was a sign Bush realizes he cannot win without expanding his pool of support. Bush said Kerry's stance on Iraq and national security was a repudiation of former Democratic Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman and John Kennedy.

"Senator Kerry has turned his back on 'pay any price' and 'bear any burden.' He's replaced those commitments with 'wait and see' and 'cut and run,'" Bush said.

Wisconsin, which Bush narrowly lost to Democrat Al Gore in 2000, is one of about 10 swing states likely to decide the winner of the White House. Polls show Bush and Kerry running neck and neck there.

Kerry later headed to another key swing state, Nevada, and both candidates planned to end the day in Iowa.

With the rivals turning to a variety of surrogates to help win over undecideds or energize their supporters, Kerry announced rock star Bruce Springsteen would campaign with him in Ohio and Wisconsin on Thursday and headline a Cleveland, Ohio, rally next Monday on the eve of Election Day.

# Schroeder, Chirac back Turkey's EU bid

BERLIN, Oct 26 (Reuters) - The leaders of France and Germany said on Tuesday they expected an EU summit in December to approve starting entry talks next year for Turkey's bid to join the European Union, despite wide opposition in their countries.

"You know my position. My wish is that Turkey should join as soon as the conditions allow," French President Jacques Chirac told a news conference after a meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Chirac and Schroeder, both strong advocates of starting EU entry talks with Turkey, will be heavyweight voices when European Union leaders decide in December whether to launch entry negotiations with Ankara.

But both face considerable domestic opposition to allowing a relatively poor, mainly Muslim nation of over 70 million people join the bloc, which has only this year expanded to absorb 10 mainly former communist from eastern Europe.

The two are due to meet Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan at a ceremony later where Turkish Airlines will sign for the purchase of 36 aircraft made by Europe's Airbus.

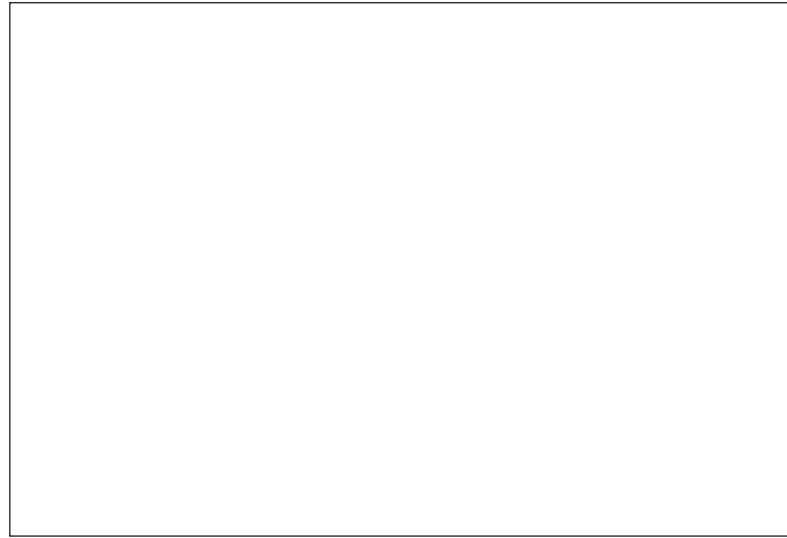
Chirac said negotiations with Turkey would be a long process but added: "It is in our interests that after 10 to 15 years the opportunity exists for Turkey to gain admission."

But he made clear France would press ahead with its plans for a referendum on the issue, a course which has upset Turkey.

Schroeder said negotiations with Turkey should be conducted with the "express aim" of Turkish entry and he brushed aside concerns from Germany's conservative opposition, which has proposed a form of "privileged partnership" for Turkey which falls short of full EU membership.

### Negative opinion Polls

"Germany will, as I've always stated, vote on December 16-17 in favour of entry negotiations. We are in agree-



**German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder (C) welcomes Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan (2L) and Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul (L) together with French President Chirac (2R) and French Premier Raffarin (R) in Berlin before their one day summit in Berlin October 26, 2004. Chirac and Schroeder, both strong advocates for launching EU entry talks with Turkey, are expected to discuss Ankara's bid at a one-day summit in the German capital.** REUTERS

ment with France," he said.

Both Chirac and Schroeder will have to go against opinion polls at home if they back a European Commission recommendation to open entry talks with Ankara.

Opposition in France is seen as high as 75 percent, and polls show the French fear Turks will flood the EU job market and are wary of allowing in a large Muslim country.

In Germany, home to 2.7 million people of Turkish origin, slightly more people oppose Turkey's entry than favour it.

"There are still questions about whether Chirac and Schroeder are prepared to go against the views of their people," said Dominique Moisi, deputy director of the French Institute for International Relations.

The problem is particularly acute for Chirac, whose popularity ratings have sunk to their lowest levels in seven years — partly because of the

Turkey issue.

His ruling conservative party is hostile to Turkey's bid and Chirac has angered Ankara by promising a referendum on the issue if EU leaders agree Turkey has met the membership criteria.

Chirac said on Tuesday the start of negotiations did not guarantee Turkish EU membership. If talks did not lead to Turkey's entry, another possibility would be a "system designed to conserve strong links with Turkey", he said.

Erdogan said last week that Turkish membership of the 25-nation EU would help reconcile Europe and the Muslim world rather than trigger a clash of civilisations.

The European Commission has added a caveat to its recommendation for entry talks to begin, saying negotiations should be suspended if Ankara backtracks on human rights or political reforms.

# Belgium holds suspect wanted in Saudi Arabia

BRUSSELS, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Belgian authorities said on Tuesday they had arrested one of the most wanted men in Saudi Arabia, where security forces have been fighting an insurgency by al Qaeda militants for over a year.

The federal prosecutor's office said it had been holding Moroccan Hussein Mohammad al-Heski on suspicion that he belonged to a terrorist group and had been planning an attack in Belgium.

"It is clear that he was up to something but there was no specific target," office spokeswoman Lieve Pellens said.

Pellens said Heski had been detained in July, but declined to elaborate on the circumstances of his arrest.

A Belgian judge is due to give a verdict on Friday on 10 people being tried for illegal possession of firearms and other charges, some of them linked to a foiled plot to bomb Strasbourg's Christmas market.

Most of the defendants are suspected to have ties to radical Islamist groups whose members were trained in Afghanistan to carry out attacks in Europe.

Although Heski is one of Saudi Arabia's 26 most wanted militants, officials are focusing on crimes he might have committed in Belgium.

Little is known about Heski, but he has been described by Saudi analysts as a "field combatant".

His detention brings to 17 the number of militants on the list who have surrendered or been either captured or killed by Saudi Arabian security forces.

More than 150 people have been killed in militant attacks and clashes with Saudi security forces.

# Ukraine TV station on hunger strike ahead of poll

KIEV, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Journalists at the only television channel in Ukraine to give the opposition air time ahead of a tight presidential election staged a hunger strike on Tuesday to denounce official pressure in the ex-Soviet state.

With five days to go in a campaign pitting the country's prime minister against a liberal challenger, Russian President Vladimir Putin was scheduled to make an unprecedented television appearance, answering questions from Ukrainian viewers.

With Russian influence still considerable 13 years after independence from Moscow, Putin has given every indication he backs Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich against opposition hopeful Viktor Yushchenko. The two contenders are in a virtual dead heat in polls and a run-off next month is almost certain.

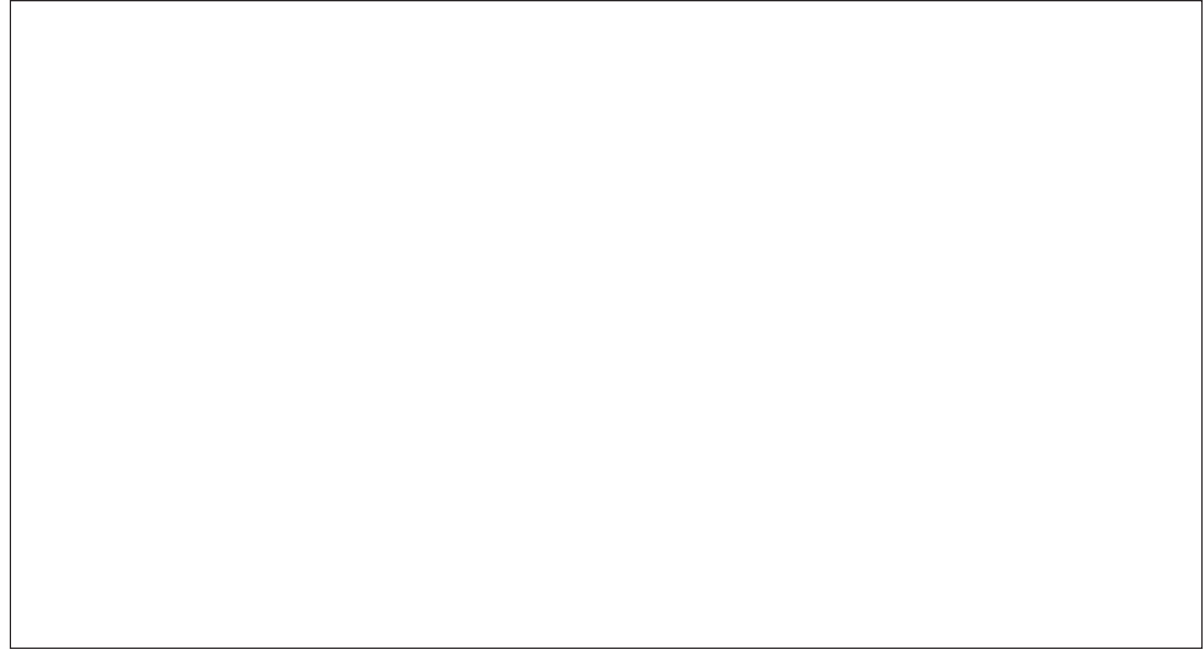
Outgoing president Leonid Kuchma, who cancelled a trip to Poland in view of mounting pre-election tensions, issued a new assurance that the poll would be free of cheating.

Yanukovich is backed by Kuchma, who is stepping down after a decade in power marked by impressive economic growth but also far-reaching political scandals.

The Fifth Channel, the only channel covering Yushchenko's campaign, proceeded with broadcasts while showing staff clad in white headbands and t-shirts drinking water out of plastic cups.

"This is political blackmail. We have been told that at election time we should all shut up," Andriy Shevchenko, the channel's chief editor, told Reuters.

Some 7,000 students massed in support of the protest in the western



**A Ukrainian man walks through a home appliance shop where television sets are broadcasting Russian President Vladimir Putin answering viewers' questions on three national networks in Kiev, October 26. Putin, in Ukraine to attend ceremonies marking the wartime liberation of Kiev, called for greater integration between the two former Soviet states and praised the economic policies of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, a major candidate in Sunday's presidential election.** REUTERS

city of Lviv, a Yushchenko stronghold.

Reporters say procedures to prevent the channel broadcasting nationwide, a court case which has frozen its bank accounts and threats to curtail its licence are politically driven.

Most television channels and major newspapers are controlled by the government or powerful businessmen close to Kuchma.

### West appeals for free elections

Washington and the European Union have urged Ukraine to stage free elections. Both cite media restrictions as a main concern in a campaign punctuated by charges of

dirty tricks and suggestions by each side that the other may disrupt the vote.

Passions have boiled over into minor clashes, including altercations after Yushchenko drew 100,000 supporters to a weekend rally in Kiev.

Kuchma renewed his promise that the election, the fourth since Ukraine declared independence, would reflect the will of Ukraine's 47 million people.

"We will do everything to ensure the election will be fair and that civil order will be upheld," Kuchma's office quoted him as saying at a meeting with election monitors.

Putin's on-air appearance at the height of an election was

unprecedented in post-communist practice. Russia officially stays out of the affairs of its neighbours, but makes clear its preference for specific in ex-Soviet states, tacitly backing separatist regions in Georgia, for instance.

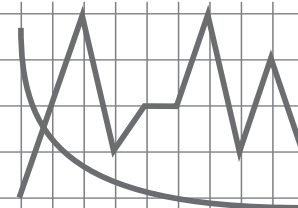
Putin met Yanukovich in Moscow this month, in a move interpreted as showing his support for the prime minister.

He and other leaders of ex-Soviet states are marking the 60th anniversary of the Soviet army's liberation of wartime Kiev, including a military parade moved forward a week without explanation — to put it before the elections.





# YT Business



## Ramadan not easy time

# Buying public, beware of rip-offs

By YASSER AL-MAYYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni market is flooded by imported foodstuffs. Local factories also double heavy quantities of productive articles including foods and drinks which become, in the absence of clear specifications and standards, a form of rubbish, adding much more misery to the tragedy.

At present, it is easy for anyone who has the capital to bring several kinds of goods as well as to open factories. He can do whatever he wants, just as he possesses the capital even at the expense of the poor categories in the society.

With the advent of the holy month (Ramadan), we often watch strange scenes prevailing the streets and every individual possesses tools to produce what he likes amidst the dust and the environment pollution, in addition to the use of cooking tools and oil that became expired and outdated.

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.9200	185.1400
Sterling Pound	338.1100	338.5100
Euro	233.2900	233.5600
Saudi Rial	49.3100	49.3700
Kuwaiti Dinar	627.4900	628.2300
UAE Dirhem	50.3500	50.4100
Egyptian Pound	29.6200	29.6600
Bahraini Dinar	490.5000	491.0800
Qatari Rial	50.8000	50.8600
Jordanian Dinar	260.8200	261.1300
Omani Rial	480.3400	480.9100
Swiss Franc	151.8700	152.0500
Swedish Crown	25.7000	25.7400
Japanese Yen	1.7194	1.7214

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

The responsible authorities are supposed to warn and punish those who violate the laws and regulations concerning the health of the citizen, even during the holy month and for the sake of the faster who is tolerating hunger and thirst for gaining the reward of providence.

The concerned authorities neglect what is required from them and leave the citizen live in an atmosphere of flaming prices on the one hand, and health catastrophe on the other.

The prices climb up to be as double as they were earlier and the trader does not abide by a specific price list, instead, he sells every thing according to his personal likes without any restrictions. The concerned parties do not follow up whether he is abiding by the regulations and giving up wasting the money of the citizens who exert heavy efforts in order to gain such money.

## Budget committee limits deficit by 3% for next year,

# WB warns against failure of economic reforms in Yemen

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In its meeting chaired by prime minister Abdulqader Ba Jammal, the Higher Budget Committee stressed on encouragement of government for productive investments for the creation of employment opportunities.

The meeting requested the ministry of finance and relevant parties that the proportion of deficit in the budget of the state for the year 2005 must not exceed 3% of the gross national product.

The committee has also approved to go ahead in the policy of economic reforms in Yemen in a way

harmonious with Yemen's pledges to development partners, such as Funds, banks and donor countries.

The meeting has shown the government keenness on creating job opportunities and expansion in building investment projects and establishment of stability in the national currency exchange rate against foreign currencies.

On the other hand the World Bank has warned Yemen against failure in the execution of the program of economic and financial reforms, drawing a dim picture of the situations if the authorities would not commit themselves to implementation of the program according to what had been agreed on

and raise the level of its performance. The WB mentioned what it named as serious failures in application of reforms as the Yemeni government was unable to utilize the opportunity of the rise in world oil prices in preserving the level of economic stability and preparation for development securities based on non-oil revenues.

The World Bank report has displayed that Yemeni export of non-oil products dropped by 13% in the last year and by 19% in this year. The WB report also criticized weakness of the private sector contribution to local investment as it has been revealed that the proportion of its investments contribution did not exceed 13%.

## A benefit to the private sector

# New \$300 million oil refinery on the Red Sea

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It was announced last week that the construction of a new oil refinery located at Ras Issa on the coast of the Red Sea will begin early next year.

The refinery, which is expected to be up and running in early 2007, is planned to have the capacity of 50,000 to 60,000 barrels per day (bpd). It will be near the terminal of the pipeline coming from the oil fields in the Marib province that was built by Hunt Oil.

Forty percent of the \$300 million oil project will be financed by Yemeni businessmen, while the rest will come from foreign investors and financial institutions. It is reported that the leading local investor is Hayel Saeed Group.

Some believe that along with the new refinery helping to meet an increase in local demand of petroleum products, the government allowing private investors to take part in the refinery is a big plus.

"This shows that the government is willing to handover projects such as these to the private sector," said Ismail Noman, an independent consultant in the petroleum industry. "This is a benefit to the private sector which can help Yemen's economy in the future."

Yemen now has two oil refineries, one located in Aden with the capacity of 150,000 bpd, and the other in the Marib

province producing 10,000 bpd. The refinery in Aden was built by British Petroleum in 1954 but was nationalized by the Yemen government in the late sixties.

"The oil refinery in Aden is old and the one in Marib is small," said Noman. "This refinery will be modern and will fit with international standards."

On a daily basis, Yemen produces roughly 450,000 barrels of oil, and around 85% of the government's revenue and 70% of the country's export revenue comes from oil.

Yemen also has around 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves. Yemen LNG, the company responsible for the country's natural gas, believes that Yemen can produce and export 6.2

metric tons annually for the next 25 years.

Yemen LNG put in a bid last month to supply natural gas for South Korea. It is also negotiating with the United States which will be in need of natural gas in the near future.

Once Yemen LNG captures a market for gas, a pipeline will be constructed stretching from Marib to the coast near Mukalla where a liquefaction plant will also be built.

Yemen has had plans to build an oil refinery in the Mukalla area financed by investors from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Even though the construction of the \$900 million refinery was scheduled to start this year, the project has yet to get off the ground.

## Austrian company explores oil in Shabwa, but ...

# Is the "gas crisis" a warning of those price hikes?

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
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The Austrian group OMV has lately signed with Yemen an understanding memorandum according to which the company pledged to invest \$14 million for excavation of oil in the governorate of Shabwa.

The agreement stipulates that the company would spend the money during two phases of oil exploration in sector No. 2 in the governorate of Shabwa.

Yemen seeks to intensify its signing of oil agreements on explorations and partnership in production with other companies in order to increase its oil

production which is currently estimated at around 500,000 barrels per day.

Meanwhile, the vice-president of the republic Abdeh Rabu Mansour Hadi has personally followed up the development of liquefied gas crisis witnessed lately in Sana'a and Shabwa during the first week of Ramadan, saying that Yemen possesses a great strategic reserve of gas and oil.

He also warned against traders manipulation of prices of gas and gave directives for setting up a working team to follow up the issue and at the same time ordered that licenses of gas dealers who increase prices of gas should be withdrawn from them.

Dr Rashid Saleh Ba Raba'a, the minister of oil and minerals, has presented explanations regarding the meeting of local consumption and

facing the increasing demand for gas by hundreds of thousands, as it is used increasingly by cooks during the month of Ramadan.

While the ministry of oil mentioned that there was an abundant strategic reserve of gas and oil, the opposition has been skeptical of the state's statement about it.

The vice-president gave directives to the leadership of the ministry of oil and minerals to use products of Aden refinery for local consumption as a measure for alleviating the crisis.

Sources of the opposition have considered that "hiding" the gas product as a prelude for an approaching implementation of a new price dose against the people. The parliament had earlier refused to accept such a dose and demanded and expressed its outright refusal of the dose.

## Modern studies:

# Yemeni islands promising of investments and job opportunities

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Field studies have recently affirmed that Yemeni islands are qualified for investment projects in various areas. Estimates indicate that there are about 4642 investment opportunities providing work opportunities for around 250 thousand persons from local labour. The tourist sector comes in the first place of such investment opportunities as it is expected to provide 450 investment opportunities providing 4900 work opportunities for the unemployed in the Yemeni labour market.

Dependent on sources from the state authority for the development of Yemeni islands, the studies revealed there are 45 investment opportunity in the industrial and trade sector providing 4240 jobs. Surveys disclosed the existence of 413 investment opportunities in agriculture and animal wealth providing 4128 jobs and 393 investment opportunities in the sector of waters and electricity providing 3219 jobs.

The study indicates there are investment opportunities in construction and roads sector amounting to 2869. This

sector represents the live artery of the infrastructure in preparing the Yemeni islands for investment and it is expected that those investments could provide about 187888 job opportunities. Investment opportunities in the oil and gas sector amounts to 105 providing about 3138 jobs. As for the field of communication, information and monetary sector, there are around 40 investment areas with 4290 job opportunities.

Regarding studies and scientific researches related to unique and rare trees, plants and birds by which the islands are characterized, there are about 20 investment opportunities supplying 1040 jobs for the unemployed. The director of the state authority of tourism Yahya al-Kayna'ie views that the law on investment offers encouraging facilities to local, Arab and foreign capitals that would help attract them, through promotional campaigns the authority and concerned parties would conduct especially that the existing opportunities are tempting and would bring great profits for their investors. Training courses are currently conducted for tourist police for the protection of investments in the islands of

Yemen and for dealing with investors in a civilized manner expressing the state's respect for the investors and protection of their interests.

The authority has recently finalized setting future plans to implement projects in the islands infrastructure to meet investors needs. The authority is also preparing civilian schemes for the islands and coasts including networks for sewage, waters, electricity in addition to building roads. The schemes also include the building of telephone networks, sites for sea diving, entertainment parks and architectural building of certain architectural character compatible with the sea and tourist environment of Yemeni islands.

Mr al-Kayna'ie clarifies that the basic projects of the infrastructures also include power generators and utilities for government buildings, such as police stations, school buildings, health units and centers for necessary services. According to the new plans, the authority would renovate the historical sites in the islands and qualify tourist guides to be at a high level of knowledge about the historical background of the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden as well as the coasts.

## The glow of Ramadan

# Fasting and feasting in Sana'a

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This year the scared month of Ramadan came again in the fall month of October. On this autumn afternoon, the sun was made milder by thick clouds, and everywhere in Sana'a thousands people were talking to one another, their voice mingling in a tremendous hubbub.

The firing of a cannon from the heights of Jibal Nugum, which now changed like water with the reflection of the sky – heard instantaneously throughout the country on radio and television – is a signal releasing Muslims form their fast. It is a signal to the waiting city the end of each day of fasting at the very moment of sunset. And also re-imposing the fast at the moment of daybreak. The boom of the cannon is called "the cannon of the removal".

Brightness, both real and imaginary, have always been special to Yemen. The Yemeni capital is surrounded by fields of wheat and barley and fine orchards. As one of the oldest cities in the world, it has a history which goes back deep in time. It has been mentioned in writings you can find things which you will never find anywhere else in the world. And had made me taste two real kind of happiness: that of an ancient city being reborn adorned

with beauty.

A rush of feet, a tumult of voices, watching the silhouettes of the city which is about to be outlined against the setting sun. Nearly everyone is trying to get home in time to break the days fast with family and friends. As the call to prayer marking sunset ripples outward from the Sanaani mosques, everything else falls silent. The streets, suddenly, empty and the city motionless.

It is time for iftar, the sundown meal during which Muslims break a day of fasting. Like a wave, iftar moves across the continents: it has been an hour since Saudis broke their fast, next will be the Sudanese across the Red Sea, Moroccans, and much later, American Muslims.

A month of contrasts, celebration as well as reflections, measures abandon as well as strict discipline. During Ramadan, Sana'a is transformed, perhaps more vibrantly than any other city in Arab world, into a kaleidoscope of light and color.

The scared month of Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim lunar year, is a time of fasting, blessings and prayers. It also commemorates the revelations of the first verses of the Holy Quran to Prophet Mohammed (PBUH). Because that calendar is lunar, Ramadan falls 11 days earlier each solar year.

The hours of the night, until dawn, are marked by prayers, ceremonial meals and celebration of the days spiritual victory over human desires. Each time the sun wet down and the minarets and domes are silhouetted against the sky, a new magic possesses the city.

The scared month of Ramadan is about to become real self, to be able to express oneself in the simplest way, to have space and time and peace of mind. It is about humans encountering each other and leaving everlasting impressions of their fellow humans.

To strive that all men may one day be able to understand each other, is that not the noblest of ideals? But is this not in part, what I am doing: what have I gained, what have I lost, which I shall say to the supreme Creator? And return to Him, at the time that He ordains bearing no other treasure than our shrouds and our good deeds.

Where all worlds, all gestures, all looks became futile. That there were tales that did not always being in the same way. Sidewalks serve as "tables of mercy" and offer free iftar meals to the needy and poor. For His eyes passes as well through the imposing façade of palace as through the clay wall of a hovel.

A traditional Sanaani iftar table is topped with dishes of meat, rice and vegetables. Many of Sanaani finest dishes are centuries old. Over centuries many exotic dishes from India, Syria, India, Indonesia, Turkey, and Central Asia have been adopted.

They have assimilated them so completely that today it is difficult to think of those dishes as foreign. Part of the table comes from a common culinary food, part developed from the eastern, inland traditions, or coastal.

Long favored vegetable and meat dishes, white beans, cubed potatoes, okra - lady fingers, peas or other available vegetables are prepared with meat and variety of spices and sauces. Stuffed vegetables, Mediterranean or Turkish in origin are also popular. Lamb, chicken cooked in gravy, or kuf-tah are served with lemon wedges and Yemeni bread.

Rice dishes, widely considered the supreme test of culinary skill, are another. Flavored with rose water or saffron, garnished with raisins, onions, dried limes and various mixed spices, rice is also fit for all celebrations of all kind. Dried limes, cloves, cinnamon sticks and each household proprietary spice mixture give dish its zest. The meal is rounded with fresh fruits and desserts, followed by mint of green tea or Yemeni coffee.

During the month of Ramadan, elaborate sweets are considered essential. The preference is likely to be fruit, local apples, apricots, grapes, figs, pomegranates. The common denominator is the flat, round Yemeni bread.

In Yemen, the art of cooking is still passed on from mother to daughter as it has always been. Nowadays, Sanaani women have begun to prepare dishes form other regions of Yemen than their own. Traditional dishes are thus preserved, but are also giving rise to new variations and new possibilities. As in the rest of Arabia, hospitality is an important cultural trait, and the hallmark of the Yemeni people.

Customary, iftar begins with dried dates and a drink, which is how the Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) broke his fast some 14 centuries ago. And a sip of qamar ad-din, a thickish drink prepared from sheets of dried, pressed apricots, chopted and poured with water.

The date is divided into more than 100 general. It is the date palm which is the palm tree throughout the peninsula, and even further. Spreading out from the Middle East, date palms were carried far and wide by Yemeni and Arab Muslim traders and travelers. Date is not simply valued as a dried

Sanaa, each time the sun goes down the minarets and domes are silhouetted against the sky.

food. Pressed into cakes, it is still used as feed for animals, the palm also provides the wood. Dates stones can be ground and mixed with other flour, and the result is a delicious nutty-tasting bread.

The meal itself begins with a thick nourishing soap and sambusak, paper thin pastry made up in triangular shapes. The most popular site to pray after iftar is the Great mosque in the Old City of Sanaa.

For many, praying tarawih with hundreds of others, the murmur of prayer in the Great mosque, is a scared experience. Lips were murmuring the words of the Most high without stammering or distortion: There are signs on earth for those whose faith is solid. There are sign in yourself, do you not see them? There are also good things in Heaven which are destined for you.

One keeps a thousand memories of the scared month. Also during this time of the year, we are once more set out to acknowledge the great value and potential and the cultural heritage of Yemen.

By eight o'clock, prayers are over and the area around the Great mosque in the Old City is bustling with activity. People are out shopping, or visiting. Here are the scents of rare perfumes, sounds and wares of the markets, incense burners, perfumed air, miniature Sanaani houses, jewelry, faint scent of spices, frankincense, herbs, henna stalls, finest grades of Yemeni coffee, which are their own shade of greenish-brown.

During the month of Ramadan, Yemeni coffee is spiced with saffron, cloves and other spices such as cardamom, all according to the preferences and the creativity of whoever prepares it. Popular conversation spots and an enduring scent that breathes of long tradition.

For centuries before the coming of electricity, Sana'a was noted for its spectacular use of lantern to illuminate, especially during the scared month of Ramadan. Then lantern hung at the end of stalls. People would say with a smile that this was the shortest night of the year, that there was no point in sleeping.

Holy Quran notes: Blessed is He who made constellation in the skies and place therein a lamp and a moon

giving light, and it is He who made the night and day to follow each other. For such as have the will to celebrate His praises or to show their gratitude. The "noble month" of Ramadan would produce the most spectacular nightly illuminations of the year.

In Sana'a you know the falling of its sands by the sounds. You are awakened in the time of stillness, between night and morning, in space of a day and a night, before the first call to prayer, the finest hour in the city. It was already daylight, but the fine crescent moon of the new day could still be seen.

It is the moon, full or new, that the stages of a caravans used to be calculated. After few hours we wake up and, with Muslims around the world, begins another day of fasting.

The Great mosque in Sanaa, also named the Jewel of Sanaa, and Pearl of mosques, built in the Sixth Heighra year, a place to remembrance, forgiveness, medication and prayers.

In the spice market of Old Sana'a.

## Singing in the streets?

# Holy Month comes like a friendly visitor

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Blessed Ramadhan month has approached with its spiritual advancement. What distinguishes Ramadhan in Yemen are the welcoming religious songs, whereby the children with their beautiful voices are walking in the streets welcoming Ramadhan as if it is a dear guest coming to them.

This welcoming looks apparently in the Yemeni rural areas.

But, this welcoming differs in the Yemeni towns which are full of inhabitants who are occupied by the worries of collecting the light food stuff and food materials from the markets and places which some of it have become semi-seasonal which is not noticeable but only from Ramadhan to Ramadhan.

And when this month finishes, all such commodities return again to the warehouses.

Purchasing the food commodities, spices, sweets, drinks, dates, frankincense, and lighting devices,

particularly, are the necessities for the nightly entertainment, and the major worries of the citizens in the rural areas.

The rural natives welcome Ramadhan months with popular chants expressing the spiritual ethics and the fasting people's joyfulness by the holly Ramadhan month due to its meaning within themselves represented by more sympathy to the needy persons and helping the poor people as well as the pity amongst the Muslims, and the souls cleanliness and its surrendering to the Almighty God.

Ramadhan in Yemen may take several rituals and different customs from a town to another. Several things may get changed in this month whereas are not supposed to.

Then, how do the people live in this holly month? How do the details of their daily life progress?!

This detailed report, hopefully, clarifies the Yemenis life in Ramadhan whether in the towns or in the villages.

In the morning, the students carry their bags heading to the schools, and the least of the workers who go towards

their works.

After the students having gone to their schools and the least of the workers to the places of their works, the streets become semi-evacuated from the pedestrians, except from those whose journeys pass through the village route.

Therefore, the morning times in the villages become evacuated from the citizens movements; the doors become locked from inside. And the children may play in wider areas as they wish, as long as they are far away from the natives hearings.

In the villages, the natives movements to the markets start from the noon time. Their movements to the markets become increasingly in the final third portion of the day, during which time most of the female and male natives fetch their requirements from there and return with their purchases to their homes where the women prepare their dishes and provide the breakfast for the fasting family members as well as the children and everybody in the home, in due time.

The breakfast dishes are formed of popular food besides the dates, the coffee, water and some juices and dishes of hot soups.

In the villages, there are no breakfasting guns (cannon), and the people of the village depend on the village mosque calling "Adhan". After the prayer and the returning of all to their homes from the mosques and after taking their supper, every body goes in different direction – the students go for revising their lessons; the others go for meeting each other in places called "divan", a big place (room) in the home where a big number of the village people meet and chew qat inside it, as the qat is chewed by the majors and in big quantity during entertaining the nights and in Ramadhan groupings. Such Ramadhan seats continue until 2 or 3 O'clock after midnight, and during which time, the television watching goes on by whom are chewing the qat and by those who have televisions in homes, especially the female members. After the returning of the natives to their homes, some of them takes some relaxation or reading the Qura'an until

al-sahoor appointment comes. Thus, a complete day finishes in the Yemeni villages.

In the Town: A large population gathers in the towns as all services facilities are available in it. Most of the people from the villages go to the town for purchasing their requirements. Some of them go to there looking for work, some for studying or being compelled to go to it because of their jobs. And as the case is such, many of the people go back to their villages during Ramadhan month. But, some of those who are working in places selling clothes, food stuff, cosmetics, and home appliances keep on working in their occupations in addition to some restaurants in Ramadhan.

Every week passes, the decrease of crowding in the town is noticed in addition to the closing of many commercial places doors take place because the people start leaving the town and go back to their villages to spend the rest of Ramadhan with their families. The town becomes semi evacuated by the end of Ramadhan month, because the people go back to

the villages for spending Eid holidays with their families and relatives.

Because of the living costs state and the raise of unemployment in the latest years, the number of the travelers to the village has decreased. Those who remain in towns are the ones compelled to stay as they don't possess a sufficient money.

Contradictory to the village, the breakfasting gun sound is the only means acceptable by most of the people for break fasting. By the breakfasting time approaching, many accidents occur, especially, in the traffic roundabouts because the people moving in all the directions with speed steps towards mosques and homes, and so all such accidents take place.

The jobs in the governmental sector remain semi idle during Ramadhan month, as most of the people don't work but don't perform their tasks sincerely. And also we find the judiciary takes leave during this month !!

And by our incorrect behaviors during Ramadhan, we cause crisis out of it.

## Don't authorities care?

# Plastic bags are dangerous

By ISMAIL AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

For more than five years, the Ministry of Commerce, Supply and Industry has issued a decree stopping the manufacture and use of plastic bags in its present thickness after it has been proved by the medical analysis that its usage causes lot of serious diseases, particularly when using plastic bags for packing cooked food or fresh foodstuffs, vegetables, fruits, and water.

This ministry has allowed a limited period, not exceeding two months, for the producers to change their line of fabrication for producing some other materials for the

community's use and benefit.

But, despite the elapse of a long time, the production of such bags still goes on with its same non-acceptable cheated specifications to be used by people for putting in them foodstuff.

Factories producing those plastic are not observing abiding by the instructions of the ministry regarding specification of those bags despite the danger they pose to the public health.

The whole issue seems as if it is not of concern for the authorities entrusted with following up implementation of the ministry's instructions.

As the Ministries of Commerce and Supply and the Industry are indivisible part of the institutional structure of the state, it is unclear why they ignore the decision of carrying

out their own instructions, which are meant for protection of the community's health and staving off the dangers against it.

It is still a dubious secret to know the side, which is beneficiary from hindering the application of those instructions despite of their significance for human health in addition to their humanitarian characteristic.

It could be wondered whether the people health has become a question of compromise leading to overlooking the danger of such a magnitude.

The other question is why the authorities concerned with the people health do not bear the duty of explaining to the people the danger of using such plastic bags and make them aware of its consequences. Has the people's health become so insignificant in the thinking and view of those authorities?

## New drugs, plan needed to fight killer TB - MSF

PARIS, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Tests and medicines used to diagnose and combat tuberculosis (TB) in poor countries are outdated and ineffective and new treatments must be developed to fight the disease, Doctors Without Borders said on Tuesday.

Strategies being used by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease force medics to work with "archaic tools",

said the Paris-based group, also known as Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

"Tuberculosis is one of our biggest frustrations," MSF President Jean-Herve Bradol said in a statement. "At the moment, we cannot properly detect and treat the sick."

TB infects an estimated 8.7 million people a year and kills 2 million a year despite widespread control efforts.

WHO's main strategy to control TB, an infectious airborne respiratory illness, is called "Directly Observed

An area covered with wastes

Treatment, Short-course" or DOTS, which involves using health professionals to watch patients take their long courses of antibiotics.

DOTS requires sufferers to take drugs - developed 40-60 years ago - over a 6-8 month period and the disease can become resistant if a patient fails to take the full course.

Existing tests used in poor counties to diagnose TB only detected one form of the disease and in the developing world only show up the TB bacteria in half of the people tested.

MSF wants experts to develop eas-

ier to use medicines and to produce new, more effective diagnostic tests, an official said. A stronger detection and treatment plan was also needed to fight the dual TB and AIDS epidemic.

TB is the leading cause of death among HIV sufferers, accounting for about 13 percent of AIDS deaths worldwide, according to WHO figures. HIV weakens the immune system which makes it more vulnerable to TB and other diseases.

MSF's call for a new anti-TB strategy follows other recent criticism of WHO's plan. Last month, Harvard

University researchers said the DOTS plan would have only a modest impact on controlling TB and said new approaches were needed.

The disease is spread by airborne bacteria that settle into the lungs and cause long-term infection. Many people who are infected do not become ill themselves but can spread it.

Tough hygiene and treatment campaigns beat TB back in places such as Europe and North America, but AIDS, with its attacks on the immune system, helped TB make a comeback in the 1990s.

## Dutch study links treated stomach acid to pneumonia

CHICAGO, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Hugely popular stomach acid-blocking drugs may slightly increase the risk of pneumonia by stripping the body of one of its defenses against ingested germs, researchers said on Tuesday.

The link between pneumonia and gastric acid found in the Dutch study of more than 500,000 people was tenuous, however, and experts said the risk was too small to stop people from using the anti-acid drugs, which enjoy billions of dollars in annual sales worldwide.

The increased risk amounted to one pneumonia case per 100 people taking anti-acid drugs for a year, about double the risk of those who did not take the drugs.

Experts noted that sufferers from acid reflux disease, in which stomach contents erupt through the esophagus, are themselves at higher risk of pneumonia from inhaling stomach contents into the lungs.

A host of drugs with global sales in the billions of dollars are on the market to counteract stomach acid.

A group of over-the-counter drugs including Johnson & Johnson's and Merck & Co. Inc.'s Pepcid and GlaxoSmithKline Plc's Tagamet block the stimuli that trigger stomach acid production.

Another class of drugs that interfere with stomach acid production, called proton pump inhibitors, include AstraZeneca's Nexium and Abbott Laboratories' Prevacid.

"Most patients use acid suppressive medications with little concern

regarding side effects, not realizing that gastric acid is one of Mother Nature's natural defenses against ingested pathogens," Dr. Gregory Haber of New York's Lenox Hill Hospital said in a statement. "It is therefore not surprising that evidence is surfacing regarding an increased risk of infection in susceptible patients."

Some researchers have suggested long-term use of the drugs might inhibit the protection from stomach acid by altering the stomach's protective layer, or might mask ulcers or reduce the absorption of nutrients in ingested food.

But the president-elect of the American Gastroenterological Association challenged that view, citing the limits of the study and noting that stomach acid is suppressed, not eliminated, by the drugs.

"In high-risk individuals such as the elderly, they'd be better served getting a flu shot or anti-pneumonia vaccine," while continuing to take the anti-acid drugs, Dr. David Peura said in a telephone interview. However, he added: "People think they're miracle drugs ... (but) not everyone should be taking them," and should instead lose weight and change their diets.

The study by Robert Laheij of the University Medical Center St. Radboud, Nijmegen, the Netherlands, was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. It examined more than 5,500 suspected cases of pneumonia - though only 18 percent of the cases were confirmed through X-rays or laboratory testing.

## A health benefit if performed carefully Fasting as a medicine

By ADEL AL-KHAWLANI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

I recently presented to you the wisdom and some general benefits associated with fasting, one of them is "health care". This invaluable benefit compelled me to further expound it on under the title "fasting as a medicine" after referring to several medical and religious references. The fluids taken when breaking one's fast are taken into account as a crucial medicine for the digestive system to get rid of accumulating solid foods from days preceding Ramadan. Moreover, fast gives a kind of manual refresh for the human organism as well as an interval rest for the stomach.

Fasting is improperly called hunger strike. As our religion brought to our attention, it is not about starving oneself in that sense, but to not accept solid food. We replenish the body with fluids.

### Maximum time

It is possible for us to go three or four days without water. Then we arrive at irreversible changes and the body begins to die. Without food, one can manage 60 or even 80 days. Of course there are extreme cases where people have survived without solid food even longer. Buddhist monks and yogis have managed it. They do not take in food, but they utilize other influences. They meditate quite a lot, and are assisted by other teachings of yoga. They can lower their metabolism and utilize the fluids of their own body - urine. That is so nutritious that they can practically live for years on it.

It is interesting that fasting brings one to not only a physical regeneration, but also to a refreshing of the actual physical cells, and an invigoration of the psyche and mind. The most significant fact is that one arrives at a great Spiritual enlightenment.

It is well known that during fast, people hear some kind of sound. They do not often realize that it is a spiritual sound and they fail to pay attention to it. On the other hand, we know all religions work with the reality that fasting increases spirituality. Therefore fasting is known to

the Muslim, the Hindu, as well as to the Christian."

It is impossible to say how many days though a round figure is recommended. One day, or thirty-six hours of abstinence is completely harmless, even healthy. It is not even considered a fast. It is just lying off the food while the body has a break from waste by-products, and not a very perfect one. I may introduce to you what presents itself during a fast, and from that we can find the answer as to how long a fast should be for it to be beneficial:

At the start of the fast, harmful substances begin to loosen in the body. Through the vocal chords for example, the voice is not so noisy in the first days of a fast. The tongue is coated; the eyes are cloudier than before. The skin loses its glow. This is all proof that the body is starting to purify itself. Let things take their course, and follow how long the cleansing takes.

After a certain period of time we discover that the body is pure - the tongue is not coated, the eyes clear, the skin gets back to normal that after a longer fast becomes somewhat darker. One feels light, as pleasant as a thirteen or eighteen-year-old. These are just some of the signs that it is time to finish the fast, that the body has been cleansed."

### Some risk caused by fasting:

Sure, in the real world it is not so easy with fasting. The most unpleasant is the first day. You want to eat the most. This is why it is recommended to start the fast somewhere on a business trip, or when overwhelmed by work responsibilities, so that the urge to eat is overlooked. The crisis usually comes on the second or third day. The healthy get it almost unaware, usually at night and lasts a few minutes, perhaps an hour, and is hardly noticed. On the other hand, the less well one is, the greater the crisis will be. Cramping may appear; the basic state of existence may worsen. Most people give in and start to eat.

In any case, during a fast, one should take some medication; of course it is necessary to consult your physician first. The point is for the body to build its own reserves and begin to work on itself. After the third day it is not a problem to

maintain the fast.

We do not feel the need to eat, and may carry out our daily tasks without any significant problems. This will continue for approximately ten days. One inescapable factor is the need to take in a proper amount of fluids, at least three liters per day.

This is very important because, during a fast, we will not feel like eating. If one becomes dehydrated, then he cannot manage anything physically, nor is he willing. There is a drop into depression and lethargy. When these signals arise, it is time to stop the fasting.

The best thing is lukewarm water. Some Chinese sources state that it should be boiled.

We have made it ten days, now what are we to expect? After ten days, the vitality has only lowered by 15 percent. We still have enough energy for everyday work. Meaning that, up until day ten, one can still perform even hard physical work. Later, only work which is hard on the brain.

### Finishing the fast

This is a serious moment. If the fast has gone on for 15 days or more, and we

want to return to a normal diet, we have got to move step by step. Eat very cautiously the first day, food in an almost liquid state, something well-ground, or well-cooked rice. Fat should never be there, nor should there be any spices or other taste enhancers.

On the second day, something a little more solid is added, perhaps 15 grams of it. That is how we gradually enrich the food. One rule is valid: the amount of days one holds a fast, is the number of days needed to get back to the original diet. This is very important! Only later may one start to eat normally, that is, normal food, excluding as much meat as possible. If not, the original illnesses, which we just got rid of, will return.

### When fasting is advised:

Fasting is excellent for the organism if it is missing vitamins. Then the body starts to produce its own, and exactly the ones, which are lacking. It improves vision, hearing, and skin blemishes disappear. Also some incurable problems disappear suddenly over a short period of time.

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

# Main Headlines

- After Saada insurgency, large-scale reforms in the military
- Officers in the former Iraqi army join resistance
- Despite American pressures, Syria signs an agreement for partnership with the European Union
- Tamar University teachers stage labour strike
- Arab National Conference demands the release of al-Marzouqi and al-Khaiwani
- Wide-scale Arab rejection of American campaign against Falluja
- Included on the black list, U.S. Treasury Department passes a rule prohibiting Zaqat to reach Al-Aqsa establishment in Yemen
- 11 thousand African migrants since beginning of this year' Yemen interior ministry fears collective migration of Africans to Yemen
- Somaliland Republic seeks Yemeni recognition and trade cooperation
- After seven years, Korea agrees to import Yemeni gas
- EAW organization discloses: Nine million Yemenis live food unsafe
- Islah presents draft amendments to elections law
- Shipment of inedible chickens enter markets
- Oil Ministry gives directives to cancel leasing contract of Jaheef establishment
- President Saleh receives a message from Sultan Qaboos of Oman on arrangements for Al-Biedh return home
- Two committees of most qualified experts in Yemen and Saudi Arabia study federal unity between the two countries
- In rewarding for their stance of al-Huthi, Extremist religious centers kept working
- Pardon for some convicted for killing foreign tourists
- PM proposes to the president a solution for financing electric power
- Politicians hold the government responsible, Al-Khaiwani exposed to a new attack attempt
- Yemen to host Gulf-Europe dialogue conference on woman rights in December
- Cabinet approves next year budget
- Abu Hamza al-Masri faces 16 charges
- Emirates imposes ban on Yemeni vegetables
- Diplomatic missions, acquainted with preparations for Yemeni islands conference
- Bills on endorsement of oil agreements, international loans and pacts
- Canadian commercial delegation to visit Yemen in December
- Emirate company to explore gold in Hadramout
- Preparations for holding the second summit of Sana'a Grouping
- Oman's foreign minister: Yemen and extension and depth for the GCC

**Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 19 Oct.2004.**

#### Main headlines

- Imaginary budget for the ministry of defence, soldiers complain of want
- Press freedoms center condemns the crime of threatening journalists of Al-Ayyam and 14 October newspapers
- A course on sign language concluded in Taiz
- A course on woman unionist leaderships concluded in Thamar
- Human Rights Minister: Ready to deal with local reports on human rights

Columnist Hamdi Al-Bukari says in an article that since the imprisonment of the journalist Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani on 5 of last September we thought that the authority realizes the danger of what it had done and would release him quickly, out of keenness of not exposing Yemen reputation to more blame related to oppression and police policy.

Days have passed and Khaiwani is still in the Central Prison while his name is repeated by many local, Arab and international organizations as a hero for freedom and prisoner of opinion along with blatant violation of Yemen's obligations of agreements connected to respect of freedom of opinion and expression and human rights. It is not of Yemen's interest that al-Khaiwani stay in prison and the authority has to comprehend that. As for talking a judicial decision for imprisoning him, the authority realizes well the fragility of this justification. Procedures of the trial were annulling form the essence and the case was banned from following its natural course through appeal, which enhances that annulment and proves that the case was [political in the first place.

What is happening is that Yemen is

now facing the largest international campaign expressing the truth about a ruling authority does not respect an opinion unlike its own and cares not about repeated calls for the release a prisoner of political opinion.

**Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, 20 October 2004.**

#### Main headlines

- Reforms in the military establishment
- 42 persons drowned in Bani Matar falls
- 145 AIDS case registered in Sana'a last year
- In a workshop, facts displayed backwardness of psychiatry situation

The government had last Wednesday discussed the state budget for the year 2005 which expressed the planning indicators of what can be done in this year according to directions built on results and rates of the national economy performance for the past years. With an objective reading of results of the national economy we find that the economy is still depending on oil revenues while the entire other activities form a very small proportion under discouraging outcomes of the reforms announced by the state and have increased rates of inflation and deterioration of local currency exchange rate. Among such outcomes are the spread of corruption and halt of investments.

- Big crises are in need of great work and efforts to be exerted by the government. Focus should be on:
  - encouraging investment as a greatly important element in qualifying the national economy and attraction of labour forces,
  - a focus on activation of prosperity of tourist sector and providing its essential structures that help encourage tourism, internal and external,
  - using local and external markets by

expanding the network of marketing capable of transferring agricultural products in Tuhama to local markets and those of neighboring countries, - benefiting from the space of Yemeni coasts for exploiting the fish wealth, - utilizing other potentials as minerals and others.

**AlSahwa weekly, 21 Oct.2004.**

#### Main headlines

- In a sit-in attended by thousands of students, Students demand dropping the regulation, Basura threatens by leaving the university
- Activists endeavor to amend the law of societies, the government works for controlling foreign funding
- Journalists syndicate and Al-Shoura editorial Staff demand the release of Khaiwani

Columnist Ahmed Othman wrote an article saying the American president has last week signed on a law listing acts prohibited for the world to do among which the prohibition of fomenting against Jews and incriminating criticism against them. The Jews have the right to do what they want and slaughter who they want. Many Americans see the law as fixing of discrimination and a historic shame on America threatening of the inevitable collapse of the American civilization.

America, the very powerful state and the Jews controlling that power would not need for such a law unless the Jews are in need of such a law for raising their deteriorating morale before the fear and horror the brave resistance in Palestine has created. The world and the world fear the Jews but the Arab regimes do not need this kind of a law to be so polite with the Jews. They are so polite that they keep silent towards the massacres that Sharon has been committing especially recently. The

SKETCHED OPINION

This is what remained  
See your friends

Ramadan Zakat  
imposed by  
the government

By Samer A.

resistance alone has not taken care about this law because it did not come after a decision by any one and would not stop by a law issued by anyone. Moreover, this is the bad luck of America and Israel and the Arab regimes that normalized with Israel.

**Al-Wassat weekly, 20 Oct. 2004.**

#### Main headlines

- After ending Al-Houthi, Ali Muhsin in a special errand to Saudi Arabia
- Recruiting of volunteers and tribes from participated in quelling al-Houthi insurgency
- Distance education project and internet class in Sana'a and Aden

Columnist Nouman Qaed Saif says in an article the government alleges it has been working for fighting poverty and pretends of drawing wise policies and implementing tactical and strategic plans for fighting poverty. However deep it goes in talking about what it has achieved in this regard reality proves its falsehood and confirms with outright indications that it is an authority claims contrary to what it acts, exerting all that it can to generalize poverty. The

government alleges, as it is a reformist of the first class and so prepares records and official documents with figures, as it likes. It tries to show those aliens that it had walked 999 miles of the thousand miles in all areas targeted by it. Our government is not afflicted with schizophrenia but it is lying and very soon, it contradicts its previous statements and exposes itself with figures.

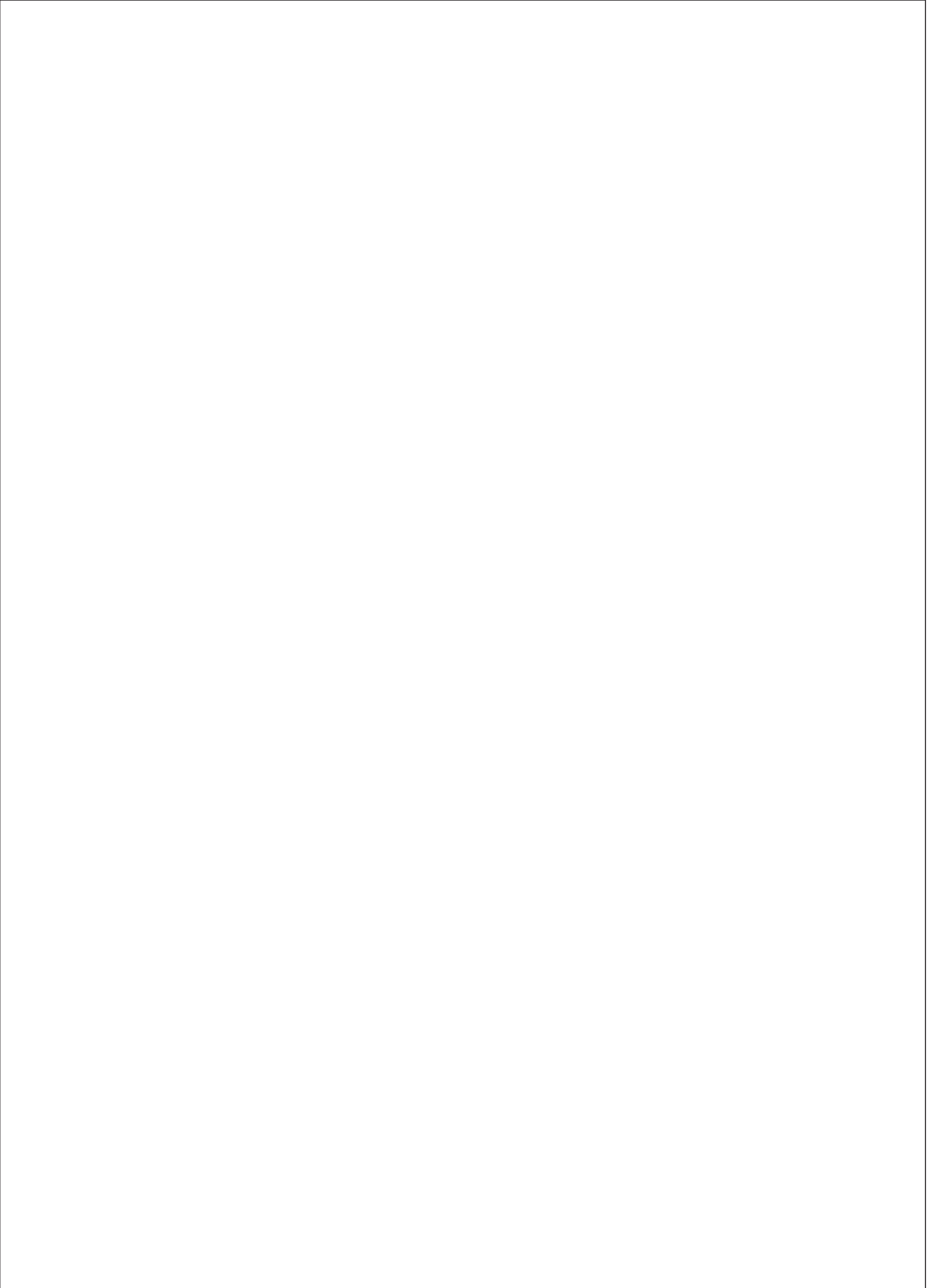
**Annas weekly 25 Oct.2004.**

#### Main headlines

- Acute gas crisis heralding the approach of a new price dose
- Journalists syndicate renews its demand for his release, al-Khaiwani case discussed in the European Union and world journalists union
- Information ministry abolishes license of al-Nida'a newspaper
- Yemeni trade unions form their higher council
- Tamar University professors stage strike

Columnist Dr Hosni al-Jawsha'ie says in an article the American president has in the mid of October signed a

law on anti-Semitism. A law bearing in its details many racist meanings and places the Jews above an accountability and above the international law. Even just a criticism of any conduct the Jews do against the Arabs or Palestinians, critics are exposed to criminal accountability and pursuit by the United States. The law prohibits any attack on Jews, civilians or military but does not prevent the Jews of committing any attack against the Arabs or the Palestinians. The law prevents any talk about the Zionist crimes against the Palestinians and destruction of their houses. Any writer talking about those crimes he is considered a criminal in the eyes of the American law and must be arrested and punished. The law was issued two weeks before the date of the American elections as a kind of political hypocrisy for begging votes of the Jews of America. This law is abnormal by all standards, international laws, and norms. The question is what is the stand of Arab regimes towards this strange law? Up till now, none of the Arab rulers dared to criticize it. If we keep silent towards this law, it is expected there would be other laws incriminating any country that does not establish relationship with Israel and prohibits teaching the Holy Koran at schools.



Training camp

# GJF prepares to host Judo championship

BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- The General Judo Federation is currently making the necessary arrangements to host the first judo competition for juniors from West Asian Countries. The event will be organized from November 24-27 at 22 May Hall.

The championship will involve the following kg weights: (45, 50, 55, 60, 66, 75 and 81). The GJF has chosen a distinguished Yemeni arbitration staff to administer the games along with a delegation from the Asian Judo Federation and a referee from each participating country under the supervision of the Syrian Yasin Al-Ayyobi.

Concerning the preparation of the national judo team, a GJF official No'man Shaher said they are setting up their efforts to hold an external training camp for the team in Japan under the Iranian Coach Dawood Meghani, who is now supervising an intensive practice camp in Hodeida with the involvement of 11 judo players.

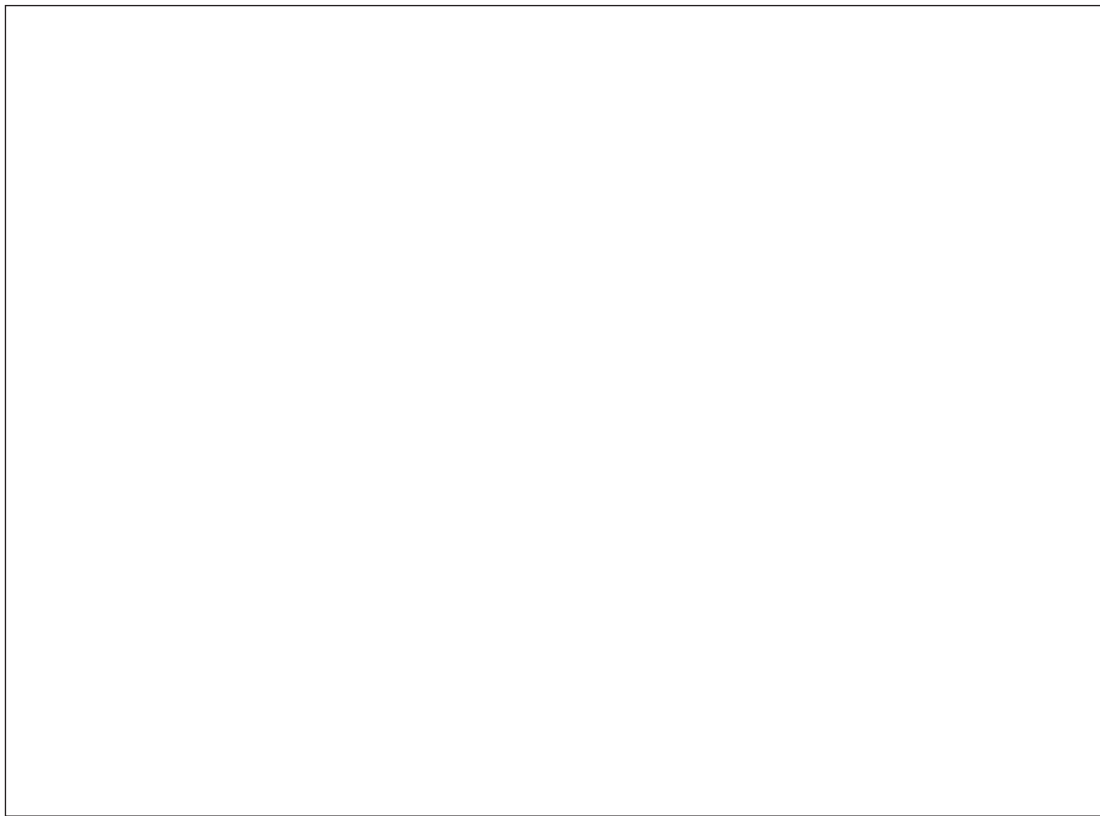
He confirmed that there is still an

opportunity for any player to join the team just if he asserts himself more able and convinces the technical staff of his performances in the external camp, which is sponsored by the National Olympic Committee (NOC).

Shaher also expressed his hope that the Yemeni judo players are able to achieve advanced results in the competitions to reflect the rapid progress of the game, through which a number of Yemeni competitors received several Arab and international medals.

Moreover, the GJF works for the provision of convenient circumstances that enable the national junior team and the technical staff to perform well and give a positive picture of the Yemeni judo.

The organizing committee will invite a number of prominent sport figures to attend the events of the championship, as well as Mission Chiefs of the participating teams and General Judo Federation Chiefs of the west Asian countries, including the Kuwaiti Obeid Al-Anzi, Deputy Chief of the Asian Judo Federation.



## Man United break off talks with Glazer

The Manchester United board has announced that they have ended talks with US sports tycoon Malcolm Glazer, saying his takeover proposal risked leaving the club mired in debt.

The Man United PLC board have been in talks with Glazer in the last few weeks as he steadily increased his stake in the club to 28.11%. At 30%, Glazer would be obliged to make a formal takeover offer.

However the club said it would reject any proposal in its current form from the American, expressing concern about the level of borrowing that Glazer would have to do in order to fund the bid.

"The financial returns in any football club are very closely correlated with performance on the pitch," the PLC said in a statement to the London Stock Exchange.

"Given its views on the importance of an appropriate capital structure, the board has decided to inform all shareholders that it would regard an offer which it believes to be overly leveraged as not being in the best interests of the company."

"Accordingly the board has determined that it would not support any offer underpinned by the structure which has been outlined in relation to the Glazer Family's potential offer," the statement added.

"The board has informed the Glazer family of these views and that it has therefore terminated discussions with respect to the current proposals."

## Van Nistelrooy admits serious foul play

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy has accepted a Football Association charge of serious foul play during Sunday's Premier League match against Arsenal, his club says in a statement.

Van Nistelrooy caught Arsenal defender Ashley Cole with his studs in United's 2-0 win at Old Trafford, which ended the champions unbeaten Premier League run of 49 matches.

"Ruud van Nistelrooy has decided to accept the FA's charge of misconduct relating to the incident with Ashley Cole," United said in a statement on their website on Tuesday.

"Ruud has accepted the automatic penalty of a three-match suspension and Manchester United fully supports Ruud's decision."

The FA said on its website that the Dutch international's suspension would start immediately, ruling him out of Tuesday's League Cup tie at Crewe Alexandra.

He will also miss Saturday's Premier League match at Portsmouth

and the following weekend's derby game against Manchester City at Old Trafford.

Van Nistelrooy said he accepted responsibility for the incident but added that he had not intended to hurt Cole.

"Throughout my 10-year career I believe my disciplinary record is very good, not only for Manchester United but at all clubs," Van Nistelrooy said.

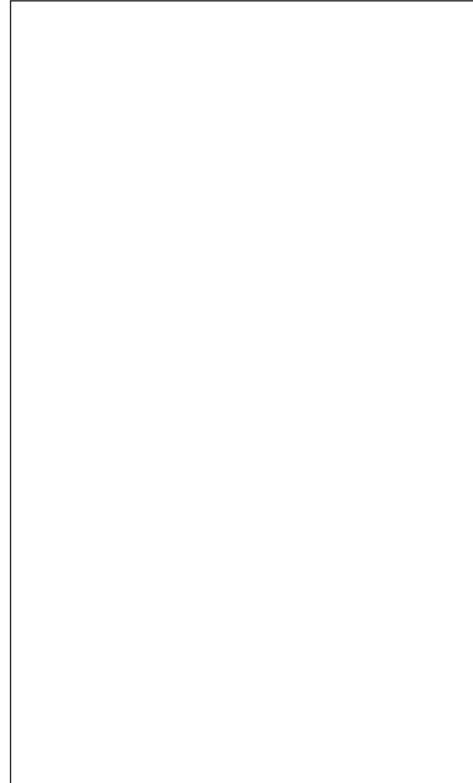
"I accept the charge brought by the FA and I take full responsibility.

"There was no deliberate intent to harm Ashley Cole and I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to him."

The FA is still investigating two other incidents relating to Sunday's match.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger criticised referee Mike Riley, who controversially

Striker Nistelrooy looked at with curious eyes by the supporters



awarded United a penalty, in his post-match news conference, and there were also reports of Arsenal players throwing food at United manager Alex Ferguson in the tunnel after the game.

Last season's equivalent match at Old Trafford also caused huge controversy. Arsenal were fined and four of their players banned for pushing Van Nistelrooy after he missed a penalty in the dying minutes of the 0-0 draw. Two United players were also fined for their part in the fracas.

### THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

**Aries**  
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)  
You will be thinking clearly when regarding your position and the direction you want to take. Nothing should stop you from checking out the possibilities.

**Cancer**  
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)  
The more accepting you are, the better you will do today. Your wisdom and good sense will allow you to make a difference to an organization you decide to help

**Libra**  
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)  
Invest more time and effort into moneymaking ideas or property. You will be able to adjust your lifestyle to suit your budget if you give up some luxuries you really need.

**Capricorn**  
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)  
Count on a social event turning into a profitable affair. Love is in the picture and you will enjoy the company of someone special. Children may play a role in your life.

**Taurus**  
(Apr 20 - May 20)  
Emotional matters may escalate but, if you are prepared to handle the situation, you will clear matters up quickly. Trust in your own abilities.

**Leo**  
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)  
Take a moment to realize what everyone else is doing. You want to go against the grain, but you also want to be a part of something that may not be totally honest.

**Sagittarius**  
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)  
Sudden romantic infatuations may confuse you today. If something or someone appears to be too good to be true, back off. Time is on your side, so use your head.

**Aquarius**  
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)  
Count on anything and you will be disappointed. Take a closer look at your present situation and prepare to make changes that will better suit your lifestyle.

**Gemini**  
(May 21 - Jun 20)  
Dig deep to get to the bottom of any situation you face. Someone may be holding back vital information. Trust a fellow colleague or friend to cover for you.

**Virgo**  
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)  
You can do whatever you want by using your creative imagination to accomplish your goals in a cost-efficient way. Stir up interest if you are vocal about your ideas.

**Scorpio**  
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)  
Your colleagues or friends will have interesting ideas for you. Let children or social events take priority when there is work to be done.

**Pisces**  
(Feb 19-Mar 20)  
You can have it all if you are prepared to make changes and pursue the skills you require to follow through with your plans. You will be introduced to someone special.

### 7-Day Weather Forecast

Sana'a								Aden							
Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Day	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	25	24	24	24	23	24	23	Hi	34	33	33	33	33	34	34
Lo	8	8	8	7	7	7	7	Lo	27	27	27	26	26	25	24

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## Investment in Yemen Islands

# Arabs and Africans meet to talk about tourism strategies

By MOHAMMAD BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A meeting between leaders from the Yemeni Islands Development Authority (YIDA) and a number of Ambassadors from Arab and African countries was held on Sunday Oct. 24. The participants in the meeting reviewed the ongoing preparations for holding the first international conference on the investment on the Yemeni Islands (YI) on Nov. 30, 2004.

The conference aims at recognizing the Yemeni Islands, their natural, tourist and economic significance, the environmental diversity and the cultural heritage of their inhabitants.

The efforts of Ambassadors, in making the international conference a success through communicating with the companies and the investing parties in their countries, were discussed in the meeting.

The goal behind this conference is to attract investment and those who possess the capitals to establish entrepreneurial projects that contribute to the

### Palm trees growing on the edge of a small lake in Socotra

development of the infrastructure of the Yemeni Islands.

The investors can get benefit from previous experiences concerning the administration of the Arab and World Islands, the methods of investment in them, and conducting the studies and researches which contribute to tourism

promotion in such islands.

In the meeting, Secretary of Foreign Ministry for Arab, Asian & African Affairs, Hussein Taher, Dr. Awad Bamatraf, Chairman of the YIDA and Yahya Al-DLQH General Director of the YIDA offered a brief review about the YIDAV activities in developing the Yemeni

Islands and upgrading their infrastructure in collaboration with the concerned sides in all the Governorates.

They briefly talked about the nature of Yemeni Islands, their characteristics and tourist features as well as to know about the divisions of these islands and the environmental diversity for each. They also offered a detailed explanation on the aims of the international conference and the opportunities and areas of development and investment available in the Yemeni Islands.

On the other hand, a number of Arab, Asian and African Ambassadors proposed their views and notes about the importance of holding the 6DQDa conference on tourist promotion for the Yemeni Islands. They stressed that the appointment of holding the conference is nearing and this in turn will hinder communication with their governments in a better way. So, they claimed the conference to be postponed till May 2005 and insisted on preparing for it well.

Local and foreign observers criticized the responsible authority, which is organizing the conference for their

urgent call for a conference on the investment in the Yemeni Islands before studying the investment-attracting factors for these Islands. One of the Ambassadors said to the Yemen Times that the concerned authorities are recommended to benefit from the experiences of some other islands such as (Sishil and Singapore), in the areas of infrastructure and conducting studies.

The participants expressed some kind of pessimism about whether the conference will be a success or not and achieve the hoped for results.

A spectacular view of a tree growing inside water

