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## Fellow inmate breaks Al-Khaiwani's jaw

# Prison beating

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Prisoner of opinion Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, editor-in-chief of the now-closed opposition weekly Al-Shoura, was heavily beaten Friday afternoon, Nov 5, by a fellow inmate who reportedly broke his jaw.

Sources say Abdulrahman Dammage, an officer from the Criminal Investigation Bureau, who himself is imprisoned for a criminal charge, attacked Al-Khaiwani from the back with a solid tool trying to crush his skull. The victim's lower jaw was dislodged and his shoulder, hand and neck were bruised.

Sources also say that after falling to the ground unconscious, Al-Khaiwani was protected by some inmates from being killed.

The prison authority allegedly did not offer to take him to the hospital or punish the attacker, a source close to Al-Khaiwani said.

The newspaper editor was sentenced to one year in jail several weeks ago as a result of some of his published writings.



Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani

The Public Forces Union (PFU), the party to which Al-Khaiwani affiliates, has issued a statement on Friday evening, putting the responsibility of protecting Al-Khaiwani's life on the authority.

The General Secretariat of the party called on unions, syndicates, and human rights organizations to continu-

ously press on the government to free Al-Khaiwani and respect human dignity and rights in Yemen.

The statement said: "The General Secretariat has discussed at its extraordinary meeting on Friday evening Nov. 5 the criminal assault targeting the life of Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, member of the PFU's General Secretariat, editor-in-chief of Al-Shura newspaper, as one of the prisoners hit him on the back of his head causing him to fall unconscious."

"The General Secretariat is renewing its request to immediately release Al-Khaiwani and stop violations against him and Al-Shura newspaper

which started with an illegal trial resulting in an unfair political judgment while the Court of Appeal has delayed looking into the case up until now," the statement read.

The statement concluded saying: "Despite the recurrent local, Arab and international calls and appeals condemning the arrest of Al-Khaiwani and asking for his release as a prisoner of opinion who has undergone a politically motivated trial, the authority is still conducting its violations against Al-Khaiwani's freedom, exposing him to bodily harm by means of deliberate vindictive acts."

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## What's next for Palestine?

# Arafat down

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

While Yassar Arafat appears to be close to death in a French military hospital, Palestinians in Yemen wonder how the elder statesman can ever be replaced.

At press time, Arafat remained in critical condition.

Palestinians that spoke to Yemen Times said he is the unifying force keeping the Palestinians together to end Israeli occupation and establish a Palestinian state.

"He is the leader of the Palestinians and a real patriot, so if we lose him now it will be a big loss," said Ibrahim Ahmed, a Palestinian college student in Yemen. "He has brought the Palestinian people together and is the father of all Palestinians. He would be able to keep all the Palestinians and parties together if he stayed alive."

Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority and Head of the Fatah organization, has a history of nearly four decades of leading the Palestinians, and with his experience many believe that he would still be the best leader for years to come.

"President Arafat has 40 years of experience of leading the Palestinians. No other leader has his experience and knowledge which means that he can handle the situation better than anyone," said Khaled Walid, a manager of a publishing



A file photograph shows Palestinian President Yasser Arafat who is in a coma and in a critical condition in the intensive care unit at a French military hospital. REUTERS

company in Sana'a. "He understands what is happening very well, so the best would be for his recovery."

Some Palestinians claim that while the peace process has been put on hold, Arafat is still the best leader to tackle the problem.

"The Palestinian case is in a critical position, and Arafat is the only man who can handle the case well," said Said Malak, General Manager of Computers and Solutions Tech based in Hodeidah. "I hope he stays alive because he is against Israeli Prime Minister Sharon's policy of aggression and is standing with the Palestinian people to end occupation."

Many are concerned that a power struggle could erupt among Palestinian groups if he is no longer the leader. Arafat has not assigned a successor to fill his position.

"I'm afraid that if Arafat dies, the Palestinian groups might divide," said Ahmed. "He keeps them together. It might be difficult to find the one leader to replace Arafat and keep the groups together."

The Palestinian Ambassador to Yemen, Dr. Khalid El-Sheikh, said last week that the transfer of power will face few obstacles because Palestinian authorities have kept order since Arafat left for France and government institutions and laws will keep things intact if the leader passes away.

Continued on page 11

## Refugees, Somaliland part of talks Somalia in spotlight

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Somali President Abdullah Yusuf arrived in Sana'a Saturday morning in an official visit to Yemen.

The visit included discussions about the Horn of Africa and bilateral relations between Somalia and Yemen. This is Yusuf's first visit to Yemen since he was elected as the president of the 13-year war-torn country.

President Yusuf held talks with

President Ali Abdullah Saleh after he was received at the airport by Vice President Abdo Raboo Mansour Hadi.

Yusuf's talks with Saleh focused on the situation in Somalia as well as on potential mechanisms which could support Somalia on the international and pan-Arab levels and through bilateral cooperation with Yemen.

President Saleh reaffirmed Yemen's official stance in support of President Yusuf's efforts to maintain the unity of the country and help it stabilize and develop economically.

Yemen already asked the Arab League to set up a fund to support the reconstruction of Somalia in an attempt to help breathe life into this country which was devastated by long years of internal conflict.

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## More Africans entering Yemen illegally

By MOHAMMAD BINSALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Official sources in Sana'a said last week that up to 20,000 people from the Horn of Africa have come into Yemen since the beginning of this year.

Most hold Somali citizenship followed by the Ethiopians.

The number of African infiltrators into the Yemeni coastlines are on the rise compared to that of the last few months. The average of those captured exceeds 1,000 a day.

Yemeni security systems captured two weeks ago more than 700 persons who almost hold Somali citizenship, including 150 women, after they illegal-

ly infiltrated into the Yemeni lands, according to the sources.

The sources pointed out that the majority of those possessing the Somali nationality were captured in the coastlines of Radhoum District, Shabwa Governorate south east of Sana'a.

The infiltrators were frayed by unidentified boats from the African coasts to that area. Many others were captured in the province of Hodeidah, west of Sana'a, after they entered across the sea.

Additionally huge numbers of refugees from the Horn of Africa still enjoy illegal stay in the Yemeni lands with the Yemeni authorities unable to find them out.

## EDC meets in Taiz

Taiz Bureau

The Taiz Economic Development Committee (EDC) met on Wednesday Nov. 3 at the Governorate Bureau chaired by Mohammed Al-Haj, Secretary General of the Local Council, head of the committee. The meeting included representatives from unions, handicraft and vocational societies, the commercial chamber, and social affairs, who reviewed the results of the workshop on work environment and the encouragement program GTZ-supported enterprises.

The Committee discussed the needs, problems and obstacles facing entrepreneurs of small and medium enterprises. The coming period will witness the participation of all professional categories. A committee is to be set up to define the duties of societies and evaluate them at later stages.

The meeting was attended by Mohammed Othman, deputy head of the committee, director of the industry office, Eng. Abdunasser Al-Akhuli, director of the governor's office, and Ramzi Al-Hoory, secretary of the committee.

## Collecting signatures Yemeni people to ask Qadhafi for compensation

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of tribesmen and social people in some Yemeni provinces are collecting signatures (perhaps as many as 200,000) to ask the Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi for compensation for damage to their areas from hundreds of thousands of mines.

Some resources pointed out that those people belonging to Taiz, Ibb, al-Dhale'e, al-Baida'a have recently formed a tribal committee. This committee is finalizing a complaint that will be proposed to international organizations showing them the great damages.

Al-Mustaqbal Lebanon newspaper published the news on Nov. 3 that "hectares the agricultural lands and pastures became danger zones, and they are consequently deserted lands since the 1970s when the conflict between the two parts of Yemen was taking place. The Libyan system was accused then of supporting the National Front with millions of mines.

"Tens people and much more animals are still killed. Besides, there are hundreds of injuries and the majority of them are handicapped though the official authorities don't have any idea about this thing. The tribesmen don't expect any response or reaction by the official authorities for political reasons

especially in the current Arab situation."

The tribesmen justify their demand with the overt support and releases said by Libyan officials at that time in which they declared their support for the confrontation with mines equaling in number the population of the northern part before the reunification in 1990.

The tribesmen see that it is a suitable time to announce their demands which

they consider them lawful especially after the new Libyan orientation and their efforts to close all files of the past, such as paying compensation French people, Americans and Germans. The citizens of the middle areas of Yemen are considered much more affected by these dangers.

The resources don't mention the total compensations they ask and whether the Libyan authorities received the demand or not.

## U.S. Embassy holds Iftar dinner

The Public Diplomacy Section of the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a held its third annual traditional Iftar Dinner on Wednesday evening at the Al-Deewan Restaurant in Sana'a with more than 80 guests in attendance.

Attendees included representatives of the Yemeni media, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, cultural and educational organizations and government officials.

In an address during the dinner, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Krajeski underlined America's respect for the religion of Islam and its traditions,

saying that the holy month of Ramadan gives us all the opportunity in Yemen to look at our shared values, beliefs and customs. "All too often" the Ambassador added "there is the tendency to look at things that separate countries, peoples and beliefs. Ramadan and the teachings of the Qur'an would have us look closer at the things that bind us together."

The Ambassador passed on to the Iftar dinner guests the warm greetings of President Bush, who has just won a second term in office, to Muslims around the world on the holy month of Ramadan.

## Conference on women's rights to be held in Sana'a

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government represented by the Ministry of Human Rights is organizing a European - Gulf dialogue on women's rights Dec. 20 and 21, in Sana'a.

The European Union presided over by the Kingdom of Netherlands and

the Organization of "No Peace Without Justice" cooperates with Yemen in holding the dialogue.

Some 300 organizations are participating in the conference, 150 of which are from Yemen representing the government and the civil community organizations, 50 organizations from the Gulf countries, and 100 EU and international organizations.

The conference focuses on issues relating to the woman's political participation and decision-making as well as giving her the chance to participate in different aspects of life, considering these as the rights of women to do so.

The conference comes as a result of comments by Salafi currents in Yemen, particularly as they relate to Gulf countries and the roles of women politically and economically.

## 100,000 Yemenis to visit holy lands in 2004

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Ramadan month is considered the suitable season for recently-opened al-Haj & al-Umrah agencies spreading all over Yemen's towns and streets.

But the Ministry of al-Haj in Saudi Arabia, by ceasing 90 agency offices in Yemen in the last year, has caused huge losses to these agencies and accumulated additional charges on the natives, i.e. in al-Umrah fees, as the same costs in the previous year reached to S.R.200.

The number of the holy travelers (Mu'tamers) this year, as per the declaration of Mr. Musallem Ali Musallem, the Head of the Consular Section in the Kingdom of Arabia Embassy in Sana'a, has reached to 100,000.

The Ministry of al-Haj in Saudi Arabia Kingdom has imposed additional fees amounting to S.R.650 on every Mu'tamer (holy migrant) as housing fees for a period of ten days at least in addition to S.R.200 as transportation costs from Yemen to the sacred lands & vice versa.

This is imposed through the land transportation agencies which were recently opened between the two countries. As well, one month's extension



A view of Mecca Mosque, the center of the Holy Land in Saudi Arabia.

for the al-Mu'tamer has been allowed, after it was restricted to only 15 days in the last year.

The Yemeni Mu'tamers (holy visitors) are always complaining of bad services rendered by the al-Haj & al-Umrah agencies whereby they ascertain that the housing and transportation fees are imposed with no justification, as the Mu'tamers find themselves

being left neglected after having arrived to there.

The Minister of Justice & Endowment has said any agency that violates any clause of the program agreed upon between the Mu'tamers and the Agency will be suspended, and its bank guarantee estimated by four millions Yemeni Riyals, and refund back the rights of the Mu'tamers.

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## Society holds annual meeting

YEMEN TIMES  
TAIZ BUREAU

The general assembly of the Yemeni Society for Kidney Patients in Taiz held its annual meeting on Nov. 2.

It elected the management board, comprised of 13 members.

Mr. Showqi Ahmed Hayel Saeed Ana'am, a Chairman of the Planning, Development and Finance in the Local council in Taiz, was elected as a Chairman to the Society, and the General Manager of the Health & Population Bureau in Taiz, Dr. Abdul Nasser al-Kubab was elected as a Vice-Chairman.

The General Manager of al-Thawra General Hospital in Taiz, Dr. Abdul Malek al-Sayyani was elected as the General Secretary.

As well, a Controlling Committee comprised of five members headed by Dr. Yehia al-Shamy was elected. The Society is rendering support to the KF Patients who are increasing in number which matter called for offering humanitarian supports for the patients and all the sectors, in particular, the poor sector.

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## Socotra gets \$73 K from Japan

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Under the Japanese plan called "Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects", the government of Japan has decided to extend a new grant to Socotra Conservation Fund in order to implement another project in Socotra, amounting up to \$73,678.

The grant will be utilized to procure 4 trucks and other equipment necessary for the improvement of solid waste

management in that unique island.

An agreement concerning this new grant was signed by Abdul-Rahman Al-Eryani, Chairperson of Socotra Conservation Fund and Yuichi Ishii, Ambassador of Japan to Yemen.

Last March, Japan extended two grants amounting up to \$161,495 to implement two projects in Socotra Island. The two projects aim respectively at providing training to Socotra inhabitants on certain skills that could promote eco-tourism in the island, and

developing small-scale gardening to improve nutritive status in the island.

During the current Japanese fiscal year (April 2004-March 2005), nine projects, including this project, have been financed in Yemen amounting to \$665,010.

The plan aims to support small-scale community-based projects in Basic Human Needs fields, such as primary health care, basic education and public welfare in developing countries, including Yemen.

### Smuggling gang suspected

## Chief of Green Area is murdered

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
TAIZ BUREAU

A suspected smuggling gang of brothers Mohammad Al-Amreen and Ali Al-Ameen, along with their accomplices, is suspected in the killing of Mohammad Ahmad Al-Serm the Chief of the Green Area in Mocha on Oct. 30.

The alleged crime took place when the chief tried to stop their truck that was loaded with smuggled firecrackers through the checkpoint. A jeep vehicle escorted the truck.

Al-Ser was allegedly shot dead by the smugglers when he pursued them in an attempt to seize the commodities that were illegally brought into the country.

After their alleged crime, the gang fled the scene.

The murder took place just a few days after a central police officer was brutally assassinated by a smuggling gang. Residents of the area also talk about other cases of murder for similar reasons.

The western coastline of Yemen,

particularly areas around the town of Mocha has been a fertile ground for smugglers for some time. Authorities have been unable to control the flow of smuggled goods in that region due to many obstacles including corruption, ease of movement, and lack of professional training of security personnel.

Goods coming through anonymous sources include drugs, wines and fire-crackers, the last of which cause harms to children.

They are passed into cities across Yemen through these areas.

### 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 think that Yemeni journalist Al-Khaiwani's beating in the Central Prison by another convict was arranged by the authorities?

- Yes, it was
- No, it was not

#### last edition's question:

Are you convinced of the accuracy of the US election results despite the glitches that occurred in some states such as Florida?

- Yes 53%
- No 47%

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The purpose of Zakat al-Fitr

# Feeding the needy at Ramadan's end



BY ADEL AL-KHAWLANI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Zakat is one of the major religious duties in Islam. It is the obligatory charity that every submitter, or Muslim, should pay year around.

Its literal meaning means to grow (in goodness) or 'increase', 'purifying' or 'make pure'.

Every Muslim is required to pay Zakat al-Fitr at the conclusion of the month of Ramadan as a token of thankfulness to God. Its purpose is to purify those who fast from any indecent act or speech and to help the poor and needy.

This view is based upon the hadith, which reads, "The Messenger of Allah, upon whom be peace, enjoined Zakat al-Fitr on those who fast to shield them from any indecent act or speech, and for the purpose of providing food for the needy."

It is accepted as Zakah for the one who pays it before the 'Eid prayer, and it is sadaqah for the one who pays it after the prayer.

Who pays Zakat al-Fitr

Zakat al-Fitr is incumbent on every free Muslim who possesses one Sa' of dates or barley which is not needed as basic food for himself or his family for the duration of one day and night.

Every free Muslim must pay Zakat al-Fitr for himself, his wife and children. This is the opinion of Imam



Different kinds of crops in which Zakat Al-Fitr is paid as Islamic Shariah recommends, however, people can pay it in money instead.



Malik, Al-Shafi'i, and Ahmad. Imam Abu Hanifah, however, said that it is only obligatory for one who possesses a nisab (a minimum amount of property) after fulfilling the costs of his house, servant, horse, and weapon.

Moreover, we have to bear in mind that Zakat al-Fitr is obligatory for everyone who lives until the sun sets on the last day of Ramadan. This is the point of view of the Shafi'i, Hanbali, and Maliki. Likewise, a person who has a baby on the last day of Ramadan should pay Zakat al-Fitr for the baby.

When Zakat al-Fitr is due

The jurists agree that Zakat al-Fitr is due at the end of Ramadan. They differ, however, about the exact time. Al-Thawri, Ishaq, Malik (in one of two reports), and Al-Shafi'i (in one of his two opinions), are of the opinion that it is due at the sunset of the night of

breaking the last day fasting. Other jurists are of the opinion that Zakat al-Fitr can be submitted even at a time preceding the prayer of Eid. It is not preferable to submit it after the prayer of Eid.

What food can be given

The jurists hold different views as to the types of food, which must be given as Zakat al-Fitr. The Hanbali view is that the kinds of food, which can be given, are five: dates, raisins, wheat, barley, and dry cottage cheese.

Imam Ahmad is reported to have said that any kinds of staple grain or dates are also permissible, even if the above five types are available. The Maliki and Shafi'i are of the view that it is permissible to give any kind of food as long as it is the main staple in that particular region or the main food of the person. As for the Hanafis, they

Malikis and Hanbalis agree that the prescribed amount is one Sa', however the Hanafis say it is sufficient to pay half Sa' from wheat and they differed with regard to raisins.

After discussing the arguments of these two opinions al-Qaradawi reached the following conclusion: wheat was not a common food amongst them during the time of the Prophet so he did not prescribe one Sa' of it as he did with the other types of food.

As for those of the Companions of the Prophet who prescribed half Sa' of wheat instead of one Sa' of barely or dates like Mu'awiyah and other Companions, he views that they did so by analogy, since the value of wheat was more than those of other types of food which were equal.

But according to their opinion, he says, the value should be considered and taken as the criterion and this will cause instability and confusion for it changes from place to another and from time to time.

He mentioned that in Pakistan the value of wheat is less than that of dates, then how should we pay of it half the amount (i.e. Sa') that we should pay of dates? He also mentioned that nowadays raisins are more expensive than wheat and dates. The only solution for these problems, he says, is to regard Sa' as the criterion and basis.

Al-Qaradawi explains why the Prophet appointed Sa' as the measure and did not prescribe it in money saying that in his opinion there are two reasons for this: First, money was still rare among the Arabs particularly the Bedouins. They did not have their own currency.

So if the Prophet had prescribed it in money, he would have caused hardship to them. Second, the purchasing power of money changes from time to time. For instance, the purchasing power of a certain currency sometimes becomes low and other times high, so paying Zakat al-Fitr in money makes its value unstable.

The amount of Sa'

Sa' is a certain measure which equals 4 handfuls of an average man. The contemporary equivalent weights of Sa' differs according to the stuff which is weighed. For example a Sa' of wheat equals 2176 grams and a Sa' of rice is 2520 grams while a Sa' of beans equals 2250 grams etc.

Therefore some scholars are of the view that the criterion should be the measure not the weight for there are kinds of food, which are heavier than others. But I think this is the case if the equivalent weight of a certain kind of food is not known. If there is no available measure or weight with the person, then he should pay 4 handfuls.

Nowadays, it is not that problem because ministries of religious affairs in Muslim countries and mosques and Islamic centres in Western countries announce the value of Zakat al-Fitr every year.

Anyhow, this is the obligatory amount, which every Muslim should pay. It is better and recommended that one pays an extra amount, particularly for those who are wealthy, for they will be rewarded for it.

Payment in money

As it is mentioned earlier, the Hanafis permitted the payment of Zakat al-Fitr in money. This is the view of Al-Thawri, Al-Hasan al-Basri, and 'Umar ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. However, the three schools did not permit this. Their argument is that the Prophet did not do so and hence its payment in money contradicts the Sunnah of the Prophet.

permit paying the value of Zakat al-Fitr in money.

Ibn Al-Qayyim highlighted these different viewpoints and concluded that the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, prescribed Zakat al-Fitr as one Sa' of dates, barley, raisins or dry cottage cheese. These were the main staple kinds of food in Madinah.

As for people of other territories, what they should pay is one sa' of their staple grain, such as corn, rice, etc. But if their main staple food is other than grain, such as milk, meat, fish, etc., then they should pay one Sa' of that particular food. This is the opinion of the majority of scholars and is the preferred point of view, since it achieves the purpose of fulfilling the needs of the poor on the day of 'Eid with the staple food of their region.

The calculation of Zakat al-Fitr

The amount of Zakat al-Fitr, as referred earlier, is one Sa' of food. There is consensus on this amount among the scholars with regard to all types of food except wheat and raisins. As for these two types the Shafi'i,



A breast-feeding mother and a disabled teenager anxiously waiting for their shares of Zakat as Islamic Shariah prescribes.

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But some temporary scholars support the Hanafi view since this is easier nowadays for the payer particularly in cities where people use only money for dealings. In many countries across the world, the payment in money is more useful to the poor. He also mentioned that when the Prophet prescribed it from food, it was easy for the payer and useful for the recipient during that time.

But nowadays to pay it in food is not useful for the poor because he cannot make use, for instance, of wheat or dates unless he sells them with any price, generally low, to buy his needs with the money.

Al-Qaradawi excluded the times of famines where the payment of food is more useful for the recipients and said that the criterion is the benefit of the poor. So if food proves to be more useful as in times of famines and catastro-

phes, then its payment in kind is better. But if money is more useful, then its payment in money is better.

Nowadays, if we consider the condition in the Muslim world in general and that of Muslims in the West in particular we will discover that the second view is more convenient with the spirit of Islamic legislation and the present condition of Muslims.

As we usually see when Muslims living in the West decide to transfer their Zakah funds or some of them to needy Muslims in Muslim countries, then the payment in money is more convenient.

Some blame only Eve, but . . .

## Both genders fell from Paradise

BY KHADIJA AL-MAHDI FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Oddly enough, some Christians believe Eve to be the culprit behind our loss of Garden of Paradise, because they say Satan whispered to Eve to eat the fruit of the forbidden tree. Having found her eating, Adam decided and resigned to join in her fate, ate also. This clearly and obviously shows the extent to which the true account of the story has been distorted. I mean no offence and I beg to differ.

That's on the one hand, but on the other I can't really imagine how people calling themselves woman rights preservers disgrace woman by claiming that. Isn't this going against her right of dignity? Don't they abuse her rights rather than preserve them? Isn't this baseless and groundless account? If they continue to believe so of woman, they can easily attribute to her every evil act. Besides labeling her as a source of wrongdoing and wickedness, she will constitute a constant reminder of their loss of Eden. What a life hers would be, of course, intolerable. Suffice it to say that they call woman a "necessary evil".

Dear teacher, I say it again and again; what shame is there in confessing the truth? I really wonder whether you still have that low opinion of women who are your dear mother, wife, daughter and sister. I hope that you've changed your opinion since then. Instead of violently arguing about it, why don't we strive and do every good to gain back Paradise.

My teacher of chemistry at school once insinuated, out of his utter abyss of ignorance, that women are the sole reason of our loss of Paradise, and what's more, the source of every evil in this universe.

To your surprise, that teacher is a Muslim holding an opinion going against what's mentioned in our Holy Book. We were taken aback by our teacher's mistaken and tough stand. We attempted to convince him, but it was in vain.

In my opinion, I don't believe that woman, or Eve, is the only one to be held responsible for our temporary loss of Eden. To tell the truth, Adam shares the responsibility equally, as well. Clearly enough, humankind's loss of Eden and descent to earth were, above all, God's punishment for both Adam and Eve's sin.

Reading the Holy Qura'an, you find that Satan whispered to Adam and Eve and induced them both to eat from the forbidden tree. Consequently, they yielded to temptation and acted on his instructions innocently, and the Lord called out to them saying: "Did I not forbid you that tree?" God, in his censure, was rebuking them using the Arabic dual plural meaning 'you both', that's Adam and Eve.

# *UAE statesman dies*

## Sheikh Zaid was an Arab leader to emulate



By YASSER AL-MAYASI  
ym\_almayasi@yahoo.com  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The United Arab Emirates bade farewell on Tuesday November 2 to their leader and founder, Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan who passed away at the age of 86.

Sheikh Zaid, the fourth son of Sultan Bin Zaid Al Nahayan who ruled the Emirate of Abu Dhabi during the period 1922-1926, is highly respected as the best Arab leader in terms of developmental achievements that made the UAE occupy great prestige among countries around the world.

Sheikh Zaid started sitting on the throne of Abu Dhabi Emirate in 1966 after being a ruler for the city of Al Ain and the Western Area in 1946. His

rule of Abu Dhabi achieved developmental moves and in 1968 he stepped up his efforts and unified the dispersed Emirates.

After a series of conventions and meetings with the rulers of Such Emirates, he reached the declaration of the unity of the UAE on December 2 1971 as well as his being sworn in a president of the state.

He started a journey full of blessing and prudence and since then Sheikh Zaid made the UAE jump upward in different areas. He has made it a sample of rapid growth in a waste desert.

When Sheikh Zaid started ruling the nation, he faced hard tasks represented in several dimensions, among which is building up the legislations and the constitutional institutions.

Numerous events interfered with the developmental progress in the UAE but the will and insistence of the leadership was the reason for achieving success and overcoming difficulties.

From the desert itself, Sheikh Zaid learned economics and the affairs of life in a climate providing him a hopeful vision. When he became a ruler, his qualities led to his success. He made himself a mirror and example of productivity and unity as well as the sustainable interaction with his subjects fulfilling their desires. Zaid's philosophy stems from the fact that building up the country relies on building up the citizen who is the source of the development process and the pivot of advancement.

Hence, his policy worked for the provision of schools and institutions of higher education, and cultural, professional and health centers that created a well-bred generation who in turn loyally serves his homeland.

From the educational revolution, the awakening of the UAE occasioned to witness the graduation of the physician, the engineer, the accountant, the lawyer, the police and army recruit. Anybody who knew the UAE three decades ago and still knows it today will inevitably perceive the huge difference of the current progress in the country which was not more than piles of sand, coasts and dispersed clay houses.

Anyone needs to

know today the amount of awakening and development should have a glance at figures of the economic indicators. For instance, in 1972, the national income was UAE dirham 4.7 billion, but has now reached UAE diham 254,620. The UAE dirham equals US \$ 3.5. The average per-capita income comes at dirham 623,000 and this exceeds from 2001 onwards.

The great achievements of the UAE in different fields were also realized in the industrial and economic areas. As a result, the foreign investments

were attracted to the country, activating the role of tourism as well as welcoming businessmen to establish institutions and invest in the country with the passage of years, particularly in the Dubai free zone.

Sheikh Zaid proved able to extend aids to different Arab countries including Yemen, which lavishly received support in various fields of which we mention:

- From 1972 to 1974 he gave aids to Yemen in establishing national radio and Television in Yemen.

- In September 1976 he attended

the ceremony staged on the occasion of laying down the foundation stone for Sana'a-Marib highway, whose cost exceeded the YR 187 million at the expense of the UAE.

- In April 1982, the UAE offered an urgent assistance worth of \$ 3million to alleviate the damage of floods and torrents that surged over Yemen.

- In April 1993, the UAE donated with \$10 million for assisting the nation of Bosnia.

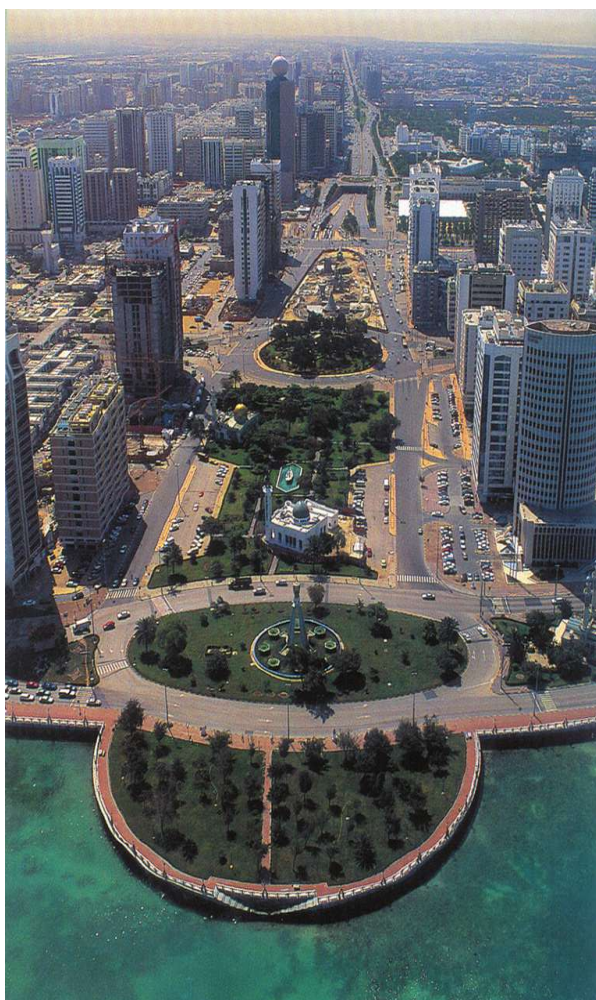
- In October 2003, Sheikh Zaid donated with UAE dirham 30 million for the victims of al-Aqsa Intifada.



Late Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan



The Arab Tower in the city of Dubai at sunset



A spectacular view of Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE

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# Iraqi rebels hit back as US bombs Falluja

FALLUJA, Iraq, Nov 6 (Reuters) - U.S. forces hit Iraq's rebel stronghold of Falluja with the fiercest air and ground bombardment in months, as insurgents struck back on Saturday with attacks that killed up to 37 people in Samarra.

The Falluja strikes, before a threatened major assault on Saddam Hussein loyalists and militants allied to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, destroyed a hospital, a medical warehouse and dozens of homes, dazed residents said after a sleepless night.

Hospital staff said ambulances had been unable to go out as the city shook to explosions. Later, they collected two dead and seven wounded civilians, among them women and children.

With a U.S.-led offensive on Falluja apparently imminent, rebels hit back with attacks in Samarra, Baghdad and Ramadi, another rebel-held city.

The deadliest assaults were in Samarra, where a suicide car bomber rammed into a police station and three car bombs exploded elsewhere. Insurgents also attacked three other police stations.

Police said the onslaught killed 34 people — 19 Iraqi police, two Iraqi National Guards, two members of an Iraqi Rapid Reaction Force and 11 civilians. They said 43 people had been wounded, 28 of them members of the security forces.

"I saw a car trying to reach the town hall," said bookshop owner Mohammed Ahmed. "When police stopped it, it exploded."

Separately, police said rebels shot dead another policeman and are suspected of firing a mortar that killed a woman and a young boy in a house near a U.S. base in the city.

U.S. and Iraqi forces stormed Samarra a month ago to dislodge rebels in what was seen as a prelude to the



Iraqi men stand over rubble of emergency hospital in Falluja destroyed during U.S. air raid. Iraqi civilians stand over the rubble of the Saudi funded emergency hospital in Falluja, Hai Nazal, after it was destroyed during an overnight U.S. air raid conducted over the western city, Nov. 6, officials in the hospital said.

REUTERS full-scale assault on rebel-held areas ahead of Jan. 27 elections.

An Iraqi military commander deserted U.S. forces hours after he received a full briefing on U.S. military plans to storm Falluja, CNN reported on Saturday.

But the pool report sent to Reuters from a Marine unit quoted U.S. officers as saying the desertion of the unidentified captain, a Kurdish company commander would not change plans to retake the city.

#### Marines targeted

A Marine spokesman said an attack on a U.S. convoy wounded 16 Marines in Ramadi, 110 km (68 miles) west of Baghdad. A police source said it had been a car bomb blast.

Hospital staff said at least one Iraqi was killed and 14 wounded in clashes

between rebels and U.S. forces in the city.

Insurgents also battled U.S. troops near a highway just north of Falluja and American planes bombed targets on the northern edge of the city, witnesses said.

In Baghdad, a big explosion struck the main airport road, killing an Iraqi civilian and wounding another and three U.S. soldiers. Four blasts rocked central Baghdad on Saturday night, witnesses said. But no details were immediately available.

In Falluja, residents said the overnight bombardment had reduced a small Saudi-funded hospital to rubble.

Only its facade, with a sign reading Nazzal Emergency Hospital, remained intact. Reuters photographs showed blue surgical cloths and empty medicine boxes amid the ruins.

A nearby compound used by the main Falluja Hospital to store medical supplies was also destroyed, witnesses said.

Most of the city's 300,000 people have already fled. After Friday night's barrage, many more streamed out of the city to the northwest on the only road left open by U.S. forces.

"I left the city two days ago, but my heart is still in Falluja," said Abu Mohammed, who had taken his family to stay with relatives near the city. "We are living in terror."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has warned an attack on Falluja could undermine the elections, but his comments drew a chilly response from interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.

Annan criticised the expected assault in letters to Allawi, U.S. President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, saying it would spark more Iraqi anger and damage the credibility of the nationwide January elections.

Allawi, due back in Baghdad soon after a trip to Europe, told the BBC Annan's letter was confused and unclear.

Allawi says Falluja is a haven for former Saddam fighters and militants led by Zarqawi's group, an ally of al Qaeda which claimed responsibility for a suicide car bombing on Thursday that killed three British troops south of Baghdad.

Ramadi police said the bodies of two hostages, a Sudanese and an Iraqi, were found on the banks of the Euphrates on Saturday.

They had been shot dead. They have not been identified, but only one Sudanese, a translator, was known to be among the more than 25 foreigners being held in Iraq.

## China opposes UN Council's referral on Iran

TEHRAN, Nov 6 (Reuters) - China said on Saturday it would be better to resolve Iran's nuclear case without sending it to the U.N. Security Council, where Beijing holds the option of vetoing any sanctions against Tehran.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, on a two-day visit to Iran, said he had discussed Iran's nuclear case with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw in recent days.

"I told all my colleagues that China supports a solution to this issue within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," he told a news conference in Tehran.

"I really don't quite know if it will be brought to the Security Council. It would only make the issue more complicated and difficult to work out," he added.

Iran last week signed a major preliminary oil and gas investment deal with energy-thirsty China, prompting analysts to speculate that Tehran was seeking to curry favour with Beijing in case its nuclear dossier is sent to the Security Council.

China is one of five permanent Security Council members along with the United States, Britain, France and Russia, with the option of vetoing resolutions.

But Li was not-committal about whether China would use that power in support of Iran, noting that vetoes are seldom exercised by the five permanent members.

Hossein Mousavian, one of Iran's top nuclear negotiators, said in an interview published on Saturday that

Iran could not count on China's support in the Security Council.

"It is a mistake to think that China would be ready to stand against the U.S. and Europe regarding Iran's nuclear issue," he told the Kayhan afternoon daily.

Mousavian said Chinese officials had told Iran that the value of its trade with the United States was "hundreds or maybe thousands of times the size of their trade with Iran."

Iran, which denies U.S. accusations of developing nuclear weapons, is engaged in critical talks with the European Union in Paris to avert referral to the Security Council.

The talks, which centre on Iran's uranium enrichment activities, continued for several hours on Saturday.

The EU wants Iran to freeze uranium enrichment — which can be used to make fuel for atomic reactors or to make nuclear bombs — before the next meeting of the IAEA board on Nov. 25.

But Iran says it will only agree to suspend enrichment for six months at most and will never scrap its efforts to produce its own nuclear fuel as the EU and Washington wants.

"The negotiations are complicated and difficult, but both sides are determined to continue the talks. We'll have to see where they will lead," Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told the joint news conference with Li.

"It is in the interests of both sides that the issue be resolved in a way that Iran retains its legitimate right to use peaceful nuclear technology and others are assured that Iran is not seeking nuclear weapons," he said.



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#### SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSISTANT

(In UNHCR Aden)

##### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Assesses the general social conditions of refugees and their needs for social services, including medical, financial and other assistant.
2. Provide counselling and ensure follow-up regarding individual needs, with a particular focus on vulnerable individuals.
3. Undertake research and assess community resources in support of the planning and implementation of assistance, services and activities for refugees, including medical, education and self-reliance activities.
4. Assist the refugee community to identify its own needs, establish priorities and to meet those needs through self-help initiatives, the mobilization of community resources and effective use of other available services.
5. Ensure effective cooperation and good working relations with implementing partners and with Government officials in relevant institutions concerning the planning of assistance, services and activities for refugees.
6. Assist in the preparation of project proposals, based upon the results of research and evaluation carried out.
7. Prepare correspondence, reports and statistics as required.
8. Supervise and coordinate the work of lower level staff and implementing partners, as they relate to the community services.
9. Perform any related tasks assigned by supervisor.

##### QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

- ∞ Master degree in Health or Social Science field.
- ∞ 6 years of progressive previous experience in related field.
- ∞ Proficiency in the use of computers and office software packages.
- ∞ Excellent command of English and Arabic (written and oral).

Candidates who have the necessary qualifications and experience are invited to submit their Curriculum Vitae with a brief letter not later than the 25 November 2004 to:

**Admin. & Finance Unit**  
**The UN Refugee Agency**  
**P.O. Box: 6090,**  
**Tel No.: 235111/231441**  
**Fax No.: 02-234406**  
**Aden – Republic of Yemen**



### External VACANCY

The office of the UN Refugee Agency in Yemen invites applications for the post of

#### DURABLE SOLUTION CLERK

(In UNHCR Aden)

##### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Disseminate information regarding durable solutions options of refugees, including through frequent visits to the Kharaz refugee camp.
2. Assist refugees in choosing a durable solution, identifying and registering those opting for voluntary repatriation or local integration, and drawing the Protection Officer's to possible candidates for resettlement.
3. Prepare weekly and monthly reports regarding progress, problems and other issues related to the implementation of durable solutions for refugees, including statistics on registration and movements.
4. Develop effective and harmonious working relationships with implementing partners and other relevant counterparts involved in the efforts to secure durable solutions for refugees.
5. Organise and monitor, in coordination with these partners, the transportation, transit accommodation and basic assistance for repatriation refugees.
6. Maintain contact with Government authorities regarding operational issues and to obtain information and statistics regarding spontaneous repatriation movements taking place without UNHCR involvement.
7. Perform any related tasks assigned by supervisor.

##### QUALIFICATION AND SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

- ∞ Secondary Education.
- ∞ 3-4 years of progressive previous experience in related field.
- ∞ Proficiency in the use of computers and office software packages.
- ∞ Excellent command of English and Arabic (written and oral).

Candidates who have the necessary qualifications and experience are invited to submit their Curriculum Vitae with a brief letter not later than the 25 November 2004 to:

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Bilquis Marib Main Bldg. (Room, Bkfst, Dinner*)		
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Double	YER 6,500	

Al Hawta Palace (Room, Bkfst, Dinner*)		
	Non-Yemenis	Yemenis
Single	\$60	YER 8,000
Double	\$75	YER 10,000
Triple	\$90	YER 13,000

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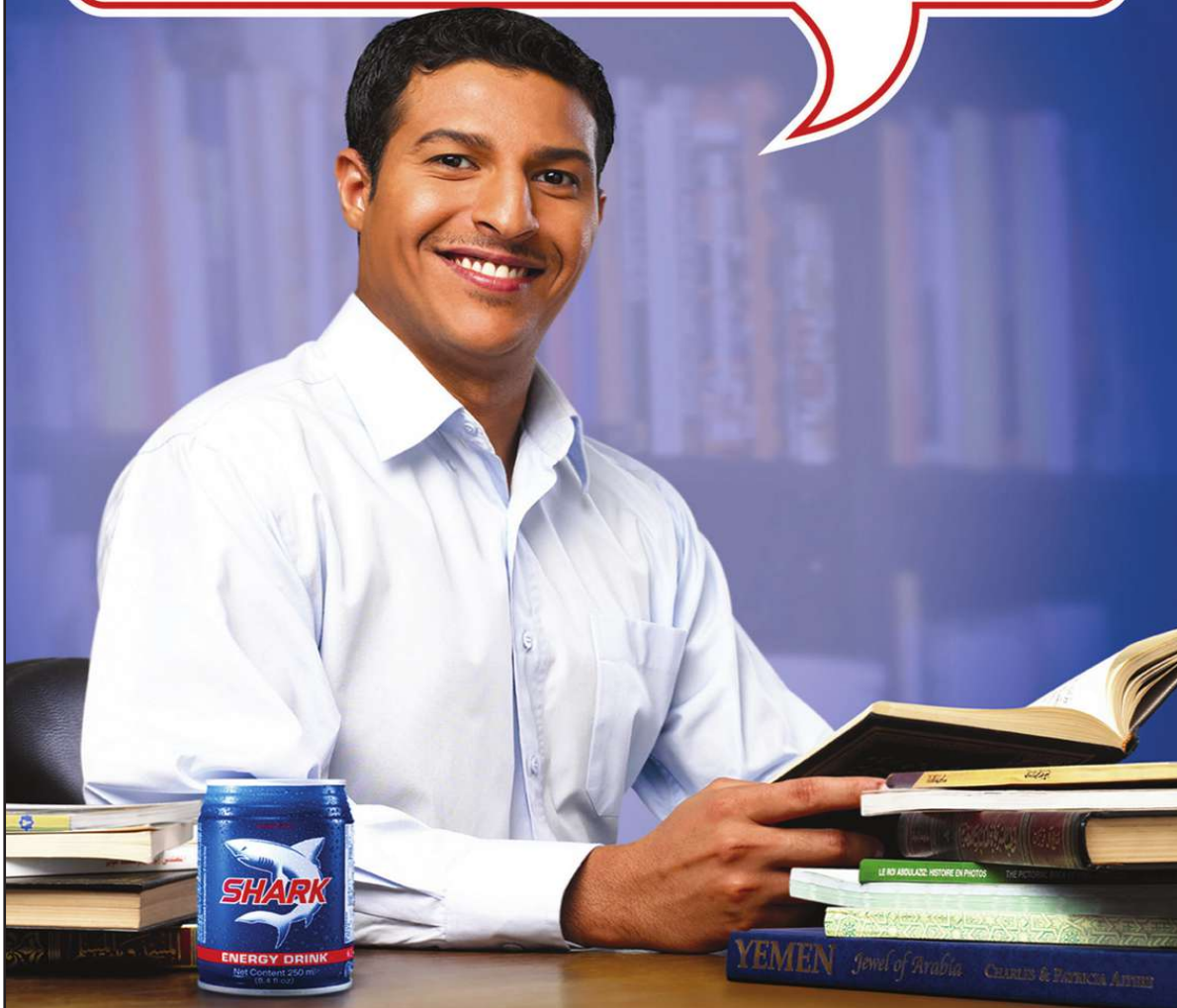
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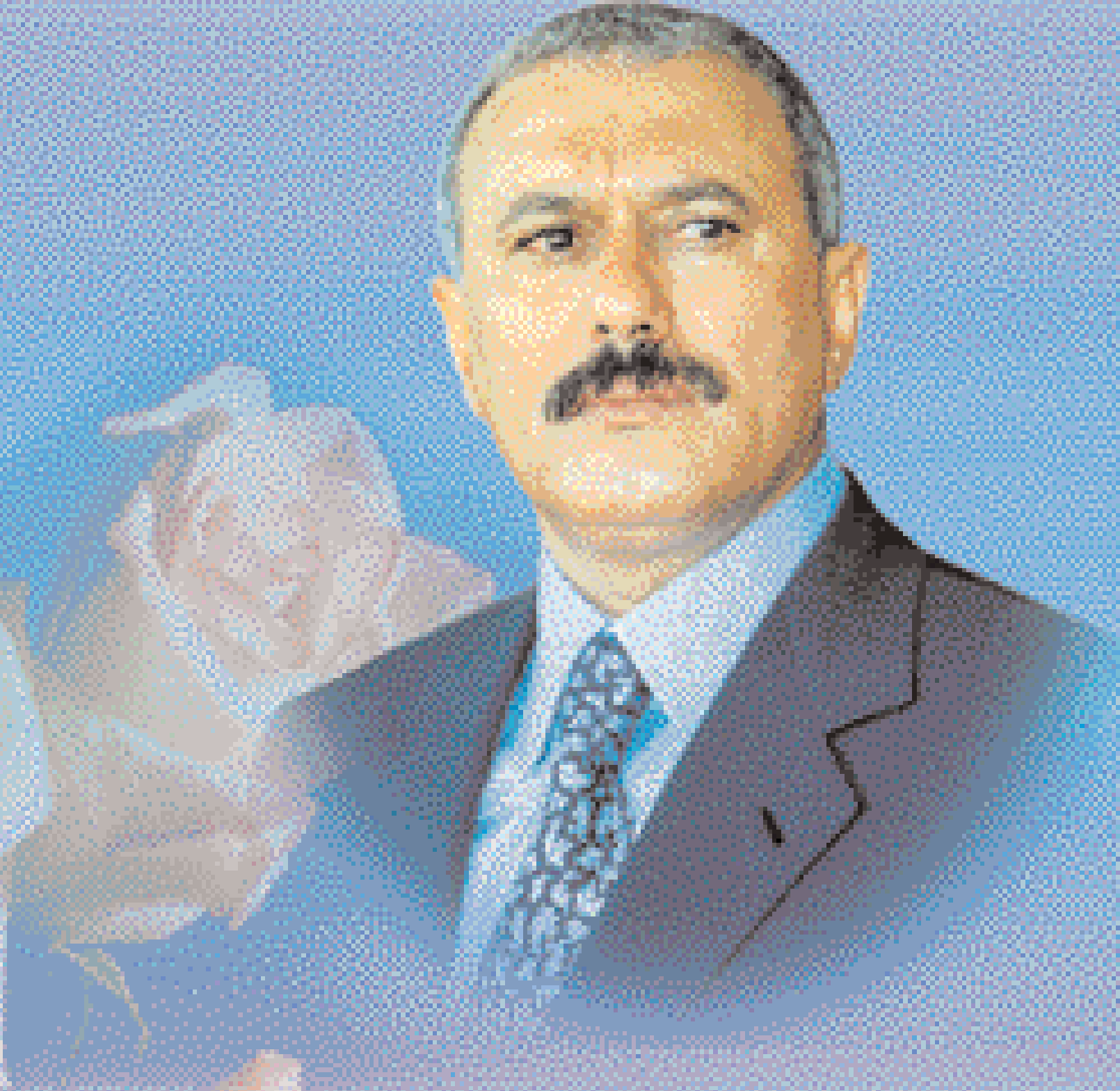
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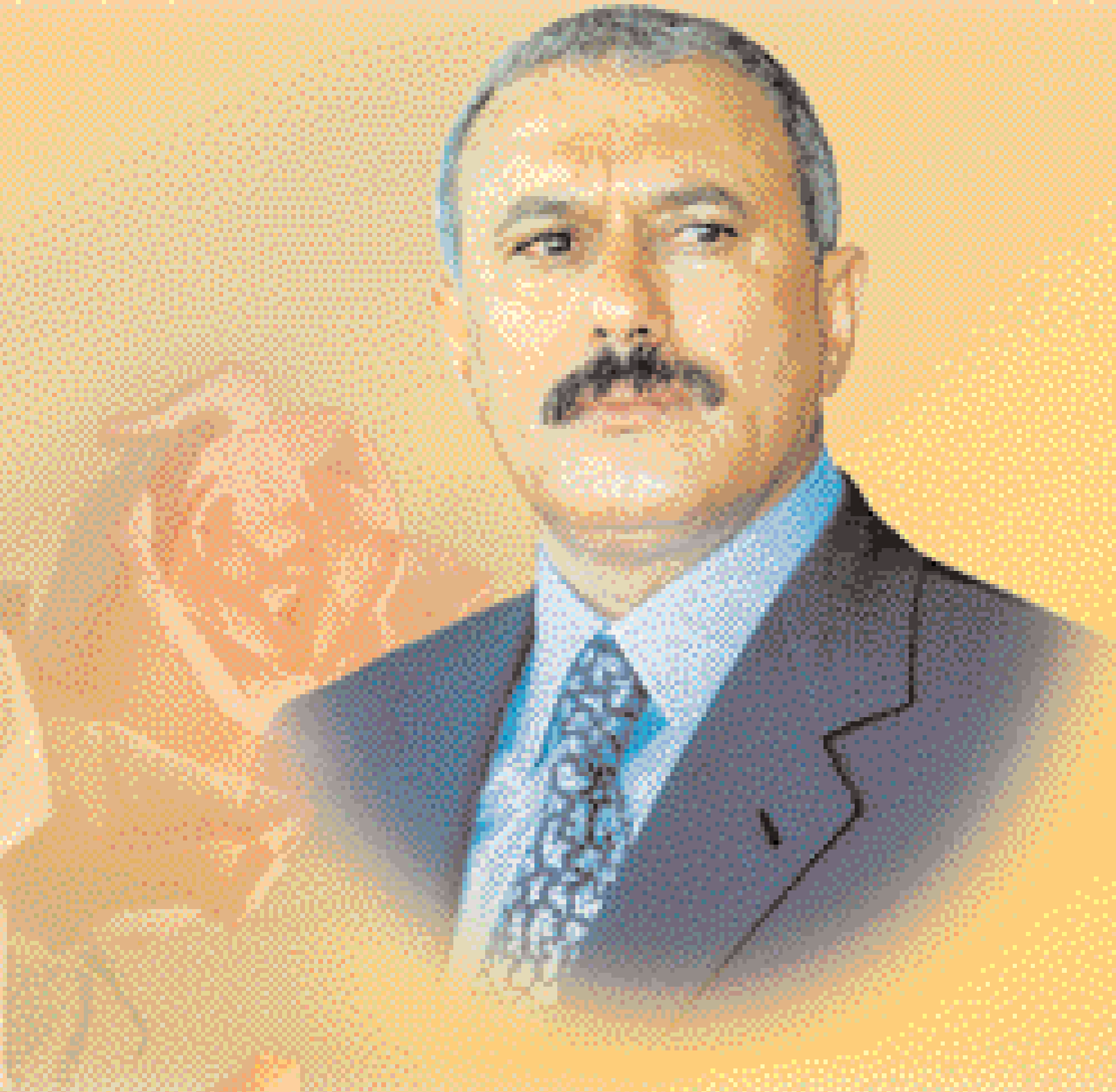
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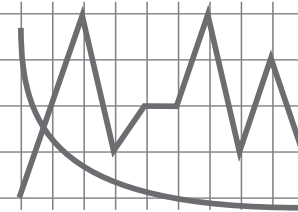
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YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
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Overall investment in Yemen has risen from YR 284.5 billion in 2000 to YR 559.8 billion in 2003 at an average annual growth rate of 25 per cent, which is more than the targeted amount in the second five-year plan.

A government report ascribes the big increase in government investments, investments in public and mixed sectors and those of independent and annexed sectors as well as private funds.

Those investments exceeded what had been expected in the five-year plan, due to the state's goal of improving the level of the economy infrastructure and working toward

the plans of the poverty alleviation, improving basic services, and services of social security in a manner contributing to improvement of investment.

The report on the five-year plan, from 2001-2005 also explained that local and foreign investments have risen from YR 168.3 billion in 2000 to YR 220 billion in 2003, at an average annual growth by 9.3 per cent. This is below the annual rate of inflation for the same period, which means that the actual size of private investment has receded by an annual rate of 2.1 per cent, and that is unlike what has been targeted in the plan and expectations of the private and public sectors.

The plan was expecting that the private sector would take the initiative and embark on leading the process of investment and consequently open large-scale growing annual investments by no less than

23.5 per cent. The report has in this regard shown the great gap between what was expected from the private sector role in the development process mentioned in the plan and what has been realized.

The percentage of achieving the goal has not exceeded 39.7 per cent, and thus there is clarification of the reasons behind the low-level in the rate of economic growth during that period.

The report also mentioned that the government sector, and in order to attain goals of the plan and strategy for poverty alleviation, has gone beyond what was targeted in the five-year plan, whether it was in the chapter of final consumption, or particularly regarding the investment side.

Nevertheless, it has indicated that the private sector has failed in reaching the target in the investment side, reflecting itself negatively at the

level of final consumer spending of the sector, and implying that there is an obvious change in structure of specifying resources.

Proportion of gross investments rose by about 8.4 per cent by virtue of the great increase in government, public, mixed, independent units and funds sectors investments. The gross of their investments has risen to the gross of investments from 40.8 per cent in the year 2000 to 60.7 per cent in 2003. Against that, investments of the local and foreign private sector recorded a retreat from 59.2 per cent to 39.3 per cent during the same period and also the retreat in the proportion of exports of commodities and services by around 4 per cent, and that had its effect in not achieving the growth rates targeted.

The second five-year plan target has been designed to realize a change in the national economy structure along with course and type of total

demand components through the creation of suitable change in spending on gross domestic product for the benefit of gross investment.

According to the report published in the Economic Supplement of Al-Thawra Newspaper, the plan has worked for realizing a big gradual increase in investment in general, from 19.2 per cent of the gross domestic product in 2000 to 28.6 per cent at the end of the plan period.

That increase depends on achievement a high average growth in private sector investment to attain a rate of 23.5 per cent and fewer rates in government and oil investment which are expected to realize an annual growth rate by 18 per cent and 10 per cent consecutively during the period of the plan. Those rates include stability in the individual income and its increase in future by mustering and distribution of investment resources in order to extend the

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	185.0600	185.2400
Sterling Pound	341.4600	341.8000
Euro	237.3100	237.5400
Saudi Rial	49.3500	49.3900
Kuwaiti Dinar	627.9400	628.5500
UAE Dirhem	50.3900	50.4300
Egyptian Pound	29.6600	29.6900
Bahraini Dinar	490.8600	491.3300
Qatari Rial	50.8400	50.8900
Jordanian Dinar	261.0700	261.3200
Omani Rial	480.6800	481.1500
Swiss Franc	155.0300	155.1800
Swedish Crown	26.1800	26.2000
Japanese Yen	1.7394	1.7411

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

productive base of the national economy and increasing production efficiency as well as limiting squander in economy.

The report also expects a rise in the private sector share in investment reaching at 61.8 per cent in the final year of the plan versus a drop in proportion of government and oil investment at 38.2 per cent. This development reflects a rise in role of the private sector in development, including the transfer of administration and implementation of some productive and public services projects to the private sector via privatization that represents one of the methods of developing the private sector and increase of its role in developing the national economy and diversification of the production base.

## *New measures for ...*

# Restructuring Yemen's oil & minerals sector

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Higher Council for Economic and Oil Affairs and Investments has recommended that the Yemeni State Establishment for Oil and Gas would represent the government for its share in the group of oil agreements that the Ministry of Oil has signed with a number of oil companies.

The Council had taken that recommendation after its approval of submitting the concluded agreements with oil companies in sectors 69, 71, 72 and 73 situated in the governorates of Shabwa and Hadramout.

The council proposed management of the government share with the contracting parties after amending all previous agreements according to which it had authorized the Yemeni branch company, which is under establishment, to participate in oil production on condition it shall issue all resolutions and necessary legal amendments.

The Higher council for Economic and Investment Affairs approved the nomination of a highly qualified international advisor for the oil ministry to help it in all aspects and measures pertaining to signing oil agreements with regards to economic, financial and consultative sides.

The council, by choosing an



Experts believe that it is now about time for the Yemeni government to start rehabilitating and expanding the public sector facilities dealing with gas and oil, especially as new companies are now involved in new explorations in new blocs that were open for tenders many months ago. YT photo (archive)

advisor to the oil ministry, intended to avoid problems resulting from oil

agreements and commitments with highest degrees of transparency and

clarity as well as the public interest of the state and investors rights.

The council has also affirmed the importance of the ministry seeking

help from a world investment company for the restructuring of the sector of oil and minerals. It has also entrusted the ministry for the re-analysis and evaluation of oil agreements through drawing up complete vision on the mechanism that should be followed in this area.

The council has also proposed the restructure of the State Establishment for Oil Investments for the purpose of activating its designed role in the oil sector and serving the Yemeni economy. These measures come following proposals presented by the International Monetary Fund to the Yemeni government concerning Yemeni oil production.

The proposals included the importance of studying alternatives to be depended on for development of the national income along with indicators assuring that oil future in the country is possibly heading for dwindling and retreat.

Nevertheless, Yemen, which produces around 450 bpd of crude oil, intends to go ahead in the process of oil discoveries of new wells and fields, especially that there are geological surveys indicating that the country possesses big opportunities for new oil discoveries.

Yemen depends on oil and gas revenues in supporting its general budget by a proportion exceeding 85% for improving its exports of non-oil commodities and goods and the improvement of its external balance of trade.

## *More than two million beneficiaries*

# Charitable societies active in Ramadan

By Yemen Times Staff

Officials working in the area of charitable work have estimated that there are around 2.5 million persons benefiting from programs carried out by charitable societies in Yemen during the fasting month Ramadan, despite of the harassments those societies face under pretexts of the international campaign of fighting terror.

Specialists in the area of charity

work told Yemen Times that the very poor segments in the society are benefiting from assistance of charitable societies and mostly the aid they receive is in the form of food stuffs, clothes and money.

The specialists affirmed that the societies contributions in fighting poverty in Yemen do lessen the indignation of the people harboured against the government and drop the proportion of the poor practice in terrorist acts. Consequently those specialists have called for helping those societies

in their charitable acts and works and implementation of services projects.

Despite of the large number of private and non-governmental societies in Yemen, little number of them has capabilities to fulfill offering aid and meet the goals for which they were established for.

A map for depicting such societies programs show that the Al-Saleh Social Society for Development worked for distribution of aid among 350,000 poor families at a cost of around YR 640 million.

The Society has established an Iftar (breaking fast) project in the capital included those affiliate of the Social Welfare House, Orphans House and the various societies for the handicapped and the blind. The assistance also includes Eid clothes for 3500 needy families and 4000 beneficiaries from needy families.

With regards to expansion in extending help to the poor, the Social Reform Charitable Society occupies the second place in this work. It has, among its Ramadan programs, put

offering help to more than one million individuals through offering Iftar meals at a cost of over YR 107 million and offering food assistance to 50 thousand poor families, including wheat, sugar, cooking oil, rice, and meat at a cost of over YR 44 million.

The Reform Society would in its program of Eid clothes offer clothes to 60,000 children at a cost of more than YR 165 million. It would also offer help to those staying in mosques for YR 9 million, and clothes to orphans at a cost of more than YR 5.4

million.

Meanwhile, the Yamani Hikma Society has allotted for its Ramadan programs a total cost of more than YR 87 million.

Specialist estimated the total number of beneficiaries from Ramadan assistance at around 2.5 million poor people with a sum over YR 5 billion. Those Ramadan projects affirm the principle of social solidarity in Islam that encourages acts of charity and the help of the needy and the poor as discarding terror.

Continued from page 1

# Prison beating

The International Journalists Union sent a message last week to president Saleh urging him to release Al-Khaiwani to affirm Yemen's commitment to principles of press freedom.

The Secretary General of the Union expressed his concern over the reports on Al-Khaiwani's health. He requested the president to make sure his directives are applied concerning the abolishing of journalists' imprisonment, to assert Yemen's adhering to the values of democracy, plurality and freedom of expression.

"The trial and imprisonment of Al-Khaiwani has surprised the world's journalists. It is

unbearable and targets journalists' work," the message said.

The Secretary General of the Union, which is the biggest union worldwide to which Yemen's Journalists Syndicate belongs, denounced the official withdrawal of Al-Nida and Al-Huriyah newspapers' licenses.

"These acts and the detention of Al-Khaiwani is a type of oppressing journalists and newspapers," the message added.

Meanwhile, tens of Yemeni journalists gathered together Saturday afternoon, Nov 6 at the gate of the Sana'a Central Prison on hearing about the Friday's attack.

The protestors expressed their resentment at jeopardizing Al-Khaiwani. They also fearfully indicated the possibility of his death after the series of attacks in prison.

"They said: 'This is likely because the government has not responded to the journalists' and liberty lovers' warnings about putting Al-Khaiwani among criminal convicts in prison.'

One of the PFU's leaders said: "Preliminary information reveals that the perpetrator is related to a security body that has ordered him to attack Al-Khaiwani in order to take revenge on him for his political stance and journalistic writing."

وبشر الكافرين الذين إذا اصطفتهم  
مكيدة قالوا إن الله وإننا إليه راجعون



الشيخ / زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان  
في ذمة الله تعالى



مجموعة معبد الشمس للخدمات ممثلة  
بالاستاذ / حسن ربيع بن عريب  
رئيس المجموعة

والاستاذ / عزيز ربيع بن عريب  
مدير عام المجموعة

تتقدم بأحر التعازي و أصدق المواساة الى سعادة الأستاذ الفاضل /

حمد بن سعيد بن حمد الزعابي  
سفير دولة الإمارات

وذلك في وفاة فقيد الأمة العربية والإسلامية المفضولة بإذن الله تعالى الشيخ /

زايد بن سلطان آل نهيان  
رئيس دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة

الذي إنتقل إلى جوار ربه، وإننا إذ نشاطركم العزاء في الفقيد الراحل

نتمنى من الله اعلى القدير أن يتقدم الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته

و أن يلهمكم أتم وأهله وذوية والشعب الإماراتي الصبر

والسلوان .. وإننا لله وإننا إليه راجعون ..

مجموعة معبد الشمس للخدمات



Continued from page 1

## Arafat down

Before Arafat traveled to France to receive medical tests a week and a half ago, he appointed former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to head the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) while the current Prime Minister Ahmed Qorei is in charge of the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority is responsible for governing Palestinian territories but is viewed as being under the control of the PLO.

Last Friday, representatives of Fatah met with members of militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad and other factions in Gaza, which was seen as showing unity. It is said that if Arafat passes away, Abbas and Qorei may team up to lead the transition before the next leader is selected.

By law, Speaker of the Palestinian Parliament, Rouhi Fattouh, would become the leader and elections would be held within 60 days if Arafat is no longer in charge.

Some Palestinians are worried that if a replacement is needed, the new leader might offer too many concessions to Israel if the

peace process is rejuvenated.

"Palestinians do not want to retreat, and it is no time to surrender," said Walid. "Some are moderates, and they might sign a peace agreement under unacceptable conditions, like handing over Jerusalem to the Israelis and not allowing Palestinian refugees to return home."

There have been conflicting reports on Arafat's condition. Late last week, it was reported that Arafat was in a coma and was brain dead. Leila Shahid, a Palestinian spokeswoman, said soon after the report: "I can assure you that there is no brain death. He is in a coma. We don't know the type, but it's a reversible coma...given his condition and age, he is at a critical point between life and death."

Earlier this week, reports said that Arafat was in critical condition and was able to come in and out of consciousness.

When Arafat first arrived in France, it was said that he was suffering from a blood platelet deficiency. Doctors said that he did not suffer from a fatal blood-related cancer, leukemia.

Another issue resulting from Arafat's health problems is where he can be buried if he passes away. Sharon has ordered that Arafat cannot be buried in Jerusalem.

Arafat was confined to a compound in Ramallah for almost three years as the Israeli government accused him of supporting attacks since a Palestinian uprising started in the fall of 2000.

Up to now, Palestinian authorities have not contacted Israeli officials concerning Arafat's burial site. There are now talks between Egyptian, Israeli and French officials of having Arafat buried in Egypt.

According to one Palestinian in Yemen, the location of Arafat being buried is not the most important issue. "I don't consider this a big problem. The most important issue is not where our leader is buried but how we will continue to fight for our cause without him," said the Palestinian.

Arafat escaped death numerous times in the past, including assassination attempts, the Israeli siege in West Beirut in the early eighties, a plane crash in Libya in 1992 and some health problems over the years. Many Palestinians in Yemen are hoping that Arafat will live through another difficult time.

"No Palestinian wants him to die because this could weaken the Palestinian cause," said Ahmed. "He is the leader we need at this time."

## Somalia in spotlight

Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi told Yemen Times that Yemen's role in the efforts of reconciliation between the fighting groups is significant. He mentioned that efforts were exerted to energize talks between Somali factions prior to the set-up of the Somali parliament and the president's election in Nairobi two weeks ago.

He pointed out that the security and stability of Somalia is key for the security of Yemen and the entire African Horn region.

**Somaliland discussed**

However, reliable sources told Yemen Times that the talks also focused on the efforts made by Yemen to have an agreement reached between the Somali government and the government of Somaliland, the self-proclaimed Republic in the north that claimed independence after the eruption of the civil war in 1991.

However, Somaliland is still not officially recognized by the international community.

Yemen intends to play a part in securing an agreement between Hargeisa and Mogadishu despite the fact that the Somaliland insists on remaining as an independent state that will continue to seek international recognition.

In an effort to break the isolation imposed on this territory which has been quite stable and more secure than the south, Ibrahim Othman Yousuf, a prominent figure and investor from Somaliland, was sent by the President of his state Dahir Rayale to Yemen last October with a letter presented to President Saleh urging him to exert more efforts to have direct trade links with Somaliland.

"There are many possibilities and potentials in cooperation between our two states. I am not demanding that Yemen recognized Somaliland as an independent state but rather to at least help the Somali brothers in this part of the country develop their standard of living by providing them with the means to boost their country's economy," Mr. Ibrahim said in an interview with Yemen Times previously. "The fact that Yemen doesn't recognize Somaliland as an independent state doesn't mean we cannot work together for the mutual benefit of both parties," he added.

**Focus on refugee issues**

Another key issue that Saleh and Yusuf discussed was the question of the flood of refugees to Yemen. Reports recently found out that hundreds of refugees flood to Yemen from Somali on a daily basis, most of them illegally. This has exacerbated the economic situation in the country.

Yemen had said many times in the past that it finds it very difficult to accommodate hundreds of

thousands of refugees in the absence of a real contribution from the international community to this humanitarian plight. Government reports said that there are over 600,000 Somali refugees settled in various parts of Yemen while the UNHCR says there are around 60,000 only.

Government officials blame the UNHCR for not being able to accommodate the rest of the refugees scattered in various cities in the camps set in some southern governorates like Lahj and Abyan.

Yemen security officials repeatedly complained from the illegal infiltration of refugees from the African Horn countries as it was found that there are some gangs involved in trafficking refugees to the Yemeni shores for relatively high amounts of money. Several refugees die in their voyage to Yemen or even get killed by the traffickers themselves.

The Yemeni authorities have openly stated that one of the motives to stabilize Somali will help bring the refugees back home as the Yemeni authorities have begun to worry about the future of the Somalis who might become a minority on Yemeni land. Yemeni authorities have even started drafting a law to regulate the situation of the refugees but the cabinet has not passed the law. Furthermore, the international community showed concern over arms smuggling between Yemen and Somali, which might be used by al-Qaeda militants. A UN report issued last year raised the international concern over the illegal arms trade between Yemen and Somalia, which was accused by the US of harboring al-Qaeda militants.

"We have strong brotherly and historical ties with Somalia and by attending this occasion, we affirm our stance towards the Somali people to keep their security, independence and unity," said President Saleh in the Kenyan capital where Abdullah Yusuf Ahmed was sworn October 10th.

**Call for help**  
We call on the international community and Arab states to help the Somali government to rebuild Somalia to enable it to take its role in the Horn of Africa for the sake of comprehensive peace in the region," said Saleh.

Yemen's president also asked the United States, the European Union and other donor countries to provide the necessary financial support to rebuild Somalia which has been in a civil war for the last 13 years.

"We call on the United States, the European Union and all other donors to offer prompt help to Somalia so that it can restore stability and security," Saleh said.



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*America's chickens will return to roost*

# Iraq a massacre, not just a war

By SAM HAMOD

This is a massacre, not a war in Iraq. The U.S. bombing Samarra, Fallujah, Baghdad and other cities, killing hundreds of civilians and calling them terrorists is like the massacres of the Native Americans during America's push westward.

In this case, it has to do with America's push eastward. What is also troubling is that no major media outlet, no major politician—none are calling this what it is, an immoral, unmitigated killing of hundreds of Iraqi civilians every week.

Those who are experts in Arabic have claimed for months that the man alleged to be Zarqawi is not really Zarqawi because he does not have the real Zarqawi's Jordanian accent. But, the American military, we are positive by now, has created this mythical Zarqawi to allow it to mercilessly attack Fallujah and punish its inhabitants because they withstood the American ground attack and chased the Americans out.

Even today, the Fallujahs have said aloud to Al Jazeera and other outlets that they will come out into the streets and fight the Americans—but our country, America, is immoral and cowardly, every day attacking Fallujah by F16, Apache and long range cannon fire. In the process, killing hundreds of civilians, but as in the Viet Nam war, saying, "It's just collateral damage and we are not responsible for that."

My question then, is who is responsible for the killings. I point my finger at General Abizaid, a man who should know better. I also point the finger of guilt at his subordinate commanders in Iraq and all the way up to the two devils at the top of the pole, George W. Bush and Donald Rumsfeld.

By now, it is obvious why Bush and his cronies do not want to support the International Criminal Court and are even attacking the court at the Hague—because they know that they are breaking international laws and that they would be pulled up, kicking

and screaming ala Milosevic, to that court for their war crimes and crimes against humanity in Iraq.

It is time for Americans to speak up to stop this massacre. We are killing Iraqis in the name of "Freedom" and "Democracy!" How absurd, must we kill the Iraqis to "save them". This sounds almost like the old Salem Witch Trials, where they put people to death in order to save them. But it also smells of the aforementioned slaughter of the Native Americans by the jolly good American cavalry—ironically, it's the same cavalry that is repeating its deeds 200 years later, but this time against Iraqis. For shame.

Also, shame on our media outlets, our church leaders, those phony Christians, Billy Graham, Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson—men who shall certainly be condemned to hell by God on the Day of Judgment. Some may say, I have no right to say such a thing, but all you have to do is see how they are supporting these atrocities—especially Billy Graham and his son, both men who had built reputations for decency but have now destroyed them with this endorsement of slaughter in Iraq.

As for Falwell and Robertson, they not only endorse the Iraq slaughter, they also are doing all they can to praise Sharon and Israel for their slaughter, on a daily basis for the past 3 years of Palestinians. They also cheer when Palestinian homes are bulldozed, as in the 200 taken down in the past month.

In the process, some at the UN have spoken out, even Kofi Annan, but people in America are not hearing. Instead, America is trying to distract the public with stories about Darfur, about the non-existent Zarqawi, about "staying the course" (as if there is a course and as if it is justified), and few are asking, "Just why are we in Iraq, after all, Saddam is gone?" We hear such nonsense as, "We have to stay to settle things down in Iraq." But President Jimmy Carter and most international experts say that we are the problem and that Iraqis could solve their own problems if we'd leave.

But, as most know, and this has

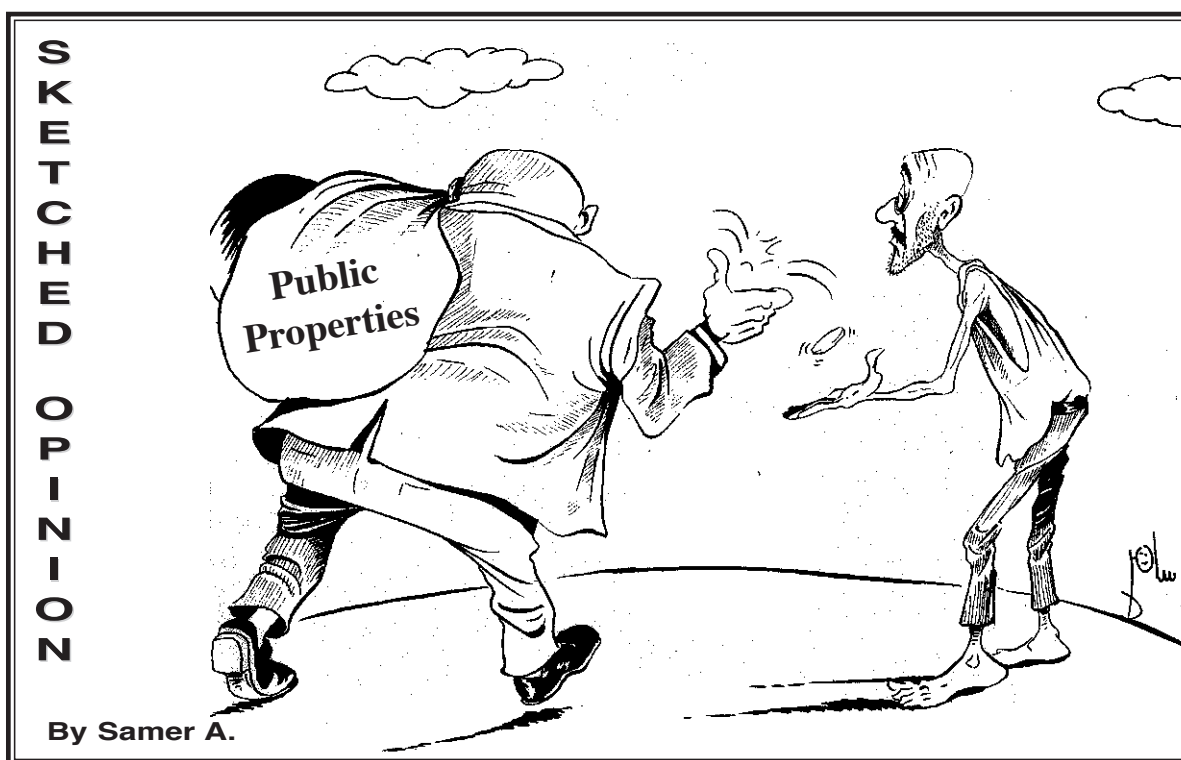
been pointed out by Jane's of London and other experts in the U.S. such as Chalmers Johnson, America intends to build at least 2 dozen bases or more in Iraq to stay on—never to leave.

I want to say again, as I said in articles since Bush's invasion of Iraq; we shall pay a heavy price for this slaughter of Iraqis who are Arabs and Muslims. This slaughter, this massacre has incensed the entire Muslim world.

America is no longer respected in any part of the Muslim world. In fact, a recent poll in Egypt, one of our strongest allies in the Arab and Muslim world, showed that over 90% of the Egyptians are now angry at America. But what of the 1.6 billion Muslims in the world, many of them are so incensed that they will become militant against us. Our behavior has taken away any credibility moderates had, now the radicals can say, "See, moderation got you nowhere with America."

They even kicked Cat Stevens out of America, a leading moderate in England, and a man who had even given advice to the White House on how to deal with radicals." Samuel Huntington in his book, *The Clash of Civilizations*, claimed Islam was intent on making a war on the West. This was not true, but what has happened is that Bush and his fundamentalist Christian friends are making war on Islam—it can be seen with American troops attacking Muslims in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in the Philippines, in Indonesia, in Malaysia, in Yemen, in assisting Israel with money, weapons and expertise in their killing of Palestinians.

America may win some battles, but it losing the larger war. The entire world is condemning our behavior in Iraq as illegal and immoral. What is coming is the long term hatred of America by the majority of Muslims in the world, and some will become combatants in time—not necessarily in Iraq, but in their own countries. Bush and his massacre of Muslims is sowing anger, hatred, desire for revenge—in time, America will reap a whirlwind that the ignorant GW Bush



By Samer A.

has sown.

Make no mistake about it. America has played its last cards as a moral world leader. Our moral arguments now are laughable to the rest of the world. The word has gotten out on how we tried to remove Chavez from office in Venezuela, have placed a puppet regime in Iraq to lord over the people ala Vichy in France in WWII, have supported Israel in its massacres of Palestinians, and the continued killing and bombings of innocents in Iraq and Afghanistan, while now threatening Syria, Iran and Lebanon. It is obvious to any intelligent and moral observer that our Bush team has gone out of its mind.

And one last point, have you noticed two important things that never get into the news: 1. Israel has the second largest supply of atomic weapons in the world and has threatened to use them, but you never hear that criticized or even admitted by America. 2. Bush is afraid of North Korea because it has atomic weapons, but also because China told him in no uncertain terms, "Keep your nose out of this area or we'll bloody it for you and wreck your economy as well."

Our fearless leader is only good at killing innocent civilians through attacks from the air with F16s, Apaches and long range missiles, then calling those killed "enemy combatants," "terrorists," or "insurgents."

I hope more people in America will wake up before things get much worse. It is already too late in most cases for America to recover its place in the world. But, if we kick Bush out of office and replace his military commanders in the field, especially Myers and Abizaid, we may be able to

salvage something—but it's going to be a long, hard road and will take us decades and maybe centuries to ever again be trusted by any Muslims or Arabs in the world.

Let's call it what it is in Iraq and Palestine, massacres, not wars. Somehow, it is as if Bush and Sharon are joined together at the hip and in their immoral hearts and minds. Both are guilty of war crimes. We knew this about Sharon by recalling his infamous invasion of Lebanon in the 1980s; but we didn't know how much Bush would follow Sharon's lead and take America down this illegal and immoral path with him. Unfortunately, for America, Bush has, as President Carter said, "Destroyed our reputation in the world as a moral leader, it may take decades or more to repair the damage."

Just remember what I am saying, "This is a massacre, not a war." The

Iraqis have no planes, helicopters or tanks; the Palestinians have no planes, helicopters or tanks; but America does and uses them indiscriminately, as does Israel. America should take a cue from the resistance to Israel, some day it will come here, when the people in the Muslim and Arab worlds have had enough and decide to strike back.

Woe unto us for allowing the madman Bush to kill people in Iraq, Afghanistan and by proxy, in Palestine. Some day, as Malcolm X prophesied, "The chickens will come home to roost."

*Sam Hamod is an expert on Islam and the Middle East; he is a former advisor to the State Department, editor of 3rd World News and Director of The Islamic Center of Wash, DC. Watch for his new book, in 2005, ESSAYS IN TIMES OF WAR. He may be reached at shamod@cox.net.*

*State sovereignty needs limits*

## Getting away with murder in Darfur

By RICHARD N. HAASS

Darfur is shorthand for the latest example of a recurring international problem, one that gained headlines a decade ago in Rwanda. What should the world do when a large number of people are the victims of violence originating from within their own country?

Darfur itself is a region of Western Sudan comprised of Arab and African Muslims. Conflict erupted in early 2003 when rebels of the Sudan Liberation Movement attacked government troops in an effort to gain greater autonomy and resources for their region. Sudan government aircraft and government-supported troops (known as jangaweed) retaliated against not only armed rebels but also against civilians deemed to be supporting them. Villages have been emptied, women raped, non-Arab men killed.

The origins of the current crisis may be in some dispute, but the costs are not. More than 50,000 men, women and children have lost their lives; more than 1.5 million have been made homeless. This is arguably genocide, a word used by the U.S. government but by few others to describe what is going on in Darfur.

Meanwhile, world leaders are debating what if anything should be done. UN Security Council Resolution 1564, passed on 18 September 2004, reserves the bulk of its criticism for the government of Sudan. But the UN is not yet prepared to go beyond words. The resolution threatens that the Security Council will consider imposing sanc-

tions against Sudanese leaders or against the country's important oil sector, but introduces no penalties at this time.

Why the hesitation? More than anything else it stems from international reluctance to challenge any government over what it is doing within its own territory. This reflects a widely-held view of sovereignty, one that allows governments to do essentially what they want within their own borders.

Such thinking is inadequate and out-moded. To begin with, there is a moral element. There is something wrong in looking the other way when one's fellow human being is being slaughtered. We all have some basic obligation to one another.

There are as well pragmatic considerations. In a global world, what happens within one country can all too easily affect others. For example, refugees leaving Sudan can strain the stability of neighboring Chad.

Opposition to genocide and other large-scale acts of violence against a population also reflects the established principle that citizens as well as governments have rights. This principle is enshrined in various international documents, beginning with the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Governments ought not to be allowed to massacre their own people. And weak governments should not be allowed to permit massacres to take place on their own territory even if they are not themselves carrying out the massacre.

What all this adds up to is a requirement for a concept of state sovereignty

that is less than absolute. To be precise, we need to embrace a contractual approach to sovereignty, one that recognizes the obligations and responsibilities as well as the rights of those who enjoy it. Such an approach to sovereignty would essentially communicate to governments and their leaders that the rights and protections they associate with statehood are in fact conditional, and that governments and leaders would forfeit some or, in extreme cases, all of these rights and protections if they failed to meet their obligations.

This idea will only have an impact if the international community is prepared to go beyond voicing this principle and accept the necessary consequence: that other states and the world at large have a right and a duty to act to protect innocent life when it is jeopardized on a large scale.

Some movement in just this direction was suggested by widespread international support for the humanitarian interventions in Bosnia, Kosovo, and East Timor. Another sign of change is the basic document ("Constitutive Act") of the African Union, the regional organization launched in July 2000 to replace the ineffective Organization of African Unity. After citing the principle of non-interference by one member state in the internal affairs of another, the document goes on to declare "the right of the Union to intervene in a member state pursuant to a decision of the assembly in respect of grave circumstances, namely war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity."

Intervention in such circumstances can take any number of forms, from public

rhetoric and private diplomacy to economic and political sanctions to armed intervention.

All of which brings us back to Darfur. What needs doing? There is a need for massive assistance to the displaced people of Darfur. Those who have survived conflict require help if they are not to succumb to disease and starvation. There is also every reason to renew diplomatic efforts to bring about a lasting cease-fire and, following that, a settlement that addresses the grievances that helped bring about this crisis in the first place.

Two other points require highlighting, though. First, and consistent with UN Security Council Resolution 1564, countries should provide the African Union with the logistical, material, and financial help it has asked for. With such support, AU-authorized troops could guard the refugee camps and, over time, protect villages so that men, women and children could return home in safety.

Second, the UN ought to make good on its threat and impose sanctions against the Sudanese government unless it stops using its aircraft to destroy villages and unless it stops supporting the jangaweed. Criminal indictments for war crimes ought to be issued against specific officials who do not comply.

It is important that the world act, not simply to save the people of Darfur, but to prevent future Darfurs. A great deal of innocent human life depends on it.

*Richard N. Haass, a former Director of Policy Planning in the US State Department, is President of The Council on Foreign Relations.*



## Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi  
alolfi@hotmail.com*Bush is back*

## Can the leopard change his spots?

Most Arabs and the majority of other peoples around the world wished the worst in the election for Mr. Bush. But the result did not surprise anybody because the democrats lacked the needed maneuvering this time as well as the charismatic Clinton-like figure.

It would seem that Bush's luckiest day was when Entrepreneur Bin Laden bore the responsibility for the destruction of the towers, an act, which is not sanctioned by true Islam and the like of which must be done by a non-Muslim even if the perpetrator claims otherwise.

Anyhow, this point of departure changed the destiny of Bush who last time barely won the elections through the Electoral College. The terrorist threat and the recent record of Bin Laden helped him this time to win 2004 elections, for a second term despite the fact that the American economy is not in good shape and unemployment has been on the rise.

This is partly related to his being surrounded by the warmonger Christian Zionists, who instead of taking care of today's welfare of the Americans, are preparing for the fanciful Armageddon Apocalypse.

Incidentally, both Bin Laden and Bush share being religious extremists and filthy rich. The first inducted himself as the paramount custodian of Islam and the second believes that it is his sacred duty to prepare for the divine Christian Zionist Foreboding. Senseless as it is, but this is what both are up to.

In the recent past many analysts believed Bush's promises to democratize Arab countries was to avoid future terrorist bouts. But, in the course of time he has proven being attentive to the right Christians' Ideology and the

Jewish Lobbyists such as Wolfowitz more than anything else, taking into account Bush's conviction, owing to his being a Christian Zionist himself.

On November 04, Bush during a press conference was told that Yasser Arafat passed away and the journalist asked for his comments on that. Bush answered said that nothing would change in his Middle Eastern policy.

The new term for Bush in case he lives up to his promises is now at hand, during which he could implement this time purely an American agenda, not an Israeli one as was the case in his first term. In case Bush persists in his current stagnant policy, a likely defeat shall unavoidably occur to his party in the year 2008.

Let us assume that Bush would not obey his extremist fellows and shall exploit this rare chance to reach a historic long lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict where both entities can live in peace.

Let us assume that he would dry up the sources of terrorism, which emanate from corruption and dictatorships.

A worse case scenario would be attacking Falluja in order to do the job as Bush says. If he ever succeeds, he would then direct his attention towards Syria and Iran. Pressurizing the first to sign a peace accord and the latter to get rid of its nuclear program. For those who know the Syrian reality, the Israelis would certainly prefer the current regime to an unstable Syria. The Americans too will be reluctant if there is no Israeli impulse.

In fact Bush can force the reforms, if the will is there, knowing that none of them would like to meet the fate of Saddam but as long as America gets its golden egg, time has not come to implement Democracy as is the case in an Islamic country like Indonesia.

# With Two New Airbus Aircraft Yemenia Boosts Its Long Range Reach



**L**ast Wednesday October 27 2004 saw the launching of the first of two new Airbus Aircraft to be added to Yemen Airlines (Yemenia) fleet of long distance and large passenger capacity aircraft. President Ali Abdullah Saleh attended the ceremony for launching the first of two brand new Airbus A330-220 jet planes that was turned over to Yemenia. The second of the newly manufactured aircraft, built with Yemenia's own speci-

fications, will be turned over next month and this will increase the Airbus Fleet of Yemenia to 6 Airbus aircraft. The two new aircraft will definitely help boost Yemenia's ability to also meet the increasing demand for its long range flights and enhance the ability of the company to compete in the international air carriers market. Yemenia recently has expanded its long reach capabilities to such distant locations as Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Prague. In addition, this will also increase the capacity of the national airlines of the Republic of Yemen to increase service to the existing international destinations that are also witnessing increased demand, such as Bombay, Karachi, Bangkok, London, Frankfurt, Istanbul etc, as well as the regional destinations of Jeddah, Riyadh, Cairo, Beirut, etc.

The addition of these two new aircraft comes within the framework of Yemenia's plans for modernizing and upgrading its fleet and to enhance its ability to compete in the international aviation markets, and improve its domestic services.

The French manufactured aircraft is estimated to cost US \$ 140 million each and Yemenia acquired the aircraft through an eight-years leasing contract with an American company. The two planes were manufactured to meet the specification requirements set by Yemenia, and include all the state of the arts technical advances that the airline industry has incorporated in modern passenger aircraft. The new aircraft will also be equipped with all the digital technology that modern airline passengers would expect in a modern aircraft, including entertainment facilities and multimedia access.



The plane that was launched has a seating capacity of 277 passengers and is able to carry 25 tons of cargo. In addition the new airplane will be able to fly non-stop for 15 hours and will enable Yemenia to add new long distance stops to its present long haul flights and thus boost sales of from long distance passengers coming and leaving Yemen. The new planes will also help to expand the domestic flights to meet the increased demand for domestic tourism that Yemen is recently witnessing, especially Sana'a to Aden, Sana'a to Mukalla and other major towns of the Republic.

attention and guidance of HE President Ali Abdullah Saleh. This visit by the President only confirms the due care and interest that the President is directing towards this sector of the Yemeni economy and his recognition of the role that Yemenia plays in contributing to the growth of this vital sector.

The increased capacity to be provided by the two new Airbus aircraft will help enhance Yemenia's capacity to provide national airline services based on economic considerations, which helps to maintain the ability of Yemenia to remain sustainable without requiring any subsidization, as is the case with many other national air carriers. In addition, the two new aircraft will provide all the facilities and conveniences that modern air travel can provide and will of course have the added amenities of comfortable seats, greater leg room and multimedia entertainment.

The two planes will also increase the total number of aircraft in the Yemenia jet aircraft fleet to 12 modern jet planes. The fleet will now consist of the two new Airbus aircraft plus the 4 previous Airbus aircraft already owned by Yemenia, and the 3 Boeing 737s and 3 Boeing 727s.

Yemenia has been a long time effective factor in the enhancement of tourism to Yemen and has also helped to provide comfortable travel services to and from Yemen for the large Yemeni expatriate communities in many of the neighboring states and the Europe and the United States, not to mention serving international passengers coming to Yemen. These additional aircraft will maintain Yemenia's ability to keep pace with modern advances in airline transportation and thus keep the competitive edge that will help Yemenia maintain its place in the market.

Captain Abdul-Khaleq Al-Qadhi, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Yemen Airways Co. confirmed in a news conference after the launching ceremony, which was attended by HE President Ali Abdullah Saleh, that the newly acquired aircraft will keep Yemenia up to international airlines standard and further assure the national carrier an assured place for Yemenia in the highly competitive international air carriers industry.

Captain Al-Qadhi pointed out that the acquisition of the two planes comes within the context of keeping pace with the increased economic growth witnessed by Yemen in several fronts, especially tourism, which is considered one of the most promising developing industries in Yemen, which enjoys the person-

Yemenia has a long history of development beginning as a private company that started in the middle of the last century with a couple of used DC 3s, becoming the national airlines after the Revolution of September 26, 1963 and beginning its acquisition of modern jet aircraft in the late 1970s.

Yemenia works diligently to enhance the capabilities of its human resources through technical training arrangements with leading renowned international air passenger carriers and the manufacturers of the aircraft it possesses. Yemenia fully relies on Yemenis to fill its staffing needs and assures that no expatriate staffing is needed to fill its human resource requirements. For many Yemenis, Yemenia represents a leading pioneer in the economic development of Yemen and is viewed by most of its international passengers as a capable airlines that is at par with the highest of international industry standards.

The latest plane acquisitions only goes to confirm that Yemenia will continue its strides towards developing into a major international air carrier that will give Yemen an international recognition it is worthy of, while at the same time not compromising with the quality service that Yemenia's passengers have been accustomed to at competitive prices.



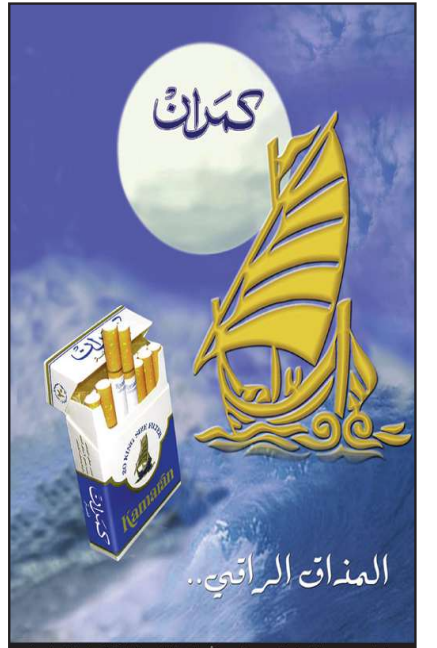
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## Yemen's history

# Socotra, Azania and the axis of Yemenite colonialism (Part 3 in a series)

BY PROF. MUHAMMAD SHAMSADDIN MEGALOMMATIS

Through the text we realize that Socotra belonged to the king of Hadhramawt (Frankincense-bearing Country) who had his capital at Saubatha (Shabwa), and his main harbour - port of call at Kane (Husn al Ghurab, nearby Bir Ali).

Even more explicit reference is made to the fact that Eleazos of the frankincense-bearing country kept a garrison on the island! The author establishes a parallel between the overseas possessions of Eleazos (i.e. Socotra) and those of Kharibael, king of Sheba and Himyar (i.e. Azania, the Eastern African coast). What are the African colonies at Azania to Kharibael, is Socotra to Eleazos.

This is the Yemenite concept of colonialism, and it implies 'overseas' possessions. It places Yemen at the side of the grand naval powers of world history, the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Athenians.

Yemen, on the basis of this text, is not to (and actually cannot) be classified among the great continental empires, Assyria, Babylonia, Egypt, Persia, Macedonia or Rome. Maritime Colonial Yemen was a complex of two countries that could easily have annexed, the first (Sheba and Himyar), Arabia and, the second (Hadhramawt), Omana.

Acting in cooperation, as peace seems to have prevailed between them, Kharibael and Eleazos, could have controlled all the land-mass of the Arabic peninsula, making common border with the Romans and the Persians! But this was not their predestination, this was not their inclination, this was not their nature.

To Kharibael the area of Rhapta (Dar es Salam at Tanzania) was closer than Yathrib (Madina) in Hedjaz! Of course, geographically speaking, this is wrong, but such was the sense, the feeling, and the naval predestination of them.

And Eleazos believed that his borders should necessarily encompass Socotra (and even sent soldiers there), whereas he did not bother to control the strategic area of Omana near the Omuza straits!

This reveals that the real inclination, the

means and the source of success, and the subconscious depth of the Yemenite soul are to be found in the Sea. This has absolutely nothing to do with inland dwellers and coast inhabitants; and it is irrelevant of any sort of 'division' of Yemen to North and South.

On the contrary, it serves as a proof that there is a very deep, subconscious, National Yemenite psychic amalgamation encompassing all the people living between Najran and Oman, that turns them to the ... Yemenite Ocean.

It is impressive that these states were not ruled from coastal cities; both capitals, that of Kharibael and that of Eleazos, were located in several days trip distance, deep inside the Yemenite inland, but this does not change at all the common deployment of great interest for overseas activities, not land expansion.

What moves our fascination is the fact that Kharibael and Eleazos, as well as their predecessors, seem to have peacefully divided what was to be divided. Otherwise, we find difficult to believe why Socotra was left to Eleazos, although it is closer to Kharibael's state!

Truly speaking, Socotra is closer not to the mainland, the continental part of Sheba and Himyar (the island is closer to Bir Ali than ... Aden!), but to the overseas territories, the colonial dominions of Kharibael that start precisely at the Horn of Africa area!

Perhaps Eleazos had to be more convincing, and that is why he kept some soldiers on the island! Certainly there are variations in the justification of the colonial presence. The Sabaeans and the Himyarites were present at Azania according to an old law, which implies inter-marital royal relations, or even an old Yemenite - African treaty.

We can even surmise that since the law was 'old', it may have been agreed upon by Azanian Africans and Qataban Yemenites, and then the rights may have been transferred to the Sabaeans and the Himyarites. But Hadhramawt had just 'purchased' the island.

Questions can be raised regarding the original Socotra owner from whom Eleazos purchased the island! Was he a merchant and mariner, possibly named Dioskourides (as we already surmised), who had risen to

power, or was the island part of the royal property of the King of Himyar and Sheba, and then the purchase was a matter of treaty between the two Yemenite countries? We ignore.

Most probably, it was a deal with the Sheba - Himyar state, and in this case we can suppose that the island trade did not matter much for Kharibael and/or his predecessors.

This looks very logical, if we take into consideration the riches of the entire Eastern African coast, Azania, that was a Sabaeans - Himyarite colony already for long. It is also possible that the Sabaeans / Hadhramawti deal happened after the Roman naval attack and destruction of Arabia Felix / Aden by Aelius Gallus; that would be a moment in which the king of Sheba and Himyar may have been in need of money for reparations and restructuring.

However, at this point we have to reject the idea of Roman rule over Socotra that was recently advanced by rather amateurish writers. It is an aberration to establish a theory based on the temporary military presence at the Straits of the Red Sea that was due to the Roman attack against Arabia Felix, especially because the attack brought the financial result (lower customs) the Romans were targeting.

Furthermore, there is no documentation at all of any Roman garrison reaching the island. The only channel through which the Romans had learnt, and continued learning, about Dioskouridou island was the Alexandria environment and melting pot, the harbour and the Library. That is all that exists between Rome and Socotra!

There is one more reason to believe the interstate affair concerning Socotra; the text reference to the fact that the Socotra products were transported on Mouza ships tells us that Hadhramawt, the Frankincense-bearing country, was not versed in naval exploits and maritime affairs as much as Himyar - Sheba may have been.

This is logical; the involvement in the trade and the navigation from Egypt to Tanzania, the great colony of Azania (certainly something like 3000 km coastal zone!), the discovery and use of the monsoons, the navigation

to the Indian coast in the open sea, all these great moments for the History of the Mankind are the affair of Qataban, Sheba and Himyar.

Not Hadhramawt! The Frankincense-bearing country was just following the developments. Even at the moment we examine the overseas involvement of the two Yemenite states, although Eleazos had bought Socotra, he accepted that local merchandise be transported on Mouza boats, at times Indian boats from Limyrike and Barygaza! The simplest question that comes to our mind is:

Well, he paid to buy the island, and he could not pay a little bit more to buy some ships?

But, of course, this approach would take us far from the real picture of that period; probably Eleazos did not need to buy some boats because he did not have the very experienced mariners who could man these boats, and the captains who would take the responsibility for the lives of the merchants and the mariners, for the boats, and for the merchandises.

If the author of the Periplus of the Red Sea had traveled to Socotra today, he probably would not have seen many changes. Quite characteristically, the fauna and the flora did not change much; the cinnabar is still collected from the Dragon's Blood trees that remain the symbol of the island!

Perhaps the only difference is that there are no more crocodiles in the island, whereas cows have been introduced by the Portuguese! In addition, female slavery has been abolished, and the inhabitants do not need to purchase 'female slaves'!

Completing the review of the Periplus' references to the island of Socotra, we are met with a strange phenomenon of colonial expansion, namely the different axes of the Sheba - Himyar and the Hadhramawt expansion.

As a plausible continuation to the Qatabani colonialism, Sabaeans and Himyarite expansion was directed to the South-east of the metropolitan landmass; from Mouza and from Aden, the Yemenite sailors and merchants had to sail first to the East and then to the South. On the other hand, the Hadhramawti colonial expansion

follows an opposite direction, from North-east (the land mass of the continental Hadhramawti state) to South-west (Socotra)!

A quick consultation of the area's map leaves us with the question why the Yemenite expansionism took these directions. We know that the kingdom of Axumite Abyssinia ended at the area of the Straits of the Red Sea, and it is obvious that beyond the limits of Avalites (today's Assab at Eritrea) there was no central political authority in the entire area of the Northern Somalia, from Djibouti and Berbera - through Bossasso - until the 'Cape of the Perfumes' (the Horn of Africa), that the author of the Periplus calls 'the Other Berberia' (in juxtaposition to 'Berberia' itself that was the coastal land in the south of

Egypt's last harbour Berenice, and in the north of Axumite Abyssinia's first harbour Adulis, which corresponds to the present day Sudanese coast around Ptolemais Theron - Suakin).

Then the question arises why Sheba and Himyar did not control the 'Other Berberia' as well, why they did not expand colonially over there, since the entire area was already closer to them, and in addition very rich in all sorts of merchandises. Quite unfortunately, at the present state of historical documentation we cannot find a convincing, plausible answer in this regard.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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