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# YEMEN TIMES

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*In front of the presidential palace in Sana'a:*

## Journalists protest harassment

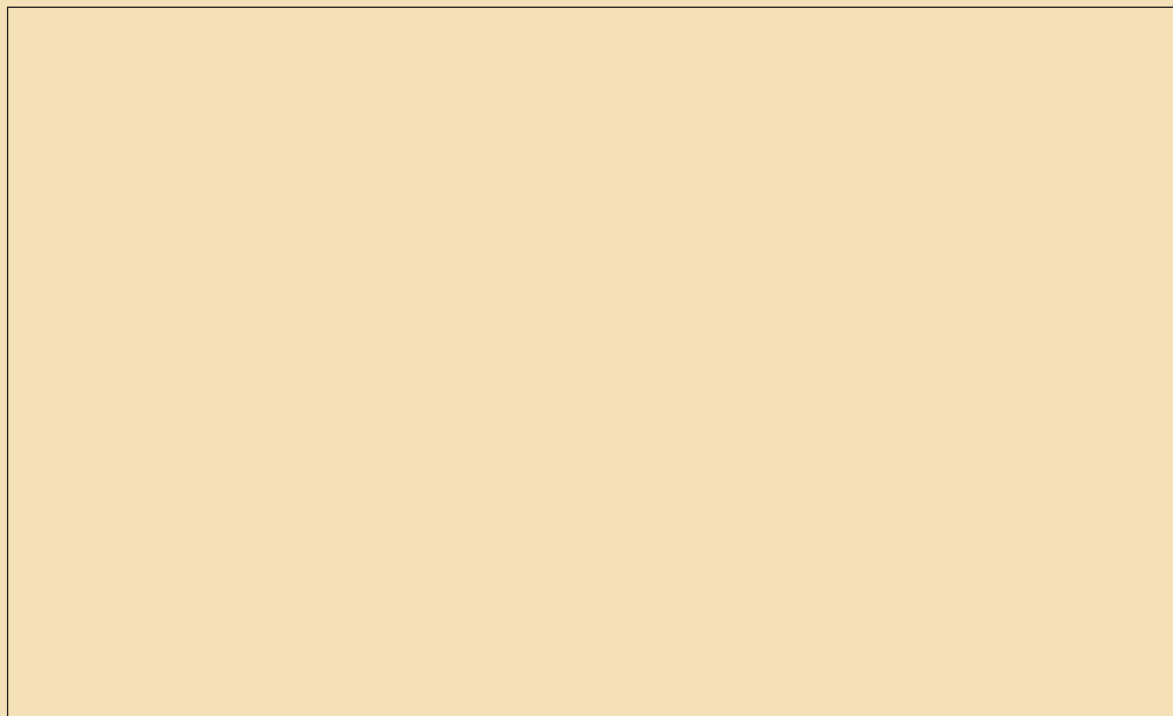
MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Tens of Yemeni journalists staged Monday a sit-in in front of the Presidential place to protest the continued detention of Abdulkareem al-Khaiwani, editor of al-Shoura Opposition Weekly.

Al-Khaiwani was jailed September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004 after the preliminary court verdict sentencing him to one year in jail and closure of his newspaper for another 6 months. He was charged with incitement, insulting the president, publishing false news, and causing tribal and sectarian discrimination as well as supporting cleric Hussien al-Hawthi's rebellion against the authorities.

The journalists and pro-democracy activists who gathered in front of the presidential palace, urged in a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh to "put an end to the plight of our colleague al-Khaiwani through means endorsed by the Constitution."

Continued on page 2



Tens of protesters staged a sit-in in front of the presidential palace on Monday to demonstrate against the continuous harassments and violations committed against the free press in the country, particularly the ongoing imprisonment of Abdulkarim al-Khaiwani. YT photo by Mohamed Al-Qadhi

*With population boom*

## Illiteracy growing

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Although efforts have been made to curb illiteracy in the Arab world, the rapid rise in population has helped to push up the number of people in the Middle East that cannot read or write over the last three-and-a-half decades.

According to a report from the Arab League Education, Science and Culture Organization (ALESCO) – based in Tunis and a part of the Arab League – 70

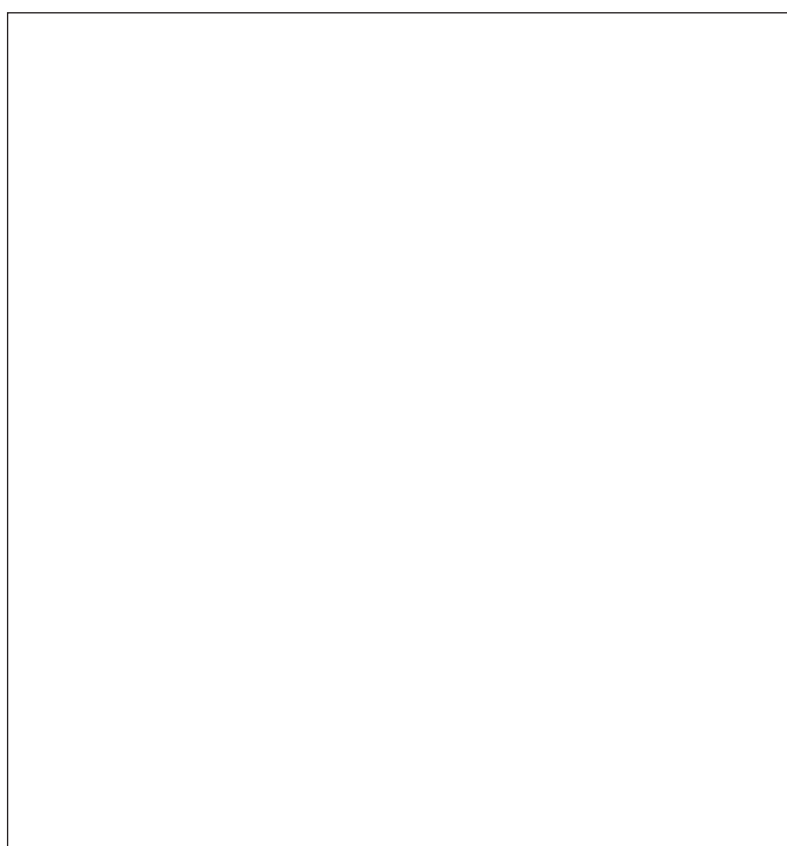
**GLEMGAS**  
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طباخت حديدية غاز  
وإمكانية تشغيلها بالبنزين

أحدث وأفضل تصميم  
للطبخ والخبز

مزايا المنتج: النظافة، المتانة، الأمان، توفير الطاقة، سهولة الاستخدام، التصميم الجميل.

مركز أبحاث وتطوير المنتجات  
مركز أبحاث وتطوير المنتجات  
مركز أبحاث وتطوير المنتجات



A Yemeni boy reads in the corner of a shop in Old Sana'a. Teaching such youth to read is a growing challenge, as illiteracy is growing across the Arab world. (YT photo by Jamil Abdul Karim)

million people over 15 years old in member states of the League are illiterate.

The percentage of people that are illiterate out of the total population has steadily decreased: from 73% in 1970 to 35.6% this year. But in numbers, those who are illiterate rose from 50 million 35 years ago to 61 million in 1990 and now stands at 70 million.

The report showed that nearly half of the women in the region are not able to read or write (46.5%), while 25.1% of the men are illiterate.

The countries struggling the most to fight illiteracy are those having to face poverty coupled with population rising at a rapid pace. The countries cited in the report included Yemen, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco and Sudan.

Although Yemen's Ministry of Education efforts, The World Bank, local and international aid organizations are building more schools for boys and girls in different parts of the country, other factors have been working against it.

Population Reference Bureau (PRB), a private organization based in the United States, reported recently that Yemen's population growth rate is one of the fastest in the world. If the pace continues, in 50 years Yemen's population will jump from around 20 million today to 71 million.

Over 40% of the Yemenis live below the poverty line and another 25% are liv-



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اسم الفندق	التاريخ	العدد	المرحلة	المرحلة	المرحلة	المرحلة
الشارع	3	422	5728	548	557	548
بلازا	4	457	5774	559	572	548
واشنطن سترافان	5	570	5500	597	510	548

ملاحظة: تذاكر سياحية - وجبة الإفطار - مرافقات من وإلى المطار

**Yemenia Holidays**  
الهيئة العامة للسياحة والتourism

مركز أبحاث وتطوير المنتجات

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ing just above being poor.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor calculates that around 60% of the Yemeni children are enrolled in school for basic education. Forty-five percent of the population is illiterate.

New efforts have emerged to help control the local population explosion. Last month, President Ali Abdullah Saleh urged that action is needed to help bring the population explosion in Yemen under control and supported family planning.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi said the key to slow down the rate of population growth is to get more girls to enroll in primary and secondary school, which would

reduce the number of early marriages and assist women to plan carefully before developing a family.

"Education is the first priority," said Al-Arhabi to the Yemen Times. "This is education in general and girls in particular. Educating girls allows them to be more aware of life challenges and at the same time keeping them in schools as long as possible so they finish secondary school and possibly go to a university. This would delay marriages, and once you have an educated girl, she will be able to judge properly feeding ten children or two children with her and her husband's income."

Continued on page 2

LET'S TALK ABOUT CARS AGAIN.



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*International Organization and civil society call for the cancellation of Yemen's debts*

## Calls to free Yemen from foreign debt

BY NADIA AL-SAKKAF  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Monday, 17th Jan, Sana'a – CALLS are being made for the cancellation of all Yemen's debts so the money can be spent on improving the lives of people across the country.

The calls are being made by the Yemen based team of the international campaign and advocacy organization Oxfam GB and Yemeni civil society as part of a global campaign asking the G7 member nations to write off the debts of the poorest countries in the world. This would give them a greater chance to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, by the deadline of 2015.

Oxfam GB gave this call with the Yemeni Women's Union, which is

leading the Thematic Working Group for the Civil Societies (SC-TWG). This group consisting of 86 civil society organizations is involved in monitoring the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC).

The Yemeni civil society, including Oxfam GB, say debt cancellation would relieve future generations of Yemeni people from years of being chained through debt to bilateral and international donors. According to the MoPIC, Yemeni debts amounted to USD 5.23 billion in September 2004. A large percentage of the GDP goes to paying the debts leaving much less for the development projects and investments in infrastructure.

Continued on Page 2



# Yemen takes nuclear waste precautions

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

According to 26 September newspaper, Yemen has started implementing precautionary measures following the discovery of nuclear waste and highly toxic material off the shores of Somalia. The paper revealed that a group of UN experts arrived at the site and tested the

waste, which is believed to be highly dangerous. It is feared that the material might have been dumped by ships coming from industrial countries into the Indian Ocean and the tsunami waves might have brought them to Somali beaches.

"They said tidal waves might have carried the waste to Somalia's shores,

prompting the Yemeni authorities to take the necessary measures to prevent the waste from coming to its own shores," the pro-government newspaper said.

Opposition newspapers have slammed industrial countries saying that some of them are attempting to dump their nuclear waste through foreign vessels off Yemen's shores in the Red Sea.

# Workshop for societies' staffers

TAIZ BUREAU

A four-day workshop on coordination, preparation and performance of social activities, organized by Cultural Social Center for Development and Qualifying in Taiz in collaboration with the French DIA Organization was started on Jan 15th 2005.

Twenty female and male trainees representing different local NGOs in Taiz

are taking part in the activities of the workshop.

The workshop agenda contains a number of theoretical and practical lectures on methods of preparing and coordinating the activities and the stages that the coordination undergoes with the partners, the trainees and lecturers besides the following-up of the activities progress, the activity supervisor and coordinator's roles since the beginning of writing the

suggestions and until the final report preparation.

Mr. Amin al-Dubai, Workshop coordinator, explained that the aim of setting up such events is to qualify the local societies and administration staff in coordinating the activities executed by societies, and to provide them with experiences and expertise so as to help their societies to successfully perform their tasks amid the society.

# New work begins at Aden airport

ADEN BUREAU

Developments at Aden airport are officially underway.

They include ground improvements, and Fire Brigade Shade (veranda) work. The work was launched Jan. 3.

Minister of Transportation Omer Mohsen al-Amoody, and Governor of Aden Yehia al-Shuaiby, Deputy Governor of Aden and General Secretary of the Local Council in the Governorate

Mr. Abdul Karim al-Shayef, attended the inauguration.

Al-Amoody noted that this project would improve and modernize Aden International airport, which is expected to absorb the more of commercial and economical activities during the coming years.

"All the Yemeni ports are connected with the development operation and Aden airport is becoming one of the most prominent Yemeni airports," he said.

The work comes to improve the airport capacity and provide the requirements for air safety.

The Fire Brigade Shade (veranda) will be financed by the Civil Aviation Authority and Meteorology.

This will include lighting and fencing in addition to passengers building rehabilitation, the tower and the technical building, the runway extension and paving, as well as the reserve power station and other related equipment.

# As a result of Saudization: Yemenis invest in Bahrain & UAE

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Saudi Al-Eqtisadia (Economic Newspaper) reported recently that the Saudi Government issued directives to form an urgent ministerial committee to study why the jewel and gold shops are being moved to the neighboring countries.

Sources indicate that investors in gold and jewels in Saudi Arabia are mostly Yemenis who are being adversely affected by the policy of Saudization (encouraging a local

workforce). These investors felt compelled to move their possessions and gold workshops to their homeland, or to neighboring countries like Bahrain and the UAE.

A number of senior government officials from both Yemen and Saudi Arabia worked to try to exempt Yemeni investors from the policy of Saudization, but the proposal was rejected by the Saudi side. Sources have confirmed that this decision has caused investors to move to neighboring countries.

## 5HDGHUWbice

Yemen Times features 5HDGHUWbice "Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

Do you think that the pledge of President Saleh to protesters to speed up the trial of Al-Khaiwani would yield results?  
Yes  
No

## last HGLWLRQquestion:

Do you think USS Cole terror defendants Jamal Al Badawi and Morad Al Sorori received a fair trial?  
No, their trial was unfair 52%  
Yes, their trial was fair 48%

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

# U.S. Congress commends Yemen's reform and democratization efforts

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

In a resolution passed in the U.S. House of Representatives of January 2, 2005, the U.S. Congress commended the government of Yemen for its political and economic liberalization efforts. Yemen was recognized along with the governments of Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman in hope that their efforts will serve as a model for other Arab countries. A press release on 18 January by the U.S. embassy in Yemen has said,

Yemen was specifically cited for its accomplishment in the following areas:

The Republic of Yemen, in economic terms is the least of development country on the Arabian Peninsula and largely lacking natural resources, is making an important effort to support political, educational, and economic reform.

In January 2004, in a speech to the Sana'a Inter-Governmental Regional conference, His Excellency Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen, stated "Democracy

is the choice of the modern age for all peoples of the world... It is the way to achieve security, stability, development and better future for our countries ... Human rights are tightly connected to democracy and the state of law and order".

In April 2003, elections described as "mostly free and fair" were held for Yemen's House of Representatives.

President Saleh has aggressively recruited women into most areas of the government and supports the inclusion of women in the public sphere, with women having been elected to parliament positions and to the cabinet.

The government of Yemen has continued a long-term program of judicial reform, with Yemen's Minister of Justice and other Jurists participating actively in the Arab Judicial Reform project of the Middle East partnership Initiative. The government of Yemen is working with the World Bank on the Basic Education Development Project to help improve the quality of education and ensure universal access to education, and

In February 2004, the Government of Yemen and the United States signed a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announces for an immediate job opening within its organization.

## "SENIOR EDUCATION ADVISOR"

The position is located in the United States Agency for International Development USAID, American Embassy. The Senior Education Advisor serves as the Senior FSN Advisor and the key Responsible Officer for USAID Yemen's Strategic Objective 279-006: "Improved Basic Education, Especially for Women and Girls." The Senior Education Advisor performs a leading role in the review and refinement of the USAID Yemen Education Strategy and designs new activities and programs. S/he provides major leadership, strategic, and technical direction for the design, implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the US-funded education portfolio in Yemen. S/he also conducts related discussions and negotiations with senior level officials from the Yemen Government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and bilateral and multilateral donors. The ability to plan, organize, manage, and evaluate complex development projects is absolutely required. The FSN Education Advisor will be willing and able to travel within Yemen and to travel within the region and to the United States. S/he must also be able to pass a background investigation and obtain a visa for travel to the United States.

### Required Qualifications:

- A. **Education:** A Masters level degree in Education, Education Planning and Management or related field is required. Preference will be given to individuals with a PhD degree in a relevant field and teaching experience
- B. **Prior Work Experience:** At least six years experience in education and/or education policy and development, with demonstrated increasing responsibility for managing, analyzing, coordinating, and guiding education activities is required.
- C. **Language Proficiency:** English: Minimum FSI level four in reading, writing and speaking. Preference will be given to candidates with fluency (4+) in reading, writing, speaking Arabic. Yemeni Arabic will be a plus.
- D. **Knowledge:** S/he is expected to have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the current Yemen education system.
- E. **Skills and Abilities:** The incumbent is expected to possess the necessary technical training, skills/abilities required to perform the duties/responsibilities required of this level.

**Open to:** All Candidates

**Grade/Salary:** EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-02 (to be confirmed by Washington). Ordinarily Resident: FSN-12.

**How to apply:** All Interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sanaa, Yemen, Tel: 755-2000, no later than February 09, 2005.

**NOTE:** ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.

# Grenade blast in Haifan

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A grenade exploded Jan. 13 in front of the home of Abdo Noaman Muhammad, 23, from al-Ahkoom people, Haifan, Taiz.

Damage estimate is unknown. It also caused fear among the natives of the village.

The reason and suspects behind the blast are also unknown.

## Embassy of India

6DQDD

## REPUBLIC DAY 2005

The Embassy of India, 6DQDD, cordially invites all Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen, along with their families, to join in the celebrations of the Republic Day of India on Wednesday, the 26th January, 2005 at the Embassy premises (Building No. 12, Djibouti Street, Off Haddah Street, 6DQDD). All are requested to assemble at the Embassy at 0800 hours.

### PROGRAMME

- 0815 Hours - Flag Hoisting
- National anthem
- Reading of the 3UHVLGHWbice
- Patriotic Songs/Cultural Events organized by the Indian Embassy School, 6DQDD and Shabab band 6DQDD
- Refreshments

**PS: It is requested that cameras/bags etc. should not be brought inside the premises. Otherwise these will be kept at checking-point at owner's risk.**

## Continued from page 1

### Journalists protest harassment

"We hope that a breakthrough in the relationship between the executive authorities and the press which will hopefully become a Fourth Estate just like in any mature democracy. We are very ambitious that you would graciously direct the government and executive authorities to stop harassing journalists, and to deal with reports published in newspapers in a rather liberal and tolerant manner, taking into account the professional role of the press," the letter said.

The letter highlighted the several attacks and lawsuits made against the press in a series of successive legal cases against journalists that have all followed the sentence and consequent imprisonment of Al-Khaiwani, whose advocates were not able to appeal the verdict. The appeal court was not able to meet and

accept the appeal. It was expected that the appeal should have been discussed last Sunday after several postponements. However, the appeal court judge Hamoud al-Hirdi announced the delay till February 8th. He said the court jury members were not able to meet.

President Saleh met three of the protesting journalists and gave orders to the minister of justice to "immediately take a action with regards to DOIKDLZGLbase," something which the minister promised to carry out.

Several local and international NGOs like the Committee to Protect Journalists (3-1 Reporters Sans Frontiers (56) and the International Federation of Journalists (1) have shown grave concerns over the backsliding situation of the press in Yemen.

### Illiteracy growing

The ALESCO report also expressed concern that the goal set to cut the number of people unable to read or write in the Arab world in half between 1990 and 2000 was not accomplished. At this pace, it will take roughly 30 years for the region to wipe out illiteracy. Mongi Bousnina, Head of ALESCO, was quoted recently as saying that the large number of people in the Middle East not able to read or write is "a major brake on social, cultural, economic and political development."

Bousnina also added the increase in illiteracy is "worrying and demands serious effort." The report said that some of the Gulf states rich with oil, such as Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, have improved increasing the number of citizens becoming literate. The Palestinian territories have also shown a rise in the number of people being able to read or write.

ALESCO was established in 1980 with a focus on fighting illiteracy among adults in the Middle East.

### Calls to free Yemen from foreign debt

In a meeting held on 17 Jan 2005 with representatives of the embassies of the USA and UK, the Yemeni Civil Society led by the Union and Oxfam GB asked them to relieve future generations of Yemen from indebtedness to bilateral and international donors.

Yemen is one of the least developed countries in the world. With Human Development Index of 0.470, it ranked 148 (out of 178 countries DVVHVH) terms of poverty as indicated by the Global Human Development Report 2003. The latest Household Budget Survey revealed that 17.6% of the population lives below the food poverty line and 41.8% lives below the absolute BSHU poverty line.

The Government of Yemen (1) started a planned poverty alleviation efforts in the second half of 1990s. In May 2002, the GoY developed a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (563) which intended to reduce poverty by 13.1% in the period 2003-2005. In May 2004, the GoY decided to combine the Third Five-Years Development Plan with the next cycle of the PRSP (1) and to align both with the Millennium Development

Goals (1) to be achieved by 2015.

Ms. Ramzeya Al-Eryani, the chairperson of the Union, said that if all the debts owed to international and bilateral donors went uncanceled then Yemen would not be able to achieve its Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

"The poor will become poorer if this debt is not cancelled. The Yemeni government has created an enabling environment for civil societies to work and has shown increasing commitment to eradicating poverty but with this debt burden it cannot achieve its goals," she said.

Ms. Magda El-Sanousi, Programs Manager of Oxfam GB, explained that Oxfam GB would like to support Yemeni civil society in its demand for the cancellation of debts.

Oxfam and partners globally are calling upon debt cancellation as a moral obligation of the rich countries towards the poor deprived countries all over the globe.

"Debt cancellation would not harm the rich countries, but it would make a big difference in the lives of poor in the poorest countries. Debt

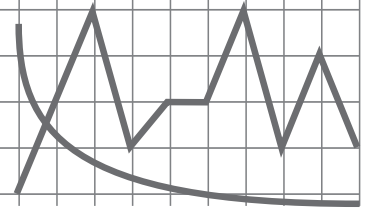
relief in various poor countries such as Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, and Malawi has enabled millions for children to go to schools. We believe debt cancellation for Yemen would promote justice, human rights, good governance, democracy, gender equality and poverty reduction. It will change the fate of the voiceless poor and humanity at the globe," she said.

On Sunday January 16, the Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mr. Alawai al-Salami and HE Ambassador of Japan signed an agreement to cancel YPHC debt to Japan of \$17 million dollars. The initiative taken by the Japanese shows the commitment of Japan to YPHC development.

Observers believe that this initiative sets a good example for other bilateral and international donor agencies such as the World Bank and the IMF



# YT Business



## Science to develop oil sector

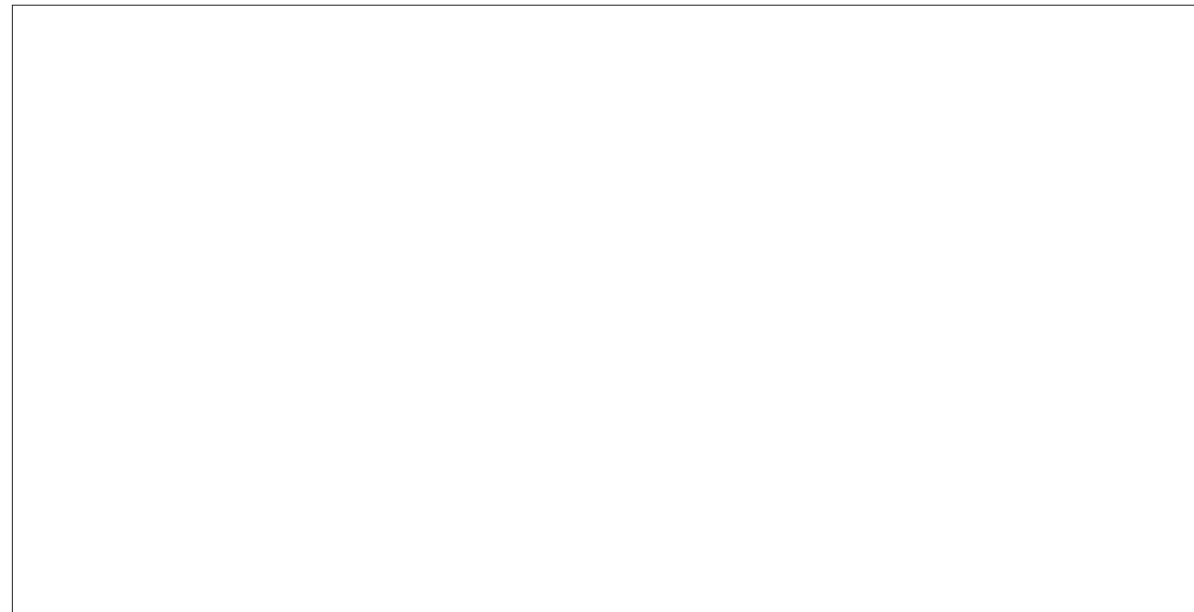
By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**A**n official report by sources at the Ministry of Oil and Minerals mentioned that new oil explorations in a number of oil blocks, including blocks 43, 9, and 20, will be announced soon.

The report also indicated that an agreement was signed between the Yemeni Gas Company and the Korean Co-Gas Company under which Yemen will sell 3.3 million ton of the natural gas to South Korea. A number of international companies were also nominated to sell 2.5 million ton of gas to the US market and it is expected that the best company will be selected before the end of this month.

According to the report, the Ministry of Oil is due to inaugurate the Lead and Zink Mine in Nuha shortly. The ministry sponsored during the last few years, in its framework of implementing the State's policy, a series of scientific conferences to bring forth database for the oil and mineral wealth in the country.

The most important conference was the one associated with the groove sedimentations Red Sea Aden Gulf. It was held in October, 1995, while the



first international conference for oil and gas in Yemen was held in June 2002. Both conferences contributed to the promotion of investment opportunities in the oil and gas sectors.

The Ministry of Oil issued in 1998 a scientific book under the title "Uniting the Biological Terms in Yemen".

The first Yemeni oil refinery was established in 1954 in the city of Aden and was designed to produce 80,000 barrel per day. When the British Occupation ended, the refinery was

repaired by the Government to retain its usual production.

In the middle of the eighties the State built Marib Oil Refinery with a production capacity of 10,000 barrels a day, and in the first half of the last year, an agreement with respect to building a refinery in the city of Mukalla with the capacity of 25,000 barrels per day in its first phase. Its production capacity is expected to increase to reach 100,000 barrels per day. The total cost of the refinery is \$

200 million with local and Arab investments.

Meanwhile, a preliminary agreement regarding the establishment of Ra'as Eisa Refinery in the city of Hodeidah with a production capacity of 30,000 barrels a day was signed between Yemen's Oil Ministry and one of the International companies.

It is worth noting that oil is an important source of revenue to the State's general budget as it exceeds 90% of the total exports.

## Yemen loses 100 million dollars

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**G**eneral Corporation for Yemeni Environment Protection clarified in a new study that Yemen loses 100 millions dollars because of the air pollution in the capital Sana'a that affects many of the citizens with lot of diseases.

The Corporation said in a field search that the ratio of the pollution density that the Capital Sana'a is suffering from is over the international standards as a result of the status and location of the town which is surrounded by the mountains that stop the pollution from being scattered in addition to the mountains bareness in nature and a source of dusts which increase the pollution of the town which is of tourism distinctions and famed archaeological land marks further to the existence of diplomatic missions and also being considered as an important center for enacting the economical activity.

The main source of the pollution that the country suffers from is attributed to the transportation sector,

the electricity power stations, stones crushers and cutters, the red local bricks bakeries spread all over the town and around it which matter warns in the meantime about the dangers resulting out of the continuing pollution to whatever is existing at present.

The Corporation indicated that the total number of the vehicles roaming Sana'a streets reach to two hundred and fifty thousands vehicles in accordance with the census of the Traffic department, 90 thousands of which are minor private cars; twenty-three thousands are minor taxi cars, and about seventy thousands are buses for general transportation in addition to the public, military and diplomatic sectors vehicles and some others.

It has also pointed out that the taxi cars using diesel fuel are 2853 in number. Buses for transportation using diesel too are 2619, and 942 are minor private cars i.e. the total of the whole using the diesel reaches to approx. 6414 vehicles in addition to a big number of vehicles and plants which were changed to use the diesel illegally or which were not recorded within the capital Sana'a.

## YR30 million a day deposited at post offices

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**S**avings deposited at the post office banking service has reached YR 30 million daily, while the number of customers has increased to around 162, 000, said

Yasser Hassan Thamer, General Director of Relations and Information at the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology.

These increases have come after the Cabinet's 2005 decree No. 23, which gave the Post and Postal Savings Corporation an extra 20 per cent share

in Teleyemen, taking it to a total of 25 per cent (\$15.5 million).

The Posts and Postal Savings Corporation was a five per cent shareholder in Teleyemen when it came under the General Telecommunication Corporation after 13 years of Yemen-British partnership.

Al Watania Insurance Company located at Nasser Ali Zayed Building near the Chinese Embassy, Presidential Road, Sana'a P.O. Box 15497, Telephone 272713/272874 Facsimile 00967 1 272924 E-mail [alwatania-ins@y.net.ye](mailto:alwatania-ins@y.net.ye) wishes to announce to the local and foreign residents in Yemen that they have introduced new insurance products with the assistance of the International Health Insurance Company of Denmark:

### INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

This compulsory hospital plan with non-hospital, medicine and appliances, medical evacuation and reputation and dental and optical optional covers and supplementary insurances "Critical Illness and Personal Accident for individuals keen to have the best health care 24-hour service worldwide for themselves and for members of their family. The maximum cover and benefits per annum is USD1,800,000. The Annual premium is per age.

### IHI GLOBAL I

This health program plan offers maximum cover per person per policy year of USD1,800,000 for hospitalization, day-care treatment, maternity cover childbirth, cover for newborn children, home nursing and outpatient treatment with optional covers for medical evacuation & repatriation, dental, critical illness, and personal accident. Annual premium payable per age.

### INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL PLANS

These plans are for the individual traveler. One is for the ordinary traveler and the other is for the regular business traveler. The maximum cover and benefits per person per trip is USD300,000. The premiums are per day or per year per age.

### GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

This plan offers hospitalization & inpatient treatment for an annual maximum sum per person per policy year of USD1,800,000 with medical history disregarded for more than twenty employees. Optional covers for outpatient treatment, medicine & appliances, Rehabilitation & nursing, dental and optical. Annual premium per person per age below 70.

With the cooperation of its Associates in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Al-Watania Insurance Company also succeeded in introducing a new insurance product for Yemeni and foreign Muslims living in Yemen and the region who plan to perform the Hajj and the Umra at The Holy sites in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

### THE INDIVIDUAL HAJJ AND UMRA HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

This plan offers cover to the individual intending to perform the Hajj and/or the Umra from the time he and/or she enter (through the air, land or sea borders of) the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the time they depart for their homeland.. This health plan covers the Following:

- Cost of medical expenses up to a maximum of Saudi riyals Three Thousand
- Compensation for permanent partial or total disablement from an accident up to a maximum of Saudi Riyals Five Thousand
- Compensation for death from an accident up to a maximum of Saudi Riyals Ten Thousand
- Compensation for loss of travel documents, baggage, and tickets up to a maximum of Saudi Riyals One Thousand
- Cost of repatriation of dead body up to a maximum of Saudi riyals Three Thousand Five Hundred

Al-Watania Insurance Company looks forward to being of service to all individuals and groups interested in enjoying the privilege of its new insurance products.

### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## Join UNDP and Contribute to a Better World

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries and territories in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Arab States, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and the CIS, working with governments and civil society as they develop their own solutions to urgent development challenges.

To achieve the above goals UNDP is inviting motivated and talented young people who are interested in an international career in development and who have a passion to make a difference to the world's poor, to submit their application to the Leadership Development Programme (LEAD). The LEAD Programme provides qualified individuals exciting opportunities to hone their knowledge and skills, serving as development practitioners while contributing to UNDP's work.

Interested candidates must share the UN values and ideals, have a strong commitment to development, be able to listen to and understand the ideas and concerns of the people we serve, mobilize and share knowledge and resources that inspire and catalyze development, and be able to communicate and work strategically and effectively with others to achieve results. Geographical mobility and willingness to serve in difficult country locations will be critical to selection.

#### The qualifications and experience that we seek are:

- A Master's degree (or equivalent) in development related studies, economics, politics, public administration, business administration, governance, environmental management, law, conflict resolution.
- Proficiency in English and at least one of the following languages: Arabic, French, Spanish, and Russian.
- 2-3 years relevant work experience, in development, crisis/post conflict management, consultancy work (particularly in the public sector), work in developing countries, management in a multicultural context.

Application deadline – 31 January 2005. For on-line application and more information on the LEAD Programme visit: [www.undp.org/ohr/lead](http://www.undp.org/ohr/lead).

While on-line applications are encouraged, those applicants who do not have access to the internet may mail their application to the LEAD programme, 1 UN Plaza, Room 1810, New York, NY 10017, USA.



## Words of Wisdom

The Arab-Israeli peace process is not going anywhere. Many pro-peace people like myself are increasingly disillusioned by the crisis and impasse. The reasons for this are threefold: Israeli intransigence, American bias, and Arab Weakness

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951-1991)  
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR  
OPINIONAn eid  
with anxiety

**Y**emenis this eid will be spending their vacation in anxiety, awaiting the bombshell economic 'dose' in the form of a hike in prices of fuel up to 100 per cent. Whoever you ask about what is expected during this holiday season, you get a similar answer: the dose is coming.

Some observers think that it would be clever to announce the decision of the dose while people are enjoying time in their villages or with family members. There is no question, however, that such news will jeopardize the rest of the vacation, turning it into an absolute hell for many.

At a time when the majority of the Yemeni public is already suffering significant economic hardships, such an increase in fuel prices will have a devastating impact. More people will find it impossible to make ends meet. Others will have to lower their standard of living to a degree they never imagined.

It is expected that an increase in fuel prices will result in:

- Higher transportation costs, rising 100 per cent in some cases;
- Higher cost of wheat, flour, and other basic living commodities by 50 to 100 per cent;
- Higher costs for overall foodstuffs in groceries and supermarkets;
- Doubling of the prices of vegetables and fruits that are transported using vehicles that consume diesel, whose price would rise 100 per cent;
- A significant rise in rents of houses, and the other products such as textiles, electronic equipment, etc.

It is, therefore, no surprise that parliament was so reluctant to approve the package when the time came.

Some gas stations have already started reserving huge quantities of gas and diesel in anticipation of the increased profit margins after the reforms come into effect.

Until the final decision on this move takes place, people will go on with their lives, praying that their worst nightmares will not evolve and that all this news about the reform dose are just rumors.

But when it happens, there will definitely be another story.

Let's wait and see how things evolve...  
Happy Eid to all of you.

*The Editor*



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly  
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991  
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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## Policies:

- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion and Op-Ed pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name and signature, address and telephone number. Letters should not exceed 2,000 characters in length. We reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity, style, length and legal contents. Any article or letter submitted cannot be returned to the writer under any circumstances.
- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

American way: Not  
obvious to others

By CHRIS MOLLING  
cpmolling@yahoo.com  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**I**wanted to share with you my reaction to an editorial in the USA Today paper concerning Pakistan. My wish is that I can impart to you something about the American way of thinking that may not be obvious to other parts of the world:

So let me get this straight, our strongest ally in the South Asian theater is a corrupt, military regime. Further, democracy in Pakistan is being held at bay by the corruption and the military. If this is a premise of the article, what does the US alliance with Pakistan say about the US and the US form of democracy? Who can go to bed with the devil and not be changed? What is the US form of democracy? Does a democracy invade and occupy a foreign country? Does a democracy support and help arm military dictatorships such as Pakistan? Does a democracy fund and protect a government that practices racism against its occupied people such as Israel?

For a more compelling argument the author may want to define US democracy and the wishes of the majority. Do

the majority of the people of the United States want this continued Iraqi military intervention? Do the majority of the people of the United States want an alliance with the Pakistani government? Do the majority of the people of the United States want support of Israel as it bombs Palestinian neighborhoods, bulldozes Palestinian homes, uproots Palestinian olive trees, and builds a wall between Palestinians and Israelis?

I want to suggest to the author that political philosophies such as democracy, theocracy and dictatorship may make a difference in the future of nations, but how these philosophies are put into practice matter more. The US democracy as put into practice in international affairs is undemocratic and brutal. Pity the US more than Pakistan and any future Iraqi government.

Our undemocratic democracy is ruining our lives and the lives of others. The US is a nation of people whose history is full of the success of living by example. If we continue to talk the democratic talk and not walk the democratic walk, we will die to ourselves well before the terrorists arrive.

On another subject, I would also like to tell Hassan Al-Haifi that his recent

opinion piece was well-written and well-argued. I would suggest that the west has little to no concept about the violent and racist nature of Zionism.

Reference to "enemy" is certainly a loaded word, but the reference to "Zionism", which fuels the hatred and oppression, goes unappreciated by the Western audience. Just as the political philosophy of democracy is now but another empty phrase given the US international behavior and just as democracy is but another fatuous political philosophy given the behavior of Israel, the West finds meaning for its "superiority" life in economics.

So the West gives credit for its prosperity primarily to good economics rather than good political structure. So against this backdrop the West treats Zionism as weak and almost meaningless. Only the Muslims and the Israelis understand that Zionism creates enemies because it has no friends. Zionism poisons any well of understanding between Israelis and others. Too bad that most people in the West, who were offended by the Abbas remark "Zionist enemy", don't realize that Abbas had only to say "Zionist" without the redundancy of "enemy" to convey the same meaning.

## The YSP needs changes

ADEL MUTLAK  
adel\_mutlak1@hotmail.com  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**T**he Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) ruled what was called Public Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY- South Yemen) after a short period of deadly civil war following independence from the British in 1967.

Throughout its ruling period until the unification in May 1990, YSP went through a number of stages in its development and lifecycle. Some transitional periods were positive and constructive but some were absolutely bloody and negative. For instance, one of many YSP main problems was and still is fracture within its existing high level structure (Political Office) and low level officials,

supporters and members.

This fracture was deepened by PDRY most brutal and bloodiest massacre on Jan. 13, 1986. Nineteen years have passed since the massacre which was executed by the exiled Ali Nasser Mohammed, Secretary General of YSP at the time who lives in Damascus Syria at present.

In this massacre, thousands of innocent and Aden most educated people were eradicated for a simple conflict such as disagreement of views/ideologies and due to worship of power and authority.

In my opinion, the YSP blend in Yemen now needs a rapid and immediate change in its existing political office structure. At the moment, some of the existing members of YSP political office regrettably could be called corrupt crooks.

YSP needs to look deeply in its dilemma in order to uncover solutions, and admit any errors. Furthermore, face reality, justify scandals and put a stop to numerous misconducts by its senior officials.

Truthfully, the present scenario of YSP in Yemen is disgraceful by all it means, some members of the existing political office have severely affected the reputation of the party, rather than portraying good examples, with all the respect to those who are truly giving all their efforts and thoughts to the country and party.

As a result, YSP needs new, uncorrupted and clean members to evolve and revolutionize the party to gain a good position in the Yemeni society before it becomes just like a defeated corpse. I guess, only this move can restore the party old respect and values.

## Letters to the Editor

## Saudi-Yemen relations

**I**enjoyed your article on Yemen-Saudi relations very much. I have friends who live here in Florida who come from Saudi Arabia; I agree with you that Saudis are very kind people!

Furthermore, for those who don't know about the Jeddah Treaty, I recommend that they read it. It is available at (<http://www.al-bab.com/yemen/pol/int5.htm>). The page explains all the details of this important and historic treaty between Saudi and Yemen.

Barbara K.  
kamelsqueen@yahoo.com

## A response to two letters

**I**am saddened by the comment of Mr. Al Jubani and Shami who had posted negative letters to the editor in recent editions.

Firstly I suggest to both of you that you read and explore Yemen and Yemen's history. Yemenis have for centuries been merchants and seafarers, trading between continents mostly Africa and Asia. Yemen has greatly benefited morally and financially from these distant cultures. Intermarriage was at some stage necessary for those who went and stayed away for a long time to seek fortune, which built Yemen.

I suggest that you enroll into an educational program to enlighten yourself and open your eyes to the reality. I am "muwallad" (a Yemeni whose one of his parents is non-Yemeni) and I am proud of it. I am a professional Yemeni originally from Hadhramout, now living in United Kingdom and have attained prestigious qualifications and have a good

career.

Can you learn to refrain from hating your fellow human beings, because you do not have no right to do so. It's the creator's wish that created beings have come to existence.

Amer Abdullah  
United Kingdom  
amerabdullah@hotmail.com

An appreciation  
to YT Online

**I**would like to express my sincere gratitude and say 'thank you' to Yemen Times Online for their efforts on the world wide web. I thank them for their concern to promote their website, which I like quite a lot because of its rich content and beneficial articles. I also read it to improve my English.

Thank you once again and wish you the best...

Ammar Batawil  
ataweel\_01@hotmail.com

## Let's clean our home first

**I**read what you have written about your visit to Saudi Arabia. Allow me to say that we should start working on fixing our internal house and get rid of all the corruption that exists in our country before asking others for help. I think even if Saudis helped us by doing some kind investment in Yemen, as long as the corruption is still in our government, no matter how big that help is, it is not going to help a bit. Let's start cleaning our house first. Let's get rid of those high-ranking officials who spread corruption all over the country.

Let's face the real problem and not shy away from it. We, Yemenis abroad, would like and wish from the bottom of

our hearts to go back home and start contributing in building the country. But first, tell those people who are in charge for years and years to start being serious on what they call "the reform" or if they can not do it, let them step damn, period. And enough is enough.

Nabeel Y. Albadany  
Nalbadany@sbcglobal.net

Western response to Asian  
Tsunami inexcusable

**I**would like to thank your newspaper opinion writers for their courageous, compelling and no holds barred brilliant articles, particularly about the Western response to the Asian Tsunami. Your rationale that every one of us has a gift from the Almighty One is common to my Christian tradition.

I applaud you for your message to the powers in your region. I too am shocked that so many Middle Eastern countries — that have made billions on the labor of so many from the affected countries — have been so stingy.

Derek Coelho  
derekcoelho@hotmail.com

Tourism potential  
in Yemen

**I**would like to present a comment about tourism, especially that after the Asian Tsunami disaster, tourists are seeking other tourism destinations.

The Yemeni government had wisely announced the year 2005 for tourism. The country also offered 183 islands for development.

I suggest that in addition to government efforts, we also need non-governmental

Support as well. Certain interested parties from abroad

have preferred to approach the private sectors, negotiate them, and obtain basic guidance prior to their approach to the official sector.

I have noticed such a demand from fish importers, so let us serve Yemen in every aspect possible.

Yacob Alkaff  
yacobalkaff@hotmail.com

About Nadia  
Muhsen's plight

**I**am a Muslim convert who will be marrying an Iran-Muslim in the near future. I have a deep respect and understanding of the Muslim religion. For this reason I find it extremely hard to understand how Nadia Muhsen is suffering under such oppression. May Allah open your eyes and your hearts and allow Nadia back home to England. If she is happily married as suggested then the whole family can go along, at least for a holiday and medical treatment. Allah is most merciful and does not want us to suffer. Be merciful as Allah is. In the name of Allah I will pray for you and your family Nadia, may you one day have peace in your homeland.

Samantha Thomas  
stomas\_293@hotmail.com

## About Yemen's reforms

**I**hear different opinions on both sides of the spectrum with regard to the reform process in Yemen. The president gave moratorium (period of service) as the main reason as to why we need to change the judges. Well Mr. President, you have been commander in chief for as long as I can remember. Reform starts here.

Abdo Muslah  
abdumuslah@yahoo.com

COMMON  
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

## Next war stop Iran?

Why the ongoing  
belligerency?

**E**ven before his inauguration and swearing in for the second term of his presidency, Mr. George W. Bush has affirmed that if there is one consistent credo that his leadership of the United States can be attached to, it will certainly be the insistence on pursuing unlawful belligerency on any state at random based on unsubstantiated hidden threats or fabricated innuendos. With the last two wars the White House initiated hardly considered complete by any means, Seymour Hersh, the *New Yorker Magazine* reporter who initially exposed the abuses and torture inflicted in Iraq (leading to other revelations of the widespread use of torture by US military and intelligence agencies on suspected "terrorists" by fiat or directly), has now reported that the White House had issued various instructions and memos amounting to the adoption of a policy of pursuing covert operations against "suspected terrorist targets in as many as ten nations in the Middle East and South Asia".

Hersh also pointed out that in fact the US has already been conducting reconnaissance missions inside Iran in preparation for conducting possible air strikes against what are suspected as weapons sites.

Hersh quotes a US government consultant, who maintains close ties with the Pentagon: "The civilians in the Pentagon want to go into Iran and destroy as much of the military infrastructure as possible."

Although the US Department of Defense tried to reject much of what Hersh has exposed by saying that it "is so riddled with errors of fundamental fact that the credibility of his entire piece is destroyed."

Nevertheless, the Pentagon would not outrightly dispute what the Christian Science Monitor, reiterating what Agence Presse regards as the central claim in Hersh's report; i.e., that the US President has authorized the covert operations against what are suspected as terrorist targets in as many as 10 sovereign states, including Iran.

In a rather cooled down reaction to the Hersh report, Iranian officials have played down any meaningful capability of the United States to conduct any secret intelligence or covert activities in Iran. Other reactions suggest that the Bush Administration is trying to turn attention away from its poor showing in Iraq. Al-Manar TV reported that Ali Shamkhani, the Iranian Defense Minister as saying, "We are able to say that we have strength such that no country can attack us because they do not have precise information about our military capabilities due to our ability to implement flexible strategies."

"We can claim that we have rapidly produced equipment that has resulted in the greatest deterrent."

On another note the Christian Science Monitor, pointing to the strong cooperation between the United States and Israel in this regard, states that Hersh states that "there has also been close, and largely unacknowledged, cooperation with Israel. The government consultant with ties to the Pentagon said that the Defense Department civilians, under the leadership of Douglas Feith, have been working with Israeli planners and consultants to develop and refine potential nuclear, chemical-weapons, and missile targets inside Iran."

What is clear from all this that the Zionist state has, through its strong conservative friends inside and outside the Bush Administration, managed to implant a continuous state of demagogic belligerency, especially towards any Middle Eastern countries, which Israel views as its most effective potential adversaries. Even if no substantive evidence has ever been shown to prove the suggested threats posed by any of the states that the Administration claims exist, the Israelis have managed to get the White House to pursue its agenda of belligerency, even though the United States is not viewed with any animosity by these states.

In the case of Iran, there is no doubt that the White House was convinced to engage in Iraq, in the hope of creating a "buffer" or security wall that will prevent any possible Iranian onslaught on Israel through Iraq and Jordan as some Israeli military analysts have often claimed.

On another note, Israel views the dissemination of chaos in the region as preventing the rise of any significant regional power that could compete with Israel in influencing the regional trends, especially as Israel is fully aware that most of the people in the area view Israel with a high degree of mistrust and contempt for the harsh occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and the suffering that the Palestinians have been subjected to because of this occupation. Thanks to the strong influence of the American Zionist lobby, the United States under the Bush Administration has been consistently influenced by the Israelis and this is even at the expense of intimidating the feelings of the large majority of the people in the region, to whom the White House insists it is seeking to bring freedom and regional cohesion. The showing in Iraq has not helped to support such US claims and the excesses and violations seem to reflect the very same measures pursued by the Israeli military and security apparatus in the occupied area, although the number of casualties is greater in Iraq.

Whatever the case may be, the observer is inclined to believe that many Americans will be suspicious of the Bush Administration's attempt to convey that its war agenda needs extensions to other areas when the first two wars are far from seeing their end. With the poor showing in Iraq, many foreign analysts have declared that the Americans are seeking sensationalism to cover this poor showing. With American military capabilities stretched thin in the ongoing war in Iraq and Afghanistan, many observers suggest that any adventure, covert or direct military action against Iran would amount to sheer madness, both in terms of the logic behind such actions and the obvious different military capabilities of Iran. But then the Bush Administration has been railroaded into Iraq by Israel under similar claims and innuendos and apparently the White House has no hesitation in being the executor of Israeli designs for the region. Whether for Israel or for the sake of the right wing demagogues, who are cheering the new war cries, it goes without saying that the consequences of any serious American actions as pointed out by Hersh will not bring the world any closer to world peace.



*English now, Arabic later*

## Yemeni youth newsletter is a hit

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

During his visit to his native country, Alaa Qasem, who is currently a college student in Canada, took advantage of his time in Yemen to promote the online newsletter Shabab Yemeni, or Yemeni Youth.

Shabab Yemeni, which can be found on the website of Yemeni Students Association Abroad ([www.ysaa.org](http://www.ysaa.org)), was established in May 2004 and aims at helping to encourage the youth in Yemen to be involved in positive changes for the future of the country.

"Our objective is not for the newsletter just to be read, but for the Yemeni youth inside Yemen to see what the activities of the youth outside the country are and what resources have been given to them," said Qasem, Editor of Shabab Yemeni and a student at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary.

"We are hoping that the youth in Yemen will become more active and contribute to positive changes for the development of the country."

Most of the members of his organization are Yemeni college students in Canada and others living in England and Yemen. And one reason Qasem started the newsletter is because half of the Yemeni population is made up of the younger generation which is less than 15 years old.

"We noticed that the Yemeni society is

**Alaa Qasem, Editor of the online newsletter Shabab Yemeni. (YTphoto by Peter Willems)**

getting younger and that the Yemeni youth are in need of more resources," he said. "Somebody should help to bring the resources and encourage them to become more active."

"We are involved in filling the gap, such as using ideas, concepts, and ideas of projects that could be carried out by the youth in Yemen. From our experience around the world, we can give what we have learned to the youth to get involved in developing the country."

One of the sections of the Shabab Yemeni is *A Yemeni Abroad* which talks about a Yemeni sharing experiences liv-

ing overseas and includes positive experiences, difficulties one might have to face, and suggestions to other Yemenis planning to spend time in other countries.

Another part of the newsletter, titled *Yet Another Youth Organization*, which offers information about other youth organizations based in other parts of the world. It focuses on the purpose of the organizations, how to get involved in them and ways to use them as models to start other youth organizations in Yemen.

*The Free Zone* is analysis, and often constructive criticism, of what is happening in the Arab world, the Muslim world or Yemen itself.

*Small Actions...Big Impact* introduces ideas that are passed on to the younger generation in Yemen that can be projects that require no capital but are able to help the development of the country.

"We have found that there are limits and restraints in Yemen for the youth to generate useful projects," said Qasem. "*Small Action...Big Impact* focuses on small projects that would not require establishing an entity, and the small projects could break through the restraints and possibly make a big difference in Yemen."

Qasem said that one of the primary targets of the newsletter, which is released on a monthly basis, is university students. "College students probably have more awareness of what our goal is and a better understanding of issues we are discussing," he said.

During his visit to Yemen, Qasem, whose family is originally from Taiz and has been studying information system development at the university in Calgary for two-and-a-half years, presented the organization's purpose and goals to students at a number of English language institutes in Sana'a.

Qasem pointed out that since the newsletter is written in English, it has a limited audience. The plan, however, is to recruit additional staff members that can create an Arabic version which can reach out to the youth in Yemen on a larger scale. The newsletter also plans to create its own website and function independently within a year.

Shabab Yemeni has also set a goal to become the number one youth magazine in Yemen and the Middle East.

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### Eid and poverty

God save our  
government who  
spared meee!

Eid sacrifice

By Samer A.

*Time to celebrate, but ...*

## Eid is hard on the pocketbook

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Yemeni people are sticking to traditions and customs, despite economic woes, to meet Eid. Many know that al-Adha Eid this year 2005 is approaching with heavy burdens due to their lower income levels, and the prices of the merchandise, clothes, and other driving costs between the towns and the capital are rising highly.

Here's a couple of comments from average citizens.

Mr. Abdullah Sultan said that the first thing shocking the youth in this Eid is the prices rise of the necessities of his wedding especially the clothes, furniture, and the rental of the hall for celebrating.

The Yemeni families used to carry out their sons celebratins, and daughters in the religious Eids, as the marriage is part of the community ethics.

Despite the official instructions not

to overspend in wedding parties, and the Yemeni families are directed to facilitate the marriage of the female and male youths, the wives dowries are still going higher.

One youth, Farhan Ali al-Shareef, says that his marriage to a young girl will cost him approx. YR 1.6 million, which has been paid to the family of wife, plus YR 400,000 for his marriage party held in a humble hall hired for YR 150,000.

He adds that the necessities of the marriage in the Eid will add more burden on the Yemeni family, besides the requirements. On top of all is the cost of the sheep or a goat to be slain.

Many of the Yemeni families sons who are working in the capital look to the holiday of Eid-al-Adha as a joy and chance for them to go to their towns and villages for visiting their families and relatives which matter. That costs them more monies to spend on their travel and transportation charges, besides the presents they used to give to their families.

By the prices-rise of the consumable materials and clothes, the people of limited income will be affected by the same. So, the laborers in the free markets prefer to stay in the capital where most of them get satisfied by saying "Eid is the Eid of the Health-being well."

On the other hand, the richer people go to the coastal towns for celebrating the Eid holiday, meanwhile, their sons attend vociferous wedding parties that the poor people look at it as overspending phenomena and dowry expensiveness.

Despite the foregoing, still there is a common denominator shared by the rich and the poor people equally i.e. their visiting to their families, the kindness among them, and their assistance to the needy ones.

Meanwhile, their children are enjoying the Eid cheerfulness besides the financial grants that they receive for buying the necessities of the Eid such as electronic games and fire-works.

## As-Said folkloric songs

BY NASSER ABDULLA NASSER SALEH  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The customs and traditions of every society have deep roots, often stretching back centuries. Yemen is marked with a unique heritage, and culture, one remarkable element of which are its folkloric songs. These songs differ from place to place.

As-Said, situated in Wadi Yeshbom in Shabwa is endowed with rich folkloric works and traditional songs are still handed down from one generation to another. They are often chanted during marriages and farming opportunities.

At weddings, the songs are repeated by the women and girls on the behalf of

bride through the performances of Al-Hiddan, Ash-Shareh, As-Samareh and As-Syar or Az-Zafih, and are all associated with dancing and drumming. Performances of Ash-Shareh, As-Samareh, Al-Gabalieh, Ad-Dan, and Az-Zamil, are sung by the men on the behalf of bridegroom.

During the harvest season, the songs are repeated by the farmers as they crush large blocks, and plough the earth. The songs are also repeated as the fruit of the Nabk-tree is picked, as grass is mowed in the fields, as water is drawn from wells, as wheat is ground, and during Eid. Chanting the songs helps time pass quickly, and relieves fatigue.

## Psychiatric Hospital concludes 40-day course

Under the auspices of Al-Shura Council Chairman Abdulaziz Abdulghani, the Psychiatric Hospital in Sana'a concluded the fourth course in the field of Psychiatric Nursery. The course lasted from Dec.4, 2004 to Jan.14 2005 in cooperation with the Embassy of Saudi Arabia.

The concluding ceremony started with the recitation of some verses from the Holy Quran and then a welcoming speech was delivered by Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Hospital Dr. Hamid Zeyad.

In his speech Dr. Zeyad pointed out the support offered by HE President Saleh as well as the health services offered by the Hospital to those psychiatric patients.

Dr. Ahmad Makki Al-Shura Council member delivered a speech on behalf of Abdulaziz Abdulghani to conclude the ceremony.

Top students and talented as well as other participants numbering up to 63 received recognition certificates and in-kind prizes at the end of the ceremony.

The course aimed at upgrading the level of health services and training specialists in all the Yemeni governorates.

The ceremony was attended by a number of personalities of distinction as well concerned

representatives from the British Embassy based in Sana'a.

After the ceremony was over, Dr. Fahmi Al-Hakimi General Manager at the hospital noted: "the course comes in the framework of the comprehensive development adopted by the political leadership represented by HE the President Saleh.

For the purpose of deepening such concept, the policy of the hospital aims to improve the level of performance and upgrade the standard of health services.

The course was funded by the Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Sana'a.

Prior to this, three courses were held, two of which in cooperation with the British Embassy in Sana'a and the other one was sponsored by the Islah Charitable Society.

**Expected outcomes of the course are as follows:**

- Increasing the realm of knowledge on the part of nurses and trainees on how to treat psychiatric patients.
- Improving the nursery experience of the participants.
- Raising the awareness of nurses in dealing with psychiatric patients.
- The exchange of experience between workers in this field.

## Brady Leads Patriots Into AFC Title Clash with Steelers

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Tom Brady threw for one touchdown and ran for another while the New England Patriots's defense shut down Peyton Manning and the high-powered attack of the Indianapolis Colts to claim a 20-3 playoff victory Sunday.

The win sends the defending Super Bowl champion Patriots into the AFC championship game for the third time in four years, traveling to the Pittsburgh Steelers, who advanced with a 20-17 overtime triumph over the New York Jets Saturday.

For the Colts and Manning, their twice MVP quarterback, it was a bitterly frustrating end to a record season.

Manning, who had one of the finest campaigns in NFL history and set a record for touchdown passes in a season with 49, could not find the end zone as a ferocious New England defense held the fourth highest-scoring team of all time to a single field goal.

"Our defense made this game," said Brady after improving his playoff record to a perfect 7-0. "Holding to three points one of the best offenses in NFL history is something special."

A clash featuring two of the most explosive offenses in the league failed to produce the expected fireworks as stingy defenses combined with cold, difficult conditions in snowy Foxboro to blunt the high-powered attacks of both teams.

Winning streak

The Patriots, who have not lost at home in more than two years and extended their winning streak to 20



New England Patriots running back Corey Dillon (R) runs away from Indianapolis Colts defender Bob Sanders (21) during the third quarter of their AFC Divisional playoff game in Foxboro, Massachusetts, January 16. Reuters

games stretching back to December 2002, moved the ball effectively in the opening half behind Brady but settled for two second-quarter Adam Vinatieri field goals to take a 6-3 lead.

New England appeared to score a touchdown in the second quarter when Corey Dillon twisted his way into the end zone to cap a 16-play drive.

But the touchdown was called back for offside, forcing the Patriots to settle for a Vinatieri 24-yard field goal.

New England's injury-riddled defense did superbly to shut down Manning and the NFL's top-ranked

offense, limiting Indianapolis to a Mike Vanderjagt 23-yard field goal on the last play before the intermission.

With 90 seconds remaining in the third quarter, Brady capped a 15-play drive by hitting David Givens with a five-yard touchdown to make the score 13-3.

Brady underlined his Super Bowl MVP credentials on the next possession by marching the Patriots 94 yards before finishing off the drive with a one-yard touchdown plunge to close out the scoring and put the game out of reach.

## Favourites Real without Raul for King's Cup clash

MADRID, Jan 17 (Reuters) - Favourites Real Madrid will be without talisman striker and captain Raul when they host second division Valladolid in the second leg of their King's Cup third round tie on Wednesday.

A Real team packed with reserve players were held to a 0-0 draw by Valladolid in the first leg last week, with England striker Michael Owen making his first start under new coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo.

"The game against Valladolid was complicated for everyone," Owen said on the Real Madrid website on Monday. "If Ronaldo, Figo, Zidane and company are not on the pitch it is hard to play to the same level as when they are."

As well as Raul, out with a bruised back, Real will be without attacking right back Michel Salgado, who strained a knee ligament in Sunday's 3-1 league win over Real Zaragoza, which kept Madrid within seven points of leaders Barcelona.

Spanish international midfielder Guti returned to training on Monday after a bout of 'flu and will contest a place with new signing Thomas Gravesen.

The Danish international received a rapturous welcome from Madrid fans when he came on in the second half of Sunday's game.

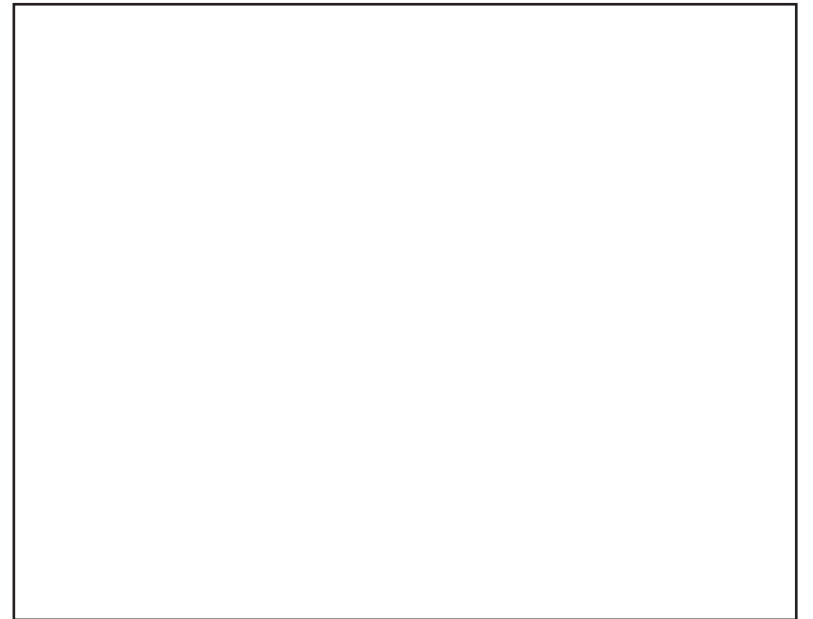
In other King's Cup ties this week, Primera Liga side Athletic Bilbao need

to turn around a 2-1 deficit from the first leg against third division Lanzarote.

Third division giant-killers Gramanet, who took the scalps of Barcelona and Levante in the previous rounds, are favourites to record another

upset after beating second division Lleida 2-0 at home in the first leg.

In the only all-Primera Liga clash, Osasuna carry a 2-0 lead over Getafe into the second leg. Top-flight strugglers Numancia need to overturn a 1-0 result against second-division Elche.



## Rusedski exorcises demons with Bjorkman win

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Greg Rusedski has exorcised a few demons by beating Swede Jonas Bjorkman 2-6 6-4 6-0 7-6 to reach the second round of the Australian Open for the first time in three years.

The 31-year-old Briton, who was eliminated in the first round last year soon after it was revealed he had failed a drugs test — an offence of which he was later cleared — recovered from a slow start on Tuesday to

register the win in two hours, 43 minutes.

Rusedski hit nine double faults but also sent down 14 aces to clinch victory, winning the fourth-set 9-7 in a tiebreak.

Having fought his way back up the rankings in the second half of 2004 to his present position of 48, Rusedski said the fight to clear his name had helped make him a stronger player.

"Having gone through what I had

to go through last year and the year before that with the injuries, you're either going to get weaker and disappear and fall off the planet, which I could have done when I was 168 in the world," he said.

"But I decided I was going to fight back and got to the top 50, which I think is one of my best accomplishments as a professional tennis player.

"I think it's made me stronger. I'm going to enjoy it and give everything

I can to this game.

"This is the first major I've actually been able to prepare for in two years.

"The last two years, with everything happening last year and then the previous year having the two surgeries, I actually had my first real chance to prepare properly for a major."

The former U.S. Open runner-up next plays either second seed Andy Roddick or Georgian Irakli Labadze.

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## Family of Zhao Ziyang forgoes state funeral: source

BEIJING, Jan 18 (Reuters) - The family of purged Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang has decided to forgo a state funeral, sparing China's leaders a sensitive decision on whether to hold a high-profile ceremony that they fear could trigger protests.

Zhao, toppled for opposing a military crackdown on protests for democracy on Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, died at 85 in a Beijing hospital on Monday after suffering multiple strokes.

In a sign of official nervousness that his death could trigger a wave of sympathy, plainclothes police barred his former aide, Bao Tong, from paying his respects on Tuesday and tightened security around Tiananmen Square and near Zhao's courtyard home, where the deposed leader lived under house arrest for 15 years.

Newspapers relegated Zhao's death to brief reports on inside pages, reflecting the concern among China's leaders that the sensitive mourning period could lead to an outpouring of public sentiment and spark protests.

State television and radio have kept silent on Zhao's death.

The government stood by its decision to suppress the 1989 protests and made clear Zhao's death would not spur a re-evaluation of a movement condemned as "counter-revolutionary" — or of Zhao himself.

"The political disturbance and the problem of Zhao himself has already passed. What happened in 1989 has reached its conclusion," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told a news conference.

"We will insist firmly and unshakably on our own road. Nothing will be changed."

The Zhao family helped to ease pressure on the leadership by deciding on a low-key ceremony.

"Zhao's family has decided not to ask the government to arrange a state funeral," said a source close to the family who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"They are going to do it at home. A hall of mourning was set up at home last night," the source said. "An invitation has been extended to friends and the public as well."

Plainclothes police stopped Bao, the most senior official jailed for the Tiananmen protests, from paying respects to his late mentor when he

was purged Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang poses for a photo at home in Beijing in this file photo taken in the Autumn of 2002. Zhao Ziyang, toppled as China's Communist Party chief in 1989 for opposing an army crackdown on protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, died in hospital on Jan. 17, after suffering multiple strokes, a source close to the family said. He was 85. REUTERS

tried to leave his home, his family said.

His wife, Jiang Zongcao, was knocked to the ground in a scuffle and taken to hospital for treatment of an injured back, the couple's daughter, Bao Jian, said by telephone.

### "Showcase of shame"

In an essay on Monday, Bao charged that China had attempted to "erase Zhao from history", saying the effort to keep him from the public revealed the party's weakness and describing his house arrest as "a showcase of shame".

Scores of police fanned out around Tiananmen Square on Tuesday, fearful of any disturbance in China's symbolic political heart that was the scene of the student-led demonstrations that were crushed by the army on June 3-4, 1989. Hundreds died.

Two large buses and a small satellite dish guarded by paramilitary police were in a cordoned-off area near the Monument to the People's Heroes, around which students gathered in April 1989 to mourn the death of deposed reform-minded party chief Hu Yaobang.

Newspapers placed Zhao's brief obituary on inside pages. The party mouthpiece, People's Daily, ran it next to the highly popular weather map.

The reports were based on a brief

A Chinese worker raises red flags at the Monument for the Peoples Heroes at Tiananmen Square Jan.17. Zhao Ziyang, toppled as Communist Party chief in 1989 for opposing an army crackdown on the Tiananmen Square democracy protests, died in hospital on Monday, his family said. He was 85. REUTERS

dispatch issued by the official Xinhua news agency hours after he died. News of Zhao's death on CNN and BBC were blacked out in China.

In contrast, the recent death of Song Renqiong, a former member of the party's powerful Politburo, was afforded front-page treatment, a photograph and a commentary. At a state funeral, President Hu Jintao paid respects to Song's family.

It remains to be seen if unrest will erupt. Older Chinese recall Zhao and the Tiananmen Square crackdown vividly. Younger generations have grown up reading newspapers void of news of the purged party chief and are unfamiliar with the events of 1989.

China's leaders are walking a delicate tightrope, hoping to get through the traditional mourning period without building up Zhao's passing while they decide whether to attend in person.

Vice President Zeng Qinghong, in charge of party affairs, rushed to Zhao's deathbed on Monday.

The choice was less clear-cut for Premier Wen Jiabao, whose position

is far more sensitive since he accompanied Zhao to the square when he made his tearful plea to students to leave — a day before martial law was declared.

"They're in a difficult position. They can't have too big a ceremony, but they can't have a small one either," said one Chinese analyst on condition of anonymity.

## Yemeni agate random beauty

By YASSER AL-MAYYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Agates are the most scarce, beautiful and best gemstones available in the nature. Its solidity and strength are considered the fourth in sequence after the diamond and corundum, but the Yemeni agate is distinguished by the often-paint like patterns within it. The pictures in the stones can sometimes be bird, animals, people, or mountains.

Old Sana'a is the main center for buying and selling the Yemeni agate.

Tourists keenly purchase agate rings and necklaces as gifts for their families, or to sell in their own countries.

Mr. Ali Ahmed Musleh al-Sayyadi, an immigrant Yemeni in the Emirates tells the Yemen Times that he has seen pieces that look to hold the image of the Virgin Mary, or the word Allah.