

## As Al-Houthi followers resort to guerrilla raids

# The president announces termination of fighting

MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An official source at the Supreme Security Committee announced Tuesday that confrontations with Badruddin al-Houthi and his followers, started on 6 April were ended.

'Security and army forces are still hunting down Al-Houthi, 86 years, and his followers after they have fled the area to other places,' the source added.

'Though the official statement reported that the operations against Al-Houthi supporters were, there is fighting going on in some of areas. Army troops are destroying tens of

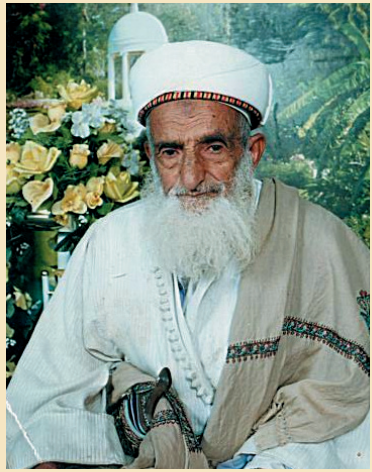
houses whose owners deserted them to more secure places or those owned by some of the suspects,' a well-informed source said.

Official sources confirmed that calmness was restored in Sa'ada after army forces imposed its security control over the city. 'Government forces managed the day before yesterday to control over Al-Rizami stronghold, and areas of Khasha'a, Tubab Al-Qawari where Al-Houthi supporters entrenched,' a military commander said.

He indicated that the army troops were having their camps now in the mountainous areas where Al-Houthi supporters used to entrench.

The sources expected that army forces would keep on hunting down the insurgency leadership, especially Al-Houthi, the father, and Abdullah Aydhah Al-Ruzami. They expected that the military operations would not be stopped unless their death was confirmed, as what happened to Hussain Al-Houthi in September 2004.

A pamphlet distributed on Tuesday by residents of Nashoor, Ruzamat, Al-Shafeah and some areas of Sehar and others of Sa'ada, addressed to all state authorities including the parliament speaker and members, Al-Shura Council, the government, Human Rights Minister, NGOs, pressmen, political parties, and all people of Yemen, holding them all responsible. It pointed out that it was their religious, national and brotherly duties and history will ask each one of them about their response to this appeal presented six months ago when the bloody fights which caused more than 65,000 people from Marran, Haydan and other areas of Sa'ada to be homeless. 'The military troops from various forces are attacking people of Nashoor, Hamdan, Al-Ruzamat, and Al-Shafeah. The military operations extended to include innocent people in other areas of Sa'ada such as Bani Mu'ath, Jabal Saber, Rahban, and others, using the different heavy and middle weapons like the air and ground missiles, military tanks, planes, and surface-to-surface missiles. They are besieging those areas from all directions; houses inhabited by elderly people, children and women were demolished and whoever could leave them is now homeless with those injured people without medicine. The locals' corpses



Badr al-Din al-Houthi



President Saleh

have not been buried because people were prevented to enter those areas to bury the dead and treat the wounded for thirteen days. We are appealing again for stopping bloodshedding by the good people in the state the social and political personalities,' the pamphlet added.

'We appeal for treating the injuries and securing the homeless people, releasing the tortured prisoners, and respecting our blood, properties, and rights according to the Islamic rules and articles of the constitution and UN charter on human rights to life and security, treating the injured and burying the dead. Not only that, the human beings have the right to be treated in a humane manner though they are

war prisoners instead of killing them, as the troops are now doing in these operations against the defenseless people.

Concluding the pamphlet, they requested the formation of an independent impartial committee in order to investigate into the causes of the war and see who has violated rules of the constitution, law and religion. It should perform some field visits, listening to the sides affected by this war. It will be disclosed that not all people have committed any mistake in this respect and they are following the rules of constitution and law, which insure their right to express their thoughts and views in the light of the beliefs of the Islamic religion.

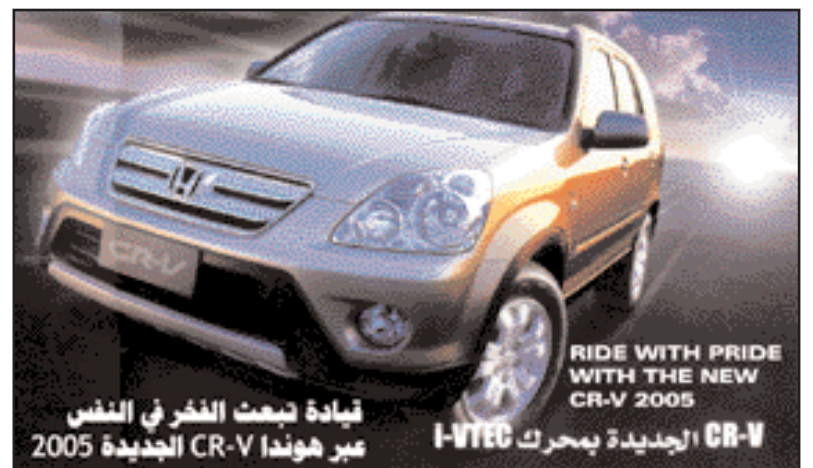


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## Upon lawyers' request, counter-terrorism court adjourn session



BY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni counter-terrorism court adjourned the hearing on Monday April 11 concerning the case of the suspects involved in the formation of an armed gang affiliating to the al-Qaeda Organization.

The gang aimed to carry out a series of attacks on foreign embassies and interests in Yemen.

Adjourning the sitting for April 25 was upon the request of Abdulaziz al-Samawi, defense-advocate of the key suspect Anwar al-Jailani. The court agreed to give al-Samawi more time to scrutinize the case file and have some photocopies of the file in order to be able to respond to the charges.

During the previous session, the prosecution representative denied that defendant Anwar al-Jailani was beaten by the political security after a medical report was forwarded to the court judge Najeeb al-Qadri.

Judge Qadri ordered in a previous sitting that the report be brought to the court in response to complaints of the suspect that he was beaten during the investigation by the political security.

The report confirmed that pains from which the suspect suffered in his hands were the results of chains confining the hands of the suspect during the hear-

ings.

Al-Jailani who showed a medical report, said he was dragged along the ground by police officers while his hands were confined.

The Monday's session witnessed heated argument between defendant Anwar al-Jailani and the prosecution representative, when the former insisted on having the Swiss citizenship. The prosecution denied this and confirmed that he is an Iraqi national who lived in Kuwait. The Swiss Embassy based in Riyadh then mentioned that al-Jailani did not have any Swiss citizenship.

In addition, defendant Omran Mohammad denied what had been said by the prosecution, that he was referred to a physician since he suffers from a congenital deformity in his heart.

In the previous session, the judge ordered transferring the suspect Omran to a physician, and due to his denial, the prosecution held the political security, where al-Jailani is detained, responsible for not implementing the directives to take al-Jailani to a specialist physician.

Attendants at the session listened to the pleadings by lawyers Mohammad al-Ezzani and Fadhil al-Riyashi who defended the four suspects. They rejected the conviction filed by the prosecution, claiming that it violates the judicial procedures and asked the court to release their clients.

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# Businessmen support Hadramout University of Science and Technology

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Hadramout University of Science and Technology witnessed over the last two years a variety of activities and constructive projects, which were implemented by a group of Saudi businessmen and academics who were of Hadrami origins.

One of these businessmen was Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Baqshan who plays the role of coordinating and contacting other Saudi businessmen and Yemeni expatriates and urges them to fund different projects at the university.

Sheikh Baqshan implemented several infrastructure-related projects at the university such as hostels and connecting all the faculties at the university with an information network as well as offering scholarships for distinctive students.

In a statement to the Yemen Times at the beginning of the week, Prof. Ahmad Omar Bamashmous, university rector,

said two faculties in the university will be allocated to a new area after completing all the equipment for the Faculty of Engineering at a total cost of \$11 million.

The Faculty of Medicine is waiting for the process of furnishing the building and providing the necessary equipment.

Bamashmous reviewed the projects that have been planned to be implemented at the university during the year, pointing out that an agreement has been reached concerning the construction of the Faculty of Nursery, sponsored by Sheikh Abdussalam Bahamdab and funded by the Islamic Center Project.

He clarified furthermore that they are about to finish the design of the 11 buildings that were forwarded to the ministry of planning and international cooperation and will be discussed in the meeting of Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council.

# First initiative of ethics code declared

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Center of Training and Protecting Journalist Freedoms (CTPJF) announced on Monday April 11 the first initiative of ethics code under the title 'April's declaration 2005'.

Mohammad Sadiq al-Edaini, Head of the CTPJF confirmed that his center

pursues extensive efforts for the sake of making effective decisions in favor of enhancing and developing the journalist profession.

He further asserted this initiative is not aimed at a certain individual, rather, it is a comprehensive study which aims at establishing values and morals of journalism as a noble message for revealing facts.

# University Profs resume strike

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The council of teaching staff syndicates in the government universities decided in its meeting held Monday April 11 to resume the massive strike from Tuesday onward until demands of teaching staff are met including improvement of their living standards and economic situations.

The council of teaching staff syndicates accused the government side, at the negotiations committee, of violating the decision of Prime Minister and turning to

discuss irrelevant and trivial matters.

The council also accused the government side of prolonging the related procedures and evading discussing legal demands of university teachers.

A statement recently released by the teaching staff syndicate urged all university professors to clarify the stance of the council of teaching staff syndicates toward their issues.

The strike is resumed in less than one month after it was suspended following a pledge by the government to fulfill the needs of university teachers.

# Roundtable recommends alternatives to oil

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The conference of a roundtable on development, work and social advancement in Yemen recommended on Sunday April 10 the necessity of an economic policy to focus on diversifying the economic resources and non-oil revenues through the good exploitation of promising sectors such as fisheries, tourism and agriculture.

The conference, which was organized by the World Bank and the ministry of planning and international cooperation, advised the Yemeni government to attract foreign investments, increase the volume of trade and exports and encourage women to work harder, and get economic projects.

The recommendations of the conference included the specification of job titles, endorsing the efficiency standard and increasing the payments of employees as well as fighting corruption.



Alternative energy roundtable; attendees and participants

The recommendations also urged for supporting the Cousta system and the social awareness about plans, programs and budgets as well as encouraging

women to pursue work in the agricultural sector.

Members at the conference called for removing barriers that hinder investment, and activating the partnership between the Government and the private sector.

They also demanded the development of the banking sector and enhancing its role, as well as establishing effective security exchanges.

# Citizen sets himself on fire

TAIZ BUREAU

Hashim Sa'eed al-Shaibani, 45, from Bir Bash, committed suicide on Wednesday April 6 by pouring kerosene on his body and setting himself aflame in his father's house.

The victim fell on the ground after being fatally injured in different parts of his body and was then transferred to

a neighboring hospital he died.

The real motives behind such a tragic incident are still unknown.

It is worth mentioning that the phenomenon of suicide has terribly proliferated among people in different areas due to several factors like the deteriorating economic situations and the psychological sufferings that accompany them.

# Women in prisons

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is currently running a program for women detained in the five central prisons of Yemen (Hodeida, Dhamar, Mahweet, Amran and Aden) with the Yemeni Red Cross Society (YRCS) responsible for the implementation of the program.

In the frame of this program, the YRCS in cooperation with the ICRC, are organizing a workshop on "Women in Prisons", which took place on 12 April and 13 April at Ramada Hadda Hotel, Sana'a.

Abass Zabara, the head of YRCS, in statement to Yemen Times said "Today's workshop is to think about

what women volunteers can do for the women in prisons.

We invited four volunteers from different governorates from the YRCS branches.

These volunteers will keep visiting women in prisons regularly and teach them some skills that can help sustain them after their release.

Thus this will enable them to depend on themselves and serve their society."

He further informed that the program has been running for 2 years.

"Today is the first stage of the project that is held in Sana'a.

Then we would like to implement it in other governorates."

An exhibition of the crafts of ten detainees was also a part of the workshop.

# Street cleaners go on strike

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Male and female street cleaners and sanitary laborers in Cairo District, Taiz, started to hold a massive strike a few days ago in a protest against monthly deductions from their salaries by the manager of the District's Cleanliness Fund.

They claimed that half of their March salary was illegally deducted and some of them were subjected to attacks by the manager of the cleanliness fund and his deputy when they insisted to get their salaries in full.

The strikers authorized Mohammad al-Qair'e, Chief of Black People Organization to defend their rights, and the strike is bound to continue for a long time unless their demands are met.

# Vaccination against infantile paralysis goes on

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of health and population inaugurated on Monday April 11 the national campaign for immunizing infants against paralysis at al-Sab'een Hospital in the presence of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Minister of Health and Population Dr. Yahya al-No'mi confirmed the campaign aims, in its first and second round, to vaccinate around 5 million infants under the age of 5.

Al-No'mi asserted the medical campaign will be implemented across the republic with the aim to encounter the regional situation after the emergence of the infantile paralysis virus in Sudan.

The first round of the vaccination comes, as a completion of the conditions and technical standards.

It is also for obtaining the international declaration for the eradication of infantile paralysis virus in Yemen.

The first round was implemented by nearly 34 thousands of health recruits and volunteers in 14,692 stations.

The UNICEF contributed great

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# Traffic conference reveals terrible accidents rates

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Brigadier Abdullah Shubail revealed terrible rates of traffic accidents occurring during 2004 in the third traffic conference held Monday April 11 in Sana'a.

The total number of traffic accidents were 12,257, of which 6,234 were crashes, 4,415 run overs, 1,362 overruns and 246 downfall accidents.

These accidents led to the death of 2,249 people and 14,117 were

injured, some of them fatally.

The overall amount of losses of 2004's traffic accidents came at YR2.5 billion.

The third traffic conference was held under the slogan "for the sake of restricting the rate of traffic accidents and raising the level of performance".

The conference called for the enforcement of traffic laws on speed limits, preventing younger children from driving and banning poorly maintained cars to help lessen the rate of accidents.

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## Arab Development Fund support projects in Yemen

Yemen and the Arab Development Fund signed a number of agreements on Tuesday April 12 at the ministry of planning and international cooperation under which the Fund will grant Kuwaiti diner 26 million to the implementation of rural roads project.

The project is due to cover a number of roads in most Yemeni governorates.

The second agreement included a contribution to funding the public works project with Kuwaiti diner 15 million.

In addition, a memorandum of understanding was signed by Yemen and the Arab Development Fund with respect to the support offered by the fund for the construction of a university hospital in Sana'a.

## Modern strategic management program inaugurated

Shaher for Marketing & Management Consultancies (SMMC) inaugurated Monday April 10 the Strategic Management Program.

Mrs. Ramila Shaher al-Anisi, General Manager of SMMC mentioned that her institution gives more priority to the qualitative training that contributes to developing the abilities and skills of human resources through modern training syllabuses.

The SMMC aims at making the role of Yemeni trainer more prominent, being not less important than other trainers in many Arab countries, and therefore there are numerous Yemeni trainers who show distinctive creativity in their professions.

Mrs. al-Anisi confirmed the adoption of training plans is more comprehensive and will help in upgrading the level of performance in the practical life and that trainers at the center had undergone a series of practical trainings.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by Saleh Dhaifullah, General Manager of Vocational Training Fund and a number of leading figures from different civil community organizations.



## In brief

The Children Parliament started discussing "the situations of childhood between legislation and reality" in Sana'a Monday April 11. The discussion included three major issues of children, most important of which was the trafficking of children and violence against them.

Al-Saleh Social Development Society is implementing nowadays a training project in Sana'a which targets the marginalized categories and how they can be integrated into the society.

The Woman and Child Organization organized a training course, which continued up until Tuesday April 12 and aimed at improving school administration. The course was funded by the British Council,

Mrs. Ramzia al-Eriani, Chief of Yemeni Women Union presented on Wednesday, April 13 in the conference for Bahrainian woman, held in Bahrain, a work paper on the experience of Yemeni women in the political life.

The Arab Human Rights Foundation launched on Tuesday April 12 the painting contest for children at Sumia School for

Girls in cooperation with the UNICEF.

Al-Rahmah Foundation for Human Development launched a charitable day for children in Sana'a Tuesday April 12.

The Presswomen Forum organized on Monday, April 11 a symposium on the political and religious domains of the attempt of destroying al-Aqsa Mosque.

A symposium on information technology and its role in raising the quality of productive and service sectors started on Tuesday at Sana'a University. The symposium aims to activate the role of scientific research and technological advancement in bridging the information gap in the Arab World.

The creative arts exhibition was inaugurated on Monday April 11 in Amran. The exhibition contained over 250 paintings and some samples of popular dresses.

A training course on juvenile courts was concluded on Tuesday in Sana'a with the participation of 21 trainees from different courts and prosecutions. The course was organized by the Judiciary Institute in cooperation with the UNICEF.

## Execution of murderer postponed

The execution of a young murderer in the city of Taiz was postponed whereas he was supposed to be sentenced to death at earlier time.

A well-informed source said that

directives were issued by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council concerning the adjournment of the execution of murderer Hafidh Ibrahim.

## Two die in a well

Two young boys died one week ago in a well while they were digging it deeper and deeper in one the suburbs of the city of Aden.

The police clarified the two victims stifled to death due to oxygen shortage when they attempted to burn some hay inside the well for the purpose of getting rid of some insects that bothered them while going on their work.

## Egyptian women caught for stealing gold

The capital security authorities caught four Egyptian women over being charged with entering to one of the gold shops a few days ago and stealing away some gold products worth of YR 4 million.

The owner of the shop informed the police that the four women cheated him during the sale process while they were inquiring about the price of some gold wears.

## Brother shoots sister while trying to commit suicide

The Jahran police mentioned that a person at the age of 25 tried to committed suicide by shooting at himself, and out of fear, he fired at his sister injuring her left hand.

The police pointed out the would-be victim restored his balance and confidence and transferred his sister to a hospital in the locality after she was wounded.



## Regional workshop on fighting piracy

The regional workshop on fighting piracy and armed robbery of ships was concluded in Sana'a with the participation of 20 countries. The workshop lasted from April 9-13 and was organized by the International Marine Organization (IMO) in cooperation with the General Authority for Marine Affairs (GAMA).

The symposium aimed to discuss the problems of piracy in order to suggest possible solutions and ensure security and safety of the seafaring activities.

The discussions concentrated on the close connection between the activities of pirates and smugglers and the phenomenon of terror since these acts cost the country great losses.

Participants at the workshop emphasized the importance of enhancing security and stability in the Red Sea and protecting it from such unlawful acts.

They discussed the problem according to the international law as well as the national laws of each country with the aim to reach possible solutions that can be applicable in the short and long runs

The participants reviewed the ways of assigning the means of coordination and cooperation between countries to bring a mechanism, which can put an end to such phenomenon.



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Cuban Ambassador to Yemen:

“USA is the greatest violator of human rights worldwide”

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Cuba, United States of America's small neighbour, has been subject, unlike other small countries, since the disintegration of the former USSR, in particular, to unethical inhuman US treatment, said Cuban Ambassador to Sana'a. This is because Cuba refused to submit to the American will. The unequal war between the two countries will continue until peace prevails in the world. This will not be achieved unless the former power balance is restored either by Russia growing once again into a superpower or China leaping to maintain balance.

In his last meeting with journalists on Tuesday April 5, 2005, Cuban Ambassador spoke about the bitterness of the past, the bullying and the dominance of America who is trying to mortify Cubans in terms of human rights issues.

“Cuba takes care of human rights. This issue is considerably significant to us as the Cuban Revolution erupted in order to protect human rights: social, political, religious, etc. A conference of the human rights committee was held in Geneva on April 14 where the US presented a list of groundless charges against Cuba,” the Ambassador said.

His Excellency Roberto Rodriguez Pena further said, “The Human Rights Committee is always governed by the

influential powers of the world. The decisions of this committee are set against the countries of the Third World. Cuba did not agree to those double-standard policies. The Committee never condemned the violations against human rights in Guantanamo and other places such as Abu Gharib Prison and human rights breaches in Afghanistan as well as Palestine.

“This means that great countries are trying to pursue their violations in the smaller countries. Only big countries do flout human rights and nobody can hold them accountable. Even this so-called human rights committee avoid mentioning these countries and therefore their resolutions are always weak. The UN Secretary General himself said that the committee has lost its credibility because it does not treat all addressed violations going on around the world especially those in the great dominating countries.

The Cuban government are against the American conditions as they hold a unilateral vision on human rights and are discriminative in nature.

The Ambassador also said that this committee is set up to control poor countries and leave the greater countries untouched. “It is used as a weapon in the hands of the greater power against the minor states. The scenarios and plans channeled through this committee are meant to justify the 40-year-old economic embargo on Cuba.

“In order for the US to be able to mil-

itarily invade Cuba, she is trying to apply all sorts of terrorism against it in the form of violations against the principles of human rights.

Mr. Roberto added, “There is no political prisoner in Cuba and there are no human rights violations. Nobody has been executed outside the jurisdiction. The US should not speak about human rights violations while she is the greatest violator of them worldwide. We, in Cuba, are able to prove that to the World. The World should know that there is no illiteracy in the Cuba as education, medical and sports is free for the right of the Cuban citizens.

We, in Cuba, are trying to improve people's lives every day. There are some 23 thousand physicians rendering their services in 66 countries as well as 15 thousand foreign students studying in Cuba.

“We in Cuba reject all resolutions issued by this committee and reject any decisions from any country. In 1988 Cuba received a committee from the human rights authority, in 1993, a supreme commission, and in 1999 a two-person committee probing a number of human rights incidents who could find any evidence of violations.”

He said that in the year 2004, the US government allotted \$59 million to implant mischief and cause instability as well as sabotage acts in Cuba. President Bush has taken about 400 decisions to tighten embargo measures on Cuba and to feed chaos and riots.

“America abuses its Cuban-origin

citizens who live in America by prohibiting them from remitting money to their relatives and families. It also abuses the rights of American citizens by preventing them from visiting Cuba.

US embargo against Cuba cost it some \$7 billion over the last decade which resulted in 3500 deaths and thousands injured.

“The Cuban economy has been heavily damaged and the Cubans affected consequently. We ask for the solidarity of all people with us against the US military policy posed against Cuba.

“The Cuban people will remain strong and unconquerable by discriminatory acts conducted by the Human Rights Committee. Cubans have the right to defend themselves against this aggressive arbitrary policy.”

There are about 550 Arab and non-Arab detainees in Guantanamo who are deprived of the most basic rights while America carries medical experiments on them. The Ambassador wondered why such violations aren't denounced by the World.

“What is all this international silence about the misconduct of America in Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries. What is happening in Palestine and the Israeli malpractice are not reported by the Geneva-based Committee.”

He narrated the story of the five Cuban young men who were given life imprisonment sentence, three of which were born in America and one was given two life imprisonment sentences.

He added, “You have to know that poverty and deterioration cannot be fought with weapons while the poverty in medical services can't be removed by intimidation and arms.

“We reiterate that there are no diseases, beggars, illiteracy or unemployment that goes unnoticed in Cuba. There are some 2 million tourists visiting Cuba annually from different countries. There are also new oil discoveries



HE Roberto Rodriguez, the Cuban Ambassador to Sana'a

which herald prosperity for the Cubans. 96% of the Cubans are getting electricity, 4% are getting solar energy, 44% of the workforce are women, 65% of researchers are women, and 26% of the ambassadors are women. This means that we make provisions for women, take care of the old and the disabled. We do not discriminate between the white and the black. All children have access to free service of kindergarten, schooling and even university. We have 34 thousand sports education teachers and 15 students in each classroom. The average of child mortality is 5-8 per 1000 births.”

He concluded by saying that “All this happens under embargo, raids, media warfare and terrorist warfare waged by the US against Cuba.”

Holiday destination: Afghanistan's Bamiyan

By ANGIE RAMOS

It is eerily quiet in the ruined hilltop fort as two Afghan soldiers, guarding against artefact thieves, look out on the valley and the towering cliff niches where colossal stone Buddhas once stood. Welcome to Shahr-i-Gholghola or the City of Screams, site of the 13th Century massacre of the city's 150,000 population by Mongol conqueror Genghis Khan to avenge the murder of a favourite grandson.

Today the ruins, along with other historical sites in scenic Bamiyan, Afghanistan's cultural heart, may just provide a lifeline for this impoverished province.

Officials and residents want to have tourists back, just like in the 1960s and 1970s when Afghanistan was part of the “Hippy Trail” that ran from Europe to Kathmandu.

“We want to build hotels and a museum so we can safeguard all the artefacts here in Afghanistan and visitors can admire and understand our country's history,” said Sayed Newaz Razai, the official overseeing the province's historical sites.

The city of Bamiyan is rich with history dating back to the 3rd Century when the first Buddhist monks travelled from India.

Its centrepiece was two giant Buddhas carved out of pink sandstone cliffs by devotees in the third or fourth centuries.

The statues awed travellers across central Asia for hundreds of years, until the Taliban's Islamist fighters destroyed them in 2001, defying international pleas to respect one of the world's great historical sites.

Roof of Bamiyan

That callous act further crushed the spirits of residents, already terrorised by the Taliban's oppressive policies.

Four years later, Afghan businessman Sheer Hussain, 50, is anything but crushed.

Armed with \$50,000, he turned a former governor's house into a 16-room hotel, one of three in the city.

Aptly named “Roof of Bamiyan”, the hotel served as a base for American



An Afghan man rides his motorcycle past the remains of the Giant Buddha destroyed by the Taliban in March 2001 in central Bamiyan province 260 kms (162 miles) northwest of Kabul March 30, 2005. REUTERS

Special Forces in 2001, and has some of the best views of the valley with the majestic Hindu Kush mountain range in the background.

“Tourists love this place ... most people come because of Buddhism, they come here to meditate,” said the gregarious Hussain with a thick American accent.

For anyone who makes the punishing 7-hour drive on impossibly bumpy roads through deep gorges and valleys, it's worth it.

Picturesque villages along river banks shaded by cherry blossoms and willow trees line the route, or nestle high on mountainsides along with the ruins of Buddhist stupas.

Farmers with their donkeys regularly walk past the empty niches of the twin Buddhas, while visitors stand quietly at the foot of the giant structure, gazing at the empty holes in front.

Many visitors to Bamiyan are aid workers taking part in Afghanistan's reconstruction, but Hussain says a growing number of tourists are coming in.

“After 30 to 35 years, I saw a Czech tourist who stayed here for three days,” Hussain laughs, adding that he was building a second hotel this year to accommodate more guests.

No more guns

Another attraction, one fairly unique in Afghanistan, is the absence of overbearing security.

There are no armed guards on Hussain's property.

“There's no one here who carries guns, only the soldiers,” he said, adding that unlike some Afghans, he had never owned a gun.

But a huge task lies ahead to ensure that Bamiyan is ready for tourists.

For one thing, there is still no electricity in the city.

The hum of generators in a nearby bazaar is the only noise that can be heard from the City of Screams.

Then there are landmines left over from the Soviet occupation in the 1980s.

Newly appointed Governor Habiba Sorabi, the country's first ever female governor, said the administration was working on a master plan to map out Bamiyan's tourism future.

“It is not too difficult because the international community is interested and there is a lot of potential,” Sorabi said.

Like much of Afghanistan, poverty remains the big problem.

But there is optimism, even among poor people like Abdullah who earns less than \$10 a month as a porter in the market, but harbours ambitions to be a tour guide.

“It's peaceful here right now and I know the future will be too. We are now safe,” said Abdullah, whose home for the last 30 years has been a cave overlooking the City of Screams.

—Reuters

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## Israel's Vanunu tried for breaking restrictions

JERUSALEM, April 12 (Reuters) - Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu went on trial on Tuesday accused of violating terms of his release from prison by talking to foreign reporters and trying to visit the West Bank.

Vanunu, 50, was released last April after serving an 18-year term for spilling secrets about the Dimona nuclear reactor to a British newspaper.

The revelations of the former technician led experts to conclude that Israel had nuclear weapons.

"It is shameful to Israeli democracy to bring me back to court after all those years in prison," Vanunu told Reuters outside the Jerusalem court.

"This case is proving to the world that Israel is not a real democracy.

"As a human being, I have the right to express my political views and my ideas. I have no more secrets," he said.

Under the terms of Vanunu's release, he was forbidden from speaking to foreign media and had to remain inside Israel.

If convicted of violating the bans, he could be jailed for up to two years.

Vanunu did not enter any plea in court as his lawyer challenged the validity of the case.

The next hearing is due on May 19.

The bans are due to be reviewed this month.

The Justice Ministry said in a statement that an extension was being considered but that Vanunu would be allowed to plead his case and a final decision had yet to be made.

"Let me leave, let me go. Enough," Vanunu told reporters.

An indictment filed in a Jerusalem



Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu speaks with journalists at the entrance to the court in Jerusalem April 12. REUTERS

court last month charged him with 21 counts of violating the restrictions.

Listing interviews in the U.S., British, Australian and French media, the indictment quoted Vanunu as saying Israel had assembled hydrogen and neutron bombs at Dimona and was annually producing 40 kg (88 lb) of plutonium, enough to make 10 atomic bombs, at the facility.

Last November, police arrested Vanunu, a convert to Christianity, at the Jerusalem church where he has lived since he left jail and brought him to court on suspicion of having spilled more state secrets to the foreign press.

He was later released to house arrest and has remained under constant surveillance by Israeli security services.

The indictment also charged him with violating a ban on travel overseas or to the Palestinian territories.

Vanunu was briefly detained by Israeli police after he tried to visit the West Bank town of Bethlehem last Christmas.

Vanunu was abducted in Rome by agents of Israel's Mossad intelligence service and jailed in 1986 for discussing his work at the Dimona reactor with Britain's Sunday Times.

## Car bomb kills five Iraqis in Mosul - police

MOSUL, Iraq, April 12 (Reuters) - A car bomb targeting a U.S. convoy killed at least five Iraqis and wounded three others in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Tuesday, police and hospital officials said.

There was no immediate word on American casualties.

A second car bomb targeted another U.S. convoy near Mosul hours after the first blast.

There was no immediate word on casualties.

Suicide bombers in cars often attack U.S. troops in the rebel stronghold of Mosul as part of a campaign to drive them out of Iraq and topple the government.



Local residents view a destroyed vehicle following a car bomb attack in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul April 12. REUTERS

## Ten dead in shipwreck off Algerian coast

ALGIERS, April 12 (Reuters) - Eight sailors and two rescue divers were killed when a North Korean-registered cargo ship broke up and sank in heavy storms off the Algerian coast, state radio said on Tuesday.

Rescue services and coast guard officials aided by helicopters rescued 14 of the 22-member crew of the Lujin II, after the 121-metre (397 ft) vessel hit a reef.

It had been heading to the port of Bejaia 250 km (155 miles) east of

Algiers.

The survivors, from Romania, Lebanon and Syria, have been taken to local hospitals in the region.

Two Algerians died in the rescue operation.

The ship's main engine stalled and began drifting early on Monday when it was hit by storms and 8-metre-high (26 ft) waves in the Mediterranean sea near Algeria's 335,000-barrels-per-day oil refinery port Skikda.

The Lujin II was transporting 5,618

tonnes of timber and sodium chloride, the official APS news agency said.

The Algerian authorities said the breakup of the ship had caused no environmental damage.

The incident comes a few months after about 20 sailors died when a ship sank in severe storms just off Algiers' port.

The authorities have pledged to boost surveillance and the capability of the rescue services equipment the 1,200 km (746 miles) coastline.

## Lebanon political impasse puts May polls in doubt

BEIRUT, April 12 (Reuters) - Lebanon slipped deeper into a political vacuum on Tuesday after bickering among officials held back the formation of a new government and made a delay in general elections set for May almost inevitable.

Political sources said the polls would now probably be postponed for anything from a few weeks to several months — a move certain to anger an anti-Syrian opposition keen to capitalise on public sympathy after the Feb. 14 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri.

The United Nations and Washington have led calls for the polls to be held on schedule after Syria finishes withdrawing its military and intelligence forces from Lebanon by the end of this month.

A senior military source said 10,000 troops had left Lebanon since the withdrawal began on March 8.

He expected the remaining 4,000 soldiers to return home before April 30.

Top pro-Syrian officials failed again on Monday to form a government, six weeks after Prime Minister Omar Karami resigned under popular pressure over the killing of his predecessor.

But he was reappointed days later and tried, but failed, to persuade Lebanon's anti-Syrian opposition to join a unity cab-



Syrian soldiers sitting atop a truck loaded with equipment look on as they drive towards the Lebanese Syrian border near Anjar, 70 km (43 miles) east of the Lebanese capital of Beirut April 12. REUTERS

inet alongside pro-Syrian loyalists.

Last-minute squabbles among loyalists over key cabinet posts thwarted renewed efforts by Karami, President Emile Lahoud and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri to unveil on Monday a government charged with drafting an electoral law and organising the polls.

### Influential portfolios

Karami, whose resigned government has stayed on in a caretaker capacity, was

angered by his allies' last-minute angling for more influential portfolios and refused to speak to officials and politicians on Tuesday, pro-Syrian political sources said.

Pro-Syrian Interior Minister Suleiman Franjeh has declined an offer to return to the ministry that organises elections, demanding he get the health ministry and an ally be appointed to cabinet too, they said.

Parliament's four-year term ends on

May 31.

The constitution requires elections to be called at least one month before voting day.

Lebanon, citing a shortage of election officials, says it is unable to hold elections in the whole country on one day, usually staggering the poll over several weekends.

If elections are not held in May, parliament, now dominated by pro-Syrian legislators, can extend its own term by several months to avoid a total political vacuum.

The new cabinet's main task will be to draft the electoral law and supervise the poll.

But the process of agreeing the draft bill and parliament passing it is expected to take several weeks, making a delay in holding the election almost inevitable.

Lebanon's anti-Syrian opposition, which expects to win a majority in the chamber, has accused the government of purposely delaying the formation of the government to put off the elections.

Karami's outgoing government had proposed an electoral law based on smaller constituencies, but the veteran Sunni politician now says the new cabinet would draft a law dividing Lebanon into at least five large electoral districts.

## Israel asks Egypt to bolster moderate Palestinians

CAIRO, April 12 (Reuters) - Israel on Tuesday asked Egypt, a long-time mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict, to help ensure moderate Palestinian voices prevail over radicals as Israeli forces withdraw from Gaza and areas of the West Bank.

Israel fears Islamic militant groups such as Islamic Jihad and Hamas could fill a vacuum left by its planned pullout from Gaza later this year.

"I asked the (Egyptian) President (Hosni Mubarak) to exercise his unique authority and influence to help ensure that it is the moderates on the Palestinian side who set the agenda and not the extremists," Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said after talks with Mubarak in Cairo.

Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel, has long played a mediating role between the Israelis and Palestinians, as well as brokering deals between the Palestinians themselves.

"We always ask the Palestinian side ... to prevent any operations that lead to confrontations with the Israeli side," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said, adding that Israel likewise had commitments to support Palestinian efforts.

Shalom also called on Egypt to do more to stop weapons being smuggled into Gaza from Egypt.

"We should do everything we can ... to stop the smuggling of weapons that are coming into Gaza from the Egyptian side of the border," Shalom said, adding he welcomed Egypt's efforts so far.

Aboul Gheit said the two sides were still discussing details for deploying Egyptian border guards to replace lightly armed civilian police, part of the plan to maintain security as Israel withdraws from Gaza.

An Egyptian official has previously said a plan agreed in principle involved deploying 750 border guards.

In March, Egypt hosted talks between Palestinian factions that led to an agreement to extend a halt to attacks against Israel, helping strengthen moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in his efforts to revive talks with Israel.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both responsible for suicide bombings against Israel, were among the factions which agreed to extend the de facto truce.

An Israeli spokesman earlier said Shalom would ask Mubarak to "use his influence on the Palestinians to tell them to coordinate over this disengagement ... to avoid Jihad and Hamas taking over the territories that we withdraw from".

Shalom also called on Egypt to help improve Israeli ties with other Arab countries.

## Sudan donors pledge \$4.5 bln aid, despite Darfur

OSLO, April 12 (Reuters) - Donors exceeded Sudan's aid requests on Tuesday by pledging \$4.5 billion to help it recover from Africa's longest civil war amid criticism of Khartoum for failing to halt atrocities in Darfur.

"Participants at this conference have pledged \$4.5 billion for 2005-07," Norwegian Development Minister Hilde Frafjord Johnson, chairing the talks, told delegates at the end of the two-day 60-nation conference in an Oslo hotel.

The cash is mainly to bolster a January peace accord ending a 21-year war between the government and southern rebels in which more than 2 million people died.

She said the pledges exceeded a combined \$3.6 billion aid request for 2005-07.

The United Nations says it needs \$1 billion for 2005 in immediate aid, and Sudan has separately sought \$2.6 billion for the 2-1/2 years from July. The \$4.5 billion pledge was up from a

figure of at least \$2.6 billion Johnson had given earlier on Tuesday.

She said the figures showed that rich nations were willing to help despite strains on aid budgets after the Dec. 26 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Aid is needed to stave off hunger, help refugees returning and to build schools, roads and hospitals in Sudan, one of the poorest nations on earth, where in the south, one in four children dies before the age of five.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick said earlier that Washington was linking a U.S. plan to give about \$1.7 billion to a strengthening of the North-South peace deal and to work to end the separate conflict in Darfur in the west.

"There is a chance to save this country," he said. But "the violence and atrocities in Darfur cast a dangerous shadow," he said, urging Khartoum to do more to end attacks by Arab militia in the western region and to ensure better access for aid workers.

### Back into depths

If not, "my country and others will not be able to sustain the (North-South accord) fully and Sudan could slip back into the depths," he said.

He later told reporters that he had a "strong sense" that other donors agreed aid to Sudan would dry up if there was no progress in Darfur.

On Monday, Sudan's first First Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha said Khartoum had a "total commitment" to a search for peace with anti-government rebels in Darfur.

Among other big aid pledges, the European Commission promised about \$765 million, Britain \$545 million, Norway \$250 million and the Netherlands \$220 million.

More than 2 million people were killed and 4 million displaced by the war that pitted the mainly animist and Christian south against the Arab north in a conflict complicated by issues of oil, ethnicity and ideology.

In Darfur, rebels took up arms against the government in February 2003 in a struggle over power and resources in the arid region.

Khartoum retaliated by arming nomadic Arab militia, who are accused of a campaign of murder, rape and arson against villagers.

More than 2 million people have fled their homes and tens of thousands have died in the Darfur conflict, which Washington has branded genocide — a term Khartoum rejects.

Zoellick did not use the word "genocide" on Tuesday.

Under the January peace deal, Khartoum and the SPLM will set up a coalition government, decentralise power, share oil revenues and form joint military units.

The \$2.6 billion in Sudan's 2005-07 aid request was about a third of estimated initial needs of \$7.9 billion.

Most of the cash will come from Sudan's oil output of 320,000 barrels per day.



U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick (L) and Norwegian Foreign Minister Jan Pedersen meet before their talks in Oslo April 12. REUTERS



# Afghan officials sentenced to prison for graft

KABUL, April 12 (Reuters) - An Afghan court has sentenced two deputy ministers and six officials in their ministry to prison on corruption charges in the first major case against graft in years.

President Hamid Karzai made the fight against corruption one of his top priorities when he won last October's election.

"The charges included a series of issues...fraud, graft, embezzlement and misuse of power," Ansarullah, chief of Kabul's Public Security Court, told Reuters on Tuesday.

Those sentenced at the end of a public

trial on Monday included two deputy ministers at the Ministry of Religious Trust and Haj, Atta-Urahman Salim and Sayed Ahmad Jamal Mubariz, and six senior ministry officials.

Salim and Mubariz were sentenced to three years in prison each and fined thirteen million afghanis (\$265,000), Ansarullah said.

Four others were sentenced to two years in prison and the other two to a year each plus fines. All of them can appeal.

None of the accused was immediately available for comment.

A court official said the charges large-

ly related to the annual Haj pilgrimage to Mecca. He did not elaborate.

Afghans complain that corruption among the police, courts and state agencies is rampant.

One even has to pay a bribe in order to pay your taxes, some residents grumble.

Several thousand people protested last month against corruption in the southern province of Kandahar and some raised slogans in favour of the old Taliban government.

The hardline Taliban, ousted by U.S.-led forces in late 2001, imposed harsh penalties for wrongdoing and managed to stamp out much crime.

## Polish minister's no-confidence vote seen Friday

WARSAW, April 12 (Reuters) - Polish parliament may hold a no-confidence vote in Treasury Minister Jacek Socha on Friday, an aide to the lower house speaker said on Tuesday.

The vote could impact the minority government's remaining privatisation plans ahead of upcoming elections and will be another test for Prime Minister Marek Belka, who has distanced himself from the unpopular ruling leftists over past months.

"Today, deputies are scheduled to hold a discussion on the no-confidence motion and the vote could be on Friday," said Justyna Lewanska, an aide for the lower house speaker responsible for the assembly's agenda.

To pass, the no-confidence motion would need support from at least 231 out of 460 lower house deputies. A senior source in the ruling Democratic Left Alliance (SLD) said its 149 deputies would back Socha.

Populist opposition deputies submitted the motion to protest against Socha's sell-off track record, applauded by financial markets since he became minister last May.

Socha's plans to sell stakes in three large companies ahead of elections due by October - oil refiner Lotos and gas monopoly PGNiG and power distributor ENEA are still unclear.

# Russian nuke plant officials accused of dumping

MOSCOW, April 12 (Reuters) - Russian prosecutors accused officials at the country's oldest nuclear processing plant of dumping radioactive waste in a criminal case ecologists hope leads to its eventual closure, media reported on Tuesday.

The Mayak plant in the Urals has been the site of various accidents since it was opened in 1949, including a radioactive waste tank explosion in the 1950s.

Tens of thousands of Russians living near the facility have been treated for the effects of radiation exposure for years.

Yuri Zolotov, deputy prosecutor general in the Urals region, told NTV television that an investigation showed that liquid radioactive waste had continuously been dumped from Mayak into the Techa river, which eventually flows into Siberia's major Ob river and on to the Arctic Ocean.

Vremya Novostei daily newspaper quoted Zolotov as saying radiation in the area exceeded safe levels by more than 200 percent. A formal criminal

investigation was launched on Monday.

A similar investigation in 2003 led to Mayak's shut-down, but the plant was later reopened.

Ecology groups have long urged the government to shut the plant and welcomed the latest criminal investigation.

"But the main question now is whether this case would be seen through to a conclusion, whether the guilty would be punished and the plant's licence withdrawn," Vladimir Sliviyak of EcoDefence ecology group said in a statement.

"Otherwise it would be a waste of time."

Mayak is one of Russia's biggest plants where nuclear waste generated by atomic power plants is processed to extract plutonium and prepare it for storage.

Spent atomic fuel from a Russian-built nuclear plant in Iran a source of diplomatic friction between Moscow and Washington was also expected to be processed there.



Afghans chat outside the Supreme Court building in Kabul Apr. 12. An Afghan court has sentenced two deputy ministers and six officials in their ministry to prison on corruption charges in the first major case against graft in years. REUTERS

# Some 150 pilgrims swept away after India dam opens

DHARAJI, India., April 12 (Reuters) - Hundreds of wailing pilgrims lined the banks of a holy river in central India on Tuesday praying for loved ones after more than 150 people either drowned or were missing when the gates of a nearby dam were opened.

Some hastily cremated their dead among the scores swept away when the upstream dam released water for power generation on Saturday when an estimated 300,000 Hindus had gathered on the banks of the now calm Narmada river to pray.

Others cried in hope, that the four boats and several divers still scouring the waters for survivors or more bodies from Saturday's tragedy will find their missing mother, their missing father, sisters, brothers and children.

Officials said the bodies of 65 people had been traced so far but more than 90 remained missing.

For Ambaram Kakaria, it was too late. She sobbed as she performed the last rites over her 19-year-old nephew Babulal, who was due to be married soon.

"I would have never allowed my nephew to come to this place had I known that I would be losing him forever," she said. "I was planning to get him married in a couple of weeks."

**Dead baby in her arms**

Unclaimed bodies were lying on the river bank, swelling in the sun, the smell of death growing in the gathering heat of the north Indian summer.

"We found the body of a woman with a one-year-old dead child in her arms," police constable Ram Singh told Reuters.

Divers and lifeguards were looking for more bodies.

The pilgrims had gathered on the

banks of Narmada a day ahead of the new moon, a period which is considered auspicious by Hindus as they feel bathing in the holy river at this time would wash away their sins.

State authorities said the tragedy occurred after the gates of the Indira Sagar Dam, about 100 km (60 miles) upstream of Dharaji, were opened without warning.

But officials at the Narmada Hydroelectric Development Corporation (NHDC), which operates the dam, said they were not aware of the Hindu fair downstream.

Indira Sagar is part of the controversial Narmada Valley project, one of India's biggest dam projects. When finished, a series of dams will generate electricity and provide water to millions of people.

A leading environmental group, the Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save the Narmada Movement) says the dam has made the river dangerous.



Bodies of Hindu pilgrims lie on the banks of the Narmada river in the village of Dharaji, 200 km (125 miles) west of the state capital Bhopal in India Apr. 11. REUTERS

## Nepal rebels kill top district official

KATHMANDU, April 12 (Reuters) - Maoist rebels shot dead a district administrator in west Nepal, police said on Tuesday, the most senior civil servant killed since King Gyanendra sacked the government and assumed full power himself two months ago.

A police officer said two rebels riding a bicycle shot Balananda Kafle outside his home in Bardiya district on Monday.

"He was shot on his chest and head. He died instantly," the officer said.

Bardiya is a Maoist stronghold 550 km (340 miles) west of Kathmandu, where last month government troops killed 50 rebels in a fierce gunbattle.

Violence has escalated since Maoist rebels called an 11-day strike to protest against the king. The strike is due to end at dusk on Tuesday.

Gyanendra said his move, which also included detention of political leaders and suspension of civil liberties, was needed to crush the Maoist revolt in which more than 11,000 people have died since 1996.

The Maoists have been fighting to replace the monarchy with a single-party communist republic in one of the world's 10 poorest countries.

On Monday, the UN said it would send observers to Nepal, where both government forces and the rebels are accused of abusing human rights.

Human rights groups say abuses have intensified since the king's move, which included a state of emergency giving sweeping power to the army.

# Bangladesh factory collapse kills 26, many trapped

PALASHBARI, Bangladesh, April 12 (Reuters) - Rescuers in Bangladesh were trying on Tuesday to reach up to 150 people trapped in rubble after a nine-storey garment factory collapsed near the capital killing at least 26, officials said.

"The confirmed death toll from the collapse has risen to 26 with four bodies pulled out after Monday midnight," one rescue official said.

Nearly 100 people have been rescued alive, officials and witnesses said. Army and fire brigade officials say they believe around 100-150 people were still trapped. "But it is really impossible to give an exact number," said fire brigade official Fariduddin Ahmed.

"Bringing out the victims dead or alive is proving a difficult task. They are stuck deep under the debris or in the tangle of crumpled iron rods and bricks," Ahmed said.

"We cannot use hammers, shovels or other equipment just recklessly to dig down, because this may jeopardise the lives of the trapped survivors. We need to be careful."

Another official said some 1,000 troops, fire brigade personnel and volunteers joined the rescue efforts but they lacked appropriate tools.

"If the trapped people can't be rescued before Tuesday nightfall, chances of finding them alive would really fade," said Talim Mollah, a civil defence volunteer.

Rescuers on Tuesday were seen

entering the heaps of debris through a number of holes, carrying hand-held fans and torches. "It is too humid and dark inside," one said.

Firefighters said the building collapsed at about 1 a.m. (1900 GMT) on Monday at Shahriar Fabrics at Palashbari, 30 km (18 miles) from

Dhaka.

Security officer Abdul Hye said at least 250 people had been working the night shift at the factory, which is surrounded by marshes and paddy fields.

The army brought in sniffer dogs and heavy equipment, including excavators

and cranes, to speed up an effort that went on through the night to reach those trapped under debris, rescue officials said.

A massive pile of bricks and concrete slabs was all that remained of the building. Army medical units supplied bottled water and medicine to trapped survivors after cutting holes in

the building's roof.

Rescuers and relatives stood helplessly atop the rubble calling for loved ones. Some used mobile phones to try to contact their trapped relatives and friends.

"Allah, give me back my nephew. He is like my son," screamed Minara Khatun, a woman who came to Palashbari from a nearby village, on Tuesday.

Abdul Alim, searching for his missing brother, fainted and relatives took him to a hospital, witnesses said. Streams of mourners gathered at the site, often hampering rescue efforts, one policeman said.

Police said the collapse was probably triggered by a boiler explosion. Fire brigade officials said they would investigate. Shahid Alam, a senior official of the Dhaka Development Authority, said the factory had been built on a swamp without permission.

The authority has formed an inquiry committee to ascertain the cause of the collapse and determine who was to blame.

The factory's owners were not available for comment.

The factory produces clothes for export, including to the United States. The textile industry is one of Bangladesh's most important, accounting for more than \$5 billion in exports annually - two-thirds of the country's total exports.



Firemen search for survivors through an opening of the collapsed nine-storey garment factory near Dhaka Apr. 12. Rescuers in Bangladesh were trying on Tuesday to reach up to 150 people trapped in rubble after a nine-storey garment factory collapsed near the capital killing at least 26, officials said. REUTERS



## Words of Wisdom



One of the main problems in building a modern state in Yemen is that three blocks of our society perceive themselves above accountability. The sooner we see this and address it, the easier it will be to build a meaningful government based on law and order, and modern values.

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



## OUR OPINION

### United in fate

There's a traditional Yemeni proverb that goes like "Ilhaq alkadhab, la bab albab" which translates as "Follow the liar until the doorstep". The proverb comes from culturally generated wisdom in situations where there are empty promises and one has to oblige the promise until it is proven to be a lie. I was reminded of this Yemeni proverb when I read about the Israeli threats to attack Al Aqsa Mosque in Al-Quds. The so-called peace map, road, wall...etc. are like promises in the air which the Arab world wants to believe. However, the attitudes of Muslims have changed in the last three decades regarding the Palestinian - Israeli conflict. In the fifties and early sixties, as Muslims and Arabs we used to think highly of our selves and our unity in fate. We believed that all Muslim countries are one soul and that any attack against any Islamic entity means an attack against all. Our reaction as people more than as governments was quite sincere and passionate. Today, we discuss issues like the Pakistani war, Bosnian tragedy, Palestinian occupation, Iraqi crises...etc. in a quite indifferent way as matters of fact. These issues have become as important as any other story in the news and even as we watch, we feel momentarily sad and curse the ones behind our sorrow on Friday congregations; we hurriedly proceed to remove the thoughts from our heads and go about our daily routine as if nothing had happened.

The point is that Muslims are connected through the strongest bond that ever existed; this bond is called faith. A threat against any Muslim country no matter how remote, is a threat against the rest of the Muslim world. The Israeli peace plans are only empty promises, which have been proved in more than one occasion to be a fool's game, and yet we still believe. The problem with the Muslim world and especially the Arabs is that we haven't learned from our mistakes. We should start learning from history and stop repeating ourselves, remembering that we will always be connected in faith and united in fate.



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# The direction of peace and its challenges

By HAZEM SAGHIEH  
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The achievements of President Mahmoud Abbas represent tangible proof that politics works, even in a region like ours, ravaged by violence, mutual fears and other conditions that operate against it. The London Conference brought about material and security support, highlighting how much has changed since the passing of President Yasser Arafat. After the cruel siege at the Muqataa and widespread international marginalization, Palestine returned to the forefront of global concern and perhaps even contributed to agreement between the United States and Europe, after their dispute over the Iraq war.

Although the Palestinian elections preceded these developments and cleared the way for them, other events accompanied the London Conference, most important of which were increasing Western concerns, including that of the American administration, over Israeli actions. These were sometimes voiced as subtle disapproval of Israel and sometimes even as outright criticisms in clear and legible language.

The personality of Mahmoud Abbas was essential in this transformation. The Palestinian President is a faithful adherent of three implicit basic principles:

First, there is the issue of the balance of power. Though the balance of power is a consideration in every conflict, this concept was largely absent from political thought in the Arab world until it became critical after the cold war, when the United States emerged as the leader of a unipolar system. It became even more important after September 11, 2001. But in this conflict, it has become clear that a balance of power cannot be achieved with violence. The classic doctrine that says violence is what leads to negotiations has ended and the prevailing concept now is that uprooting violence (regardless of the different scholastic definitions of resistance and terrorism) is what leads to negotiation.

The second is that what the president, any president, pledges to a foreign party, should be politically and morally binding

on him and his state. Abbas proved this by sacking high-level security officers, and thereby causing change in Gaza's security landscape.

The third is that the Palestinian issue is not something for Arab parties to manipulate in a way that fits their interests and strategies. Although Egyptian aid, which is of a political and diplomatic nature, is acceptable or perhaps even required, ideological, radical, and struggle-related interpositions of various types that could blow in from other states carry nothing short of damage to the Palestinian people.

Abbas' adherence to these principles does not mean that we are nearing the achievement of joyful bliss. A great distance still separates us from regaining momentum on the "road map," then getting rid of the separation wall and reaching the stage where a contiguous and viable state can be established. Along this road, two dangers stalk the Palestinian-Israeli peace project. There is no doubt that Ariel Sharon's government will continue its security blackmail, stemming from internal party pressures, placing the responsibility on Mahmoud Abbas' government for each and every shot fired by a Palestinian or a non-Palestinian toward Israel. And as long as politics is one thing and good intentions another, the Israeli establishment will not give up this policy. In other words, there is a need to snatch the national Palestinian project from Sharon's jaws by continuously expanding the circle of friends and by working hard at presenting a convincing model that is attractive and transparent in the areas under the Palestinian National Authority. In this context, civil resistance options of all types definitely should not be surrendered, as they represent a necessary effort that complements this peaceful strategy.

In return, the damage inflicted on Palestinians by "third parties," referred to by Abbas after the recent terror attack in Tel Aviv, should not be taken lightly. Regardless of whether these parties are states or state-sponsored organizations, the Palestinian Authority should be cautious because there are numerous parties in the Middle East nowadays who want to solve their problems by riding the Palestinian issue. A settlement to the Palestinian-

Israeli conflict would be a heavy burden to these powers-in-crisis if it would take precedence over them and their fronts with Israel. After all, radical elements in the region have used this as an excuse since the establishment of Israel in 1948.

The truth is that Palestinians today can, if their current approach achieves substantial success, contribute to reversing the familiar equation: they can influence the Arab situation, instead of Arabs interfering in theirs. Palestinian influence, however, would be the presentation of their model, based on politics, democracy, and transparency, though interference in their affairs was based on violence and violent ideas. What can be said about the new Palestinian experience may be said about the two new experiences in Iraq and Lebanon as well.

It may be said that these are all floundering processes with the possibility of failure. This is true. But what is also true is that their collapse would leave us face to face with catastrophes and the potential for boundless anarchy, bloodshed and terror. At that point, the dominant discourses will not concentrate on "the political" any more in this part of the world, but will move to something deeper and more basic within our culture. It will then be said that we produce nothing but violence in response to challenges, while we fail to produce alternatives that are superior and more profound.

We all hope for the success of the initial steps, represented on the Palestinian side by Mahmoud Abbas achieving a cease-fire agreement with the radical Palestinian factions and on the Israeli side by the return of control over some Palestinian cities to the Palestinian Authority, presumably followed by the withdrawal of Israel from the Gaza Strip. Moving in this direction might help us prevent the worst.

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## Cleaning up Jordan's musty politics

By RANA SABBAGH-GARGOUR  
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Half-hearted measures, and hesitant policies of the past, might have helped Jordan buy time and win Western support, but it did not consolidate the pioneering process of political reform, begun in 1989, when the rest of the Arab region was under despot rulers.

Now, Jordan needs to ensure domestic peace against rising poverty and unemployment, and brace for Washington's new approach that seems to promote rapid social and political change across the Arab world, without regard for internal stability.

The latest speed and direction of change, has left many in a state of shock and awe. In less than four days, the king re-organized the government, and staged a mini revolution at the Royal Court, his own backyard.

And he set a clear agenda for where he wants Jordan to go: accelerate bold comprehensive reform, to complement economic modernization that has already taken firm hold in the kingdom, ever since he took over in 1999. Jordan needs to regain its comparative advantages in a transforming region.

The choice of new faces and names to lead the change, was unconventional, and daring. Adnan Badran, 69, a centrist U.S.-educated university academic, who knows no fear, and hails from a prominent family of East Bank politicians, was named prime minister. The overall line-up is dominated by young and old reformist figures, even though some of the names have failed to convince some Jordanians that the government will deliver.

Marwan Moasher, a daring 48-year-old liberal politician, and former deputy prime minister and ambassador to Washington, became Royal Court minister, the first member of the minority Arab Christian community to ever fill such a sensitive seat in the modern history of Jordan. From there, he will continue to head a committee drafting the National Agenda: a road map that will set the course for the country's development on all domestic fronts for the next 10 years. Goals will have timetables, and will be tied to future budgets, to ensure execution.

Both top men are well respected abroad, and share a record of conviction,

diligence and integrity that speaks for itself. These characteristics are alarming for the country's powerful, tribal-dominated, and conservative power structure: a cocktail of influential politicians, an entrenched bureaucracy, and a strong security apparatus.

Beneath the surface, the latest pre-emptive strikes reflect growing anxiety and concern. The King, a pragmatist who belongs to the younger generation of Arab rulers who took over in the past five years, wants to ensure Jordan's survival in a turbulent U.S.-led world.

After a working visit to Washington ten days ago, the king, the United States' staunchest Arab ally, was alarmed by what he heard from President George W. Bush, his Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and others.

Even Arab reformists share the king's worry, now that Washington has made it clear that U.S. policy in the Middle East, that has traditionally given priority to the stability of cooperative regimes such as those in Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, while turning a blind eye to the way those governments treat their peoples, will no longer work. The status quo they have enjoyed for decades, was quickly changing.

U.S. decision makers are now arguing that political violence, and hostility to Washington in the region, are the result of internal repression and corruption, rather than U.S. policies in the Arab-Israeli conflict, in Iraq and the global "war on terror," all main cause for Arab grievances.

Iraq and Afghanistan, are being touted as models for change, at a time when many Arabs see such rapid and unchecked transformation in the region's closed societies as a recipe for chaos, for collapse of state and society, and for inviting religious extremists to come to power since they remain the only organized structure in their political cultures.

It looks like "arc of instability," or "constructive instability," may now actually be the goal of U.S. policy in the region, rather than its diagnosis of an existing problem.

Jordan's teetering process of political reform also got negative reviews during the visit, embarrassing many royal advisers, especially those who insisted that Jordan could afford to pursue double language, and contrasting policies: one for

local consumption, and one for the foreign audience. At one point, the king had to ask Moasher to take the first flight out of Amman and come to Washington, to give Rice a full briefing on Jordan's national agenda.

Several administration officials, congressmen, journalists and leading human rights watchdogs, who once hailed Jordan's pioneering political moves, were critical over the spate of regressing freedoms. They signaled out the crackdown on the Muslim-led opposition, the muzzling of the media, and plans to curb the power of professional associations - the only active opposition toward U.S. policies, and Jordan's controversial 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

They urged him to make sure that democracy continues to advance in Jordan, which they had long praised as a role model for the region. And to his credit, several human rights groups praised him for being the only Arab leader to visit them, and to listen to their critical views.

Back home, popular displeasure was also growing over the slow pace of political change, started by past governments, amid rising complaints over increasing corruption and nepotism, and lack of a solid system of checks and balances. The security was becoming more powerful, and the government was getting weaker and weaker.

For now, the latest changes, have generated a note of optimism.

But the new government has to move fast to live up to the expectations of both king and nation, and to re-orient Jordan's foreign policy, seen as heavily tilted in favor of Washington and Israel, at the expense of the Arab world. Badran also needs to tackle a thorny issue left behind by the past government - a draft law to regulate professional associations that has triggered outrage in Jordan and abroad. And he needs to come up with a viable electoral law, and a legislation on political parties.

But a window of opportunity exists, and the time for gradual change has never been so opportune.

*Rana Sabbagh-Gargour is a columnist, journalist, and former editor in chief of The Jordan Times. She wrote this commentary for The Daily Star.*



## COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

### Zionist pathway to success:

## From Deir Yasin to Rafah

The Zionist cloak of terror and hate is no mystery to anyone, who will take just a little time to look into the ugliness that manifests the history of the Zionist movement on the ground since its early presence in the Holy Land. On Friday April 9, 1948, even before the British had given up on their mandate on Palestine, a gang of Zionist thugs led by Menachem Begin entered the quiet and peaceful village of Deir Yasin, within what is now West Jerusalem. The villagers had heretofore tried to avoid any entanglements between themselves and the Jewish settlers and discouraged any military or quasi military presence by any of their fellow Palestinians, who elsewhere were preparing, with whatever crude weaponry they had, for the inevitable fight that was to ensue with the substantially more highly prepared Jewish gangs (that combined to form the nucleus of the Israeli "Defense" Force), once the British left. The sun had barely touched the ground of Deir Yasin on that day, but by Noon, 100 Palestinian civilians, half of them women and children, have been mercilessly killed as they were slowly awakening from a peaceful slumber. To illustrate the future prospects of a Zionist state in their midst, the tripartite (Irgun, Stern and Haganah) attackers took 25 of the surviving villagers and paraded them humiliatingly in Jerusalem's then small Jewish quarter amidst cheers of fired up Jewish settlers and shot to death in a nearby quarry. By the end of the day, according to an eye witness report by the New York Times correspondent, the dead count reached some 254. The surviving citizens were driven out of the village by force. Of course, the attackers had insured that some survivors were kept to get the message across to the Palestinians that this is what is in store for you in the wake of the establishment of the State of Israel. The flight of close to a million Palestinians soon after that was not due to the Arab Radio broadcasts telling the Palestinians "to vacate their villages to make way for the Arab armies", which to any prudent person would seem rather absurd. Zionist distortions of the historical facts is part and parcel of the Zionist modus operandum. Some eyewitnesses suggest that the Haganah may not have been directly involved in the barbarous blood feast and looting, but 25 Haganah troops were there to reinforce the murderers. Ben Gurion understood the need for the strategic hill occupied by the village as an air field to bolster the defense of the then surrounded Jewish enclave in Jerusalem. In the Zionist methodology, "the means justify the ends", so the so called moderates of the Haganah made no real fuss about the massacre. To cover up their participation, the Haganah leaders confessed that the massacre "disgraced the cause of Jewish fighters and dishonored Jewish arms and the Jewish flag." But, it is worth mentioning that Menachem Begin shed light on the real position of Haganah and one of the "fathers" of modern day Israel, "Deir Yasin was captured with the knowledge of the Haganah and with the approval of its commander" as a part of its "plan for establishing an airfield."

Deir Yasin was just the lighting of the torch that ignited tens of massive massacres in and outside of Palestine (Sabra, Shatilla, Qana, etc.), during and after the "War of Independence". So one should not be surprised at the cold blooded murder of three children playing soccer on the anniversary of the 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the slaughter at Deir Yasin. By Zionist terms, the Rafah children's massacre is mere child's play. Just to set the record straight, despite the arguments by some superstitious Zionists for having Jews resettle the village turned slaughterhouse, the houses were destroyed and the cemetery was later bulldozed and, like hundreds of other Palestinian villages to follow, Deir Yasin was wiped off the map. By September 1948, Orthodox Jewish immigrants from Poland, Rumania, and Slovakia were settled there over the objections of Martin Buber, Cecil Roth and other Jewish leaders. The center of the village was renamed Givat Shaul Bet. As Jerusalem expanded, the land of Deir Yasin became part of the city and is now known simply as the area between Givat Shaul and the settlement of Har Nof on the western slopes of the mountain. So, the murder of three innocent children should not be a surprise to the astute observer of the situation in the Holy Land. This is Israel from the day it was born probably to the day the world will be terminated. Israeli troops are actually taught that it is unpatriotic to have any pity or mercy on Palestinians killed or suffering from Israeli attacks. Thus, if some of the Israeli troops begin to feel repulsed by the excessive vulgarity of their colleagues, one will easily find that the latter are promoted and in fact become the elite of the land, whereas the protesters will find themselves to be admonished and treated as traitors.

As the attack on Deir Yasin occurred in a relatively quiet period, so did the attack on the three Rafah children (and the many other children such as the cold blooded murder of Mohammed Al-Durrah at the early "non-violent" days of the Second Intifada, if anyone would care to remember). Peace and quiet in the Holy Land does not serve the interests of the "Hebrew" State [would Jacob (Peace of Allah be upon him) give his "children" his blessings for such cold blooded cravings?]

Just look at the way the Israelis are enjoying the "truce" initiated by the handshake of Chairman of the PLO, Mahout Abbass and the veteran of many a Deir Yasin, Ariel Sharon, the bloody record of whom paved the way for his rise to Prime Minister, as it did for David Ben Gurion, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir (who was wanted by the British as a "terrorist" for the King David Hotel bombing in Jerusalem, prior to the establishment of Israel) and most of the elite that control the political, military and security establishment of Israel today.

So, if anyone has any illusions that a "truce" is in effect in Palestine, they are mistaken. It is a one-sided truce, patiently held by the Palestinians, whereas for the Israelis it is business as usual. Since the beginning of the year the Palestinians have lost over 150 mostly unarmed citizens, close to a hundred bulldozed homes and the continuing humiliations of the merciless occupation, that is far from seeing an end.

What truce is in effect, when the so called Jewish "militants" or extremists have been unleashed to intimidate the Palestinians, or rather the entire Moslem world, by their loud and open intimidation of threatening to storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque? This is not the work of a select group, mind you, this is the systematic institutional process that is the cause d'être of the creation and expansion of the land of Zion from the "Nile to the Euphrates": blood, terror and intimidation.



# Yemeni Press, A week in review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

**Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), 7 Apr. 2005.**

**Main headlines**

- War in Saada and annihilation in Taiz
- At the backdrop of wastes in Taiz, in one village, 21 mysterious disease cases
- Taiz finance director refuses directives of Bajammal and al-Hijri
- Expected meeting between the president and al-Ahmar
- Judge of the criminal court appoints a defense lawyer for Dailami and Muftah, described as a "detective"

Columnist Abdeh Farie Nouman says in an article the Yemeni people have been optimistic when the Yemeni unity was realized on May 22, 1990. The Yemenis are optimistic people, patient and struggling unprecedentedly. They have bitterly strived for that since the beginning of the national movement and the popular movement fighting colonialism and backwardness and reactionary all over Yemen.

The Yemeni unity was a product of the people's consciousness in September and October and was based on historical and sincere agreements and terms. Those who turned against the people's destinies and gains violated its principles and deviated from them. They dragged it to deformed tracks called annexation and lies and non-credibility. Thus, the citizen in some governorates has become no longer any status or human rights in unity and equal citizenship.

**Al-Nida'a weekly, 6 Apr. 2005.**

**Main headlines**

- In Aden, a leading al-Qaeda element arrested, strict measures in GoldMour
- Truce collapse, forces advance towards Nushour, Sheikh al-Ahmar would interfere after the president's agreement
- Official at the elections commission, no amendment on constituencies before presidential elections
- The first Kurd president in Iraq
- Organized seizure of agricultural lands in Hadramout valley
- Danish project for strengthening Yemeni media inaugurated
- Security team returns from Guantanamo empty-handed

Writer Mohammed Mohammed al-Maqaleh writes an article saying it does not matter who is the owner of the political dialogue call between the Yemeni political parties. There is no difference whether the call this time has come in a form of an initiative by the authority and the ruling party or it has been a response to a previous call by the opposition parties.

The important thing in this regard is to begin the political dialogue among the Yemenis and their political parties and social formations to come out of the impasse the country is experiencing that has been termed as the dark tunnel. Because the dialogue is the first and the tenth step on the road to solution, the call for it by any party and at any times it is a welcomed call and should be dealt with positively.

What is more important is the success of the dialogue and the participants coming out of it with solutions to agree on the regarding issues of political and national dispute, or in other words the issues on table. Though it should be acknowledged that that the serious call having sense of responsibility does not require preconditions by any of the concerned parties, there

are nevertheless terms and practical technical conditions for any successful and serious dialogue leading to fruitful and applicable results. Among such conditions are;

- The first is dealing with the agenda and the national and political issues it would contain, i.e. the parties of dialogue have to agree on the agenda and define its issues with transparency and clarity,
- The second condition is related to parties of the dialogue and who must take part in the dialogue committee. Here the parties of the Joint Meeting must be keen on involving the biggest number of parties, mass organisations and national personalities,
- The third is pertaining to the side that would conduct and administer the dialogue and commit itself to its outcomes,
- The fourth point is the agreement among the dialogue parties on the time ceiling of the dialogue under which the process of dialogue should be accomplished.



**Al-Sahwa weekly, 7 Apr. 2005.**

**Main headlines**

- In a dangerous precedence and without any legal excuse, security elements in the capital break through Islah students sector headquarters
- Houthi followers would surrender themselves
- Oil trade union: Wages strategy does not meet ambitions
- In protest to imposing new taxes, Hudeidah fishermen stage comprehensive strike
- Prosecution decides to summon bodyguard of Qadhi al-Hardi in the case of attack on lawyers and journalists
- Physicians demand freedom of media from official monopoly and improvement of living condition of those working in health sector

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says the media reported the call by the General People's Congress for dialogue and it is a call worth of interest because it comes under difficult internal circumstances and effective external challenges and pressures. It comes at a time when the internal congestions are pushing the situations to more tensioning. Overlooking the bad conditions does not abolish problems but lead them to aggravation and explosion.

Despite the fear displayed by some political forces about the avail of dialogue by dependence on past experiments, the dialogue remains the safest path for going out of the impasses and calamities.

It is good that the GPC realizes the importance of opening channels of dialogue. Admitting the existence of thorny issues is a correct step for stopping the mistakes and voiding disasters.

The citizen and the effective political forces feel the grave injustice practiced by the ruling party and its unilateral possession of power, wealth and officialdom. The financial and administrative corruption has affected an imbalance in the public and private life and has even become the talk of the authority and the opposition. This is an essential issue that should be dialogued to be cured and putting solutions for it. There are violations of the constitution and the law and this should be tackled and prevented. At all events, the dialogue, transparency and development of trust remain the necessary tools for administrating the difference.



**Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, Syria organisation, 6 Apr. 2005.**

**Main headlines**

- In Saada, brigades 115, 119 engage in battles with rebels
- Demonstrations in Sudan streets in rejection of resolution 1593
- Illegal execution verdict implemented in Taiz
- Armed gang cause panic in Hudeidah
- Chambers of Commerce Federation describes sales law as violating the constitution
- Saudi security forces confirm end of confrontations and the killing of three wanted persons
- Two Americans killed and civilian victims in Iraq

The newspaper's editor in chief wrote an article saying the statement issued by the so-called believing youth bears dangerous meanings and indications that necessitate pondering about their goals.

In this regard it should be pointed out that the mere distribution of the statement openly and coining it according to political program points to the benefiting of those from time for founding organisation network to communicate their ideas. They have adopted the situation of corruption and economic conditions the people are suffering as a base for their address to influence the public opinion and gain their sympathy. The address has gone out to asking international protection is the most dangerous thing mentioned in the statement. In addition, the dangerous thing is the group claim of implementing al that state conditions and denial of their responsibility for attacks on barracks.

All those general orientations the statement has focused clarify that we are before an organized organisation having supporters and intellectuals with certain goals targeting the system and social peace.

**Saut Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces, 6 Apr. 2005.**

**Main headlines**

- Saada under fire with official insistence and popular silence
- Media blackout on confrontations in Saada, Al-Ahmar and scholars meet the president to stop the war
- Press prosecution question editor in chief of Saut Al-Shoura
- Press fears from the government intention to use abolishing of imprisonment punishment for freedom suppression
- Human right support committee appeals for stopping execution of a juvenile

The newspaper's political editor says in his article the release of Nida'a newspaper and the release of Al-Shoura weekly and its editor in chief and initiative for the dialogue came successively and made some politicians think that as indicators of political détente and herald of an official awareness. Soon, the authority has proved the opposite. Suddenly the war returned and series of fires accompanying campaigns of deforming the national unity have continued. The hitting of Saada would not satisfy hunger of the demonstrators and oppression would not affirm equal citizenship and suppression of thought would not qualify Yemen join the GCC.

When the use of force is the only means for decision and information a law for condemnation, the charge of



rebellion would be unconvincing and is not an alternate to peace, security and dialogue. Force may score victory but could not replace the reason.

Stopping the war is courage and its continuation is not heroism. Any authority can win a war on citizens but that does not record to it a victory. Victory is when peace, law, justice, equality and dialogue are gained.



**Al-Isbou weekly, 7 Apr. 2005.**

**Main headlines**

- Sheikh al-Ahmar apologizes for mediating with authorities, Government forces prepare to launch big offenses against rebels
- Yemen's delegation to Guantanamo comes back with files instead of 13 detainees
- Professors of the seven Yemeni universities would resume their strike
- IMF team discusses implementation of sales tax

Ahmed Abdrabah Alawi says in his article what is on the Middle East arena now is the political reform. The term reform means there is a failure necessitating to be put straight. But some do not want to admit the presence of a failure and hence came the terminology of development and expansion of the political action instead of political reform and democratic change. Let's in the first place admit that the political reform is considered a term exaggerated in its use, whether by governments or the opposition, but nothing has been achieved on the ground. Ideas are contradictory about the matter that made it look like a far-fetched dream.

Indications confirm that the need for political reform, despite of its necessity is still in the stage of verbal need and it is resorted to whenever there is a contradiction emerging between the government and the opposition on national issues.

No one thinks differently on the importance of political reform, as it is complementary of economic reform. We can interpret that by saying that the political reform represents the first steps towards economic reform. Legislatively the reform needs a bunch of organizing laws to stabilize reform by working out a continuous political process and not a project we enter and then get finished. Reform would continue as long as the society grows and develops daily. Nevertheless, this concept is still absent in the mind of

the government an opposition.



**Al-Umma weekly, organ of the al-Haq party, 7 Apr. 2005.**

**Main headlines**

- Fierce air and ground shelling of Razammat, efforts for ceasefire awaiting the president's acceptance
- Tribal dispute leads to engagements in Sahar-Saada
- Dailami and Muftah: The trial is a drama, defense declares withdrawal
- Nasserite Unionist Organisation warns against serious consequences of Saada war
- Lawyers warn of neglecting their demands and waver of full strike

The newspaper political editor mentions that the bloody events of Saada and its ramifications all over the country cannot be isolated from the regional and international context in which Yemen is considered the weaker link. Yemen, under fumbling, corruption and violence and recoiling towards totalitarianism, has changed from a state having a

historical and civilization weight into a functional state performing certain roles for others. That role is in return for nothing from which the Yemeni people can benefit in economic, social and political aspects. It also does not enhance the country's status regionally and internationally.

Under those policies, Yemen has become fully haunted with developmental, social and political problems in addition to other congestions. Internally, the authority has accepted for itself the partner role in the so-called war on terror with the absence of transparency, the institutional mentality of power and contradiction of interests and directions as it seems to be an escape from confronting requirements of political reform and openness to inside, deep-rooting democracy project and practices of press and trade unions. Inside indicators do not denote what the believers in reform, democracy, development, human rights and the improvement in the level of the citizen's living conditions that the war in Saada and its ramifications torpedoes, and whatever the justifications for igniting it again. According to the logic of law, state, and constitution, it can be solved.



**وظائف شاغرة**

مشروع المهارات الحياتية ومحو أمية الكبار؛ محافظة عمران ترغب في تعيين أخصائية للتدريب على المهارات الحياتية ومحو الأمية بالمشروع.

**الغرض من الوظيفة:**

تولي مسؤولية إختيار وتدريب وتأهيل المنسقات وإعدادهن لتقديم محتوى برامج المهارات الحياتية وتنمية مهارات الدارسات بالقراءة والكتابة وفقاً لمنهجية REFLECT . والمشاركة في طرح وسائل المهارات الحياتية ومنهجية تقديمها لجهات وهيئات تعمل بذات المجال على المستويين الوطني والمحلي . وتدريب كوادر الجمعيات النسوية التي ستقدم وتتابع الفصول بالمجتمعات، تدريب بعض المدرسين بالتعليم الأساسي الذين سيقدمون بعض موضوعات المهارات الحياتية للطلاب، بالإضافة إلى المشاركة في إعداد وتطبيق أدوات المتابعة والتقييم الخاصة بالمشروع.

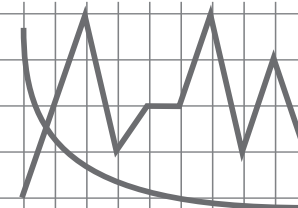
**المؤهلات والمهارات والخبرات المطلوبة في المتقدمين:**

- مؤهل عالي
- خبرة تربوية خاصة بمحو الأمية وتعليم الكبار.
- خبرة سابقة في تصميم أدوات ووسائل تربوية للكبار (تعليمية، صحية ... الخ).
- مهارات التواصل الفعال وخبرات سابقة بالعمل بمجال التدريب لتطبيق برامج وطرق تربوية مبتكرة لمحو الأمية وتعليم الكبار.
- خبرة سابقة وإستعداد للنقل والتعامل المباشر مع المستفيدين ومتابعة العمل ميدانياً.
- المام باللغة الإنجليزية.

آخر موعد لتلقي السيرة الذاتية لمن يرغب في التقدم بالوظيفة يوم السبت الموافق ٢٣/٤/٢٠٠٥ على تلفون : ٠٦٦٠٦٩٠٩ أو على فاكس: ٠٦٦٠٦٩١٠ أو على البريد الإلكتروني: YALLE@yemen.net.ye



## YT Business



## Oil sector promising, Sufan

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Mohammad Ahmad Sufan confirmed that the oil sector in Yemen was promising in the medium and long-run that 99% of the areas were not submitted to investors in the field of oil explorations.

This confirmation comes in response to challenges uttered by the President of the Republic when he warned of an expected exhaustion of oil in 2012.

In a study conducted by Dr. Ahmad Ali Abdulleh, Secretary of Oil Production Authority on Yemen's position on the list of oil producing countries, it was released that Yemen produces over 400 thousand barrels per



Crude oil containers in Aden

day and the oil reserve was estimated at 5 million barrels and is expected to increase.

Mr. Abdulleh emphasized that a

great portion of the oil reserve was produced during the past decades and that the gas reserves exceed 15 trillion cubic feet.

Meanwhile, a controversy about the extension of the agreement with Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) that is operating in block 18, is mounting, the

study indicates that there is a declination in the production of oil in the main fields in Marib and al-Maseelah. These fields have been exploited for a long time and exceeded the middle of their age, specifically those in Marib.

The Development and Oil Committee at the Parliament forwarded a report on block 18 in al-Jawf to the Parliament in which it revealed many violations committed by the government towards the oil wealth.

The report confirmed that the expiry of the agreement with YHOC operating in block 18 means that this block will be owned by the government along with its reserves, however, the ministry of oil and minerals does not take serious steps in studying the benefits in case a new oil company comes to operate in this block instead of extending agreements with previous companies.

The Council of Ministers was planning to discuss the project of partial

## Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	189.3100	189.6100
Sterling Pound	356.9900	357.5600
Euro	243.3800	243.7600
Saudi Rial	50.4800	50.5600
Kuwaiti Dinar	648.2100	649.2400
UAE Dirhem	51.5400	51.6200
Egyptian Pound	32.6400	32.6900
Bahraini Dinar	502.1500	502.9400
Qatari Rial	52.0000	52.0900
Jordanian Dinar	267.2000	267.6200
Omani Rial	491.7400	492.5200
Swiss Franc	157.9400	158.1900
Swedish Crown	26.7100	26.7500
Japanese Yen	1.7499	1.7526

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

amendment of the agreement under the extension with YHOC for five more years but contrarily, the project was withdrawn suddenly in response to a letter from Prime Minister.

The report recommended the Cabinet to reject the extension and amendment of the agreement with YHOC particularly as its validity will end in November 2005. The report also recommended the cabinet to take serious steps toward the job-related violations experienced in the ministry of oil and minerals that may lead to big losses due to the lack of sense of responsibility and earnestness in dealing with oil revenues that reach 60% of the overall revenues of the state.

## Would the Yemeni new justice strategy reform trading system?

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The ministry of justice in Yemen has recently finished its work in preparing the national strategy on modernization and development of justice. In this regard, the Justice Undersecretary Qadhi Ahmed Bamatraf said in a statement that the ministry would organize in the forthcoming weeks a consultative meeting for heads of courts of first instance, appeals sections, criminal courts and other specialized courts from all over the republic of Yemen. The meeting would discuss the strategy and enrich it with ideas and proposals for its final drafting to be submitted to the Supreme Justice Council.

Qadhi Bamatraf has also said the ministry would begin carrying out the strategy in the beginning of the second half of the present year, adding that the

strategy was prepared in accordance with bases and criteria guaranteeing in advancing the Yemeni judiciary and enhancing its capabilities as a translation of chairman of the Supreme Judiciary Council, president Ali Abdullah Saleh's directives regarding the qualitative institutional build up of judiciary apparatuses and organization of administration and cooperation with other institutions. He has pointed out that the strategy aims at improving performance of judiciary and creates trust of people in judiciary institutions and verdicts issued by them. The goal is to modernize and develop specialized courts and train their cadres.

Investors usually complain of slackness of judicature procedures and delay in deciding disputes on pieces of land. That situation pushes them to wonder about the avail of this strategy and the extent of its reform of the judicial apparatuses in the trading field.

## High prices exhaust purchasing power of limited income Consumers to YT:

## Tradesmen target our income prior to sales tax

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Consumers and entrepreneurs have described prices hikes of food goods and construction materials as part of a premeditated organized campaign led by some merchants, and those who already raised prices. Some tradesmen have raised prices of foodstuffs and construction materials by rates ranging between 10-30% under pretext that the new sales tax law would cause the rise of taxes on them by 10%, although the law stipulates tax exempts for around 27 commodities and necessary materials related to

consumer needs.

Specialists are unanimous that activity of tradesmen mafia hampers quality of national products and industrial development in Yemen. Challenges facing national industry are no longer a problem related to industrialists. They need a big effort to fight this mafia specialized in smuggling and absorption of profits from Yemeni market in return for decayed and low-quality commodities with low prices and specifications, a matter leading to attract consumers to them at the expense of the national products.

A consumer citizen from al-Hasaba market says the rise in prices of

consumer and supplies goods has stolen joy from our children's mouths. He adds the government has decided to enforce the new sales tax law in July and exempted 27 groups of essential commodities from the tax, saying the big merchants are the ones meant by the law. However, what is happening is that retail merchants have raised prices by 10% claiming that the new prices are to face the sales tax only.

Those specialised in smuggling mafia do not believe in specifications and standardisation nor observe in human conscience in their businesses and are always challenging all laws and regulations in the country by flooding the market with smuggled

commodities. They add that retail merchants have exploited the talk about the sales tax and increased prices.

A merchant says that the increase in prices is a result of fears resulting in the future implementation of the sales tax, adding it is the right of retail merchants to prepare themselves for bearing consequences of what may result from sales after the sales tax is enforced.

On the other hand, a consumer citizen responds that sales tax is still not implemented and merchants began imposing spiral prices on their own, giving an example of the increase on cement prices that rose from 800 riyals to 1100 riyals.

## Procedures activating fish sector,

## Fishermen complain their condition

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni cabinet adopted a number of procedures aimed at activating the sector of fish wealth. It also approved the suggestive executive program for 2005 and 2006.

These procedures aim to organize fishing in seawater, to establish a suitable management for fishing and to maintain them. These procedures deal with protecting the small-aged fishermen and alleviating poverty in the coastal areas. They are targeting to attract investment and increase income of fishing in order to elevate the participation of this sector in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and to improve and enhance internal and external marketing.

Sources at the Ministry of Fish Wealth told Yemen Times that it was about to execute a number of specific procedures for protecting the conventional fishing that forms 95% in Yemen. This matter requires the provision of protection for traditional fishermen throughout activating control system on the Yemeni coastline that is considered the longest in the area (2400

kilometer).

The sources added that the ministry would execute tens of projects to develop fishing sector during this year including the creation of a number of fishery establishments on the Yemen

coastline territories. He said that the ministry would encourage the role of local and external private sector investment in the Yemeni fishery areas.

The government considers fishing one of the most important economic

sectors that will help develop the littoral areas and double the income of the state. Activating this sector and founding the priorities in offering costs and specifying the special sums of money, is the focus in this stage of establishing

infrastructure represented in fishing ports.

Fishermen complain of their miserable condition while using conventional fishing methods saying that they needed more official support in

order to overcome the difficulties that hinder increase of their production. They also ask for more facilities in marketing since they have only three fridges for keeping their fish for a long period before going to markets.



Fishermen complain of their miserable condition while using conventional fishing methods



Fish market in Hodeidah



## Two thousand seasons of rain

# When incense weeps

By IRENA KNEHTL  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Now they had dreams, about spring, rains, pride, and dignity. About tomorrow. The summers in Sana'a are dusty. The waters without a ripple and the skies a luminous blue. Here the storytellers know thousand of tales about the skies that were azure. However, this is before the hills became alive again and danced like a man.

They met only once. There would be one thing to remember that their eyes met for a moment before she could lower hers. At the end, he offered her his hand. She looked at it first. A nicely shaped, full hand, before she put hers in it. His eyes, half closed, were telling her, he felt pleasant. He hastened to fill the silence. She thought him handsome as a Sabaean king. She could not recall their names now, except for Jada. She decided it would be Jada.

### After, they were separated.

She knew he worked now in a place in the north. She remembered it as walled with mud wall, and mud skyscrapers decorated in white. Sometimes at news when she was his face, she thought he smiled only for her. He no longer wore the uniform, from which he shone. Nevertheless, gray suit, white shirt, and a strapped tie, which in a brown environment stood out.

That he will come.

That he will search for her.  
That he will find her  
That she will wait for him.

The winds and clouds, their voices now a rolling thunder. Between lush hills and fertile plains. Where flowers bloomed ten months every year. In addition, two thousand years passed like seasons. The monsoon rain turned earth every spring into painting. Not the spring rains, but the scent of roses brought them joy. In a while, the rain slowed to a drizzle, and then stopped. The breeze shook off water from the trees. After, the trees were green, and sky blue.

She was a lush, beautiful woman with huge eyes, who wore a sudden smile. Her long black hair hung loose down her back, plaited only at the back. Even as a child, she was different. She was too full of life and laughter. She could read and write like a boy. Moreover, she longed to fly to the great outside world of mysterious sorrow and happiness. Why did she think, she alone could escape the sorrow? The dust made her cough. A narrow street lined with shops. A full moon in the end began to wane. It was almost dawn. The scent of orange trees in the gardens and rare perfumes. The cool sweetness of rose garden. Faint scent of spices and sun backed city. The perfumed air.

It has begun. The spirit of the Old city, suddenly impossibly old, hovered high above, in the air, from where it jabbered useless warning. It talked about the Sabaean palace Ghamdan that reached the sky. In her thoughts,



Painting by Samira Abdo Ali

she reached the palace top. From there she used to call him. In return, the north wind would bring her scent of grapes, raisins, incense and blossoms in May. She smelled incense.

There above the sky, on the blue floor, they danced.

There, they could not be separated.

With an ancient instinct, she looked

for his face everywhere. She could better imagine local government, revolution, democracy and Arab unity. She thought they had his face. As those mountains, being free. When she prayed, she whispered to the Most High about raisins that are sad. About almonds that weep. About happiness as glass beads, about hearts that are swollen. About stars that do not whisper. About apricot trees that are barren. About voices that tremble. About eyes that are tired. About spring that is winter.

There was chaos before the beginning. All sounds but none heard. All shapes but none seen. Therefore, with men, the bonds of love and affections soon changed to a land of sorrow and

care. The sun setting with no road ahead.

The Arab street is no longer silent. It demands lauder and lauder the Arab unity. Orouba, unity, shouted the loud voice from the radio. Orouba. Arab unity called the voices of demonstrators from the streets. There was greatness in their powerless nothingness. Greatness in their giving and sharing.

Orouba, unity, they were calling now lauder and lauder.

Your blood is my blood! We have the same ancestors.

Our suffering is the same. You, too, walk the world as out of your mind!

Orouba, unity, they sung.

Brother! From the lowlands to the mountains!

We are awakening! We realized we were slaves! Now we are reborn again!

Orouba, Arab unity, the chanted. Intifada, Palestine, AlQuds, Jerusalem. Iraq.

Oh, the world is wide enough!

That a free man would put up with humiliation and hatred!

A thousand sorrows filled every inch of their sensitive being. There was nothing to forgive now. Nothing more to wait for. Beginning of spring! The Arab street is demonstrating because of occupations in Iraq and the treatment of Palestinians. The Arab street is no longer silent. It is dreams they have! Dreams about spring, rains, dignity, pride. About tomorrow! Perhaps the world has changed. Perhaps, we shall all be free! However, the moon is never round for long and our time spent. Nevertheless, the dreams we had must die in order to live anew. Only in the azure sky, there is the moon beyond the clouds. But for fears, there is a painful journey ahead. Regretting the spring has so soon passed.

Late summer. In the absence of words and emptiness in eyes. The changing expression in eyes and feeling of air touching her cheeks were as if there had been leaves underfoot. Anxiously watching the road for a return. She had long had it in mind. So dim, so dark. Should we meet again, let us not journey to the same beginning?

Then he did not come.

Did not search for her.

Did not find her.

She might never see him again.

What have they done to him?

## Feminizing poverty and dangers of early marriage

TAIZ BUREAU

Early marriage are considered as a distinctive feature in Yemen and is vastly spread both in the rural and urban areas. It is closely related to the customs that prevail in the society that consider early marriages as a way to protect the delinquency and completeness of religion. It is a phenomenon which has negative reflections affecting the individuals' lives in particularly and the society as well as its development.

Early marriages are one of the main reasons for the rise of population in Yemen, with the growth rate at 3.5% and the fertility rate at 7.4 for women. Early marriages are a basic reason for the increase of fatal rate of children below 5 years, which is about 94.8% and the fatal rate of pregnant mothers, which is at 351 per 100,000 births. Statistics indicate that the rate of young mothers (of the class 10- 19) is 75%.

A report issued by the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) according to the Democratic Survey on Child and Mother Health stated that early marriages are spread among the age class of 15 to 18 since the rate reached 48% of which 13% have been married more than once.

The Base Survey on Reproductive Health in 2000 indicated that 24.6% of women are married between the ages 10 - 14 years and 65% between 15 -19 years. The problem doesn't lie in early marriages but in early pregnancy and delivery.

### Educational level and its relation with early marriages

Official statistics show that early marriages are related to the husband's illiteracy, as an illiterate husband prefers his wife to be young in age.

According to the results of the democratic survey, the second cycle in 1997, the rate of married women at 15 or below is the rate of illiterate husbands, whereas the rate of women at 16-18 is 43%.

Studies and research that have been made on women's education decrease the phenomenon of early marriages.

The more educated a woman is, the later her marriage will be. The results of a poverty survey in 1999 showed that one of the reasons of basic educational attrition either among the poor or the rich is marriage. The rate of attrition caused by marriages among poor families is 1.9% of males and 2.4% of females; among the rich, the rate is 2.8% of males and 0.4% of females.

### Reasons for early marriage:

A variety of studies reported that the reasons of early marriages in Yemen are as follows:

1. The economical status of families and level of poverty
2. The majority of the Yemeni families consider early marriages as protecting the family's honor.
3. Attrition of students is one of the reasons: the educated family does not let their sons and daughters marry before finishing their studies.
4. The desire for increasing the number of children due to some thoughts that prevail among some families. Researchers indicate that customs and traditions are the main reasons behind early marriages. Besides being related to customs, early marriages are also caused by the religious aspect of the Yemeni society that deals with marriage as a religious duty and a way of protecting either the man or the woman from committing misdeeds.

### Consequences of early marriage:

Studies and statistics point out that early marriages result in many negative consequences at an individual, family and social level. It proves that early marriages contribute to the increase of illiteracy and poverty in the Yemeni society in general and among women in particular. It is also a principal factor that increases the fertility rate in Yemen which has a negative affect on the children as well as the mother's health and other negative aspects.

According to a study on the rural women's status and gender issues in 2001 prepared by Dr. Fuad Al-Salahi, rural women are still suffering from high illiteracy rates that reach 79%.

Others think that early marriages are a reason for the poverty of the Yemeni women: early marriages hinder women to join the laborer's market. The high rate of fertility as well as the reproductive role of Yemeni women is the result of the phenomenon of early marriages that deprive the girl from enough education, qualifications and training that will enable her to get a job; she becomes free for her family without receiving any kind of payments.

### Health consequences of early marriages

National Population Policy pointed out that the indicators of public health and reproductive health in particular, either of mothers or women at pregnancy age, are still below the expectations. About 25% of women between 15- 40 are suffering from malnutrition and 47% of births are accompanied with some side effects. All this coincides with unhealthy reproductive behavior since 37% of births are born while there is no more than 24 months between the two pregnancies of which 18% are separated from the each other with less than 18 months and 16% of mothers deliver before 20.

A study on adolescence by Nuriah Al-Huri mentioned that early marriages and pregnancy subjects women to many health dangers. She said that early marriages affect their social and academic status when they take early family responsibility. This results in their deprivation of education. Marriage and pregnancy of young wives make the infant's weight lighter than the normal measure due to the uncomplete physical growth of mothers.

Since this phenomenon is of great vitality, the governmental and non-governmental authorities have put a number of solutions which is included in the Government General Project of 2003 and the National Strategy of Integrating Youth in Development. There are many other solutions that the government is trying to implement besides raising awareness of the dangers of early marriages and its consequences on the individual, family, and society.

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SSANGYONG



# Designer diets?

Throughout our lives, we are exposed to a complex mixture of food compounds. Intricate biochemical processes extract from food the energy and other useful components that enable us to grow and function. Many compounds, seemingly unimportant in the past, are now recognized as influencing our health. For example, lycopene from cooked tomato sauces may help prevent prostate cancer.

Everyone, indeed, knows that food can have a positive or negative impact on health. Food may never cure any particular disease, but diets rich in fruits and vegetables, cereals and plant-sourced oils offer protection from many cancers, cardiovascular disease, and other illnesses associated with old age. The problem, for scientists and consumers alike, is that the benefits are not the same for everyone.

So we need to understand how what we eat interacts with our bodies – or, more specifically, our genes – to affect our health. This is the science of nutrigenomics. The long-term aim of nutrigenomics is to define how the whole body responds to food using so-called systems biology.

Every cell in your body (except mature red blood cells) – there are about 50 trillion in an adult – contains copies of your DNA, which are coiled up tightly to form 46 separate bundles called chromosomes. These chromosomes are stored in the core of the cell (nucleus), and there are 22 matching pairs, one of each pair from each of your biological parents, plus an X-chromosome from your mother and either an X- or Y-chromosome from your father; XX makes you a girl and XY a boy.

DNA stores information that is vital



By Dr Sian Astley

to the growth, repair, replacement, and correct functioning of our cells. It consists of two strings – formed from phosphate and sugar – along which four unique chemical compounds (DNA bases) are attached. There are about three billion bases, and the sequences in which they occur is our genetic code, or human genome.

Within the genetic code, there are 30,000-40,000 highly organized regions called genes. Genes are the basic unit of heredity, and, unless you are an identical twin, the combination of genes inherited from your parents is unique to you. The genes that you have make up your genotype. The resulting product, for example eye color, is your phenotype.

Genotyping can be used to determine which genes you have, but it cannot always predict your phenotype. The inheritance of some characteristics, including eye color, is simple. The majority of phenotypes are, however, the product of complex multi-gene interaction, environment, and lifestyle choices. This includes our risk of developing a host of age-related diseases.

Genes code for proteins, the body's workers, which are not made directly from DNA, because they do not speak the same language. Ribonucleic acid (RNA) acts as an interpreter in a process called transcription (the reading of genes). Translation from RNA creates three-dimensional proteins from combinations of 22

essential amino acids – essential only because our bodies are not able to make them, so they must be obtained from our diet instead. The proteins that are produced, their quantities, and their characteristics collectively form the proteome, and their activities, in combination or in response to signals from within the body or external to it, form our metabolism.

Such is the complexity of nutrigenomics that it is no longer possible for nutritional researchers to work alone. Expertise in a wide variety of different areas – molecular and cell biology, mathematics and statistics, nutrition and diet, food chemistry, and social science – is fundamental to progress.

To this end, 22 leading groups have united to create The European Nutrigenomics Organization, or NuGO. Funded by the European Commission, NuGO gives scientists from organizations that usually compete for funding and the best researchers their first real opportunity to work together. Difficulties stemming from professional jargon, organizational structure, and distance are more than offset by the benefits of integrating nutrigenomics facilities and expertise to ensure cooperative use of knowledge and its application in nutritional research.

Nutrigenomics is not the Holy Grail of nutrition, but neither is it irrelevant to all but the worried-but-wealthy few that will be able to afford the new food products when they arrive. Determining the structure of DNA and the sequence of the human genome has revolutionized biology and medicine. It has created new specialties and advanced our understanding of disease. But rarely does this knowledge allow us to control outcomes – prevention

rather than cure. Indeed, in the twenty-first century, we still cannot describe health except in terms of the absence of disease.

Today's new technologies enable health to be identified in terms of patterns of gene expression, protein production, and metabolic response. Applied to nutrition, nutrigenomics will allow us to understand, and perhaps more importantly, to manipulate our individual response to existing foods so as to benefit our health.

For some people, this will mean expensive genetic testing and designer diets, but for most, it will mean realistic advice based on visibly demonstrable phenotypes – a tendency to gain weight, for example, or an intolerance or allergic response to certain food types. Above all, nutrigenomics holds out the promise of providing the healthy independence that everyone hopes for in later years.

*Dr Sian Astley is a research scientist at the Institute of Food Research, Norwich Research Park Colney, Norwich, UK.*

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## Iranian parliament gives green light to abortion

**T**EHHRAN, April 12 (Reuters) - Iran's conservative-dominated parliament has approved abortions in cases where the mother's life is in danger or the child would be handicapped, the official IRNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

"It is the first time in the past 26 years that parliament dared to debate such a controversial law," the agency said, referring to the period since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

IRNA said opponents of the bill that argued many disabled people had played important roles in society and that the legislation was open to abuse.

Proponents of the law underlined the financial drain on families of handicapped children.

IRNA said the legislation envisaged punishment for abuses of the law, but did not go into detail.

The legislation says an abortion would need a formal request from the parents in addition to the verdict of three specialists and the Coroner's Office, IRNA reported.

All parliamentary legislation must be approved by the Guardian Council, a 12-man conservative legislative watchdog composed of six clerics and six lawyers.

## Facts of Life

By WHO- Yemen Program

### Foodborne and waterborne health risks in Yemen

**M**any important infectious diseases (such as brucellosis, cholera, cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, hepatitis A and E, legionellosis, leptospirosis, listeriosis, schistosomiasis and typhoid fever) are transmitted by contaminated food and water.

For travellers, the main health problem associated with contaminated food and water is "travellers' diarrhoea", which can be caused by a wide range of infectious agents. Travellers' diarrhoea is the most common health problem encountered by travellers and may affect up to 80% of travellers to high-risk destinations. Even a brief episode of severe diarrhoea may spoil a holiday or ruin a business trip.

Diarrhoea may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, and fever. Travellers' diarrhoea is primarily the result of consumption of contaminated food, drink, or drinking-water. Contamination in such cases is due to the presence of disease-producing microorganisms. A wide range of different bacteria, viruses, and some parasitic and fungal infections may cause travellers' diarrhoea.

Illness is also caused by certain biological toxins found in seafood. The main diseases in this group are caused by poisoning from:

- paralytic shellfish
- neurotoxic shellfish
- amnesic shellfish
- ciguatera toxin
- scombroid fish
- puffer fish

The toxins involved in these poisonings come from microorganisms consumed by or otherwise contaminating the fish.

Poisonous chemicals may also contaminate food and drink. However, the ill-effects are generally the result of long-term exposure and do not represent a significant health risk for travellers. Sporadic misuse of chemicals also occurs, such as the use of textile dyes in foodstuffs, which may give an unusually bright colour to the contaminated food.

The safety of food, drink and drinking-water depends mainly on the standards of hygiene applied locally in their preparation and handling. In countries with low standards of hygiene and sanitation and poor infrastructure for controlling the safety of food, drink and drinking-water, there is a high risk of contracting travellers' diarrhoea. In such countries, travellers should take precautions with all food and drink, including that served in good-

quality hotels and restaurants, to minimize any risk of contracting a foodborne or waterborne infection. While the risks are greater in poor countries, locations with poor hygiene may be present in any country.

Another potential source of waterborne infection is contaminated recreational water, particularly sewage-polluted seawater or fresh water in lakes and rivers, as well as water in swimming pools and spas where filtering and disinfection are inadequate or even non-existent. Bathing in contaminated water may result in ingestion of diarrhoea-producing microorganisms and other infectious agents.

It is particularly important that people in more vulnerable groups, i.e. infants and children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with impaired immune systems, take stringent precautions to avoid contaminated food and drink and unsafe recreational waters.

#### Travellers should:

- avoid consumption of potentially contaminated food or drink;
- avoid contact with potentially contaminated recreational waters;
- know how to treat diarrhoea;
- carry oral rehydration salts and water-disinfecting agents.

#### Precautions for avoiding unsafe food and drink

- Avoid cooked food that has been kept at room temperature for several hours.
- Eat only food that has been cooked thoroughly and is still hot.
- Avoid uncooked food, apart from fruit and vegetables that can be peeled or shelled, and avoid fruits with damaged skins.
- Avoid dishes containing raw or undercooked eggs.
- Avoid food bought from street vendors.
- Avoid ice cream from unreliable sources, including street vendors.
- In countries where poisonous biotoxins may be present in fish and shellfish, obtain advice locally.
- Boil unpasteurized (raw) milk before consumption.
- Boil drinking-water if its safety is doubtful; if boiling is not possible, a certified, well-maintained filter and/or a disinfectant agent can be used.
- Avoid ice unless it has been made from safe water.
- Avoid brushing the teeth with unsafe water.
- Bottled or packaged cold drinks are usually safe provided that they are sealed; hot beverages are usually safe.

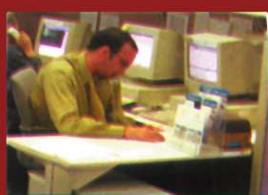
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## Yemeni Jews in Raida celebrate Dhahri's marriage

In a state of extreme pleasure and happiness Yemeni Jews in Raida celebrated one wedding of Yahya Yahoda Dhahri to Zahrah Sulaiman Yahya

Presented by:  
Abraham, Sulaiman, Yahya, and all relatives and friends in Sana'a, Sa'ada and Raida.





# مهرجان السنابل الثاني - الجديدة -



الأستاذ/ أحمد جازم سعيد

المدير العام الإقليمي للمجموعة بمحافظة الجديدة



مندوب جمعية الخبازين بالجديدة



- بعد نجاح مهرجان السنابل الأول الذي أقامته الشركة اليمنية للمطاحن وصوامع الغلال في محافظة عدن عام ٢٠٠٤م، دشنت الشركة ممثلة بمديرها العام الأستاذ / نشوان علي محمد سعيد أنعم يوم الأربعاء الموافق ٢٠٠٥/٤/٦م مهرجان السنابل الثاني وذلك على قاعة المركز الثقافي بمحافظة الجديدة.

وقد حضر المهرجان جمع غفير من ممثلي الشركات الشقيقة والشخصيات الرسمية وأصحاب الأفران وجمهور المستهلكين في المحافظة.

تخللت فعاليات المهرجان العديد من الفقرات الغنائية والمسابقات الثقافية والعروض المسرحية التي أمتعت الحضور، وقبل نهاية المهرجان قام مديرعام الشركة بتكريم أصحاب الأفران بالمحافظة مقدماً لهم دراجات هوائية أعدت خصيصاً من أجل أن تكون صالحة لتوزيع منتجات الأفران من (رغيف وروت) وبأساليب صحيحة تضمن وصولها طازجة للمستهلك في مختلف حواري وشوارع المحافظة نظراً لسهولة التنقل والتحرك بهذه الدراجات.

✦ الجدير بالذكر أن الشركة تعتزم إقامة مهرجانات أخرى مستقبلاً في العديد من المحافظات بهدف :-

- توسيع البيئة التسويقية المحلية لمنتج دقيق السنابل نزولاً عند رغبة العملاء وأصحاب الأفران.

- تعريف المستهلك بالمكانة التي احتلها منتج دقيق السنابل في السوق المحلي نظراً لصناعته وفقاً لمقاييس وضبط الجودة العالمية.

- تعزيز الثقة لدى المستهلك بالطاقة الإنتاجية التي يتميز بها هذا المنتج وبما يضمن إستمرارية تواجده في السوق عند الحاجة.



طازج من المصنع  
الى المستهلك

دقيق



# Liverpool hit by Gerrard blow

TURIN, Italy (Reuters) - A 1-0 victory will be enough to see Juventus past Liverpool on Wednesday and into the semi-finals of the Champions League and that is not a result that is unfamiliar to Fabio Capello's side.

Liverpool lead 2-1 from the first-leg of their Champions League quarter-final tie but Fabio Cannavaro's second half 'away goal' for Juve could turn out to be decisive.

All four of Juve's home games in the Champions League this season have ended 1-0 for the Italians after normal time, with their 2-0 win over Real Madrid in the last round being sewn up by an extra time winner.

But Liverpool will take heart from the fact that Juve's normally rock solid defence has been shaken twice in the past week - even if they will be without their inspirational skipper Steven Gerrard, ruled out with a groin injury.

First Liverpool themselves opened up the Italian backline with ease as they scored twice in the first half of the Anfield tie and then on Saturday Juve were forced to come back from behind three times to get a 3-3 draw at Fiorentina in Serie A.

But Capello has taken Saturday's result as a positive sign of his team's spirit.

"When you come back three times that says something about a team - it is a demonstration of your character," said the former AC Milan and Real

Madrid coach.

Capello was without Brazilian midfielder Emerson and French striker David Trezeguet for the game at Florence - both suffering from mild injuries but should be fit for Wednesday's game.

### impressive zlatan

Given the impressive displays and goals against Fiorentina from Swede Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Alessandro Del Piero in attack, Capello may well start with Trezeguet on the bench.

The Juventus coach is also without midfielder Alessio Tacchinardi as he serves the second of his two-match suspension and Capello will probably ask Manuele Blasi to partner Emerson again in the centre of midfield.

French right-back Jonathan Zebina is also missing for Juventus with Gianluca Pessotto favourite to take over.

Liverpool's injuries are more serious with their influential England international midfielder and captain Steven Gerrard ruled out with a groin strain.

Gerrard picked up the strain in the final minutes of Saturday's 1-0 defeat to Manchester City in the Premier League.

Liverpool's Spanish coach Rafael Benitez believes that result will have little bearing on Wednesday's game at the Delle Alpi stadium.



Juventus' Pavel Nedved (L) watches as Fiorentina's Luca Ariatti clears the ball during their Italian Serie A soccer match at the Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence April 9. The match ended in a 3-3 draw. REUTERS

"Things will be different in Turin because it's another type of game," he said.

"We will be ready."

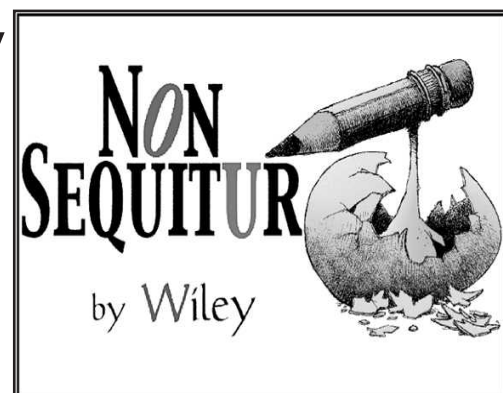
In Champions League games we seem to have the right mentality," he

added.

The first-leg saw an emotional attempt at reconciliation from Liverpool fans who called for friendship 20 years on from the Heysel stadium tragedy where 39,

mainly Italian, fans died.

Such scenes are unlikely to be repeated at the Delle Alpi stadium on Wednesday with police taking extra measures to deal with the threat of possible revenge attacks.



**Ordinary Basil** Before Basil goes back home, Louise treats him to an extraordinary ride on her pet pteranodon, Beatrice. With his spirits soaring as high as the great flying reptile, Basil noticed a strange and unfamiliar sensation beginning to grow across his face... a smile. More than a smile, a broad grin.

"I never want this to end," he whispered to himself.

But it would end, and a lot sooner than either of them expected.



As Beatrice banked to the right in a continuous clockwise glide to ride a thermal, Louise caught a flash of light coming from the ground. She quickly turned to Basil, snapping him out of his rare sense of euphoria with an urgent order: "Hold on tight!"

Louise then leaned back and pulled on the reins just as hard as she could. "Pull up, Bea," she shouted. "PULL UP!"

Her quick wits allowed them to narrowly avert disaster...



...but only for the moment. "Basil...?"

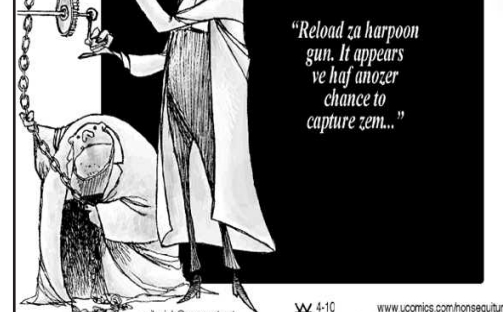


Without hesitation or panic, Louise leaned into Beatrice and said with loving urgency, "Dive, Bea...FETCH!"



Meanwhile, Basil's plight was being watched with malevolent calm.

"Reload za harpoon gun. It appears ve haf anozer chance to capture zem..."



# Billups leads Pistons to Central title

TORONTO (Reuters) - Chauncey Billups scored 28 points, including the winning jumper with eight seconds left in overtime, as the Detroit Pistons clinched first place in the Central Division with an 85-84 win over the Chicago Bulls in NBA play Monday in Chicago.

Detroit (50-27) won the Central title for the third time in four years with the win.

The reigning NBA champions also won for the 10th straight time in Chicago.

The Pistons rallied from eight points down in the final 2:49 of regulation before pulling out the overtime win, as the Bulls failed to gain ground in their fight to secure

home court advantage for the first round of the playoffs.

The Bulls still lead fifth-place Washington and Indiana by two games with five games remaining in the regular season.

The top four teams in the Eastern Conference standings get home court for the first round.

Rasheed Wallace added 14 points for the Pistons, while Ben Wallace had 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Kirk Hinrich had 15 points to lead the Bulls, who lost their first nine games of the season.

Tyson Chandler added 14 points and had 16 rebounds and Ben Gordon also scored 14 points for Chicago.

### Pacers beat raptors

In other NBA games played Monday, Reggie Miller scored 19 points to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 94-90 win over the Raptors in Toronto.

Dale Davis scored nine points and had 12 rebounds.

James Jones added 11 points off the bench.

Jalen Rose scored 26 points for the Raptors.

In Orlando, LeBron James piled in 33 points to pace the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 114-106 win over the Magic.

Drew Gooden scored 27 points and Robert Traylor added 20 points in the Cavs second straight win.

Steve Francis and Dwight Howard each scored 23 points as Orlando lost its fourth straight game.

In Washington, Antawn Jamison scored 32 points and Larry Hughes added 23 to help the Wizards to a 119-112 win over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Etan Thomas and Kwame Brown each scored 17 points as the Wizards won for the first time in six games.

Michael Redd scored 35 points for the Bucks.

In Atlanta, Keith Bogans put in 21 points to help the Charlotte Bobcats to a 110-105 win over the Hawks.

Brevin Knight scored 17 points and Emeka Okafor totaled 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Bobcats.

Josh Childress had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Hawks.

In Dallas, Josh Howard scored 23 points and pulled in nine rebounds to give the Mavericks a 110-89 win over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 19 points



Chicago Bulls forward Eric Piatkowski (R) battles Detroit Pistons forward Tashaun Prince for the ball during fourth quarter action at the United Center in Chicago, April 11. The Pistons defeated the Bulls 85-84 in overtime. REUTERS

and Michael Finley added 17 in the Mavericks fourth straight win.

Lorenzen Wright led Memphis with 18 points.

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 31 points and added 11 rebounds to lead the Nuggets to a 122-106 win over the Golden State

Warriors.

DerMarr Johnson scored 19 points and Andre Miller helped out with 10 points and 16 assists.

Baron Davis scored a team-high 27 points and Troy Murphy added 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Warriors.

## Taiz Schools' football championship wrapped up

By TAIZ BUREAU

The concluding match of the school teams in Taiz was held on Sunday April 10 under the supervision of the School Activities Department at the Taiz Education Office.

The game combined al-Dhafer

and Salah teams with the former scoring victory after which the game ended with a draw. The Al -Ma'afar team ranked third in the competition.

After the game was over, Dr Mahdi Abdulsalam, General Manager of Taiz Education Office awarded cups and medals to the winners.

It is worth noting that the Taiz Education Office was able to score different achievements for the sake of encouraging sporting competitions and bringing forth a healthy generation armed with all the physical and mental abilities.



**مسابقة رقم (40) Contest No. (40)**

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١- إستبدل غطاء واحد فقط ١٥ كجم مختوم عليه علامة من أقرب مركز إستبدال واحصل على هديتك الفورية (حافضة طعام كبيرة أو صحن ملاين كبير وكذا لك قسيمة للسحب النهائي)

٢- إستبدل غطاء واحد فقط ٦٠ كجم مختوم عليه علامة من أقرب مركز إستبدال واحصل على هديتك الفورية (حافضة طعام متوسطة صافي أو طبق ملاين صغير وكذا لك قسيمة للسحب النهائي)

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 السحب الثاني إب ٢٠٠٥/٥/٣٠ تسليم الجوائز ٢٠٠٥/٥/٢٦

2005/03

## Nine days of Yemen-Kuwaiti heart cleansing

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In the second half of March namely from 18-27 a Yemeni delegation visited Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Ministry of Information had invited a press team of 12 people from official, partisan and private newspapers.

The press team spent nine days and nights at the hospitality of their Kuwaiti brothers. They visited a number of establishments, governmental authorities, and various syndicates familiarizing themselves with the comprehensive development awakening in the brotherly State of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Information was the first authority which the team visited. The team met several colleagues working at radio and TV stations as well as a number of the Ministry's officials of whom was Sheikh Mubarak Abdullah al-Sabbah, Deputy Ministry for Foreign Affairs Sector. The visiting pressmen had a discussion concerning how to maintain and improve the relationship between the two countries so as to serve them through different media means. This will better the situation, and disperse the clouds which loosened the bonds between Yemen and Kuwait since Saddam's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The next morning, the Yemeni visitors met a number of Kuwaiti intellectuals at the Kuwaiti Writers Union. They candidly reproached their Yemeni brothers for the negative stance taken by the Yemeni authorities since the invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Yet they praised the distinctive public stance represented in the enraged marches which flowed into the streets of the city of Taiz on the following



Journalists visiting studios of Kuwait TV Satellite Channel 4

day of the invasion that opposed it. The Kuwaitis also appreciated the demonstrations led by Sana'a University students on the third day of invasion.

Abdullah Khalaf, President of the Kuwaiti Writers Union, said, "There are Arab countries whose people, not rulers, stood by Kuwait against the invasion, among which was Yemen. However, there are Arab nationals who supported the invasion while their rulers backed Kuwait."

The two-hour talk with the Kuwaiti writers was hot and frank. The Kuwaitis understood the Yemenis' stance which publicly demonstrated Saddam's invasion of Kuwait. They decided to transfer facts which were not seen by the majority of Kuwaitis who had been unfavorably affected by information from certain media outlets. Such media organizations "disfigured the image of Yemenis in the eyes of Kuwaitis."

The Kuwaiti writers and intellectuals promised to bridge the gap between the political levels by more affinity and understanding on the part of the thinkers, writers and people. It is unreasonable that the leaders' mistakes remain stumbling blocks in the people's way towards mutual intimacy.

Dr. Khalifa, Vice President of the Union, said, "There were some 400,000 Yemenis in Kuwait, and that number shrank to 6,000. That was because of the erroneous stance taken by the Yemeni government at the Security Council and the indirect support for Saddam Hussein. There were also the smear campaigns run not only by Kuwaiti newspapers but also some Arab and foreign media means whose countries benefited from the repatriation of Yemenis. That diminished the Yemeni workforce in Kuwait and Gulf countries."

The brotherly Kuwaitis showed us some of the atrocities they suffered during the notorious invasion when we visited "Lest We Forget Museum" enshrined in the Kuwaiti House for National Works. The Museum contains a big photo exhibition hall which denounced the invasion. There is also an open panorama where many pieces of arms lie left from the Iraqi invasion. There is also a drawn panorama. Kuwaiti artists drew a mural with a length of 22 meters to narrate the story of invasion, suffering, and liberation. The hall also features photos of the Kuwaiti woman recording her struggle. The Museum comprises other components including a cinema screening documentary films on the invasion, and the Kuwaiti Identity Hall which tells with recorded voice of the history of Kuwait's emergence since ancient times to undermine the claims of the ousted Iraqi regime that Kuwait is part of Iraq.

Concerning the newspaper, Mr. Walid said, "Al-Qabas is the organ of all Arabs. With some four hundred staffers, and depends on its own resources. It does not get support from any authority or organization even the Kuwaiti government in order to protect its independence."

I have so many things to say about my visit to Kuwait but there is a limited space. I hope I will continue writing about this interesting trip in future issues.



Kuwait city

## On the occasion of the 600th anniversary of Chinese sailor Chinese monument in Aden

ADEN BUREAU

Six hundred years ago, Chinese sailors came on their ships to old Aden harbor that was located at that time in front of Seerah Mountain when Chinese were exploring the world in order to have benefits in the commercial field.

On this occasion, passing six hundred years, the Chinese government decided to establish a monument in Aden to immortalize the remembrance of those brave people who came from their remote country.

Yemeni people and they are getting developed in an excellent manner in the various political, commercial, and cultural fields.

Confirming the deep friendly ties, the Chinese government, as he said, decided to build the monument that will be a touch of beauty and a tourist landmark in Aden. He pointed out that there is a number of Chinese companies have executed in this respect and the designs were prepared by a Chinese company.

He talked about the monument saying that it is a sailing boat signifying the historical relations between the two countries. It is 6 meters in height with a 2.6-



Mr. Wu Chuangqing, Consul General of the P. R. of China

Yemen that proved their quality and attracted people's admiration.

He spoke about the agreements signed between Aden and Chung Hi that Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi, Aden's governor, has recently visited.

### Zheng He's visits to Aden

Zheng He (1433- 1371) the father of sailors in the reign of the monarch family of Meng (1368- 1644). Obeying the order of the Chinese monarch court, Zheng He, heading a navy left China seven times to the Southern Asian countries and the coasts of Arab sea and Red Sea reaching to Kenya during the period between 1405 - 1433. In his seafaring journeys as the messenger of Chinese court, Zheng He visited more than 30 countries in Asia and Africa paving the way in the field of seafaring in Africa, and Arab countries cross over the Indian Ocean.

In his first journey, he headed a big navy formed of 208 ships with different sizes. In the following journeys, the number of ships in his navy exceeded 100 ships each time and the number of companions reached between 27,000 and 28,000.

According to the historical registers, he reached in his fourth journey to Yemen in 1413 to a place near to Mukala and then to Aden in 1421 in his sixth journey. In 1431 he visited Aden for the second time, that was his seventh journey. These visits of Zheng He to Yemen provided Yemen with significant participation in developing the friendly relation between Yemen and China in the cultural and commercial fields.



Design of monument in Aden to immortalize the remembrance of those brave people who came from their remote country

In an interview, Mr. Wu Chuangqing, Consul General of the P. R. of China, said to the Yemen Times that the Chinese-Yemeni ties are not newly made, on the contrary they are very strong ties between the Chinese and

meter base, 15 meters in length, and 800 square meters in size. It is build of cement and iron sails that are not subject to dust.

About the commercial exchange between the two countries, the counsel

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