

## Protests against attacks on journalists mount

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Tens of journalists are still going on a sit-in for the fifth day at the head-office of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS), in protest against attacks on journalists in the governorates of Taiz and al-Dhal'e. Some journalists in the two governorates were attacked and beaten by policemen while they were on duty.

The YJS issued a statement in which it strongly denounced the attack of journalists Mohammad Abdu Sufian, Managing Editor of Taiz Newspaper, Mohammad Mohsen al-Hadad, General Manager of Taiz Radio and Television Bureau and Abu Bakr al-Arabi General Manager of Taiz Media Center as they were doing their duties.

In addition, the YJS denounced the assault of journalists Mohammad Saif al-Qarari, from al-

Thawrah Daily and Abdulqader Abdullah Sa'ad, from al-Wahdah Weekly who were sent over on a reporting assignment to al-Dale' province. Both of them were beaten by the bodyguards of the governor and their cameras were broken.

The YJS urged the interior and information ministers to open a file and investigate the two incidents.

Protestors issued a statement denouncing assault of journalists and harshly criticized the indifference of al-Thawrah Editor-in-Chief Ali Naji al-Ra'awi who is supposed to stand next to journalists who are facing assault and maltreatment and at least by those working for his establishment.

Protestors announced they would keep on protesting against what they call "flagrant violation of the constitution and the law", and pledged to prolong the case and collect signatures of journalists and those interested in freedom and human rights.



Abdulqadir Abdullah Sa'ad of Al-Wahdah newspaper and Mohammed Al-Qarari of Al-Thawra newspaper during the sit-in at the YJS

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## Nasserites: Ruling Party adopts organized corruption policy

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

On the occasion of the conclusion of the 1st. normal session of its (CC), Central Committee, held during 5-6 May, the (UPNO), Unionist Popular Nasserite Organization issued a statement lashing out at the ruling party (PGC) and its policies. The UPNO statement said that its CC studied several issues in this session and demanded, "tackling the difficult living conditions, the spread of poverty and misery, and popular anger rising due to the fail-

ing policies that the ruling party insists on applying, without any consideration to their dangerous and destructive yields".

The UPNO statement continued to, "Denounce the obvious deterioration of public services provided and of the national currency, the rises in price of commodities and food, the squandering of public wealth, policies of organized corruption and the limitations of the margin of democracy".

As to what "independent and opposition party members are subjected to" the statement continued, "to condemn

the activities of crowding, chasing and harassment in the name of restructuring the PGC in order to cover the whole state and nation, which remind of pre-unity policies and slogans of Yemen during conclusive regimes, and reign of the state of the party, and the party of the nation". The statement called upon the leadership of the ruling PGC to, "stop these dangerous activities which link between the ruling party's membership and loyalty to the homeland, and cause the cleansing of opposition parties' members and nonpartisans from state organs". It called on other

## Last session discloses: Terrorists backed by illicit organization

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- May 9- A new shocking fact was disclosed at the trial on terrorists involved in plotting attacks against western interests in Yemen. During the sitting held at the counter-terrorism court, the General Attorney found on Monday that these terrorists are backed by an organization called "General Organization of al-Wahdah Battalions".

The General Attorney forwarded 13 documents in testimony of programs, plots, fees and maps confirming the con-

viction of suspects who plan to carry out terrorist attacks against western interests in the country.

The General Attorney emphasized that the goals of the organization include plotting attacks on western interests in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and some other European countries. The General Attorney's documents confirmed that one of the organization's goals is to attack the British Embassy in Sana'a, assassinate high-ranking officials and hit western institutions including DHL, Hertz Company, and the Yemen American

Language Institute (YALI).

The court allowed defense-advocate of the top suspect to photocopy the documents presented by the General Attorney and to prepare his response for next Monday's session.

Top defendant Anwar al-Jailani made a confession to charges filed against him in the documents.

Suspect Amran al-Faqih, accused of forging ID documents, asked the court to transfer him to a hospital specialized in cardiology. The court deferred to his request as he suffers from bad health.

opposition parties to "take a serious position towards these policies and activities which return the homeland to the oppression of the past, and threaten the national identity and stability". The statement further called upon Yemeni, pan-Arab and international

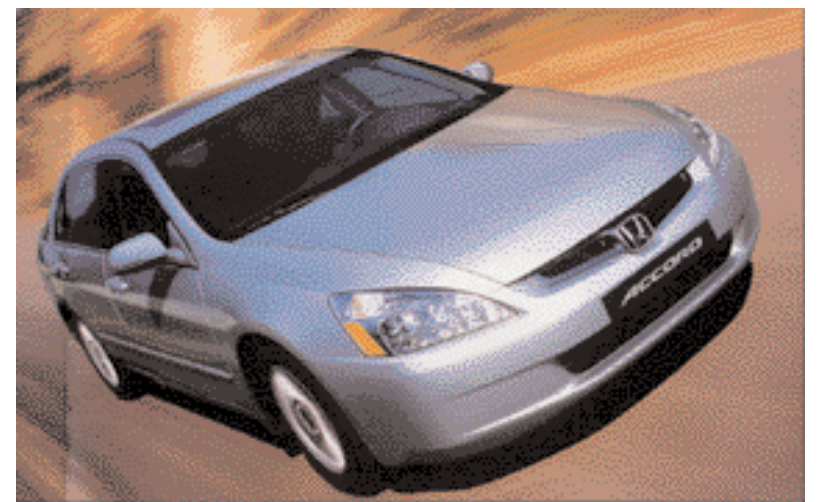
human rights organizations to "condemn and criminalize these actions which violate the constitution, laws and international pacts of which Yemen is a signatory and should comply with".

Continued on page 3



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## Kuwaiti Embassy appreciates Yemen Times

The Kuwaiti government represented by the ambassador to Yemen Dr. Abdulrahman Hamoud al-Otaibi sent a thank you letter to the Yemen Times staff member Mr. Mohammed bin Salam, reporter and editing secretary for his special report on his latest visit to Kuwait last month. In his letter Dr. Otaibi commended the excellent efforts of Mr. Mohammed bin Salam especially with reflections to the reported impressions on Kuwait that were carried through the paper.

The Yemen Times in turn appreciates the Kuwaiti Embassy's cooperation



especially in the media field and aspires to achieve further cooperation and strengthen of ties.

## Gov orders closure of religious schools

SANA'A - YT: The Cabinet ordered the closure of a number of religious schools and institutes for allegedly involved in terrorist acts and transferred their officials to the judiciary according to the constitution and the law.

The Cabinet insisted on the Ministry of Education to monitor and supervise all religious schools and institutes like it does on other public and private schools.

According to the Cabinet, the Ministry of Education should set the mechanism

of direct supervision over the syllabus taught in such schools making them comply with the Education Law No. 45 for the year 1992.

The Cabinet called for a thorough monitoring to be followed by the Ministry of Education and its offices in all the Yemeni governorates under the supervision of local councils.

The government ordered the Ministry of Education to set well-organized by-laws for the activities and functions pursued in religious schools and institutes.

## The judicial forum recommends amendments to the judiciary law

The consultative meeting of judicial authority, attended by 150 senior officials, approved on assigning a committee to draft amendments to the Judicial Authority Law so as to go in line with the constitution. The two-day forum centered on the strategy that aimed at improving the judiciary performance. During the event, Minister of Justice Adnan al-Jafri addressed participants and indicated the importance of the meeting's suggestions and recommen-

dations, pointing out to the constitution confirmation on the judiciary's independence and that only judges and the people's just conscience is the only guarantee for the judiciary independence. He said the ministry of justice would contribute to purchase computers for judges prosecution members. He stressed on the judicial inspection on courts and prosecutions and the role of the media and society in enhancing and developing the judicial sector.

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## Yemen-Germany partnership agreement inked



By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A-Monday 9 May -A cooperation agreement was signed last Monday between Yemen and Germany at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation's head-office in Sana'a. It was signed by Ahmed Sufan, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and Prof. Dr. Matthias Weiter, Head of Middle East Division at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

According to the agreement, a number of projects are to be financed and

implemented such as the Sa'ada water and sanitary disposal, for which an international tender is to be announced soon.

The German official emphasized that Germany is interested in education by establishing schools and training teachers as well as promoting rural and cultural tourism.

It is noteworthy that Germany provides Yemen with aid of 45 million euros for development. Half of this amount goes for technical support though German organizations such as GTZ and the rest goes to state-implemented projects.

Sufan said that the donors have their own conditions related to foreign aids

such as reforms both politically and administratively.

"They also recommend us, not to use our resources extravagantly such as water and oil," he said.

Sufan pointed out that state imports diesel at 92 riyals/liter, and sell it for 17 riyals/liter and this affects the economy.

### German Yemeni Friendship Society visiting Yemen

On Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of 30 members of the German Yemeni Friendship Society headed by Mr. Peter Hellmuth, Chairman of the society May 2005 will arrive from Germany. They will tour all around the tourism areas of the country for two weeks.

The GYF Society was established in 1970 and since then the society is developing the relationship between both nations (Germany & Yemen).

## The first educational week

By: FAHMIA AL-FOTIH

With cooperation of the Arab Bureau of Education for Gulf States (ABEGS), the Yemeni Ministry of Education hosted and organized the first educational week for states' members of the ABEGS. The week activities started on Saturday 30 April and was concluded on Wednesday 4 May. It was mainly sponsored by Obeckan Investment Group.

The week aimed at giving an opportunity for ABEGS members to show their activities and educational achievements, to know each others curricula and to show distinguished educational experiences.

The week also contained an educational exhibition for the curricula and the achievements of the state members at ABEGS. Moreover, there were a number of seminars and lectures for those interested to learn more.

Mr. Abdulsallam AL-Jawfi, the minister of education, who had been attending the weeklong civilities, told Yemen Times "The first educational

week is to discuss the new education issues in education, how to teach science, mathematics and exchange the experiences between the ABEGS states members and what they can benefit from each other. There were experts, researchers and lecturers from all Gulf States. There is also an exhibition that is considered to be the first activity of its kind.

In fact, we are going to benefit from the lectures and discussions. It is an opportunity to learn the latest things in the education process.

We are going to benefit from this distinguished week during preparation for our future plans and programs."

## Korean Studies Center established in Sana'a University

The Korean Studies Center is expected to be inaugurated at Sana'a University on the advent of the coming year, according to Prof. Ahmad al-Kibsi, Deputy Rector of Sana'a University for Academic Affairs.

The center is to be established at the Faculty of Languages with the support and finance of some Korean universities.

Prof. Al-Kibsi said the center, which concentrates on teaching the Korean Language, is thought of as the first means of contact between Yemen and South Korea. The establishment of the center comes after the last visit paid by the South Korean President to Yemen.

It is worth mentioning that the cultural and scientific cooperation between Yemen and Korea is somehow out of existence.

## Readers' Voice

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

### This edition's question:

Is government's decision to close down religious schools and institutes intended to fight terrorism or an act to limit religious freedom?

- Anti terrorism act
- For the state to gain more control over Islamic groups
- Limiting religious freedom
- An arbitrary to please USA
- I don't know

### Last edition's question:

Do you think the religious scholars declaration represents all scholars or is it state driven?

- State driven 50%
- All scholars 25%
- I don't know 15%
- Active scholars Suni and Shei'a 10%

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### Republic Of Yemen

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This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue no. (607) on 16th May 2003, Al-Thawra Newspaper issue no. (13944) on 28th May 2003, and Yemen Times issue no. (641) on 12th June 2003.

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of its Health Reform Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for supply, transportation, and installation Office Equipment.

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for **procuring office equipment Bid No. (26) HRSP/G/NCB-2005** consisting the following: -

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Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Credit Administration Unit (CAU) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from **8:00 am to 3:00 pm** during official working days.

A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD \$ 50.00**. The method of payment will be in cash and documents will be submitted by hand.

Bids must be delivered to the address below by **11:00 a.m. on 8th June 2005**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of minimum **2.5%** of the bid price. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **11:00 a.m. on 8th June 2005**.

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Continued from page 1

## Nasserites: Ruling Party adopts organized corruption policy

On another domestic issue the statement rejected "the government draft amendments of the Law of the Press and Publications, saying that they, "contradict with the constitution, (the norms of) media traditions, the requirements of technological advancement, and the necessities in a multi-party society and the diversion towards democracy". The Organization stressed its "full solidarity with the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate and its objective arguments and activities against these amendments; as the freedom of the press is 'the foremost move towards democracy, conclusive political and national reform'. The Nasserites expressed their solidarity with other syndicates and unions such as those of doctors and dentists.

The UPNO statement touched upon education saying that it is suffering from "neglect and corruption, threatening the future of coming generations, and national stability and security". It called for a national conference to discuss the situation of education, and its personnel. It said that "official encouragement, finance of sect education, centers and institutes that nurture fanatics is a crime against the people

and the homeland that should never be unspoken of".

The statement also condemned all "wrong policies which damage the social structure and harmony ... and the campaign to arrest demonstrators, those who oppose them and those who demanded the release of all those arrested contrary to the law".

The statement stressed again the right "to demonstrate, and that of merchants to object peacefully against Laws which are an addition to the economic burden to the majority of the population, warned against the consequences of such measures".

Concluding their statement, the Nasserites saw that "the government is fully responsible for the wrong approaches and trespasses of the central authorities in dealing with social and security issues, and of the deterioration of the situation in Sa'ada" saying that those responsible are the "leaders and decision makers". They demanded a launching of a "conclusive political and national reform, through a serious and responsible dialogue over the primacies of national issues, so that responsibilities equal the authorities given".

## Terrorists backed by illicit organization

The gang was suspected of plotting to assault the British and the Italian embassies in Sana'a and the French Cultural Center as well as forging official documents carrying anonymous names to facilitate their task.

The gang includes 13 elements who were expected to stand before court, but the General Attorney excluded the other five as there is not enough evidence to confirm their charges.

The previous hearings witnessed confessions of some defendants including Anwar al-Jailani who said he was authorized by Saudi nationals to plan attacks on the British Embassy, and that he collected information and sent to the Saudi nationals stating that his task is to mastermind and not carry out attacks.

Other suspects acknowledged forging travel and residence documents to facilitate tasks of the attackers

## Aden Governorate honors laborers

Aden- YT- May 8- The governorate of Aden celebrated on Sunday the occasion of the World Labor Day in the presence of Dr. Yahya al-Shuaibi Governor of Aden.

As many as 300 male and female workers from different production and service sectors received honors at the event in recognition of their efforts and contribution to the development of the country.

On the occasion, Chief of the Yemeni Laborers Syndicates

Union delivered a speech in which he pointed that celebrating the World Labor Day becomes an annual commemoration and that such occasion coincides with the 15th anniversary of the Yemeni Re-unification.

For his part, Ayoub Abu Bakr Mohammad, Manager of Aden Social Affairs and Labor Office confirmed the importance of integrating efforts to eradicate unemployment, alleviate poverty and push the wheels of development forward.

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## Yemen coastal risk remains high

(Reuters): There have been improvements to Yemen's Aden and Hodeidah ports, but Mukalla is less protected, the risk of maritime attacks remains significant. Since the October 2002 suicide attack on the oil tanker Limburg, the Yemeni government has made significant improvements to maritime security through two channels.

Firstly, a series of arrests and convictions has degraded the capabilities of Yemeni terrorist groups, including those responsible for the USS Cole and Limburg bombings, the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army.

Nonetheless, Islamic militants remain active and pose a substantial, if reduced, threat to western interests. The primary threat from militants is of suicide bombings using small craft against shipping in port or coastal waters.

Secondly, the Yemeni government has instituted maritime security measures. All Yemeni ports comply with the International Maritime Organization's International Ship and Port Security Code.

And, in 2003 the government established a coast guard service with US technical and material support.

The service now comprises 1,200 men, 40 craft and six bases, and has an annual budget of \$11m.

However, this is spread over 1,100 nau-

able to deter some hostile boats with the threat of deadly force.

Waters outside the immediate vicinity of Aden and Hodeidah have little protection, and, far from the mainland, Yemen's coast guard faces the difficult job of patrolling territorial waters.

Though risks remain substantial, development of the Yemeni Coast Guard will deliver further incremental improvements, with the priority given to Aden and Hodeidah likely to continue.

Exclusive Analysis is a specialist intelligence company based in London who forecast war, terrorism, civil unrest and political risk in more than 100 countries for corporations. This service allows clients to anticipate and then manage risks.

Indeed, the ability of any coast guard to ensure that determined small craft cannot approach major vessels is limited, particularly outside of the immediate port area, but the coast guard will nevertheless be

## Cabinet shuts down private medical colleges

SANA'A- In its meeting held Tuesday May 10, the Cabinet issued a number of decisions with the aim to rectify situations of private universities. The decisions followed directives issued earlier by the Supreme Council for Universities and the Supreme Council for Education Planning.

With respect to restructuring the private universities, the decisions included

the closure of faculties of medicine, dentistry, pharmacology and laboratories in all the private universities, except the University of Science and Technology, for not meeting the operated standards.

The Cabinet approved the continuity of the ongoing diploma programs (pharmacology, dentistry, laboratories and nursery) at the main compasses of private universities.

## 60 cases of polio in the past three weeks

Health authorities in Yemen have reported more than 60 cases of polio in the past three weeks, raising fears of a major epidemic in one of the poorest countries on the planet.

Forty children suffering the crippling disease have been hospitalized in the eastern province of Al-Hudaidah, a medical source said Monday, adding to 22 confirmed cases reported in two other provinces at the end of April.

## Positive response to combating air pollution in Sana'a

Addressing an environment and traffic seminar in the Faculty of Medicine, Saleh Ali Basurrah, the rector of Sana'a University, said the University of Sana'a, Environmental Protection Authority and the Sana'a Traffic Administration invented a scientific scheme that should be implemented by the concerned agencies and followed by other provinces. He highlighted environmental problems as an increasing global headache.

Responding to this issue, 25 researches indicated their readiness to support environmental issues and fight pollution resulting from emission of vehicles.

The graveness of the threat prompted the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as the first serious reaction to environmental changes.

## Education office distributes foodstuffs to rural girls

For the sake of motivating girls to enroll in schools, the Taiz education office, under orders of the ministry of education started distributing foodstuffs to girls living in rural areas.

Dr. Mahdi Abdussalam, general director of Taiz education office pointed out that the governorate of Taiz witnessed over the last few years an outstanding leaps in the field of education, and this is reflect-

ed in the establishment of 320 primary and secondary schools in different districts of the governorates.

In addition, there were the establishment of 39 private schools in which around 15,935 pupils of different grades are enrolled. The private schools are considered to lessen the burden upon public education facilities.

Unifying education had its positive effect in legislating the process

of developing and updating the educational sector of the country.

Dr. Mahdi Abdussalam mentioned the number of schoolgirls in primary and secondary stages has increased to 299,289 in all the Yemeni governorates.

He added there are many educational projects are due to be implemented in the near future in the governorate of Taiz with a total cost of YR 263.3 billion.

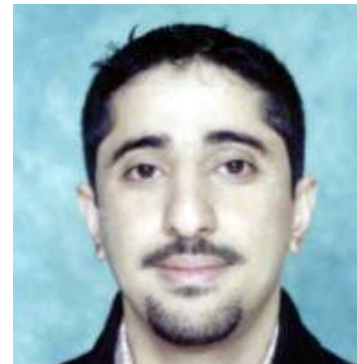
## Press Release

FES Sana'a Office Manager Mr. Ahmed Al-Yemeni has stated that Friedrich Ebert Foundation - Sana'a Office is in preparation to expand and increase its activities here in Yemen upgrading the office to be a Regional Office with the appointment of Mr. Felix Eikenberg as its First Regional Representative - attempting to find and create new fields and levels of cooperation with the Yemeni Civil Society Organizations - being more independent financially and administrative wise as other FES's Middle East and North Africa offices.

FES is an international non profit German NGO committed to

Democracy, Freedoms and International Treaties and Conventions - and the principles of Social Democracy. It was founded in 1925 to be the oldest political German foundation. It bears the name of the first democratically elected President of Germany Mr. Friedrich Ebert.

Thus, and based on a legacy and a history of 77 years, the foundation runs programs and projects inside and out side Germany mainly in the fields of political/democratic culture, social justice, international co-operation, scientific research, educational support, and social development. Worth mentioning that FES has several offices in



the Middle and Near East and North Africa. It started its activities her in Yemen in 1997 and opened its office in Sana'a in 1999.

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USA

## EducationUSA Summer Advising Schedule

The EducationUSA advising center at AMIDEAST Sana'a is offering FREE information sessions for those who are interested in studying in the United States. Different sessions will be offered for students interested in undergraduate and in graduate studies. Sessions will focus on the procedures for application and the Educational Testing Service (ETS) exams required for these programs.

### Undergraduate Study in the US

- June 1
- July 6
- August 3

### Graduate Study in the US

- June 15
- June 27
- August 10

Space is limited. Interested participants may sign up for one of the above dates. All sessions will be at 1-2pm. For more information, please contact AMIDEAST Sana'a, Algiers Street, #66, Sana'a. Telephone: (01) 206-222. Email: [yemen@amideast.org](mailto:yemen@amideast.org)

AMIDEAST is a private, non-governmental organization whose mission is to strengthen mutual cooperation and understanding between the peoples of the Middle East and North and Americans through educational advising, testing, exchange programs, professional training, English language training, outreach and institutional development.



# Red Cross, Red Crescent Day celebrated

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)'s Office, in collaboration with the International Red Cross Federation, celebrated on May 8 the world day of the Red Crescent and Cross at the headquarters of the YRCS in Sana'a.

This day is the annual anniversary of the birthday of Henry Dunant, who was the first to have founded it in the 19th Century on the principles of the international movement of the Red Cross and Crescent.

Dr. Abbas Zabarah, YRCS Secretary General, pointed out in his speech the significance of the occasion and the voluntary efforts of YRCS since its

establishment in the 60s of the last century as well as the cooperation between the YRCS and the ICRC.

"We must continue disseminating the ideology of protecting human dignity especially at times of war and conflicts," he said. Mr. Martin Amacher, head of the ICRC delegation, explained ICRC commitments including following up the issues of lost people in armed conflicts, limiting disaster risks and consequences, and removing the stigma on AIDS patients.

He indicated their current activity in Darfur by providing help and protection from violence in coordination with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Sudanese national associations.

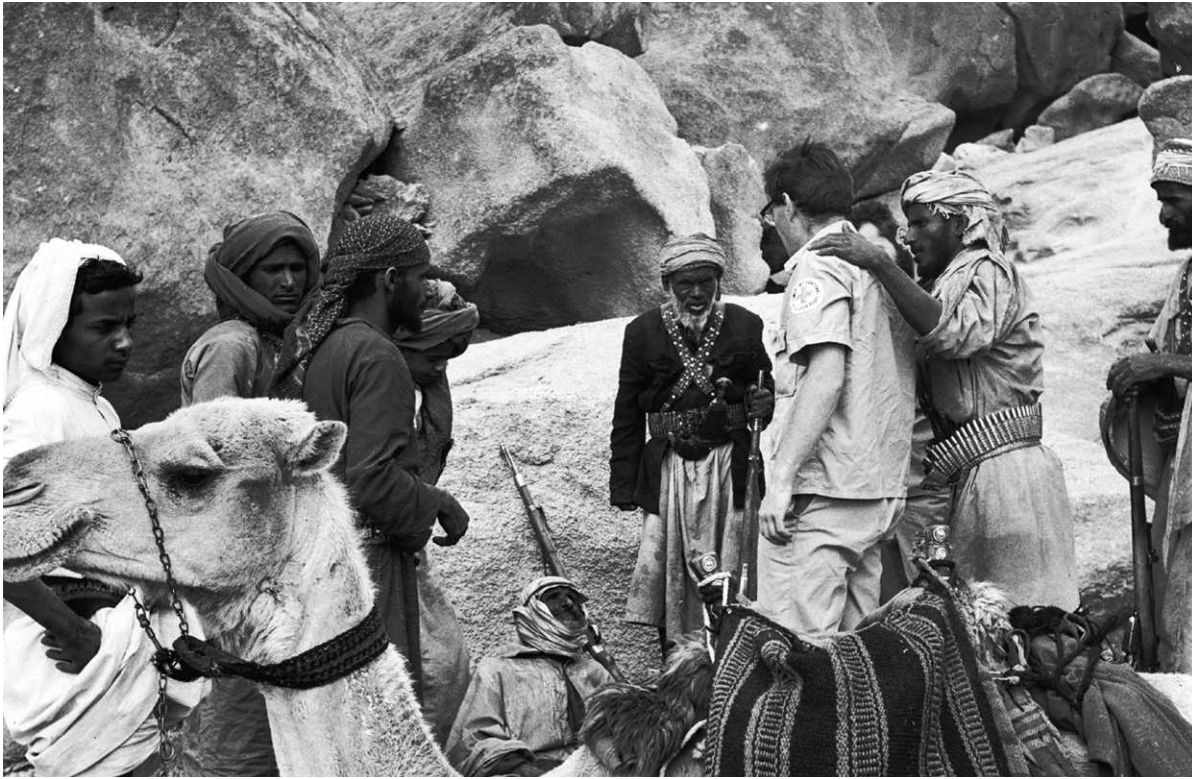
He called on governments to recognize neutral humanitarian activity and respect international humanitarian

law.

Mr. Peter Kurlandsky, Sana'a-based representative of the International Federation of the Red Cross put forward the goals of next years: to strengthen the Red Crescent identity in the local community and to increase the number of volunteers and members.

At the end of the ceremony, Ahmed Nasser al-Hamati, Deputy Ministry of Information said that the YRCS, supported by the ICRC distributed foodstuff to the people of Maran in Sa'ada and the families affected by the war.

Despite the discrepancy between the roles of the YRCS and the ICRC, they have not done their duty well regarding the sad events in the Sa'ada province where clashes take place between the followers of Hussein al-Houthi and the government.



Red Cross attending to a wounded of the Yemeni Royal army in cave in Sada in 1965.

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN DNO YEMEN AS

DNO Yemen AS, a Norwegian oil company, is currently seeking an experienced Production Engineer for work in its Sana'a office and experienced personnel to work as Assistant Operators in DNO's oilfields in Hadramout, Yemen.

### Production Engineer

#### Responsibilities

- Manage the gathering and safe keeping of daily production and water injection data.
- Analyze and trend basic production data.
- Monitor the performance of production and water injection wells.
- Prepare completion, workover, production logging, well stimulation programmes and the closeout reports for these activities.
- Manage the safe keeping and updating of well files.
- Evaluate and specify artificial lift requirements including gas lift and electric submersible pumps.
- Analyze artificial lift performance and propose optimization actions.

#### Qualifications, Skills and Experience Required

- A University degree, preferably in Petroleum Engineering.
- Minimum five years experience as a Production Engineer.
- Working knowledge of English and Arabic.
- Experienced user of MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and preferably MS Access.

### Assistant Production Operator

#### The successful candidate(s)

- Will assist the Senior Operator with the day-to-day operation of the wells and facilities and will report to the Site Supervisor.
- Will work a "thirty five days on/thirty five days off" schedule, and will reside in the onsite camp during the work cycle.
- Will receive a competitive salary commensurate with the oil industry standard for Yemen.
- Will be provided transportation between the worksite and home residence during the on/off work cycle.

#### Qualifications, Skills and Experience Required

- Higher technical education (e.g. technical college).
- Minimum of two years experience in oil production operations.
- Good knowledge of written and spoken English.
- Excellent physical health.
- Valid Yemeni driving license.

Qualified candidates should send their CVs and references only to the Administration Manager, DNO Yemen AS, no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May 2005 on fax: +967 1 440590. Please specify the position you are applying for. Only those candidates who meet the requirements should apply, and acknowledgement will only be sent to shortlisted candidates meeting the requirements for the position.

Please don't call us. We will call you for an interview if you are a shortlisted candidate.



## Prof. Ratti to YT:

## “The Yemeni nation is great and I adore Sana’a”

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

“Reaching Sana’a is inevitable despite long-time traveling”; a proverb often said by Yemenis and non-Yemenis since this city was and is still the first source of passion.

The stories of the passion and love of Sana’a are galore and look different from one another, and can never be invented except by those who prove to have a taste of passion and adoration.

The story of love and adoration is still continuing between the Italian national Prof. Marlena Ratti and Sana’a.

The story of Prof. Ratti is not an easy one as it started in 1960 (45 years ago) to continue up until now without any break. The relation between Prof. Ratti and Sana’a was deepened with her buying a house in the old city of Sana’a. In this there is an Italian Cultural Center, which contains over 5000 journals and books on economics, medicine, psychology, philosophy and history.

There appears a variety of amazing things when we know about Marlena Ratti who is not an ordinary woman, rather she is a leading and talented figure and is outstanding in the area of painting. This woman, holding a doctoral degree in psychology, proved



Prof. Marlena Ratti

able to write numerous books and scientific researches. She has a variety of paintings and landscapes in different museums in France and the United

States of America.

While meeting with Prof. Marlena Ratti, we forwarded to her the following questions:

**Q: Can you give us brief information about your life?**

**A:** I want to tell in brief about this matter, as I need not pride myself on my reputation or to talk more about myself. I was born in Italy and descended from a religious clan. The uncle of my father is the Bishop of Pope Eleventh Aclille Rate. I studied philosophy and became a teacher in this field and obtained my Ph. D degree in painting and won many international contests held in Geneva for achieving a series of painting about the issues of Disaparecidos “disappearing politicians”.

After two years, I won another contest organized by the Amnesty International for showing a number of artistic works on defending human rights. I delivered a series of lectures in

Tokyo, Paris and in Oxford University and achieved a number of wall paintings and artistic portraits. These days I work in Yemen as a founder of the Italian Cultural Center and in the provision of charitable works in Yemen.

**Q: Where can one find your great artistic works?**

**A:** In the National Museum in Milan, Italy as well as in other places all over the world, including the group of artistic works for Queen Elizabeth, the Empire of Japan and the former French President Metran and the former US President Regan.

I also have other paintings in Paris, Sana’a and in the Vatican Museum in Rome, and I made some decorations on doors.

**Q: How did you start your story of adoring Yemen?**

**A:** I like to confirm that I have been adoring Yemen for a long time, and my first visit to Yemen was in 1960 during which I stayed in the old city of Sana’a and such a historic city compels the visitor to adore it.

Afterwards, I visited Yemen several times till I settled down in this fascinating city, which I adore from inside my heart. All the Yemeni museums give the beholder a glimpse of the past and the ancient civilization.

**Q: Is there any remarkable difference between Sana’a in 1960 and today?**

**A:** Already there is a huge difference as the city was nicer than it looks now since there was not cement-built build-

ings surrounding the fascinating scenes of the old city, although cement-constructed buildings were available in numerous historic cities all over the world. But despite these changes, the old city of Sana’a retained its spectacular scenes and uniqueness and it is in Sana’a where many people have been living for thousands of years.

People living in Sana’a were proud of being hospitable and well-bred, and my admiration of such a great nation obliged me to retain all my paintings that are related to Yemen, most important of which was the portrait of Queen Balqis in the Lufier Museum in Paris and another portrait of Bab al-Yemen is available in New York.

**Q: Can you give us a glimpse of your activities nowadays?**

**A:** I work for the Italian Cultural Center for Studies that was founded by virtue of my personal efforts. The center, which was inaugurated last year and located in my house in the old city of Sana’a, is a non-governmental organization and aims to expand the realm of knowledge, develop the Italian culture and upgrade the status of the Italian Language among its learners.

Additionally, the center contains many valuable books and references written in the Italian Language with

special standards for those interested in teaching the Italian Language and culture to pupils under 15.

We have the intention to search for the Italian scriptures to restore them and to establish relations with other cultural centers and libraries for the purpose of exchanging books and scriptures as well as to offer a variety of other activities in cooperation with the Italian Embassy in Sana’a.

**Q: Are there any people interested in visiting the center?**

**A:** Yes, there are several Yemenis and Non-Yemenis who usually visit the center and get acquainted with almost all the books and references available there. There are many graduates from different Italian universities who refer to these references in different scientific areas while students at the Department of Italian Language; Sana’a University pay visits to the center to profit from the available references.

In the center, we have a special wing for children under 15 years. The center provided all the libraries in different Yemeni cities with various historical books.

The Italian Cultural Center contains a series of books about Yemen and other areas including arts, philosophy,

science, medicine, economics and history that number up to 15 thousand.

**Q: How did the idea of founding the center come to your mind?**

**A:** The idea of establishing the center has been in mind for a long time till I was motivated and encouraged by some Yemenis studying in Italy who insisted on the establishment of the center to strengthen ties between Yemen and Italy. The inauguration of the center is thought of as a symbol of adoration and respect for the Yemeni nation.

I have the pleasure to confirm the center will contribute to enhancing ties between the two brotherly countries and promote the areas of tourism, culture and economics in both Yemen and Italy.

**Q: Any final words?**

**A:** I like to emphasize when the culture gets embodied, it will tackle many problems and reinforce the language of dialogue. I hope the center be able to reinforce the scope of culture in Yemen.

Finally, I would thank all those who cooperated with me, mainly the Governor of Sana’a Abdulwahid al-Bukhaiti as well as other dignitaries who supported the activities of the center.



Students from department of Italian Language, Sana’a University, visit the Italian Cultural Center where they can get acquainted with the Italian culture.

## Country Reports on Terrorism... (continued)

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COORDINATOR FOR  
COUNTERTERRORISM  
APRIL 27, 2005

## The Evolving Terrorist Threat

Al-Qa’ida leadership was degraded through arrests and ongoing Pakistani operations to assert greater control along the border with Afghanistan where some al-Qa’ida leaders are believed to hide. Numerous al-Qa’ida and affiliated foot soldiers were captured or killed during the year.

• Pakistani authorities captured al-Qa’ida communications expert and Heathrow bomb plot suspect Naeem Noor Khan and US Embassy bombing suspect Ahmed Khalifan Ghailani in July 2004, and killed Amjad Farooqui, suspected in the murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl, in September 2004.

• Saudi security forces killed several top leaders of the al-Qa’ida organization in Saudi Arabia, including Khalid Ali al-Hajj and Abdulaziz al-Muqrin.

• Abu Bakar Ba’asyir, leader of the al-Qa’ida-affiliated Jemaah Islamiya remained in jail pending his early 2005 trial for involvement in the 2002 Bali bombings.

• The Filipino Antiterrorism Task Force captured seven foreigners in 2004 believed to be elements of al-Qa’ida and Jemaah Islamiya.

• British authorities in August 2004 arrested suspected al-Qa’ida-affiliated individuals who were subsequently indicted in the United States for plotting to attack financial institutions in the United States.

Many senior al-Qa’ida leaders remained at large, continued to plan attacks against the United States, US interests, and US partners, and sought to foment attacks by inspiring new groups of Sunni Muslim extremists to undertake violent acts in the name of jihad. In some cases, al-Qa’ida attempted to bring other extremist groups under its banner, while

in other cases, groups claimed allegiance to al-Qa’ida despite little evidence of any connection with al-Qa’ida leaders. In still other cases, the existence of new groups only became evident following an attack.

• Al-Qa’ida cells continued to carry out attacks in Saudi Arabia throughout 2004.

• Al-Qa’ida-affiliate Jemaah Islamiya continued to plot attacks against the United States, Australia and other foreign interests in Indonesia, bombing the Australian Embassy in September 2004.

• The al-Qa’ida cell in East Africa, including terrorists linked to the 1998 bombings of US Embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam and the 2002 attacks on a Mombasa hotel and an Israeli commercial aircraft, remained at large, and are suspected of planning new attacks.

• Notorious terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi pledged the fealty of himself and his group in Iraq to bin Ladin; al-Zarqawi is now the recognized leader of al-Qa’ida in Iraq.

• The March 2004 bombing of commuter trains in Madrid that killed 191 innocent people was executed by a previously unknown group of jihadist terrorists (mostly Moroccan immigrants resident in Spain for years) inspired by, but without direction from, al-Qa’ida.

• The new leader of the GSPC in Algeria announced his affiliation with al-Qa’ida, but there was no evidence of assistance or direction from al-Qa’ida leadership.

The latter two incidents illustrate what many analysts believe is a new phase of the global war on terrorism, one in which local groups inspired by al-Qa’ida organize and carry out attacks with little or no support or direction from al-Qa’ida itself.

As al-Qa’ida itself weakens and local groups take on greater responsibility for planning, acquiring resources and carrying out attacks in their localities, it will be ever more important for the United States to help partners who require assistance to counter this new manifestation of the terrorist threat. Furthermore, although al-

*Although al-Qa’ida remains the primary concern regarding possible WMD threats, the number of groups expressing an interest in such materials is increasing, and WMD technology and know-how is proliferating within the jihadist community.*

Qa’ida remains the primary concern regarding possible WMD threats, the number of groups expressing an interest in such materials is increasing, and WMD technology and know-how is proliferating within the jihadist community.

## International Cooperation

International cooperation is an integral and growing aspect of the overall US “National Strategy for Combating Terrorism” which calls for:

• Defeating terrorist organizations by eliminating their sanctuaries, leadership, finances, and command, control and communications capabilities;

• Denying further sponsorship, support, and sanctuary to terrorists by cooperating with other states to take action against those who provide support;

• Diminishing the underlying conditions that terrorists seek to exploit by enlisting the international community to focus our mutual efforts and resources on addressing legitimate political and social needs and by reducing security vulnerabilities in the countries most at risk; and

• Defending the United States, its citizens, and interests at home and abroad.

The continuing threats by al-Qa’ida make necessary the continued investment

of enormous effort and resources by the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, Department of Justice, Department of State, and Department of Defense (among other federal agencies), as well as state and local governments, in new and strengthened homeland defense measures. They also require a growing level of international cooperation between the United States and its many partner nations around the world to interdict terrorists, disrupt their planning, restrict their travel, reduce the flow of financial and material support to terrorist groups, and enable partner governments to assert control over weakly governed territory where terrorists find sanctuary.

In 2004, the United States broadened and deepened its international cooperation on counterterrorism issues. Increased diplomatic, intelligence, law enforcement, military and financial cooperation contributed directly to homeland security and the interdiction or disruption of terrorists around the globe. Examples are discussed throughout this report, but the following successes stand out for 2004:

• Close cooperation with British, French, and other authorities – coordinated through the State Department and US Embassies in London, Paris and elsewhere – was pivotal to managing threats

to airline security during the 2003-2004 New Year period.

• Information-sharing with the United Kingdom and Pakistan led to the disclosure and disruption of al-Qa’ida attack planning against US financial institutions.

• US diplomatic and military assistance facilitated cooperation among Algeria, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Libya and Chad that led to the capture and return of wanted GSPC factional leader al-Para to Algeria to stand trial.

• Law enforcement officers in Iraq, Colombia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan (among others) applied US specialized counterterrorism training to bring terrorists to justice.

• Working with a broad spectrum of domestic and international partners, the United States has identified and disrupted many sources of terrorist finance.

• The United States used its G8 presidency in 2004 to advance new international transportation security measures and to coordinate international counterterrorism assistance among G8 and other donors, ensuring that counterterrorism needs of states requiring assistance were addressed and wasteful duplication avoided.

Notably, 2004 was marked by progress in decreasing the threat from states that sponsor terrorism. Iraq’s designation as a state sponsor of terrorism was formally rescinded in October 2004. Libya and Sudan took significant steps to cooperate in the global war on terrorism. Unfortunately, Cuba, North Korea, Syria, and, in particular, Iran continue to embrace terrorism as an instrument of policy. Most worrisome is that these countries also have the capabilities to manufacture weapons of mass destruction and other destabilizing technologies that could fall into the hands of terrorists.

Iran and Syria are of special concern for their direct, open, and prominent role in supporting Hizballah and Palestinian terrorist groups, for their unhelpful actions

in Iraq, and Iran’s unwillingness to bring to justice senior al-Qa’ida members it detained in 2003.

American noncombatants in Iraq and Afghanistan comprised most of the American victims of terrorism this year. These casualties occurred against a backdrop of US combat operations against terrorists and insurgents in both countries. Americans were also killed in terrorist incidents in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Gaza.

The United States continued in 2004 to harden security of its official presence overseas and to step up travel advisories and warnings to American citizens to help them manage and weigh the risks associated with travel into areas in which terrorist threats may be elevated. The United States also continued to work with international and multilateral organizations to tighten security of seaports and airports and improve security of international travel.

The United States will continue to broaden and deepen international cooperation to protect US citizens. The trend away from centralized planning of terrorist activities and towards inspiration of local groups to commit acts of terror makes even more crucial the need for deeper international cooperation to defeat emerging violent extremist groups. The United States and its partners must intensify current efforts to bolster the political will and the intelligence, law enforcement, financial, and military capabilities of partner nations to combat terrorism, on their own or with us. The United States will step up cooperation with its partners to prevent the spread of al-Qa’ida ideology and the growth of jihadist terror. The United States will also continue its efforts to defeat non-al-Qa’ida terrorist groups, discourage state sponsorship of terrorism, and mobilize international will and build capacity to prevent terrorist access to WMD. No single country can successfully deal with terrorism on its own, but together we will prevail.

Concluded



## Iran vote sign: up starts as nuclear tensions rise

TEHRAN, May 10 (Reuters) - Candidate registration for Iran's presidential election began on Tuesday against a backdrop of escalating tensions over Tehran's atomic plans and with the candidacy of front-runner Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in doubt.

Raising the stakes ahead of the June 17 vote, a senior official said on Monday Tehran will resume some weapons-related nuclear work within days, a move Washington and the EU have said would see Iran's case sent to the U.N. Security Council.

Iran, which denies U.S. claims it is seeking nuclear arms, said it will resume processing uranium into a gas that can be used to make fuel for either atomic reactors or atom bombs, due to frustration with the slow pace of its talks with the European Union over the long-term future of its nuclear programme.

Diplomats were unsure whether the move, which would reverse a six-month freeze on most of Iran's atomic work, was a bluff.

"It would seem remarkable that they could be sitting in the Security Council at the same time as the elections but they look like they're serious," said one Western diplomat in Tehran.

Iran denies any linkage between the elections and the nuclear issue.

"Decisions in line with our national interests have nothing to do with the elections," Ali Aghamohammadi, head of the Propaganda Office at Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told Reuters.

"There is a consensus about this nuclear issue and we believe the best decision is to take firm actions based on our national interests."

### Rafsanjani blocked?

Rafsanjani, 70, who opinion polls suggest is favourite to win the election to replace outgoing reformist cleric Mohammad Khatami, has indicated he would move to improve Iran's relations with the West and solve the nuclear standoff if elected.

Khatami is barred from seeking a third consecutive term.



An Interior Ministry official (L) checks paperwork filled in by Seyyed Ali Modarresi (R) as he registers to be a candidate for the President of Iran during the first day of registration at the Interior Ministry in Tehran May 10. REUTERS

But close aides to Rafsanjani, who served as president from 1989 to 1997, acknowledged his candidacy faced strong opposition from Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the last word on all state matters in the Islamic state.

"The Leader doesn't want him to come (to the elections)," Mohammad Atrianfar, a newspaper publisher and tourism official, who is working on Rafsanjani's campaign, told Reuters.

"There's a fight and in the next two or three days it will be finalised."

Candidates have until Saturday to register for the vote. Around 90 people, including schoolgirls, clerics, factory workers and pensioners signed up in the first few hours.

The field will be whittled down to a handful by the hardline Guardian Council, a panel of 12 clerics and jurists which has the power to disqualify any hopeful they deem unfit. In 2001 only 10 out of 814 registered candidates were allowed to run.

Public interest in the elections is lukewarm at best with many disillusioned after eight years of factional

fighting between Khatami's reformers and powerful hardliners.

Running second in the polls is former police chief Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, 43, who won praise for deft handling of student protests and admitting women into the force, represents the traditional conservative wing of Iranian politics.

"Qalibaf is young and energetic. We need fresh blood to rule the country, not old figures like Rafsanjani," said Ahmad Amiri, a dentist.

Several other hardliners and reformist politicians currently trail well behind in the polls of potential candidates.

Rafsanjani is due to meet Khamenei on Tuesday evening or on Wednesday to discuss the election and a statement has been prepared for the mid-ranking cleric to announce his candidacy.

"Despite all my prior doubts, today and now based on necessity, I announce my readiness to enter the scene and I put myself at the disposal of your choice," he will say, according to a copy of the statement seen by Reuters.

## Japan and Australia face Iraq hostage crises

BAGHDAD, May 10 (Reuters) - Two of Washington's staunchest allies in Iraq grappled with hostage crises on Tuesday as Japan confirmed one of its citizens was missing and a deadline set by the captors of an Australian passed with no word on his fate.

One of Iraq's most feared insurgent groups, the Army of Ansar al-Sunna, said in an Internet statement it had ambushed a foreign security convoy near a U.S. base in western Iraq and captured a Japanese citizen.

A picture of the man's passport posted on the Internet gave his name as Akihiko Saito, aged 44.

The group's statement did not make any demands, and said video of the hostage, who works for a British security company, would be posted soon.

Ansar al-Sunna has killed scores of hostages, including foreigners from countries with no connection to the Iraq war.

Last August the group killed 12 Nepalese migrant workers, beheading one and then riddling the others with bullets.

Another insurgent group, the Shura Council of the Mujahideen in Iraq, is holding an Australian hostage — 63-year-old engineer Douglas Wood, seized in Baghdad last month.

In a video shown on Al Jazeera television last week, Wood was shown looking distraught as two masked insurgents pointed rifles at him.

His head had been shaved and he appeared to have a black eye.

The insurgents demanded Australia withdraw its troops within 72 hours — a deadline that expired on Tuesday.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said there had been no word about Wood's fate since the deadline passed.

"We haven't heard anything ... we just don't know what to think and we are continuing to work on the case," he said.

"It's too unpredictable. The sense we have is that the people who have taken Douglas Wood are more politically driven. So that makes it hard to know how to handle it."

### U.S. ALLIES



A security guard stands watch outside the Japanese Embassy in Baghdad May 10. REUTERS

Both Australia and Japan have troops in Iraq backing up the U.S. military.

A new batch of 450 Australian soldiers is due to arrive soon in southern Iraq, taking the total of Australian troops in and around Iraq to about 1,400.

Japan has around 550 soldiers in Iraq, mostly in the town of Samawa, a largely symbolic deployment as they are not allowed to take part in combat.

Both Australia and Japan have repeatedly said they will not bow to the demands of kidnappers.

Besides Saito, six Japanese have been taken hostage in Iraq.

Five were released but Shosei Koda, a backpacker, was beheaded by his captors last year.

Japanese Defence Minister Yoshinori Ohno said the kidnapping would not affect the troop deployment.

"Under present circumstances, it does not affect activities of the Self-Defence Forces in Samawa. Security there is not particularly worsening," a spokeswoman quoted Ohno as saying.

The Army of Ansar al-Sunna said it had captured Saito after ambushing a convoy carrying 12 Iraqis and five foreigners near the town of Hit in the rebellious western province of Anbar.

It said all those in the convoy except Saito were killed.

Japanese media said Saito was a 20-

year veteran of the French Foreign Legion and had spent two years in Japan's army.

"He has serious injuries and we will soon issue a video showing him," his captors said in their Internet statement.

Insurgents have launched a sharp escalation in attacks over the past two weeks, killing more than 300 people in a series of suicide bombing and ambushes.

Two suicide car bombers struck in Baghdad on Tuesday. One blew up his car near a U.S. military patrol, killing at least seven Iraqis and wounding 16.

The second attacked a base for the Baghdad river police on the banks of the Tigris.

Police said there were several casualties but did not have precise figures.

Two U.S. Marines were killed in separate incidents in western Iraq on Monday, bringing to 12 the number of American troops killed in action in Iraq since Saturday.

The U.S. military has launched an offensive in the far west of Iraq near the Syrian border, where it says insurgents have established strongholds and are smuggling fighters and weapons.

Heavy fighting has been reported in the town of Qaim and the surrounding area, and the U.S. military says at least 100 insurgents have been killed.

## Palestinian President Abbas to visit Japan

TOKYO, May 10 (Reuters) - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will come to Tokyo on Sunday for talks on the Middle East peace process, Japan's foreign minister said on Tuesday.

Abbas will hold discussions with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and other senior Japanese officials during the three-day visit, the foreign ministry added in a statement.

Japan issued the invitation to Abbas in January as part of an effort to become more involved in the Middle East peace process.

Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura told journalists Japan was also trying to arrange a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, possibly in May or June.

"We now have a historic chance to move forward with the Middle East peace process," the foreign ministry statement said.

A truce between Israel and



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas

REUTERS

Palestine has largely held since it was have been sporadic outbreaks of violence.

## Libya delays again trial on torture of Bulgarians

TRIPOLI, May 10 (Reuters) - A Libyan court again on Tuesday delayed by a week the trial of nine Libyan policemen and a physician charged with torturing Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor to extract confessions.

The defendants are charged with torturing the nurses and doctor to make them confess they deliberately infected 426 children with the HIV virus that causes AIDS in a hospital.

The case was postponed to May 17 at the requests of the defence and the prosecution to be able to bring witnesses to the trial in Tripoli, officials said.

The defence is also asking for an international medical expert to testify.

Five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor, who have been imprisoned since 1999, were sentenced to death by firing squad in May last year for deliberately infecting the children.

The verdicts cast a shadow over the oil-rich North African country as it emerges from decades of diplomatic isolation.

One of the accused police officers, Juma Almishri, said he and his colleagues were innocent. All 10 accused are free pending the new hearing.

"The Bulgarian medical reports regarding torture are incorrect because these reports were presented four years after the arrests," Almishri told Reuters outside the Tripoli court.

The Bulgarians and the Palestinian say they are innocent and were forced to confess. Libya's supreme court will rule on their appeal on May 31.

They want financial compensation from Libya.

AIDS experts testified last year that an AIDS epidemic started before the nurses arrived in the hospital, possibly due to poor hygiene or unsafe use of syringes and blood products.

At least 40 of the 426 children died of AIDS, increasing public outrage and pressure on Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

Libyan lawyers and diplomats see the officers' trial as an attempt to counter foreign criticism of the Tripoli authorities.

## Suicide car bomb kills at least 7 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, May 10 (Reuters) - A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle near a U.S. military convoy in central Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least seven Iraqis and wounding 16, police said.

The U.S. military had no immediate information on any American casualties.

The blast destroyed several cars and rattled windows in the city centre. Thick black smoke rose into the sky.

Just a few hours later, a second suicide bomber detonated his car outside a base on the banks of the Tigris in Baghdad for police who patrol the river, officials said.

Police said there were several casualties but it was too early to have precise figures.



An Iraqi policeman looks at a burning car in central Baghdad May 10. A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle near a U.S. military convoy in central Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least seven Iraqis and wounding 16, police said. REUTERS

## Egypt police detain 79 for Brotherhood links

CAIRO, May 10 (Reuters) - Egyptian security detained 79 people in the southern city of Assiut for links to the banned Muslim Brotherhood and for assembling without permission, a security source said on Tuesday.

The detentions took place before and after 4,000 people held a pro-reform demonstration in central Assiut on Monday.

The demonstration was the latest in a series of protests calling for more political freedom in Egypt.

"Police detained 26 for links to the banned Muslim Brotherhood group.

Another 53 people were detained later in the evening after a demonstration in the town," the source said.

The source said police had referred those detained in Assiut, around 300 km (190 miles) south of Cairo, to the State Security Prosecutor for further investigation.

Egyptian security detained 50 people and referred them to prosecutors in Minufiya, north of Cairo, on

Monday.

The Brotherhood said some 2,000 people were detained after nationwide protests last week. About 800 were detained for an initial period of 15 days; security officials said the authorities released the rest.

The Brotherhood has no legal status but enjoys a widespread following in the Arab world's most populous nation.

It has said it may try methods beyond demonstrations but does not want confrontation with the state.



# Taiwan opposition leader arrives in Beijing

BEIJING, May 10 (Reuters) - Taiwan opposition leader James Soong arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for bridge-building talks with the island's nemesis, the Chinese Communist Party, two months after China passed a law mandating war against the island.

Soong, chairman of the People First Party (PFP) that is struggling for survival after a dismal showing in parliamentary polls last December, follows Lien Chan, who last month became the first Kuomintang (KMT) leader to set foot on the mainland since the end of the civil war in 1949.

The reconciliation between the Communists and the KMT and Soong's visit put pressure on Taiwan's independence-leaning President Chen Shui-bian to mend fences with Beijing, which claims self-ruled Taiwan as its own and has vowed to attack if the democratic island formally declares statehood.

Soong, who lost a bid for Taiwan's presidency in 2000, is expected to hold talks with Chinese President and Communist Party chief Hu Jintao on Thursday.

He kicked off his nine-day China trip last week with a visit to the tomb of a legendary emperor to emphasize his Chinese roots. He has also met China's top negotiator with Taiwan and visited his ancestral home.

"The meeting between Hu Jintao and Lien Chan opened the door for Chen Shui-bian" to hold fence-mending talks with the Communists, said Zhou Qing, a Chinese expert on Taiwan.

"James Soong's visit could open the door wider," Zhou said, adding that Chen would first have to embrace the 1992 consensus — an agreement between China and the previous KMT administration that both Taiwan and the mainland are part of "one China".

Chen argues that there was never any consensus and that Taiwan and Chinese negotiators merely agreed to disagree — each side with its own interpretation of what "one China" means.

## DIVIDE-AND-CONQUER TACTICS

As a result of the visits by Lien and Soong, the negative impact from China's Anti-Secession Law that mandates war and other "non-peaceful" means if Taiwan formally declares independence, appears to have blown over.

In fact, ties have never been better since 1996, when tensions flared after the People's Liberation Army menaced Taiwan with war games in the run-up to the island's first direct presidential elections.

Lien made April's landmark trip despite coming under fire at home. In exchange, China showered Lien with economic sweeteners, including an offer to exempt Taiwan fruit from paying import duties in the face of a fruit glut in the island's south, President Chen's political bailiwick.

As part of divide-and-conquer tactics, China also offered to ease curbs

on Chinese tourists travelling to Taiwan.

But it was unclear what China would give Soong, whose PFP is Taiwan's second-biggest opposition party and advocates reunification like the KMT, also known as the Nationalist Party.

Soong, who teamed up with the KMT but lost a bid for the vice presidency last year, will meet Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong, ranked fifth in the Communist hierarchy, on Wednesday.

Public opinion polls indicate that most Taiwan people want better ties with China to reduce tension in one of Asia's most dangerous flashpoints. But Chen risks losing the DPP's core pro-independence support base if he kow-tows to Beijing.

Despite simmering political tension, trade, investment and tourism have blossomed since the late 1980s. Taiwan investors have poured an estimated \$100 billion into China.



James Soong (R), chairman of Taiwan's People First Party (PFP), gestures during his speech as his wife Viola Chen smiles at Huanghua airport before leaving Changsha, in central China's Hunan province May 10. REUTERS

# Russia and EU agree breakthrough deal ahead of summit

MOSCOW, May 10 (Reuters) - Russia and the European Union announced a breakthrough agreement on political and economic relations on Tuesday aimed at defusing years of tension that accompanied the bloc's expansion to Russian frontiers.

The two sides reached agreement on recasting their trade and political ties in a treaty covering four areas ranging from the economy to external security, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

They also agreed to hold consultations on easing visa regulations and eventually allowing visa-free travel between the two blocs, said the statement.

Both sides also agreed to discuss arrangements for Russia to take responsibility for the repatriation of illegal immigrants who have left Russia to seek entry into the European Union, in accordance with EU practice.

The two have shared a border in several places since the EU's expansion a year ago to include a string of Baltic and East European nations, formerly part of the Soviet sphere of influence.

"I think this summit will give a new impulse to our relations," said European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso on Monday.

EU officials said the agreement provided the basis for regular cooperation on key practical issues of trade and political relations.

EU and Russian leaders began a summit shortly after the announcement and were due to hold a news conference at 1130 GMT.

The accession to the EU of countries such as Latvia and Lithuania, formerly part of the now vanished Soviet empire, has fuelled unease in Moscow that former satellite states have turned their backs on Russia and now look to the west.

The pact due to be signed encompasses four key areas, known in EU parlance as "spaces" — the economy; freedom, security and justice; external security; and research, education and science — in which they promise to



Russian President Vladimir Putin makes a point during a meeting with European Union officials in Moscow as Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (R) looks on May 10. REUTERS

quicken the pace of cooperation.

Agreement came a day after world leaders gathered in Moscow to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two in a spectacular show of Red Square pageantry, reminiscent of the Soviet Union's heyday as a world superpower.

The EU is Moscow's largest trading partner with over half of Russia's exports going to the bloc. Russia supplies the EU with around one fifth of its oil and gas needs.

## WTO appeal

EU leaders are expected to appeal to Putin to seize the opportunity to finalise trade negotiations in the coming months enabling Russia to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO) by early in 2006.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson told reporters on the eve of the summit that the talks were "creating a possibility of final entry in early 2006".

Russia is the largest trading nation

still outside the WTO.

"Russia needs to take advantage of a window between now and the summer to get the accession tied down," he said.

But Mandelson said Putin should step in to ensure better coordination between ministerial departments on the Russian side, so that the chance to strike a WTO deal is not squandered.

Russia has been responsive to EU demands on strengthening their ties in the weeks and months leading up to the summit.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov conceded in April that the EU had a key role to play in resolving "frozen conflicts" in countries such as Georgia and Moldova, which were formerly part of the Soviet empire.

Sensitivities between Russia and an EU now embracing nations that were once part of the Soviet Union were underscored by an EU statement on Friday that the fall of the Berlin Wall rather than that of Nazi Germany ended dictatorship in Europe.

# American nabbed with 500 photos of naked Thai boys

BANGKOK, May 10 (Reuters) - Thai police have arrested a 56-year-old American teacher after 500 photographs of naked teenagers were allegedly found during a raid of his Bangkok apartment, police said on Tuesday.

Police said the man, who they named as Steven Erik Prowler, had lived in Thailand for six years and taught English at a government school in Bangkok.

"During the raid, we found two teenagers who said they just had oral sex with him," Colonel Surat Udomrat told Reuters. The two were aged 15 and 17, police said.

In the apartment police said they found 500 postcard-sized photos of naked male teenagers, mostly Thais aged between 11 and 17. They also found journals detailing his alleged sexual exploits.

Police said they planned to file charges of sexually abusing underaged youths against the man later this week.

"Although the maximum penalty is 10 years in jail for each count, he has repeated his crime with hundreds of victims and these crimes would add up," Lt. Colonel Dhamnoon Munkong said.

The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok declined to comment on the case.



Steven Erik Prowler is interviewed by Thai police after he was arrested in his Bangkok apartment May 10. REUTERS

# North Korea blames U.S. for "fuss" on nuclear tests

SEOUL, May 10 (Reuters) - North Korea said on Tuesday reports it could soon conduct an underground nuclear weapons test were speculation cooked up by Washington, but it did not deny outright that one might be planned.

Media reports have said spy satellites show North Korea has apparently stepped up activity in its northeastern region of Kilju. The area has been suspected of being where the North would conduct a test, U.S. and South Korean officials have said.

"The United States is making a fuss that our republic may proceed with an underground nuclear test in June and it will report its own view to the International Atomic Energy Agency and other countries, including Japan," the North's Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary.

The official KCNA news agency reported about the commentary on its Korean-language service. The South's Yonhap news agency carried the report.

The commentary did not deny North Korea might conduct a test. It said reports of an impending nuclear test were "U.S. strategic opinions", KCNA said.

The United States has said it may take



A South Korean student holds up a poster at an anti-U.S. protest near the U.S. embassy in Seoul May 10. North Korea said on Tuesday reports it could soon conduct an underground nuclear weapons test were speculation cooked up by Washington, but it did not deny outright that one might be planned. REUTERS

North Korea to the U.N. Security Council, where Pyongyang could face possible sanctions, if the North stays away from six-party talks aimed at ending

its nuclear ambitions.

"Let the United States do whatever it wants," the commentary said. "That's our bold stance."

# Oxfam urges Security Council to act on Uganda war

DHAKA, May 10 (Reuters) - Opposition leaders in Bangladesh hailed their victory in a key mayoral election on Tuesday as a no confidence vote in the government and demanded an early parliamentary poll.

At least 20 people were wounded in clashes late on Monday between police and supporters of incumbent A.B.M. Mohiuddin Chowdhury, who accused officials of trying to rig the vote in the port city of Chittagong, witnesses said.

Unofficial results declared early on Tuesday showed Chowdhury, head of the Chittagong chapter of Awami League, winning more than 350,000 votes, some 91,000 more than Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

"This victory will lead us to more victories and force the government to concede our demands," Awami general-secretary Abdul Jalil told reporters in

Dhaka.

Chowdhury, elected to a third straight term as Chittagong mayor, told his cheering supporters his win was a "massive victory" of the people's desire and a strong protest against the government.

Awami chief Sheikh Hasina has demanded Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia resignation and an early parliamentary poll.

Khaleda, whose five-year term ends in October 2006, has rejected the demands.

Commission officials said the violent protests after the vote were due to "procedural snags" in counting. There were a number of complaints of rigging, but electoral chief M.A. Syed said voting was free and fair.

Authorities deployed over 20,000 security officials in the city of four million ahead of the vote.

# Pakistan arrests four suspected Sunni militants

KARACHI, May 10 (Reuters) - Pakistani police arrested four suspected members of an outlawed Sunni Muslim group after a gunbattle in the southern port city of Karachi, a senior police official said on Tuesday.

The men, arrested on Monday, were being held on charges of plotting attacks on Shi'ite Muslims, police said. They were members of Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a militant group that targets the Shi'ite minority and whose members were also implicated in December 2003 assassination attempts on President Pervez Musharraf.

Police also seized guns, detonators, audio and video cassettes, compact discs, and religious literature after the gunbattle in Karachi's Mahmoodabad neighbourhood.

Manzoor Mughal, a deputy inspector general of police, said the suspects carried out at least three different attacks against Shi'ites in Karachi, killing over 20 people.

"They (the suspects) were planning more terrorist attacks in the city," said Mughal.

There has long been rivalry in Pakistan between majority Sunnis and minority Shi'ites but sectarian violence has surged in recent years.

President Musharraf, an important ally in the U.S.-led war on terrorism, has vowed to eradicate militancy and to establish a society characterised by "enlightened moderation".

The Lashkar-e-Jhangvi has also targeted top government officials, Western interests and other religious minorities in recent years.

The group has ties with Afghanistan's former ruling Taliban and other militant groups.



## 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

## Yemen: a thriving business or a lost opportunity?

Is Yemen a country for treasure hunt or is it a doomed nation? Ironically it could be both at the same time. For what is an opportunity for some, could be a lost chance for others. Using this formula, and judging by the economic, social, political and cultural indicators it becomes clear that the majority of the Yemeni people are on the losing end. Hence, it's not difficult to guess who the winners are.

Yemen today is going through a transition phase. During transitions new layers of the society appear to the surface while others subside, exactly the same way new wealth is made. For example, during the trade strategy that imposed restrictions on importing in the early eighties many merchants lost their businesses and suddenly there were new names in the business area. Today new strategies come to light: the sales tax, lifting oil subsidies while no improvement of basic services takes place. Is the scenario of the eighties going to be repeated again during this transition phase? It is strikingly painful to see the absurd consequences of the sales tax already being in effect even before the law has been put to action. The price of basic commodities has risen by almost 50%; prices of sugar, rice, cooking oil, even rents increased in anticipation of the sales tax. What happens to the poor people who barely made ends meet in the past? We are talking about more than 70% of the population.

While the state turns left and right seeking to join the GCC and WTO and God knows what else, people are losing hope in just surviving. The so-called economic reforms are firing back and the problem is not the reforms, it is the blind insensitive implementation of the reform programs without consideration of the particularities of the country and its lack of basic infrastructures and managing systems.

While this mess accumulates, new faces are appearing on the TV screen and media with new businesses being launched. If it was true that Yemen is the least developed country in the region then how come these new businesses are thriving? The investment laws may be relatively good but the real life applications repel any investor and send them away even before knocking on the nation's door. If that is the case, then whose are the new thriving businesses? What is being paid so that they can go on while others are not able to even get a license or import raw material without losing a fortune. There are many questions that come to mind when seeing the number of poor people becoming poorer while the wealthy becoming wealthier.

Who's responsible for this economic mess? Even if we know them - and we do - who would hold them accountable?!

Editor



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

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United Yemen:  
A recent history

BY IBRAHIM HUSAIN MOH'D.

For a long time, the unity of Yemen remained a popular demand. In the aftermath of the military coup in N. Yemen and the declaration of independence in S. Yemen, direct unity of both north and south was discussed; but the new rulers who assumed power in Aden, the N.L.F., claimed that Sana'a was besieged by the Royalists and might fall into their hands anytime.

Dialogues between the two regimes continued, but developed twice into war in 1972 and 1979. Several Arab countries mediated to end the war; reconciliation between Sana'a and Aden stressed the necessity and importance of the Unity of Yemen all the time. Despite that, neither leadership was keen enough or had an honest desire for it.

As a result of the escalation of the crack-down on under-ground political parties in North Yemen, the leadership of Marxist and Pan-Arab Movement factions moved to Aden. The move didn't stop at the much-nurtured desire of the southern regime to own the card of the opposition against the northern regime, and soon an armed organization - The National Front - emerged calling for taking over Sana'a by war.

The National Front was given all means of support, even by soviet block countries. This support enabled the Front to take over some areas in the North, especially those

near the border. During the 1972 and 1979 North-South Yemeni wars, the National Front played critical roles that benefited its sponsors in the South.

During the early 1980s, close rapprochement between the sides became the rule, as Ali Nasser Mohammed, the then President of S. Yemen, played a role in lowering tensions. By then, the Southern leadership had been convinced that the armed struggle or taking over Sana'a by war was of no benefit to any body. They decided to abandon the armed struggle approach for unity with North Yemen.

Since then bilateral meetings between the leaderships of N. and S. Yemen intensified. Several joint unified projects and measures were declared especially in Education, Culture, Finance and Commerce and some other spheres. In fact these were designed to buy time at diluting the strong pro-unity current among the population.

The inter-Socialist Party bickering developed into a civil war that severely damaged the regime politically and socially. Sana'a managed to absorb nearly 50% of the socialist leadership, which gave her much leverage and a very strong position during all negotiations.

It is worth mentioning here that the Socialist leadership that fled to the north tried to acquire against its own old regime the role that the National Front had played against Sana'a. Sana'a's wisdom and some foreign pressures helped prevent the imple-

mentation of any plans.

The Zumra (the Socialist-turned opposition against S. Yemen) were huge in their numbers. In addition to the support they were receiving from Sana'a, they were also nurtured by some Arab countries (Libya, U. A. Emirates and Saudi Arabia) and were heavily subsidized ( a political cadre, an officer or a soldier among them would receive nearly 4 times his counterpart in N. Yemen).

Despite all this, the S. Yemeni regime kept his grip over Aden as tight as ever. But it had very limited options while Sana'a had the privilege of multiple choices. The S. Yemeni kept close and continuous with the North.

When Moscow opted for Gorbachev's policies of Glasnost and Birostroika and began to close its tap of support to its satellites, the crisis within the Southern regime became clear. A potential scenario of a repeat of the 1986 disaster became easily felt. Economic strains were the core of all tension.

The Liberal faction within the leadership of Aden succeeding in compiling a document on Economic Reform, a very shy and limited document that couldn't see much farther than recommending allowing doctors and traders to open private clinics, groceries and fish market; or the idea that society should pay a share in financing health and education services.

(To be continued.)

## Letters to the Editor

## Amina Abdulatif's Case

The Yemen Times received hundreds of emails on Amina's case. These are only samples of the letters we received. Thanks to our readers for having confidence in us and allowing us to voice their concerns in the paper.

I would be very grateful if you would bring to the attention of your Government the very deep concern that I and many of my friends and colleagues have over the death sentence passed in regard to Amina Ali Aduladif.

In expressing this concern, we do so humbly, conscious that there are many instances where my own country has acted without proper regard for the humanitarian consideration of cases brought to trial. We cannot ignore, however, that Amina Ali Abduladif was just sixteen when the alleged crime was committed and she is now the mother of a two year old child. We hope that your country, whom we hold in respect, will feel able to exercise clemency in this case.

David Boyle  
dboyle@umich.edu  
Deborah Seeger  
dseeger@rcn.com  
Robert Ferry  
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Bec Hover  
bec\_hover@berkeley.edu  
Chris Green  
chris@producersguild.org

Her alleged offense was committed when she was a minor, 14 years old, and is now the mother of a child, conceived after she was sexually assaulted in prison.

Respectfully, I ask you to consider, mercifully, clemency for Amina  
Patrick J. Flood, MD  
pflood@infinityhealthcare.com

I would deeply appreciate for you to communicate to your Government the serious concern that I, my family and colleagues feel over the death sentence given to Amina Ali Abduladif.

We express this concern fully understanding the irony in this request. Your nation showed the leadership and con-

cern for basic human rights to outlaw executions of children well before my own country took up this issue. We do hope that you will continue to set an example for western nations, that you will stand by the rule of law. Amina Ali Abduladif was just fourteen when her husband was killed.

It is our hope that your nation will see fit to show mercy toward this young woman, and toward her young child. To do so would be to set an example for far more powerful nations.

Austin Armstrong  
North Wales, Pennsylvania, USA  
Austin Armstrong  
austinarm@yahoo.com

I am writing to express my sincere concern that I have over the death sentence passed in regard to Amina Ali Abduladif, who was sentenced when she was only 16. I hope that you can convey to your Government my concern, which is shared by many of my friends who have heard of this case. We are concerned that Amina Ali Abduladif was just 14 when the crime she was convicted of was committed and I understand that your Government prohibits the execution of anyone under 18 who commits a crime. I hope that someday, my own country will follow your lead and I am working on this issue as well.

I hope that your country will be able to exercise clemency in this case.

Victoria Putsche Awon Ataire  
vputsche1@msn.com  
& Lawrence Lin  
lawrence\_lin78@hotmail.com

I would like to express my concern about the case of Amina Ali Aduladif. It appears that her conviction may have been based on a false confession obtained under duress. Further, her sentence seems to violate Yemeni law prohibiting execution of anyone under the age of 18.

I am glad to hear that a commission has been appointed to review this case. I am simply a concerned citizen of the world who happened to hear about Amina Ali Aduladif. I am powerless in this matter. However, I am sure that you will exercise your authority and influence to ensure that justice is done.

Jackie Jarzem  
jarzem@austin.rr.com

After reading much about the sad case of Amina Ali Abduladif in the last few weeks I felt compelled to write to you to plead for your assistance. It is my understanding that your government has appointed a special committee to review her case. I hope that you will do what you can to assist that committee in it's assessment of the decisions made in Ms. Abduladif's case.

From what I have read the crime occurred when Ms. Abduladif was

only 14 years old. If Ms. Abduladif is guilty of this crime, Yemen's own laws forbid the death penalty due to her age. My understanding is there is some doubt about the original verdict in her case as well. I hope that the review committee will visit all aspects of her case and let them know that the world is watching.

I hope that in this case we can set aside our differences, our animosities and passions to see that justice is truly done for one young woman and her children. Thank you sincerely for your time and assistance.

O. Douglas Price  
Queens, New York  
O. Douglas Price  
o.douglas.price@usa.net

Please consider that concerned citizens wish to protect a woman who was a child when committing her crime from being executed. Please do something to protect her! Many people around the world are watching and wishing that this does not happen. Thank you.

Heidi Lemmer  
hlemmer@hotmail.com

I am writing concerning the status of Amina Ali Abdulatif a 21 year old woman who has been sentenced to death. I have read that a special committee was appointed by the attorney general in Yemen to review the case and that her execution will be postponed until the committee submits its findings. I urge you to use any influence you have on behalf of myself and the many other Americans who believe this woman, who allegedly committed her crime at the age of 14, should not be executed.

Michael Power  
mpower2390@verizon.net

I write to urge you to demonstrate clemency in the case of Amina Ali Aduladif, who has been sentenced to death at sixteen, and who is now the mother of a two-year-old child.

Many people have suffered so much already. I think of the suffering of this child when he learns that his mother has been killed. I think of him carrying that suffering through all his life, spreading it to everyone he meets, desiring to make everyone suffer because he has. Who does it serve that he should suffer so?

I am not so naive to think that the sparing of this woman's life shall cure the problems of the world. Nonetheless, I plead her case, humbly.

It is a small thing, this young woman and her child, but it is also everything. Please work to see that her life is spared.

Chris Green  
Director of Communications  
Producers Guild of America  
Chris Green chris@producersguild.org

COMMON  
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

A nation  
without a future?

If the Arab World could just learn from experience, the first lesson it should really take to heart is that as a nation, it is a useless paradigm of how nations should come together and consolidate all their resources and wherewithal to serve the interests of the constituencies that make up this pathetic lot of chattels that do not seem to belong to those very constituencies. We have been seeing this once great nation become the playgrounds for a few vested interests, some foreign and some local, but the overwhelming majority of the peoples of the region seem to be aloof and distant from all that occurs in their midst. On the contrary, instead of seeing progress towards being answerable to the wishes and aspirations of the peoples that are most of all helpless and ruled by their own apathy, we are seeing the people becoming helpless pawns that have the least control over their destinies.

Undoubtedly, there are many historical and political foundations that led to this pitiful state for a nation with resources that literally can rejuvenate this nation to become the most influential political and economic grouping in the world. Without prejudice to this, however, it is worth mentioning that we have derived a lot of control over the historical course we can take, with all the struggles that a lot of the Arab peoples paid dearly to arrive to. However, it seems obvious that the struggles were turned into an amalgamation of evil interests that robbed the Arab peoples of their spirit, intellectual capacity and their will to strive for a prosperous and meaningful life. No, this robbery that did not come from a colonialist power or an international establishment that is seeking to engulf us (although there is no denying that these evils of international dimensions do exist in various forms). This is the work of our own apathy and the evil that drives these monstrous establishments that have crept into our societies, which have entrenched their evil will to kill, horde and dehumanize the overwhelming populations of the Arab World to a subservient status, for which there is no avenue to unleash the yearning to be free. It is a hard paradox that the Arabs, who are well known for their adherence to freedom and respect for the humanity of all mankind are now the farthest away from all they believe in and cherished for centuries.

If that was not enough, the greatest gift to humanity, Islam, which the Arabs have been blessed to bear the torch and banner of, has suddenly become what it actually came to dispel and eliminate from the world. New renditions have been disseminated that have rendered its original purity and innocence into an ugly scenario of suicide bombings and gory bloody streets with an aura of destruction and senseless ideology that is more destructive to the social fabric than anything mankind has seen, for the simple reason that no one can decipher where it begins and where and when will end? This is certainly not the will of Allah, but a test of our own faith and our intelligence, in being able to discern what is right from wrong and what is positive and negative even in our convictions. It is a horrible scenario, where ambition or even hope has no avenues to unleash the broad spans of intellect that the Al-Mighty has not neglected to put in us, but has been numbed by the very forces of man's evil creativity, when allowed to operate freely and without accountability.

Yes, it is time for a change in this region, but the changes we are pursuing are still a continuation of service to the very corrupt and ugly systems that preside over all our resources and control our minds. No, it is fear that dominates our climate as we see our helpless brothers in Palestine and Iraq subjected to the worst humiliation and suffering that anyone can imagine for a society. Even the fear of being admonished for thinking of any sentimental affinity for your brethren as they are slaughtered, tortured and victimized by the worst kinds of colonial machines, that have of late taken on a different color.

No, the Arabs are not moving forward to a new era of hope, because hope is not a nationalistic sentiment anymore according to the systems of oppression that have prevailed in our midst, driven by our very own kind, whose only hope rests in amassing the greatest wealth possible without any care or sense of fealty to the real owners of the resources they are plundering. Oh sure, there is lip service to religion here and there, but when those religious dictates expressly state that "thou shall not kill!; thou shall not plunder; thou shall not oppress; etc.", these dictates lose meaning among our faithful guardians of the faith! What a dilemma indeed?

So, what is in store for the future? It is a very difficult question to answer, because one is unable to put the question to our Arab leaders, most of whom have decided to adjoin their future with serving the interests they believe will continue to allow them to plunder and oppress as they like, while shoving the interests of their constituencies aside. These ugly machines that exist in our midst are from our very own kith and kin, who went to the same schools and played in the same playgrounds we did, but who now consider the whole Arab nation as their playgrounds to plunder and deface as they like, as long as their own personal coffers continue to be flooded with all the proceeds of our resources, without interruption.

How much plunder can they churn up? That is the amazing dilemma that astounds the simple Arab mind, which was once content with a few dates and some camel's milk, while relishing in all the moral and social equities that have been nurtured in this mind by the endless stream of prophets and philosophers that have evolved our social and dogmatic inclinations over the ages.

What we need to do is really look at ourselves as we should not as others see us, because, otherwise, that will put us into the trap of loosing our own self esteem. Look what is happening to so many of our countries as they begin to fall under the dictates of other powers just so their leaderships can carry on with blinding their own societies?



# Yemeni Press,

# A week in review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr



**Ath-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 5 May 2005.**

**Main headlines:**

- With a calendar of violations and restrictions, Yemeni journalists marked the world day of press freedom
- Dr al-Mikhlafi: pursuing partisan press aims the last phenomenon of democracy
- At backdrop of the sales law, Sana'a chamber of commerce and industry brings suit against the president, al-Ahmar and government
- As teaching staff strike continues, Sana'a University grants security apparatuses new authorities for watching

Writer Shukri al-Maamari writes saying it is not too late to embark on taking steps that will ensure the stability of political situations and to conduct dialogues and revisions on major and secondary issues that form challenges and essential obstacles. Those issues cannot be overstepped with regards of the democratic concept that does not admit granting and prevention. The required steps are to be aimed at comprehensive national reconciliation so that the political forces and organisations of the civil society are able to take part in building the state of law and order, stability of economic, social and security situation and strengthening the organizational and administrative structure of executive and legislative establishments. All those would target the enhancement of general prosperity, providing the opportunity for preparing suitable climates to enrich the democratic practice. Without democracy, we cannot talk about economic and social development or aspire for real modernization of the society, providing social justice or expansion of popular participation.

We wish the authority would benefit from what is going on in the region and take speedy steps towards introduction of genuine political and democratic reforms aimed at treating existing problems at all levels. The authority should also endeavour to stabilize the concept of settlement of issues of variance and dispute in our political culture with regard to accepting the other, dialogue and recognition of the principle of participation of all and mutual respect and common interest. The delay in such acts would lead to real disasters because they have become urgent to come out from the impasse.



**Al-Isbou weekly, 5 May 2005.**

**Main headlines:**

- Al-Hassani works for forming a political party
- Yemeni television ends boycott on Iran's news
- In Dammah, emergence of a new leader for the Believing Youth
- State of double-job at universities ended
- German project on fighting corruption in Yemen
- Teeba surgical 17th camp in Taiz

Writer Mithaq Abdulaouf al-Qadasi says the profession of journalism is considered as one of the noblest and most important professions as it relates to everything. It also has a big role in supporting people and standing by them as well as standing face to face with those who want to confiscate the people's rights. All instruments of press are important if they are used in the best manner. It is also the fourth estate having the right to account corruption with its own way through publishing warnings for the people against those corrupt so that the latter reverts back to reason.

Press has also a big role in calling for virtue and all that benefits and is good for the people. Above all publishing news so that people are able to acquire more information and knowledge about their surroundings and the world. This profession, which we have loved

and respected, has changed these days into a commodity for selling and buying in the black market when intruders have worked in this profession. Thus, some newspapers changed from the defender of rights of the tyrannized to the supporter for the tyrant. Some journalists have changed to similar beggars at the doorsteps of some officials for what they would publish. Before that, an official would have thousands of apprehensions about the journalist for respecting himself and they know that he would stand up against the injustice or the unfair. They used to fear the journalist because of his decency. Now they don't care a straw about journalists and journalism.

Those in charge of press have themselves led the profession to this fate. They have neglected the journalist's rights and made him follow ways most of them are unacceptable to cope with his living.



**Al-Wahda weekly, 4 May 2005.**

**Main headlines:**

- Official source: Education curricula a "time bomb"
- The government abolishes illegal tax levying by Funds
- Fifth round of dialogue with those influenced by extremist ideas begins
- President of the State Establishment of Ports: We are preparing to conduct renovations at Mocha port to develop its commercial role
- The most dangerous gang for currency forgery on trial
- Sana'a University grants teachers on strike a final grace period

Columnist Mohammed al-Zabidi says in an article that it seems the weak is no longer having a place on earth which has become undisputedly possessed by the powerful. What happened at the United Nations on the eve of last Friday confirms this equation. The Security Council issued a resolution sending all those who have committed war crimes in Darfur to the International Criminal Court provided that any Americans, civilians or military, would not be included by this resolution.

Of course, the Hebrew state is included in these guarantees and we do not know who has offered those guarantees to the two administrations. The Hebrew government that has over the past four years committed all sorts of war crimes would not be subject to be prosecuted by the international court and those who perpetrated war crimes in Iraq are also exempted from prosecution by the same court. This is the logic of power and the law of the jungle.



**Al-Nidaa weekly, 4 May 2005.**

**Main headlines:**

- Three helicopters hit with al-Houthi supporters fires
- Plenary meeting of military and security commands at the president's ranch house in Hajjah
- Resentment for non-reparations for the war victims
- Al-Houthis continue their control on Naqaa area
- Nabil al-Mohammadi: Press draft law has not abolish imprisonment punishment
- Private sector begins a stepping up campaign against sales tax, wavering of sit-in strike and closure of business shops
- A soldier opens fire at Ali al-Ahmar

Columnist Hamoud Munassar says in article the 15th anniversary of the Yemeni unity maybe representing stationary for reviewing many things and an occasion of ecstasy of the greatness of the accomplishment and evaluation of courses of change Yemen has been witnessing over the past 15 years. The significant distance the Yemenis have shortened at due to the realization of

unity was the political change towards democracy, political, pluralism, partisan press and general openness.

The press scene needs today a stationary, re-reading, and evaluation. The aim is to infer lessons and straighten the rhythm of the profession. Proceeding from disclosing legislations forming restraints against press and journalists.

Springing from that and in embodiment of principles of freedom, in its broad sense, lays the true democratization of media beginning from enacting of modern legislations void of suppressive texts and the culture of prevention and prohibition. The nature of Yemeni legislations pertaining to press and freedom of opinion, especially the law of press and publications No. 25 of 1990 and some articles in the criminal law, require a real review and responsible evaluation and radical change of those legislations.

The issue, though it bears the title of "Amendment of the law of press" or writing a new law for press, more developed and responsive to facts of the Yemeni reality and requisites of the future, it is in fact exceeding the boundaries of that title to the two criminal law and code of procedure. Both of them contain articles killing the press and threatening to the end of the democratic experiment. It is imperative to create a movement supporting freedom, whose task begins from serious action for the changing of all legislative texts that do not allow the existence of a civil society and threaten the democratic project by their approval of the death penalty against journalists.



**Al-Jamaheer weekly, organ of the Arab Baath Socialist Party-Yemen, 4 May 2005.**

**Main headlines:**

- Government loses one million dollars and disrupts dialogue with tradesmen
- Brigadier general al-Ahmar survives attempted assassination
- Vaccination in Zabid causes semi-paralysis
- Conniving in a one million dollar worth corruption issue
- Student demonstrations in Baghdad demanding departure of occupation
- Lebanese PM Mikati in Damascus to develop Syrian-Lebanese relations

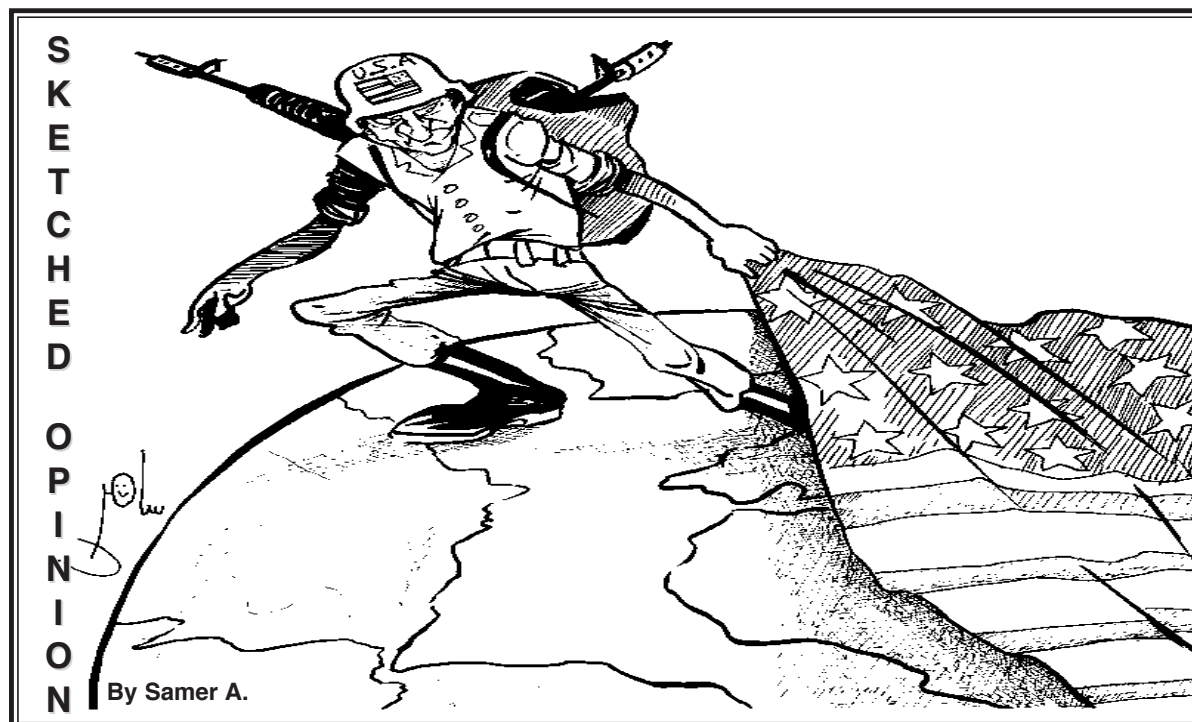
Columnist Mohammed Mohammed al-Zubairi says in his article the working forces have on the first of May observed the annual Labor day with massive demonstrations marching world capitals in expression of resentment for their sustaining of suffering under the control of world imperialism and its capitalism prevalence in world market. Their suffering was also a result of the labor right fall with downfall of the state of proletariat dictatorship "working class".

It is to be admitted that the working class had in the past century scored victory over the capitalists and wrung out its rights.

In the Arab world, trade unions are no longer but a form and tradition and recognition of their political liberationist role. The reality discloses the state of stripping the work force of its essential dynamo, which are the trade unions. Leaderships of trade unions have been annexed to ruling regimes and the unions rendered to a form within an inactive and non-effective frame, with the exception of the Moroccan trade unions that formed political parties in the name of workers.

Therefore, the problem is a political one represented by annexation to political authorities to avoid the unions' role in defending political and democratic rights and influencing constituents of the authority. This state of affairs has made trade unions lose capability of their role and enabled authorities to practice injustice against the working class and harming it.

An objective stand requires pushing buttressing trade unions to take up their professional and political role. The political authorities have to take off their hand from this sector in order to be able to become a real and actual supporter for democracy.



**Al-Shura weekly, organ of the Yemeni Union for People's Forces, 4 May 2005.**

**Main headlines:**

- Welcomed mediators possessing public solution, refusing the secret solution,
- Abdulmalik al-Houthi: We are not insurgents and not against the republic
- Continued arrests and storming in Saadah
- Yemeni Union of People's Forces: the dialogue means the west understanding of peoples' need for reforms
- Granted strikers two days to return, President of Sana'a University

Basura calls on ministers and judges to teach at the university

- Security delegation visits Baghdad, Investigation with family of Iraq operation implementer
- Journalists Syndicate renews rejection of press draft law demanding end of government ownership of media
- Warnings against militarization of Mocha port
- Parliament summons government to discuss crisis with university teachers unions

Columnist Abdulkarim Mohammed al-Khaiwani says in an article that the president was giving a lecture on the Yemeni Unity at Korea University at a time when intermittent wars and pursuits in Saadah continue against Badruddin al-Houthi and sheikh

Razzami. It is also at a time when arrests continue against affiliates of al-Zaidiya sect in Saadah, Hajjah, Tamar and the capital.

Sectarianism, sabotage, secessionism, monarchy, Hashimatism and Shiitism, have all become exhausted charges because they are simply launched under decrees and official fomenting disregarding the national unity as much as instigation of citizens against each others. All justifications were used in the war of 1994, even religious was employed, but the utmost justification for it was in fact that for power. The war against al-Houthi, religion is also used and it is now used officially against Zaidiya as a sect and current and ideology and against the Hashimate as a segment. This officialy oriented hallucination is unconvincing.

## Invitation for Bids Republic Of Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population Health Reform Support Project (Credit 3625)

**BID NUMBER (24) HRSP/G/NCB-2005**

**SUPPLY, TRANSPORTATION and INSTALLATION of OFFICE EQUIPMENT  
For NCHCI + DOM + (3 Gov.) + HPTSU + MSD + Maint + PHC + Int. Coop + Plan**

This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue no. (607) on 16th May 2003, Al-Thawra Newspaper issue no. (13944) on 28th May 2003, and Yemen Times issue no. (641) on 12th June 2003.

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of its Health Reform Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for supply, transportation, and installation Office Equipment.

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for procuring **Office Equipment Bid No. (24) HRSP/G/NCB-2005** consisting the following:-

**PCs, Laptops, Printers, Scanners and Software.**

Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Credit Administration Unit (CAU) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from **8:00 am to 3:00 pm** during official working days.

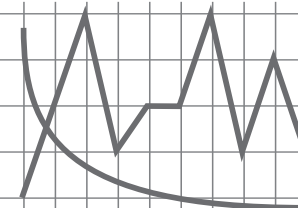
A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD \$ 50.00**. The method of payment will be in cash and documents will be submitted by hand.

Bids must be delivered to the address below by **11:00 a.m. on 7th June 2005**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of minimum **2.5%** of the bid price. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **11:00 a.m. on 7th June 2005**.

Credit Administration Unit  
Health Reform Support Project (HRSP)  
Ministry of Public Health & Population  
P.O. Box 1330 - Al-Hasabah - 4th Floor  
Sana'a - Republic of Yemen  
Tel: +967(1) 252224  
Fax: +967(1) 251622  
E-mail: [hrsp@y.net.ye](mailto:hrsp@y.net.ye)



# YT Business



## Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	191.3700	191.6400
Sterling Pound	360.8400	361.3500
Euro	245.2100	245.5600
Saudi Rial	51.0300	51.1000
Kuwaiti Dinar	655.2400	656.1700
UAE Dirhem	52.1000	52.1800
Egyptian Pound	33.0300	33.0800
Bahraini Dinar	507.6300	508.3500
Qatari Rial	52.5800	52.6500
Jordanian Dinar	270.1200	270.5100
Omani Rial	497.1100	497.8100
Swiss Franc	158.3400	158.5600
Swedish Crown	26.7100	26.7500
Japanese Yen	1.8163	1.8188

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

## Child peddlers & loss of protection

By YASSER AL-MAYASSI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Unemployment is considered a major cause for searching job opportunities in whatever profession. In Yemen the peddlers represent a large number and become a phenomenon with various people from different ages. All of them are having the same concern economically to escape from poverty.

Although peddlers are found in many countries and practice the work of selling and buying in different markets, however, peddlers in our country maybe the only ones practicing this work at road crossings and traffic lights. The moment any visitor to the country stops at traffic lights signals a number of peddlers rushing towards him to display their goods of various types.

Some peddlers of different ages display their goods for selling such as newspapers, sweets, handkerchiefs, decorating materials, recording audio cassettes and light spare parts for cars and a variety of goods one does not expect to be sold at traffic lights. The



A child selling water to passer-bys in Tahrir St.

eye-catching thing is that such peddlers would spend long hours under the scorching heat of the sun and the cold weather.

Young children constitute the higher proportion of peddlers with the young

unemployed next in line. At road crossings there are also women practicing selling as part of an effort in quest of living and in encountering the difficult economic circumstances in hope of fleeing from poverty, which is the biggest problem in Yemen as well as many undeveloped countries. Some women peddlers sell different hand-made clothes.

There are many reasons behind the spread of this phenomenon. For young children, one of the reasons may be truancy from schools. The main reason though is poverty and difficult economic conditions, as is the case with a child, Ahmed, who affirmed that he could not continue his studies because his father was dead and there was no one to bring in the income.

Contrary to that case is that of the child Adel, 12 years, who says he practices selling on the street as a means of procuring money to pay for his studying fees and costs, saying that he loves to study. He is also working to help his father who works as blacksmith with an income not enough to cover the family's expenses.

The story of the child Nasser may appear to be sad. He was forced by his father to work and provide money for

his father's needs eventhough his father is an able-bodied person who refuses to work.

There are many sad stories of which small children are the victims toiling in the streets. The latest government statistics confirm that there are thousands of children of both sexes working in Yemen for different reasons and they represent the phenomenon of child labour. This phenomenon emerged in Yemen in the beginning of the nineties, especially after the Gulf war and the return of expatriates from the Gulf States.

Nowadays, most of those children are suffering from exposure to dangerous jobs due to their small age. They also suffer because they do not get enough protection that various governmental and non-governmental sides could not provide for them. It is the protection that requires much effort to achieve.

## 20 companies gain excavation contracts,

# Budgets Higher Committee forms team to check oil revenues accounts

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Higher Committee of Budgets has set up a team for checking accounts of oil revenues. The higher committee presided by Prime minister, the chairman of the committee, Abdulqader Bajammal discussed the general framework and indicative ceilings of the state budget draft for the fiscal year 2006 presented by the ministry of finance. The meeting also discussed the proposed alternatives for the preparation of the draft, taking into consideration economic and financial variables at both local and external levels and orientations of comprehensive reform processes.

Setting up a team for auditing oil accounts has come after the announcement that 20 world oil companies have qualified in winning rights to concession and excavation of oil and gas in seven open sectors, namely (7,34, 37, 39, 55, 74, 75). Seven other companies have been excluded from competition for failing to meet conditions necessary for qualifications to operate oil sectors in Yemen.

Official oil sources said contracts went to those companies following a process of analysis and technical financial evaluation of the 27 competing companies. Evaluation and analysis of the companies' tenders were conducted by the tenders committee. According to the official oil sources. The companies

that won the contracts were: the Korean KNOC, Russian consortium ZAAB, Kazakh MND, the U.S. OCCIDENTAL, the Malaysian PETRONAS, the Indian ONGC, Indian Oil Company Ltd., The Austrian OMV, The Chinese CNOOC, The Swedish ABPARE-SOURCES, The Australian OILSEARCH, The Indian RELIANCE, The Indian ESSAR, The Pakistani ZAVAR PETROLEUM GULR Ltd., The Moldovan GROUP OCACOM, The Omani PETROGAS, The Indian NIPL The French TOTAL, The Canadian NEXEN and the Emirates Al-Thani Company for Investment.

Chairman of the Oil Exploration and Production Establishment Eng. Nabeel Saleh al-Qawsi mentioned that tenders committee was finalizing procedures of that international tender according to the current stage and within the program approved by the ministry of oil and minerals.

The committee would present information on sectors included in the tender, provided that final offers of qualified companies are to be received on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July to be studied and analyzed by the specialized committee and then to be endorsed by the minister of oil and minerals.

After that, there would be an announcement on final results of evaluation and naming the winner companies on 23 July 2005.

The Yemeni government aspires for increasing its oil production to

encounter the deficit in the state general budget. In this regard, the Higher Committee for Budgets has confirmed the necessity of containing the deficit and stopping it at an allowed limit at the final preparation of the general draft budget for the year 2006.

All this takes into account the economic and financial reform program, in affirmation of the process of full and comprehensive reform in all fields and with concentration on rural development projects and program that would contribute to absorption of unemployment and provision of more job opportunities especially for poor segments of the society.

The meeting has also approved the formation of a working team to examine and audit accounts of the oil revenues, whether those yielded by crude oil or refineries production and dependence of correct figures based on testimonies of experts and operators regarding estimation of reserves in the new oil fields.

The meeting stressed the necessity of activating the results reached within the framework of agreement on fighting of corruption in the draft state budget. The meeting considers that as important in the endeavour for alleviation of poverty and encountering of resources squander as corruption represents a tumbling stone before success of reforms and development plans.

Announcement on those companies' qualification for working in oil areas coincides with the orientation of



encouraging the private sector to practice investment activities in this field and other areas. Among the importance of such fields are the navigation activities.

The Yemeni government has directly worked for, as part of privatization efforts, attracting specialized world companies to pursue activities of marine transport and maintenance services. So far, there are more than 40 local and foreign companies working in areas of navigation agency functions, goods

delivery and ship supplies.

The government continues at the same time, its efforts for the implementation of its decisions on attraction of local and external specialist parties in administration of marine transport activity, maintenance and repair of ships in participation with the state according to agreed upon formulas.

Operations of rehabilitation of existing ports and pursuing openness policies in marine transport sectors have led to an increase in growth of maritime

trade movement. The number of ships frequenting ports had, in 2003, amounted to 3354 against about 1100 ships in 1995. In 2004, the total amount of dry goods delivered at ports reached 7.8 million tons compared to 4 million tons in 1990. Quantities of oil delivered at the ports in 2004 amounted to 19.5 million tons against 17 million tons in 1990. In the year 2004, the number of delivered containers increased from 28 thousand containers in 1990 to 420 thousands in 2004.

## Heavy rains cause great losses in properties

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The wave of heavy rains that Yemen has recently seen and the torrents they left have caused losses to citizens' properties, while the influx of torrents witnessed in Hudeidah and Mahweet provinces have resulted in the missing of two citizens in Wadi Siham al-Marawaa in the west of Yemen.

Sources at the Civil Defence central

operations room said security men, with the help of citizens in those afflicted governorates, were continuing operations of search for the missing persons and victims as a result of the destruction of spacious areas of agricultural lands in the valleys of Mour, Midi and al-Jarahi. They mentioned that the fall of heavy rains caused the washing away of a transport vehicle, two of whom on board are thought to be among the five missing people.

Rain torrents rushed for the second week running onto the valleys of Tihama plain and quantities of water reaching the valleys of Ramaa, Mour, Zabid and Siham amounted to 88 million and 660 thousand cubic meters, according to recordings of torrents flow stations of the State Authority for the Development of Tihama.

Dr Saqqaf al-Saqqaf, general manager of the Authority, clarified that the highest quantity of water flow was recorded in the valley of Mour where

it amounted to 65.2 million cubic meters where large quantities of it was channelled for irrigation of agricultural lands in the valleys of Tihama plain via diverting barriers and irrigation canals for operation and maintenance.

Heavy rains falling on various regions and districts of Mahweet governorate inflicted great damage on agricultural lands in the district of Bani Saad where the rise in water levels have led the flow of torrents from mountainous heights onto those lands,

resulting in the soil being swept away and flooding of some water installations.

Heavy rains on heights of the two governorates of Hajja and Mahweet and the resulting torrents have also caused heavy damage to internet cables connecting Yemen with the world before the maintenance teams of Yemen-Net Company were able to restore the internet service following an interruption for several hours.

Travel movement between the bor-

der city of Hardh and Hudeidah governorate have stopped after the collapse of part of the bridge of Mour valley, caused by influx of torrents that resulted from heavy rains continuing for three days consecutively. The bridge is the biggest one the Chinese built during the era of Imam Ahmed Bin Hameeduddin which links Yemen to Saudi Arabia. According to local officials in Hajja and Hudeidah, this is the first time in ten years that they have witnessed such high water levels.



Maysa Ali: Disabled but talented

# Drawing is the only thing that makes me feel the value of life

BY SALEM AL-MAJEEDI  
TAIZ BUREAU

A flower-like girl with a distinct drawing talent, rising over the barriers of her handicap to display her rare skill in the art of drawing. An onlooker stands surprised at her magnificent work, wondering how 14-year-old, Maysa Abdullah could translate her feelings and emotions into colors and shapes. With an adolescent face shining with innocence, her drawings compensate for her disability of being unable to talk, as a picture is worth a thousand words, and hers was worth a million.

We met her at her show in al-Sa'eed Cultural Foundation and communicated with her through one of her relatives.

**Q: Could you introduce yourself?**

A: My full name is Maysa Ali Abdullah No'man. I am 14 years old and am currently studying at the Special Needs Institute.

**Q: When did you start practicing portraying?**

A: This God given gift began when I was six. I used to draw spontaneous shapes to express something through

lines and colors.

**Q: When do you feel more inclined to draw? Is it when you are happy or sad?**

A: It makes no difference. There is no specific time for drawing. I can draw at any time, both sad and glad. Drawing is the only nice thing that I can't be irritated with as it makes me realise my existence and value in life.

**Egyptian environment influence:**

**Q: Your paintings show that you are very much influenced by the Egyptian environment, countryside and Egyptian rural women. What is the reason behind this tendency and why do you not derive your drawings from Yemeni environments and countrysides?**

A: That is true. This is because I spend most of my time at home watching TV and I mostly watch Egyptian serials. It is my world and the way in which I see others. I scarcely go outside because of my special condition. However, when I do get glimpses of natural scenes on the way from Taiz to Sana'a; valleys, terraces, houses lying on mountain peaks etc., I try to transform them onto paper.



Maysa Abdullah with Sheikh Abdullah Bin Husain al-Ahmar & Sheikh Ali Mohammed Sa'eed

**Q: Why don't you travel to your parent's village to see the Yemeni countryside and create drawings that depict the local surroundings?**

A: I never did that. My parents don't want me to go there because villagers still look down on people with special needs.

**Q: Do you receive support and encouragement from your family and relatives since your early trials at drawing?**

A: I was tremendously encouraged by the closest people around me, which are my parents. They opened the door of hope and love of life to me. They taught me to live without despair. All my achievements are in gratitude to them.

**Q: How did you get the idea of organizing this show and is this the first show?**

A: The idea of the show was inspired to me by Abdullah Abdu Sa'eed whom I would call my spiritual father. He helped me and boosted my talent by introducing my drawings to al-Sa'eed Cultural Foundation to take part in the exhibition. Concerning previous participations, I contributed under the Sina Girls School to an exhibition at the Cultural Center.

**Q: Why are most paintings drawn with pencil and are in black and white. Does this signify something?**

A: I used to draw with a pencil. Using color requires concentration. The drawings you mean, however, are my early attempts. There are other colored paintings.

**Q: Do you intend to refine your talent with studies and majoring in the art of drawing?**

A: Why not, with God's will. If I get support from organizations or individuals, I would embrace this idea. Study needs expenses.

**Q: Have you sold some of your works?**

A: Yes. Three of them were purchased by the Taiz Governor Mohammed Abdullah al-Hajri. Other paintings were sold by a businessman while some were sold to people I don't know.

**Q: Do you suggest prices or leave do you leave it up to the purchasers?**

A: I don't do that. People at the Foundation give each drawing a price.

**Q: What did Dr. Tariq Swaidan tell you when he visited the Exhibition and saw your drawings?**

A: I am proud of his visit to my show. He wrote the following in the

guest book: "Today, I met a rare lass. A creative young lady whom I will cite as an example for others in terms of volume, diligence and determination. I congratulate my daughter Maysa Ali Abdullah No'aman on her persisting to be creative in life and challenge disability. I ask Allah to grant her more perseverance, arts and creativity. To her goes my appreciation and prayer." Dr. Tariq Swaidan. April 27, 2005.

**Q: Do you have any last comments?**

A: I address the officials of the Ministry of Culture to take care of the creative people and support the gifted especially those with special needs. This category includes great and various capabilities. To take care of them means to recognize their value. I also appeal to journalists to replace the hurting labels such as dumb, deaf, blind etc. with the phrase "special needs."

Continued from back page

## Uganda: Child soldiers at centre of mounting humanitarian crisis

Some 40,000 "night commuters" sleep under verandas, in schools, hospital courtyards or bus parking places to evade the snare of the LRA. Since the rebellion began in the 1980s, some 30,000 children have been abducted to work as child soldiers and porters, or to serve as "wives" of rebels and bear their children. These numbers have soared, with 10,000 children abducted in the past 18 months alone.

Despite the gravity of the humanitarian situation, less than 10% of the \$130 million requested by the humanitarian community for 2004 has been received. In some areas, malnutrition rates as high as 30% have been recorded among children. Fear of rebel attacks badly hit the planting season for 2004, threatening to aggravate the already severe food shortages in the coming months. Health facilities barely function as stocks run out and health workers flee to escape LRA attacks.

Even as a peace process makes significant progress in neighbouring Sudan, the peace in Uganda is made

tenuous by these developments. The "success story" that Uganda represents in the minds of the world's economic policy makers presents a jarring contrast with the tragedy of conflict in the north and east that shows no signs of abating.

**For further information:** Mr. Christian Boatswain, Political Affairs Officer, UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) Tel: (1 212) 963-0219; E-mail: [boatswain@un.org](mailto:boatswain@un.org) Ms. Stephanie Bunker, Spokesperson (New York), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Tel: (1 917) 367-5126; E-mail: [bunker@un.org](mailto:bunker@un.org); Mr. Agostinho Zacarias, Chief, Coordination, Advocacy and Programme Development Unit UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa Tel: (1 212) 963-8435; E-mail: [zacarias@un.org](mailto:zacarias@un.org); Mr. Henrik Haggstrom, Acting Chief, Outreach Unit Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Tel: (1 212) 963-0879, E-mail: [haggstrom@un.org](mailto:haggstrom@un.org)



Maysa Abdullah with Dr. Tariq Swaidan during his visit to Taiz

# Who Is It? A story to be told - - (2/4)

BY SALWA YEHIA AL-ERYANI  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Despair is also a quite comfortable situation. I didn't bother to wait for the answer. My only desire was to find safety. Freedom, justice or even living peacefully is just useless. I felt my tears surrounding my neck like hands trying to strangle me. I didn't need any choking to let my tears run. So, I just cried loudly. It was insulting.

This drama that I found myself forced in. I don't want to stand on stage nor do I want to act in this horrible tragedy. I want to quit, go home, live safely and sleep peacefully. I really do. That night I decided to write. I concentrated in writing so much that I felt myself rowing in a boat and losing all fears.

I wrote about my self and what I felt. I compared myself and my life to an ant's. It carries its crumbs of food daily on its back to its hole. It has no other right except that. It hasn't got the right to fear that some enemy would pile sand on its hole and block it. It has no right to worry that some foot would stamp on it and smash it. It has no rights. Yet they are few who don't relate to its life. If it died one day and it obviously will, then

its death will not create any problem as all creatures die, even after starving or even after a slaughter.

Yet, hope keeps breathing in this ant's chest. I'll keep fighting and I won't hesitate. My writing was interrupted by a sound of footsteps coming up my stairs inside the house. I was paralyzed. All of a sudden and before arranging my reaction, the thief entered and stood in front of me. It was a lady. I screamed loudly.

Not only was it a lady but it was I! It was like seeing my face in the mirror. It was terrifying. I said to me "listen, don't you wait for others to give you your rights. You go and fight for them and get them yourself. Don't wait for others to supply you with what you need. You go and provide it.

Don't wait for others to appreciate what you have done just enjoy it." I was so scared I covered my face and shouted, "Go away. Go away." Then my image said, "Don't worry I am leaving. I just came to tell you these few sentences. You only live once so live it correctly." Then I didn't hear anything any more. So I opened my eyes and looked around. The "other me" had gone away.

**Who Is It?**

I ran with one slipper on and one bare

foot. I reached the house of the leader of the area in about seven minutes. I arrived out of breath and nearly falling down. My heart was beating so fast and loud. I heard it drumming in my ears, especially during that darkness and silence. I knocked the door but no one answered. I kept hitting the door with my fist and kicking it with my feet violently.

At last the door opened. I asked the guard who opened the door, to allow me to see the leader. He pointed at his watch and said "Now?" I was so short-tempered, I shouted "No, tomorrow!" He smiled an irritating smile and replied, "Well, come back tomorrow then." I put my arm to stop him from closing the door and said "Come on, Of course now. It is urgent. Please hurry."

The leader himself came down with his pajamas and looked very disturbed said "What happened? Who are you?" I replied, "I am the lady living in the house behind your house. I am a neighbor. Tonight I heard sounds and a voice around my house. I am afraid a thief was trying to enter my house. Then I recognized feet landing in my garden ground. The thief obviously has jumped over the fence. When I shouted who's there? I heard the feet

stamps run away.

I am certain that he will try again until he succeeds in entering the house. As long as the thieves have known our address they'll keep coming until they find what they are looking for. You know sir that I am living alone." The leader calmed me down "Don't panic, I will inform the police station to be ready at all times in case we call them tomorrow, Please don't be nervous and don't exaggerate." I interrupted him "No sir, oh, no no this is not enough.

I suggest that a police car makes several rounds in this area during night upon regular basis. This would, actually it should fear the thieves." He looked fed up and said shortly to end the conversation, "Fine, I'll think about it. Now go home." I did what I was ordered to do. As if I had any other solution! I felt that he was deceiving me and that he will not talk with any police. In other words he was lying. It is hilarious, so funny, to see some one lying and you have to act that you believe him.

This is what our life has taught us to do. Life has taught us to lie, deceive and act. I went home and read about three paragraphs in the novel and then fell asleep.

**The Second Night**

The next night I was confident that the thief was not as stupid as coming back tonight after what had happened last night. I boiled some milk and took the mug to drink the milk in front of the TV. I watched the news but didn't hear a word of it. I must admit that all my senses were trying to catch any sound around my house. As soon as I took a sip I definitely heard someone shaking the gate. I froze in my place.

Then I heard sounds of keys being tried on a door. How daring! Not only did he climb the fence and jump into my garden yesterday but now he's trying several keys to see which one would open the house door. Oh my God I heard one of the keys click. I put the mug aside with a shaking hand. I squeaked from my place "who is it?" No one answered. I strengthened my knees and got up to the kitchen's window that looked on the gate. I yelled "If you don't go away right now I am going to call the Police!" I remembered that addresses here in Yemen are hard to solve like puzzles. The thief might laugh as he knows that the police will spend a couple of hours to find the house. So I decided to say "The police has come to my house before so you better disappear." I heard

the footsteps run away until I couldn't hear them anymore. I took a deep breath and relaxed on the chair as my muscles had all cramped up. I then took the phone and called the leader of the area. As soon as I heard his voice I became nervous again I shouted "Sir, the thief tried to open the door today. He had already jumped over the gate yesterday. He is advancing quickly.

I am terrified. Tomorrow he might come in and watch the movie. Please sir, what arrangements have you made to assure my safety?" He answered me in a grumbling voice "I have guests in my house now for dinner. I'll see what precautionary procedures we will make for you when I discuss this problem with the dancer, oops I mean with the Police."

I interrupted "Yes, but When?" He lost his patience and screamed, "I don't know when. Listen this is not the right time." That rude creature didn't even say goodbye. I stared at the telephone receiver. I felt like I had just received a slap on the face. I burst out crying. When you have no solution that's what females do. I did that not only because I was insulted but also because I was afraid. Will this crazy leader leave me until I am robbed or killed? Oh, no, no.







# Champions Chelsea in record-breaking form

LONDON (Reuters) - Chelsea broke two Premier League records held by Manchester United when they beat them 3-1 at Old Trafford on Tuesday.

The English champions came from behind to notch their 29th league win of the season and lead the standings on 94 points from 37 games with one match to go.

United won 28 matches out of 38 in the 1999-2000 season and set the previous points record of 92 in the 1993-94 season when there were 42 matches.

Chelsea can increase to 97 the record number of points and set another modern-era mark in their 38th and last match at Newcastle United on Sunday. They have only conceded 14 goals to Liverpool's 16 in 1978-79, over 42 games.

Defeat left United in third place on 74 points, six behind Arsenal who are at home to fourth-placed Everton on Wednesday. United are in next season's Champions League but will

have to play in the third qualifying round.

Ruud van Nistelrooy opened the scoring for United in the eighth minute. Tiago equalised nine minutes later and Eidur Gudjohnsen and Joe Cole added two more for Chelsea in the last half hour.

"We knew about this record and we showed we wanted it," said Gudjohnsen, voted man of the match.

"We played tonight as though we needed the points," he added of a side the clinched the title at Bolton on April 30 with three matches to spare.

Manager Jose Mourinho said: "It was an unbelievable performance. I think we got motivation from the record. I don't like to play without real pressure."

"This victory is for John Terry, our captain, a Chelsea boy," he added. Terry is due to undergo surgery on a toe injury on Wednesday.

United took the game to Chelsea from the off and it was only a matter of time before their pressure told

with keeper Carlo Cudicini having to untidily turn Cristiano Ronaldo's low shot away for a corner.

## LOW CROSS

Television replays showed Ronaldo may have been offside when Van Nistelrooy scored. Wayne Rooney hit a low cross deep into the middle of the box from the left past Cudicini and the Dutchman tapped it home.

Chelsea were back on level terms after an equaliser that surprised Roy Carroll. The United keeper was rooted to the ground as Tiago's unexpected shot from 30 metres swerved into his top left corner off the post. It was the Portuguese midfielder's fourth league goal.

Tiago laid on Chelsea's second just past the hour with a superb through ball to Gudjohnsen who lifted over the advancing Carroll into the net from just inside the box.

Cole put the match beyond United with his side's third eight minutes from the end. The England midfield-

er, however, looked to have strayed offside when he knocked in Gudjohnsen's centre.

Late in the first half, Cole almost shocked Carroll again, his shot from Gudjohnsen's square ball skimming the same post.

Minutes earlier at the other end, Ricardo Carvalho did well with a clean tackle on Van Nistelrooy when the Dutchman ran onto a long ball out of defence and bore down on Cudicini.

Carroll was sharper seconds into the second half when he was quick to deny Cole, diving at the midfielder's feet as he ran onto a fine through ball from Gudjohnsen.

Minutes later Carroll again saved well from Cole as Chelsea continued to create chances with stinging counter-attacks.

United then evened the exchanges in an exciting see-saw play of the match and Darren Fletcher hit Cudicini's bar with a similar shot to Tiago's.

# Honda opts against fighting BAR suspension



BAR Honda driver Jensen Button takes a corner during the British Grand Prix at the Silverstone race track in Northamptonshire, central England, July 11. REUTERS

TOKYO (Reuters) - BAR's co-owners Honda said they have accepted the Formula One team's two-race suspension for breaching car weight and fuel tank rules and will not fight the decision.

"We felt the punishment was too harsh but any appeal now would only be bad for the sport," Honda spokesman Tatsuya Iida told Reuters on Tuesday.

"We had just got the car to perform to expectations so the timing of the ban is a big blow. It's very sad."

Formula One's ruling body the FIA has warned that BAR could face further sanctions unless the team accepted its punishment gracefully.

Jenson Button was stripped of his third place at last month's San Marino Grand Prix and BAR were suspended for two races, last weekend's Spanish Grand Prix and the one in Monaco on May 22.

BAR's engine suppliers Honda said they were "hurt" by FIA's accusations of cheating.

FIA appealed against the decision of stewards to take no further action over the weight of Button's car at the San Marino race and called for BAR to be banned for the rest of the season.

The ban was the harshest action taken against a Formula One team for 20 years.

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بمناسبة إرتداد مولودهم الجديد والثاني أسماها  
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أيمن رمزي سيف الزبيري  
بمناسبة إطفائه شمعة الأولى  
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# Pistons glide past Pacers, Suns dominate Mavs

TORONTO (Reuters) - Richard Hamilton scored 28 points and Ben Wallace added 21 with 15 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons eased to a 96-81 playoff win over the Indiana Pacers on Monday.

The victory enabled the defending NBA champions to draw first blood in their best-of-seven Eastern Conference semi-final series.

In the day's other game, Amare Stoudemire had a career-high 40 points while new league MVP Steve Nash chipped in with 11 points and 13 assists as the Phoenix Suns opened their Western Conference semi-final with a 127-102 home win over the Dallas Mavericks.

Back at The Palace in Auburn Hills for just the second time since last November's brawl that resulted in criminal charges and the biggest suspensions in NBA history, the Pacers

were loudly jeered by home fans but the game unfolded without incident.

Rasheed Wallace and last season's Finals MVP Chauncey Billups each contributed 11 points for the well-rested Pistons, who have had nearly a week off since eliminating the Philadelphia 76ers from the opening round in five games.

"That was tough," Detroit coach Larry Brown said.

"We had to play the way we played to win."

Jermaine O'Neal, who was suspended for 15 games for his part in the November 19 melee, led the Pacers with 22 points.

Stephen Jackson, who was hit with a 30-game ban for fighting with Detroit fans, had 15 points while Jamaal Tinsley added 13.

"They have the best starting five in the NBA," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle

said. "The score was pretty indicative of the way things went."

After falling behind early, the Pacers pulled to within seven points in the second quarter but were unable to get any closer as the Pistons turned to the tenacious defending that carried them to the last year's title.

Game Two is also in Detroit on Wednesday before the teams head to Indiana for the next two contests.

### Suns shine

Out of action since sweeping the Memphis Grizzlies in the opening round of playoff eight days ago, the Suns unleashed the NBA's most explosive attack on the overwhelmed Mavericks with all five Phoenix starters finishing in double figures.

Joe Johnson contributed 25 points to Phoenix's cause while Shawn Marion



Dallas Mavericks Dirk Nowitzki (R) drives to the basket against Phoenix Suns Shawn Marion during fourth quarter action of Game 1 of the NBA Western Conference semi-final playoff against the Phoenix Suns in Phoenix, Arizona May 9, 2005. The Suns defeated the Mavericks 127-102. Game 2 will be held on May 11 in Phoenix. Reuters

contributed 23 points and 11 rebounds.

Dirk Nowitzki had 28 points and 13 rebounds for the Mavericks, who lacked their usual intensity coming off a gruelling seven-game series against the Houston Rockets in the opening round.

Jerry Stackhouse added 14 points while Michael Finley, Jason Terry and Marquis Daniels each had 13.

The Mavericks will have a day to recover with Game Two scheduled for Wednesday in Phoenix.

The game began in party atmosphere as Nash, who moved from Dallas to the Suns in the offseason for a five-year \$65 million deal, received his MVP trophy from commissioner David Stern before the opening tip-off.

"It feels good, it caps off a difficult week with emotions and playing my former team," Nash said.

"It's nice to get it over. We had a ton of energy tonight and we're going to need it."

"We've got to be just as fired up for Game Two."

## Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

**ACROSS**

1 Screenwriter's dream  
6 Sound in body  
10 Elite police team  
14 Part of many action flicks  
15 "Potpourri for 1000, \_\_\_"  
16 Seedy place?  
17 Go great guns!  
19 You'll get credit for it  
20 Before, of yore  
21 Type of child  
22 A prayer  
24 Saratoga Springs, e.g.  
26 Kaffiyeh wearer  
27 Go great guns!  
33 Doesn't just sniffle  
36 Fiery fits  
37 Steak partner  
38 Some spread it on thick  
39 Quoted as an authority  
40 Earth mover  
41 Work of Sappho, e.g.  
42 Golf club head socket  
43 Down the hatch  
44 Go great guns!  
47 Pretentiously cultured  
48 On the up-and-up?

**DOWN**

52 Amati of violin-making fame  
55 God with a bow  
57 "\_\_\_, a deer ..."  
58 It may be half or blue  
59 Go great guns!  
62 Head start, e.g.  
63 Dash  
64 "Cheers" character  
65 It can be pressing  
66 Cocoon covering  
67 Palliates

**ACROSS**

28 Straight-laced  
29 Like some breakfast cereal  
30 Ayn Rand character  
31 Cream ingredient  
32 No longer bursting at the seams?  
33 Sound of thunder  
34 Burghoff's co-star  
35 Hebdomad  
39 Small country houses  
40 Remunerates  
42 Fire antonym  
43 Soap unit  
45 Kind of income  
46 Seniors' last dance?  
49 Gray matter output  
50 Herman's Hermit  
51 Twins share them  
52 Parishioner's word  
53 Botanical joint  
54 Chief magistrate of Venice  
55 Etc. relative  
56 Social standing  
60 "Bingo \_\_\_ Yale" (Porter tune)  
61 \_\_\_ dolorosa

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER**

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

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### "MOVE IT OR LOSE IT" by Gayle Dean

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Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation  
Support to Program Development, Oversight and Coordination (SUPDOC) YEM/ 02/004.  
Aid Harmonization & Alignment Unit

### Employment Opportunities

**1- Program Assistants (2 posts- Male & Female)**  
**2- Bilingual Secretary (1 post- Female)**

The project ( Aid Harmonization & Alignment Unit , UNDP funded ) announces the above 3 immediate vacancy posts being available at the unit in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Sana'a .

Qualifications required for the Program Assistants:

- 1- Have at least five years of relevant experience in international cooperation and development aid
- 2- Past, preferably with international agency.
- 3- Maintain inter-personal and inter-communication skills.
- 4- Maintain excellent command of verbal and written professional Arabic and English.
- 5- Commit to team work and team spirit, discipline and work in multi-cultural environment.
- 6- Have flexibility to absorb ad hoc tasks and work under pressure.
- 7- Have computer aptitude and proficiency with Internet including ability to retrieve information from various sources.

**Duties & responsibilities:**

- 1- Provide primarily assistance to the implementation of the Unit's work program dealing with donor aid harmonization and alignment and donor relations and aid policy including some specialized support, I.E. database management, editorial support, etc.
- 2- Independently prepare correspondence and working documents and proofread materials using proper grammar, punctuation and style in Arabic and English.
- 3- Use computer applications for processing and formatting variety of texts including charts, graphs and spreadsheets.
- 4- Coordinate schedules and assist in preparation of events and activities.
- 5- Interact with different clients including government officials, external organizations and internal institutional units.

Qualifications required for the Bilingual Secretary:

- 1- University certificate and secretarial diploma in related field
- 2- Excellent working knowledge of English and Arabic
- 3- Competent in using computer and relevant supporting software
- 4- At least 3 years experience in handling administrative works
- 5- Creativity, enthusiasm, a friendly personality, and ability to work under pressure will be valued characteristics.

**Duties & responsibilities:**

- 1- All administrative assistant tasks needed for more efficient management by the unit team
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- 3- Experience in operating and keeping office and telecommunications equipments
- 4- Co-ordination of management work of the unit team
- 5- Assistance in liaison with Government, NGOs and international organizations and projects.
- 6- Assist in translating (A/E).
- 7- Any other duties assigned from the head of unit and the on text of secretarial and unit management.

Interested applicants should submit their applications specifying the post accompanied by the CV and supporting documentations and certificates within two weeks from the date of this advertisement to the following address:

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3. Get rid of (9) E
4. Increase (3) A
5. Largest mammal on earth (5) W
6. Eye specialist (8) O
7. Story (4) T

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- 1.nod
- 2.knot
- 3.score
- 4.wrong
- 5.examine
- 6.apple
- 7.insect

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## Uganda: Child soldiers at centre of mounting humanitarian crisis

**"Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About"**

In 2004, the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) launched an initiative called "Ten Stories the World Should Hear More About" to draw attention to important international developments and issues that fall outside the media spotlight. The list includes stories on an array of issues and from several geographical regions. Some of the stories on the list focus on troubling humanitarian emergencies and conflict situations, but they also highlight such vital areas as human rights, health and development. Every issue, we will bring a new story to you, hoping that our little effort to advocate for human rights all over the world would make a difference, some how, some way... **The editor**

With an armed rebellion threatening to undermine Uganda's progress to economic development, child soldiers emerge as central figures amid deadly violence and growing humanitarian emergency. The bustling capital city of Kampala, located in the south, exemplifies Uganda's transformation from a country plagued by economic decay to prosperity. With a revitalized GDP growth of more than 8% over the past three years, Uganda comes across as a compelling story of hope for other African nations. However, an armed insurgency in northern and eastern Uganda has created one

younger than their victims. The most disturbing aspect of this humanitarian crisis is the fact that this is a war fought by children on children - minors make up almost 90% of the LRA's soldiers. Some recruits are as young as eight and are inducted through raids on villages. They are brutalized and forced to commit atrocities on fellow abductees and even siblings. Those who attempt to escape are killed. For those living in a state of constant fear, violence becomes a way of life and the psychological trauma is incalculable. Fearing abduction, streams of children, often with mothers in tow, leave their homes every night and walk for hours from surrounding villages to reach the relative safety of major towns, only to trek their way home in the first light.

Continued on page 11.



of Africa's largest displaced populations. The 18-year old rebellion of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) against the government has forced over 1.6 million Ugandans - half of them children - to flee to squalid and overcrowded camps in order to escape wanton attacks and killings. The number of internally displaced persons has almost tripled since 2002. Attacks on soft civilian targets continue, carried out by child soldiers much

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