





Continued from page 1

## Al- Houthi seeks US intervention

Al-Houthi also says we have not formed an independent organization or political party with a definite title but rather citizens reconciled with all people, whether in authority or not, adding that his brother Hussein al-Houthi was embracing an ideology, leading a cultural movement and that he was not after toppling the ruling regime as well as not having any ambitions in power.

Mr Yahya al-Houthi had said in earlier press statements that he had not asked from the Swedish government to be granted political asylum and that he would go back to Yemen after ending his tour and his medical checking. He confirmed he would inevitably return to his country and was not afraid of being arrested at Sana'a airport.

Yahya al-Houthi, 45, is the brother of Hussein al-Houthi, leader of the "Believing Youth" organization, who was killed on 10 September 2004 in the first military confrontations between government troops and his followers in mountainous regions in north Yemen. He says the solution of the problem that the Yemeni government calls the "armed insurgency" is in the hand of president Ali Abdullah Saleh alone, asking him to put an end to the killing and arrests among the citizens in the area. Al-Houthi says "We appeal the president to have mercy on

us and to be merciful with my elderly ailing father Badrudin al-Houthi, 86 years old." MP Yahya says he does not have any telephone contacts with his father but he was assured about him because his father is under the care of one of his brothers. He added that the government forces had killed four of his thirteen brothers, three of them were in Yemeni prisons and others were at large.

On the other hand, sheikh Badruddin al-Houthi and his followers have termed six conditions to accept the initiative made by President Ali Abdullah Saleh for granting them pardon, whereas judge Hamopud al-Hattar said the pardon did not include those who had fought the government forces. According to a presidential source the sheikh al-Houthi and his followers demanded an unconditional amnesty including reparations to the inhabitants of the area during the war, reconstruction of the places destroyed during battles and evacuation of army troops from their area. Al-Houthin also set as condition the recognition of the freedom of thought, ideology and that of reviving religious occasions as well as the release of all detainees, provided that acceptance of those conditions are announced on television and official press.

## US lawyers talk to families of al-Qaeda suspects

Two US defense lawyers have arrived in Yemen to talk to the parents of 13 Yemeni al-Qaeda suspects detained in the US military base in Guantanamo bay. The lawyers have been on a tour in a number of villages and talked to government officials in an effort to collect evidence and information to support their clients' case. Sources said the two, David Raymiz [sp.] and Mark Falkouf [sp.], have been to Aden, Taiz, Ibb and Dhamar and talked to the families of the suspects and are trying to meet with the ministers of interior and foreign affairs as well as the attorney general. The lawyers scheduled a press conference on Friday night but was cancelled for unknown reasons amid speculation they were unable to meet with any government official.

## Yemen denies Israeli allegations

Yemen denied the Israeli allegations by an Israeli official that arms were smuggled to the Palestinian occupied lands from Yemen, an official source said on Thursday.

In remarks to Saba, the source said, "We are expecting such Israeli allegations that are unbelievable. We are used to hear from the Israeli officials allegations against Yemen due to its clear stance for the Palestinians' rights according to the international legitimacy".

### Neck and head cancer cases on the rise

According to IINA, a source at Yemen's National Trauma Center has revealed that there is widespread cancer of the head and neck, something that is strange to the country. An official said this kind of cancer and its spread have not been expected, and warned that most cancer cases come to the center when it is already at an advanced stage and not capable of responding to treatment. He said every year there are between 16,000 and 18,000 cancer cases reported in the country, and some drastic action has to be taken to offset the menace, adding that a new cancer center ought to be added to the Republic Hospital, in Sana'a, in order to meet the increasing demand.

## Opposition condemns govt 'bullying' of al-Haq, PUF parties

The Opposition United Front issued a statement Tuesday declaring support for al-Haq and the Popular Unionist Forces (PUF) parties against the regime's bullying and accusations. The statement said: "Authorities allegations against al-Haq and PUF are baseless and a stark violation of the constitution and laws." The statement condemned the use of the military to serve an individual or party

calling for "an impartial investigation to what happened in Sadaa," and stressing the need to seek "peaceful alternatives for reform." The opposition also denounced the occupation of the head office of the PUF, computer 'looting', and detention of the party's official Rashad Ali Salem and criticized the forming of "any militias and any breach of the constitution."

## Six million polio vaccines arrive in Yemen

Six million doses of polio vaccines procured by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will arrive in Sana'a on Friday morning, 20/05/05 for use in the second phase of the nationwide National Immunization Days scheduled to start from May 30 to immunise all of the country's children under the age of five years. The forthcoming round of NIDs has assumed special urgency in view of the reported polio cases. As part of the efforts to accelerate vaccination of children against polio, UNICEF has firmed up a comprehensive programme of social mobilization in conjunction with the National Health Education centre. The focus of the social mobilization campaign is on mobilization of media support and active involvement of schools, mosques, local councils, community leaders and artists to get the message across to the largest audience.

Outbreak control response put together by Ministry of Health in collaboration with partners includes special campaigns are being launched on media and also community based mobilization to counter the major setback being faced by Yemen after more than four years of "no polio cases" that threatens the hopes to eradicate polio. Yemen is the most recent of the 15 polio-free countries that have reported cases of polio. UNICEF Representative in Yemen, Mr. Ramesh Shrestha said the best way to protect

children from the lurking threat of polio is to increase the polio coverage and urged parents to bring their children for vaccination to save them from the crippling disease. Immunization has saved more than 20 million children lives over the last two decades. Although last year vaccination saved the lives of two and a half million children, almost two million died because they were not vaccinated. Vaccine-preventable diseases cause an estimated 2 million deaths or more each year, of which approximately 1.5 million deaths occur among children under five.

### 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 the state serious about the political reform to ensure the sustainability of the unity in the true sense?

- Yes  
- It is trying but lacks expertise  
- No

#### last edition's question:

Yemen Unity came in association with political pluralism and freedom of expression. Has it succeeded in that?

No 78.1%  
Yes 21.8%

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## INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM VACANCIES

An international organization implementing an agricultural development program in Yemen has an immediate vacancy for the following short-term position with the possibility of a follow-on, longer-term assignment.

- Horticulture Specialist**  
Develop detailed implementation plan for program to improve production, harvesting and marketing of targeted crops.

Additional short and long-term vacancies are anticipated during the coming year for the following positions:

- Livestock Specialist**  
Develop programs to improve the delivery of livestock health care services, forage, nutrition, breeding and marketing.
- Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist**  
Develop and implement monitoring and evaluation of program activities, including activities that impact women.
- Training/Workshop Specialist**  
Plan, coordinate and facilitate workshops and training programs.
- Restructuring Specialist**  
Develop programs to improve organizational management, including planning, budgeting and evaluation.
- Extension Specialist**  
Develop programs to assist in improving agricultural extension services.

#### Qualifications

- Minimum five year's work experience in relevant field; ten years preferred.
- Previous relevant experience in international donor-funded projects.
- University degree in agriculture or related field required; master's degree preferred.
- Previous experience supervising staff; ability to travel throughout Yemen as required.
- Fluent spoken and written Arabic and English; Yemeni citizenship/residency required.
- Excellent computer skills, including Excel, Word and email.
- Applications by women are encouraged.

Interested and qualified individuals who meet above requirements should submit their CVs with a cover letter in English via fax to (Sana'a) 304-121, or to PO Box 22522, or via email to [yemenagriculture-recruitment@yahoo.com](mailto:yemenagriculture-recruitment@yahoo.com). Submission by email is preferred.



## مسابقة "أجمل صورة" أسماء الثلاثة الأوائل

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ومؤسسة الحارثي التجارية وشركة

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### Republic of Yemen Ministry of Public Health and Population Health Reform Support Project Credit 3625 Credit Administration Unit Announcing Vacancy for the Post of Credit Administrator

The World Bank financed Health Reform Support Project (HRSP) seeks applicants for the position of **Credit Administrator** at the Credit Administration Unit (CAU). The **Credit Administrator** will report and be accountable to the Minister of Public Health and Population or his designated representative as head of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), and will work closely with other staff of the CAU, relevant departments of the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP), Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, and the Ministry of Finance.

#### The Credit Administrator will be responsible for the following:

- General administration of the project:**
  - Coordinate and manage the implementation of the HRSP, administer the CAU and be the liaison with all stakeholders.
  - Coordinate the work of the CAU in the areas of procurement, finance, and supervision of project activities.
  - Make day to day decisions to ensure that the project implementation plan is executed on schedule in order to achieve the project development objectives.
  - Ensure that consultants and auditors are appointed on time.
  - Act as a **secretary general** to the PSC.
- Planning and implementation:**  
Assist the MOPHP general departmental and programme directors responsible for implementation of the project in developing project implementation plans, and communicate this to all levels of project management. The Credit Administrator will also provide administrative support for the effective implementation of such plans in a timely manner.
- Monitoring and evaluation and Performance review:**  
Collaborate with MOPHP general departmental and programme directors responsible for implementation of the project to monitor performance and outcome indicators and standards against which to measure performance.
- Reporting:**  
Coordinate the preparation, analysis, and interpretation of results concerning the financial, procurement, and physical progress of project activities, to support effective day-to-day decision making, planning, and reporting to the PSC and for meetings involving MOPHP general departmental and programme directors responsible for implementation of the project and other relevant parties.
- Personnel management:**  
Manage and coordinate the work of the CAU personnel and evaluate their performance on a regular basis to ensure that their tasks and actions are in line with the plan and their terms of reference.
- Act as the liaison with various government committees/organizations and other stakeholders with regard to the project's implementation.
- Prepare for and work closely with World Bank supervision missions which take place about twice a year.
- Any other tasks as deemed necessary for efficient administration of the Credit.

#### Qualifications:

- A minimum of ten years of public or private sector managerial experience.
- A minimum of a Master's degree in management/business administration, public health, health policy, planning and finance, or a related field, with a solid knowledge of financial management and procurement.
- The ability to think strategically, translate ideas into plans and actions and supervise their implementation.
- Proficiency in speaking and writing in Arabic and English.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills.
- Proficiency with computers and all office software applications.
- Familiarity with the government and World Bank financial and accounting procedures.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by **4th June 2005**. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Credit Administration Unit  
Health Reform Support Project  
4th Floor- Ministry of Public Health and Population  
P.O. Box 1330 – Al-Hasabah – Sanaa - Republic of Yemen  
Tel: +967(1) 252224 - Fax: +967(1) 251622 Email: [hrrp@y.net.ye](mailto:hrrp@y.net.ye)



## Quantities of drugs and hashish seized in Marib

Marib, May 18- 1600 kg of drugs and hashish valued at YR 5 million were seized and burnt last Wednesday in Wadi Abida, 20 km to the east of the city of Marib. Such quantities of drugs and hashish were seized by citizens, with many farmers involved in the plantation of hashish after taking lands on lease and planting them with hashish without the knowledge of their owners. The process of burning the seized quan-

tities of drugs and hashish took place in the presence of Marib Governor and General Director of Police Department, Brigadier Abdunnaser al-Qawsi who pointed out that it is the first time to see such a shocking fact in the governorate of Marib.

Locals in Wadi Abida attributed the proliferation of hashish plantation to the existence of Somalis who illegally infiltrate into the governorate.

## Yemen's 2004 crude output fell to 430,000 b/d

Yemen's average crude oil output last year stood at 430,000 b/d, down about 18,000 b/d from 2003, the director of the country's Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority, Nabil Saleh al-Qusi, said in a report Friday by the daily pan-Arab newspaper al-Hayat. This is slightly higher than PEPA's previous first half 2004 average 400,000-420,000 b/d, but still below the 2003 output figure of 448,288 b/d/d. The country's oil ministry in a recent report put crude reserves at

5.7-bil bbl, al-Hayat reported. This is an increase from the previous estimate of 4-mil bbl. The country has opened up its oil and gas sector to further exploration by multinational corporations to stem the drop in output. PEPA also aims to increase natural gas output in blocks under exploration. Qusi also said that significant crude output is expected from Block 34 in central Yemen by the end of June. Block 10 production is expected at 34,000 b/d, al-Hayat reported.

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*For requirements and responsibilities of these vacancies, please refer to the issues numbers 842-843 dated on 16/5/2005, 19/5/2005*

Qualified candidate should e-mail their CV to Yemen\_office@126.com no later than 16th June 2005 .Please Specify the position you applied for. Only Those candidates meeting requirements shall apply, and acknowledge will be sent to those short listed candidates meeting requirements.

**For Further Information, please call 73248066**

## Housing development to be built in Aden

ADEN-YT- An agreement was signed last week by Head of the Aden University's Housing Association, the Yemen-Gulf Company represented by Sheikh Abdulaziz Al Thani, Chairman of the company and the Watani Bank for Trade and Investment, as an intermediary between Aden University and the company.

Under the agreement, a housing development will be built for employees at the association with a total cost of \$14 million.

## YR 29-billion projects licensed

The number of investment projects licensed by the General Investment Authority (GIA) in Yemen reaches 84 in various sectors such as industry, services, tourism, agriculture, and fishery at a total cost of YR 29.4 billion.

A report released by the GIA showed that number of projects licensed by GIA Head-Office number 48 at a cost of YR 6.5 billion. However, the projects licensed by GIA provincial offices in Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Taiz, Hadhramout and Hodeidah mount to 36 at a cost of YR 13.8 billion.

The report expected that the projects would create about 2171 job opportunities. The Capital City snatched 47 projects while Hadhramout, Taiz and Hodeidah received 10 projects each with 7 projects going to Aden.

With a three year construction period, the cost will be paid by employees in installment for seven years.

Dr. Abdurrahman Jabri Chairman of the Association said that 220 members will profit from the project, which is expected to tackle many problems facing employees since it will provide shelters for their families.

He confirmed such an important project is due to be completed after it has been awaited for a long time since the establishment of the association in 1990.

The projects cover foodstuffs, leather, chemicals, construction, plastics, agriculture, fishery and tourism.

The service sector was in the lead in terms of capital with 23 projects at a cost of YR 11 billion, with the industrial projects at a cost of YR 7.2 billion. However, tourism, is still disadvantaged although it has a great potential to multiply its revenues.

Tourism agents attribute the low level of tourism projects to feeble infrastructure. Hotel services, they say, require specific conditions to ensure the financial stability of investors.

A Saudi businessmen team has recently visited Sana'a to reach understanding concerning how to promote investment and commercial partnership between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

## Tremendous Australian investments in Yemen

Ibrahim al-Hetwar, General Manager of Space Energy Enterprises Ltd, confirmed the visit paid by a team of Australian experts, who work for Space Energy Enterprises Ltd, which is part of Gerham Hunt Company, to Yemen during the last few days was of great importance.

He pointed out the visit as a successful one, and the delegation met with a number of Yemeni officials and ministers to discuss the projects the company desires to implement in Yemen, particularly on the Yemeni islands.

The projects include water desalination, solar energy and tourist investments on Yemen islands.

Al-Hetwar further stressed that the Australian delegation was warmly hailed by different investment parties in Yemen and that the International Space Energy Ltd will implement the project of a tourist tower in Sana'a to be a distinctive sight in the capital of Yemen.

He added the Australian team extended official invitations to Yemen's Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal and a number of senior government officials to visit Australia during the second half of 2005 to hold discussions with the aim to open new horizons of enhancing ties of economic and tourist cooperation between Yemen and Australia.

The General Manager of Space Energy Enterprises Ltd indicated the Australian team visited a number of Yemeni islands including Kamaran,



Ibrahim al-Hetwar

Maidi, Mayon and Socotra to conduct executive studies on the infrastructure the Yemeni islands need to accommodate the tourist projects to be implemented soon.

It is worth mentioning the delegation met with a

number of Yemeni businessmen at the Sana'a Chamber of Trade and Industry and both sides discussed means of cooperation between the two countries in the future.

Space Energy Enterprises is considered one of the biggest international companies in the implementation of great tourist projects and the development of islands all across the world. The company is famous for constructing projects of water desalination and building railways.

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**(2) Academic Background:** Applicants must have graduated from a school equivalent to the senior high school in Japan and have completed at least eleven year regular school education.

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- (3) Students who complete advanced courses and satisfy the criteria established by the National Institution for Academic Degrees can apply to the Institution for a bachelor's degree in engineering.

**Application Forms are available at the reception desk of the Japanese Embassy. Application should be submitted to the Embassy not later than June 8, 2005.**

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## Regional Awareness Program on Health Care Waste in MENA

BY AMAL MOHAMMED AL ARIQI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In the last few years there has been growing controversy over the incineration of health-care waste. Under some circumstances, including when wastes are incinerated at low temperatures or when plastics that contain polyvinyl chloride (PVC) are incinerated, dioxins and furans and other toxic air pollutants may be produced as emissions and/or in bottom or fly ash (ash that is carried by air and exhaust gases up the incinerator stack). Exposure to dioxins, furans and coplanar PCBs may lead to adverse health effects.

Medical waste is often described as any solid waste that is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in the production or testing of biologicals. Some examples of medical or health care waste are: blood-soaked bandages, discarded surgical gloves - after surgery, discarded surgical instruments, used needles, removed body organs - tonsils, appendices, limbs, etc.

In Yemen, and most of the other developing countries not much attention given to medical and health care waste management. This fact leads to transmitting infectious diseases such as hepatitis B and C and HIV between the public, besides the risk of infecting the medical staff and garbage collectors.

In this context, a Regional Awareness Program on Health Care Waste Management for North Africa and Middle East was held in Sana'a on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of May. The program was sponsored by the World Bank and World Health Organization WHO and organized by Sadat International, INC, SII with assistance of Health in Interaction organization.

The main objectives of this program, according to Safia Al-Arini extended term health consultant in WB is to raise awareness among decision makers and related partners (medical staff) about the importance of medical waste management, and to address the current situation of medical waste and come out with recommendations and solutions for the future.

The participants belonged to different sectors and bodies such as ministry of health, environmental protection agency EAP, doctors, directors of hospitals, and representatives of environmental

organizations.

In spite of the fact that some incinerators specified for medical waste disposal exist, neither public nor private hospitals use any of those incinerators. Medical waste is mixed with other waste. This risk exposes the street cleaners, garbage collectors and even normal people to many dangers and environmental disasters in the future.

Dr. Nsiaf, of the Ministry of Health said that such incinerations are not used because there are no trainings or qualified people who can deal with such equipments. He added that many directors in hospitals ignore the importance of organizing a management system that manages the process of disposing of medical waste.

Eng. Ali Al-Dobhani, director of Toxic and Hazardous Waste in EPA, referred to the importance of returning to Basel strategy that explains how to manage and control the hazardous waste including the medical waste. This strategy could form as basis for any future action plan.

There was reference to the studies carried out by Social Fund for Development in this field. Besides that, the Social Fund works independently, i.e. without referring to the Ministry of Health or EPA, to construct an incineration for medical waste for some medical centers.

It was clear that there is no cooperation or coordination between the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Water and Environment in this regard. For example, the Ministry of Water and Environment has a Basel strategy but cannot apply it, while the Ministry of Health doesn't have even considered evaluating the situation, yet both ministries realize the risks of medical waste.

According to the presentations of Professor Lahbib Chibani, vice-presidents of SII, and Mr. Raki Zghondi, representative of WHO, the management of medical waste could be carried out in a developing country like Yemen through utilizing minimum resources and mechanisms available in health centers. Referring to the illustrations and examples of other countries' experiences, queries of the participants could be answered and useful information could be obtained to help the medical staff manage



Dr. Chibani



Mr. Raki Zghondi

and process medical waste disposal.

Forming a National Committee consists of the concerned sectors (EAP, Ministry of health, local authorities ...etc) and appointed the council of ministers, was strongly recommended. The committee's tasks will be issuing legislations and supervising medical waste management.

The participants emphasized the importance of training the medical staff including doctors, nurses, and health care cleaners to use the minimum standard means and techniques in managing medical waste. The recommendations, according to Mr. R. Zghondi, will be taking in consideration and be forwarded to the concerned authorities.

Ms. Safia Al-Arini stressed on the importance of defining the responsibilities and the roles of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Water and Environment saying that "WB supports and will continue to support this cause as long as there are responsible partners who sponsor the issue".

Dr. L. Chibani said, "I am very happy to see that the participants from Yemen were really ready for discussion. Our aim was to open a discussion for them and come out with suggestions for an action plan".

Worth mentioning that the workshop was organized very well by the Interaction in Development organization, represented by Mr. Khalid Al-Dabia who said to the Yemen Times: "Yemen undergoes a serious problem in medical waste management. There is no awareness of the consequences and risks of ignoring the medical waste, whether inside or outside the health centers. Therefore it was important to organize such workshops in Yemen like other developed countries".

At the end of the workshop, the participants insisted on the urgency of applying the recommendations in reality and to take action as soon as possible.

**Thamar University**  
*Represented by its president Dr. Ahmad al-Hadrani*  
*Vice rector, all academic staff and employees*  
*presents its heartfelt wishes and congratulations to H. E.*  
**Ali Abdullah Saleh**  
*and the Yemeni People*  
**On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of 22nd May**  
**the Unification Day of Yemen.... Many Happy Returns**

**جامعة ذمار**  
في الثاني والعشرين من مايو صنع شعبنا اليمني بخادم الحضاري والديمقراطي  
وبقيادة المؤسسة الوطنية العظيمة، نقدم بخالص التهاني والتمنيات لفضيلة القائد الزعيم  
**الأخ/ علي عبدالله صالح**  
والى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني.  
متمنين لبلدنا وشعبنا المزيد من التقدم والازدهار في ظل قيادته الحكيمة  
**المهنتون : د/ أحمد الحضرائي - رئيس جامعة ذمار**  
**ونوابه والأمانة العامة وجميع منتسبي الجامعة**  
وكل عام والجميع بخير...

# calibers



# US first lady appeals for women's rights in Mideast

DEAD SEA, Jordan, May 21 (Reuters) - U.S. first lady Laura Bush called for greater rights for women in the Middle East on Saturday and said the United States respected all faiths during a tour to counter anti-American sentiment in the region.

One of the White House's more popular envoys to the outside world, the first lady had started her solo diplomatic mission on Friday by talking frankly about America's serious image problems here, singling out abuses at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

At the World Economic Forum on Saturday, Laura Bush stuck more closely to the administration's message of hope, citing elections in Afghanistan and Iraq, a newly-elected president for Palestinians, and women being given voting rights in Kuwait.

"Women who have not yet won these rights are watching," the first lady told a conference room on the shore of the Dead Sea.

"Freedom, especially freedom for women, is more than the absence of oppression," she said.

"It's the right to speak and vote and worship freely. Human rights requires the rights of women."

She did not name Saudi Arabia — one of the few countries in the world that bars women from voting or standing in elections.

This time, she also did not mention revelations about detainee abuses in Afghanistan or Iraq, or the violent backlash over a retracted magazine report that the Koran was desecrated by U.S.



United States first lady Laura Bush (L) speaks with King Abdullah of Jordan at the World Economic Forum at the Dead Sea in Jordan May 2. Mrs. Bush's spoke at the forum as part of her five-day trip to Israel, Jordan and Egypt. REUTERS

interrogators.

Instead she said: "In the United States, we respect the traditions of all faiths."

Against the backdrop of the Dead Sea's stark, tree-less landscape, she declared to the room, which was far from full: "Now we're seeing a spring-time of hope across the Middle East."

A day earlier, at the same conference, Deputy U.S. Secretary of State Robert Zoellick used similar language, saying that for some it was "a welcome Arab Spring".

To demonstrate America's religious tolerance, the first lady said she would visit Muslim, Jewish and Christian holy

sites.

One of those sites was Jordan's Mount Nebo, where Moses, having led the Israelites out of Egypt, is believed to have first viewed the promised land across the Jordan River.

The first lady leaves Jordan on Sunday for Jerusalem and Jericho in the West Bank to urge Israelis and Palestinians to follow the U.S.-backed

"road map" peace plan.

She has said of the faltering peace process that "for every step forward ... we have, you know, one step back."

She will then travel to Egypt, after mixing praise with gentle prodding on her way to the region by saying Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak should set an example to the Middle East with fair elections.

## Rights groups hail UN report on Swedish expulsions

STOCKHOLM, May 21 (Reuters) - Rights groups hailed on Saturday a U.N. human rights body's criticism of Sweden for allowing the extradition of an Egyptian Islamist, even though he was at real risk of torture.

The U.N. Committee against Torture, ruling on the case of Ahmed Hussein Agiza, said late on Friday that actions in the fight against terrorism had to conform to international law.

Sweden should also have known Egypt tortured detainees, particularly those held for political and security reasons, it added. He was expelled to Egypt in late 2001.

"It (the U.N. criticism) is an extremely important decision and we are quite happy," said Madeleine Seidlitz, refugee coordinator at the Swedish branch of international rights group Amnesty.

"The hope for us now is that the committee has stressed the principle of not expelling a person to a country where there is a risk of torture," she told Reuters.

"Sweden is a country which is generally very quick when talking about support for the U.N. and to criticise countries when they are not respecting human rights," she said. "There are several reasons why it is very embarrassing."

Swedish Migration Minister Barbro Holmberg told public radio

that the government would study the decision to see how it could guide Sweden's actions in the future.

The U.N. committee, made up of 10 independent experts, gave Sweden 90 days to inform it of the steps it had taken to respond to its remarks. Sweden was also under an obligation to prevent similar violations in the future, it added.

The ruling meant governments could not use the justification of the war on terror to expel people to countries where they were in danger of torture, said Anna Wigenmark of the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

"If there was any question about how to look at this question then now it should be much clearer," she told Reuters.

The case of Agiza and another man expelled to Egypt in December 2001, Mohamed Al Zery, has provoked controversy in Sweden as the Swedish Security Police handed over the two men to U.S. security officers at a Stockholm airport.

The ombudsman said the two men were treated in an inhuman manner, having their clothes cut off, being dressed in overalls and having their hands and feet fettered.

It said the Swedish Security Police should have stopped the expulsion proceedings and that some of the measures taken were against Swedish law.

## Palestinians win deal with gunmen to save truce

Gaza, May 21 (Reuters) - Palestinian leaders have won a deal with militants to halt mortar fire at Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and rescue a fragile three-month-old truce with Israel, a Palestinian Authority official said on Saturday.

The agreement was intended to curtail violence that had threatened to end the shaky truce and overshadow Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's planned meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush in Washington on Thursday.

A Palestinian official told Reuters that "factions including Hamas have agreed to stop rocket attacks," after Palestinian Interior Minister Nasser Youssef asked them in talks that started on Friday in the Gaza Strip.

The talks aimed to help preserve the truce called by Israeli and Palestinian leaders in Egypt in February.

Palestinian militants had fired rounds of mortar bombs and rockets at Gush Katif settlements in Gaza hurting one Israeli after Israel killed a militant under disputed circumstances on Wednesday.

Israel has since killed two more Gaza gunmen, including one who opened fire on the Kfar Darom settlement on Friday, and had threatened further retaliation to quieten the area before a planned Gaza pullout in mid-August.

"While we condemn the Israeli attacks on our territories, we believe no one should provide the Israelis with a pretext to continue and escalate these attacks," the Palestinian official said of Youssef's deal with the militants.

Youssef also ordered Palestinian security forces to fan out in southern Gaza's Khan Younis area to prevent further violence, the official said.

Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman, said the group was committed to the ceasefire but that "resistance operations will come in reaction" to Israeli violence.

Hamas, a group sworn to Israel's destruction, had earlier said it was

avenging the death of fighters in Gaza this week.

### ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS DISPUTE SUMMIT PLANS

Despite the eased tensions in Gaza, a fresh diplomatic dispute erupted Saturday between Israelis and Palestinians over efforts to arrange a new summit between Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Abbas told reporters in Egypt after a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak: "I will meet Ariel Sharon on June 7," for the first time since both met on Feb. 8 in Egypt to declare an end to four and a half years of bloodshed.

Spokesmen for Sharon denied any meeting had been set, angering Palestinian officials who had hoped a summit could further boost the ceasefire and Middle East peace efforts.

"The prime minister's bureau is interested in setting up such a meeting but no such meeting has been set for that date or any other date," David Baker, an official in Sharon's office, said.

"Sharon's office called to request a summit ... if Sharon's office wants another date, they should call us back," a senior Palestinian official travelling with Abbas told Reuters.

"Meeting Sharon is not Abu Mazen's (Abbas's) life dream, but he will not object to such a meeting to pave the way for the resumption of the peace process and implementation of the road map," said Jibril al-Rajoub, a senior security adviser to Abbas.

Palestinians want to resume delayed peace talks over a U.S.-backed road map peace plan that calls for Palestinian statehood in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, lands that Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East War.

Israel says peace talks can resume only after Abbas dismantles militant groups. Abbas prefers dialogue to confrontation with these factions to avoid civil strife.



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صنعاء : المعرض شارع الزبيدي - أمام السفارة الصينية

تلفون : ٤٩٨١٧١ - ٤٩٨١٧٠ فاكس ٤٩٨١٧٢ البريد الإلكتروني infotech@y.net.ye

ذمار : المعرض شارع تعز جوار صيدلية مياس تلفون : ٠٦-٥٠٣٦٠٣

اب : المعرض شارع العدين أمام فندق حضرموت تلفون : ٤-٤٠٦٨٢٢

تعز : المعرض الكمب جوار مطابع راوبي تلفون : ٤-٢٢٣٠٢٠

الحديدة : المعرض شارع صنعاء تلفون : ٠٣-٢٢٣٦٦٦





# Afghan president 'shocked' by U.S. abuse report

KABUL, May 21 (Reuters) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai said on Saturday he was shocked by a U.S. army report on abuse of detainees in Afghanistan, saying his government wanted custody of all Afghan prisoners and control over U.S. military operations.

The abuse described in the report, including details of the deaths of two inmates at an Afghan detention centre, happened in 2002 and emerged from a nearly 2,000-page file of U.S. army investigators, the New York Times reported on Friday.

"It has shocked me thoroughly and we condemn it," Karzai told a news conference. "We want the U.S. government to take very, very strong action, to take away people like that."

Karzai, a staunch ally in the U.S.-led war against terrorism, is due to leave on a U.S. trip later on Saturday. He will meet President George W. Bush for talks next week.

Karzai wants to forge a broad long-term partnership with his most important ally but he would also reiterate a request for the return of Afghan prisoners and control over U.S. military operations.

The United States commands a foreign force in Afghanistan of about 18,300, most of them American, fighting

Taliban insurgents and hunting militant leaders, including Osama bin Laden.

Many Afghans have criticised U.S. troops for what are seen as heavy-handed tactics, such as breaking into people's homes in the middle of the night in their search for militants.

Growing resentment of U.S. forces was partly behind violent anti-American protests last week, analysts said.

The protests were sparked by a report U.S. army interrogators had desecrated the Koran. Sixteen people were killed and many wounded in violence in several Afghan cities.

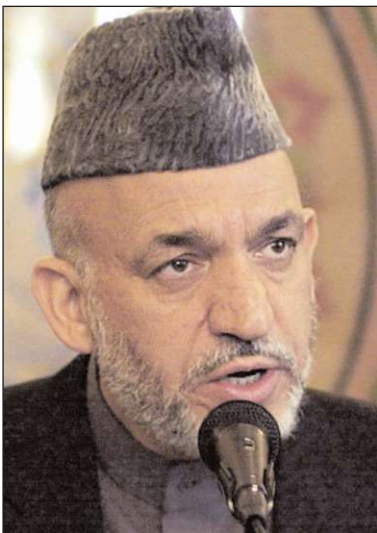
That report by Newsweek was later retracted, but the International Committee of the Red Cross subsequently said it had told the Pentagon of allegations U.S. personnel had mishandled the Koran.

Karzai said searches should be carried out in cooperation with Afghan forces.

"No operations inside Afghanistan should take place without the consultation of the Afghan government," he said.

"They should not go to our people's homes any more without the knowledge of the Afghan government ... If they want any person suspected in a house, they should let us know and the Afghan government would arrange that."

Karzai said he would also ask for "the return of prisoners to Afghanistan, all of



**Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai speaks during a news conference at the Presidential Palace in Kabul 21 May. REUTERS**

The United States is holding more than 500 prisoners from its war on terrorism at the Guantanamo Bay naval base on Cuba. Many of them were detained in Afghanistan after U.S.-led troops overthrew the Taliban government in late 2001.

U.S. forces are also believed to be

holding several hundred Afghans in Afghanistan.

## CRIMINAL CHARGES

The U.S. army report centers on the death of a 22-year-old taxi driver known only as Dilawar and that of another detainee, Habibullah, who died at the U.S. base at Bagram, north of Kabul, six days earlier in December 2002.

According to the report, Dilawar was chained by his wrists to the top of his cell for several days before he died and his legs had been pummeled by guards.

"The file depicts young, poorly trained soldiers in repeated incidents of abuse. The harsh treatment, which has resulted in criminal charges against seven soldiers, went well beyond the two deaths," the New York Times said.

In sworn statements to army investigators, soldiers described mistreatment ranging from a female interrogator stepping on a detainee's neck and kicking another in the genitals to a shackled prisoner being made to kiss the boots of interrogators, according to the newspaper.

U.S. officials have characterised incidents of prisoner abuse at Bagram in 2002 as isolated problems that were thoroughly investigated, the newspaper said.

Two army interrogators have been reprimanded and seven soldiers have been charged, the newspaper said.

# Nepal warns parties against anti-king slogans

KATHMANDU, May 21 (Reuters) - Nepal's royalist government told political parties on Saturday it would not tolerate public criticism of King Gyanendra during pro-democracy protests.

Seven political parties plan street protests on Sunday against the 57-year-old monarch, who fired the government on Feb 1, seized power, jailed politicians and suspended civil liberties under the emergency rule.

"Nobody should resort to activities like shouting objectionable slogans, damaging private and public property in the course of organising demonstrations," the interior ministry said in a statement.

It said the government would take legal action against people who violate the law.

Gyanendra seized power saying the government had failed to quell an anti-monarchy Maoist revolt in which close to 12,000 people have died since 1996.

After widespread condemnation, the king lifted emergency rule but he

continues to hold unlimited power, many political leaders are still in jails and civil liberties remain suspended.

Anti-monarchy rallies have been allowed on the outskirts of Kathmandu since the lifting of emergency rule last month but are banned in the city centre.

Seven centrist and leftist parties who have often bickered in the past have agreed to launch a joint campaign for democracy including the revival of parliament dissolved in 2002.

Earlier this month, Nepal's Maoist rebels said they supported the political parties in their campaign to restore democracy.

The government said the Maoist rebels might infiltrate the rallies and the political parties would be held responsible for any "untoward incidents" during the protests.

The Maoists want to set up a single party communist republic in Nepal, one of the world's 10 poorest countries.

# Afghan officials press on for release of Italian

KABUL, May 21 (Reuters) - Afghan President Hamid Karzai said on Saturday efforts were continuing for the safe release of a kidnapped Italian aid worker, a day after a man claiming to have abducted her said she had been killed.

Clementina Antoni, 32, who works for the CARE International aid agency, was kidnapped on Monday by four gunmen who stopped her vehicle on a central Kabul street and bundled her into a white Toyota car.

The man claiming to hold her told Reuters on Friday he had killed her the previous evening. The government says he is lying, Antoni is alive and negotiations continue.

"We are working for her safe release," Karzai told reporters. "Whoever has kidnapped her has committed a hostility against Afghanistan."

Karzai said authorities knew the iden-

tity of those responsible but he declined to elaborate. One official said there had been no contact with the kidnapper since Friday morning.

The man the government has said is holding Antoni, Timoor Shah, said Antoni had been strangled after the government rejected his demands.

"I killed her because the government didn't listen or accept my demands," Shah said. He declined to elaborate, saying: "The matter is over."

Shah is the leader of a criminal gang, officials say. They have not disclosed his main demand.

Antoni's colleagues from Care International put up posters in Kabul appealing for information. Her agency said it had no way of verifying her fate.

"We continue to hope for the best," Care said in a statement.

Antoni's abduction has raised fresh

fears among Kabul's 2,000-strong foreign community of Iraq-style kidnappings by anti-government insurgents or criminals.

Afghanistan has seen dramatic change since U.S.-led forces ousted the Taliban in 2001. People have more freedom and opportunities but crime has surged, including kidnap for ransom. Many victims are children.

Taliban insurgents, fighting government and U.S.-led troops in the south and east, see a big international aid effort as bolstering the government, and have killed and wounded dozens of aid and election workers, most of them Afghans.

Three foreign U.N. election workers were kidnapped in Kabul in October and held for 27 days before being released unharmed. Their kidnappers were believed to have been criminals linked to a Taliban splinter faction.

# Protest strike shuts businesses in Indian Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, May 21 (Reuters) - Most shops and businesses were closed in Indian Kashmir's main city on Saturday due to a strike called by separatists to mark the killings of a prominent cleric and a senior separatist leader.

Streets were mostly deserted in Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir, witnesses and police said.

Hurriyat, an alliance of about two dozen political separatist groups,

called the strike to mark the anniversaries of the deaths of Moulana Mohammad Farooq, the chief priest of Kashmir, and Abdul Gani Lone, a moderate Kashmiri separatist leader.

Unidentified gunmen killed Farooq at his home in 1990 and Lone was shot dead during a public meeting in 2002. Indian authorities and separatist guerrillas blame each other for the assassinations.

The Himalayan region is at the

heart of a decades-long dispute between India and Pakistan, who have fought two of their three wars over the issue since they won freedom from British rule in 1947.

Violence has continued in Kashmir, despite an 18-month-old peace process between the neighbours. On Saturday at least four people including two militants were killed in separate clashes in Kashmir, police said.

# Currents delay ferry salvage; death toll hits 50

DHAKA, May 21 (Reuters) - Fierce river currents frustrated attempts by navy divers in Bangladesh to raise a ferry that sank four days ago with about 200 people on board, rescuers said on Saturday.

Efforts by the navy, police and volunteers to refloat the ferry have failed since the twin-deck M.V. Raipura went down in the Jamuna river at Aricha, about 100 km (60 miles) west of the capital Dhaka, during a tropical storm on Tuesday.

Strong currents and stormy weather have repeatedly stalled rescue efforts and hampered the retrieval of scores of bodies thought to be trapped in the sunken ferry.

Police said 50 people survived the sinking and rescuers have retrieved 50 bodies by Saturday. About 100 passengers are still missing, also feared drowned.

Officials still hoped to finish the rescue and salvage operation in a day or two, but divers said part of the ferry was covered by sand, making it too heavy to be lifted.

M. Reaz Hasan Khondakar, chairman of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, told Reuters from Aricha on Saturday: "It's not sure when, or if at all, the ferry can be refloated."

"Divers are sweeping the river bed in adverse conditions but so far have been unable to hook it (ferry) up. We are still hopeful...with a 50-50 chance of being successful."

Four bodies the rescuers pulled out of the river on Saturday were badly decomposed and beyond identification, officials on the scene said.

Although frustration was growing,

hundreds of grieving relatives crowded the banks of the Jamuna river on Saturday looking for their loved ones, refusing to leave the scene.

Police called relatives over loudspeakers to come and identify unclaimed bodies.

"We will wait until the end of the day and then bury them in any nearby graveyard," one police officer said.

Some of the bodies washed up several km (miles) from the scene of the accident, and a Dhaka newspaper on Saturday printed a picture showing dogs eating a corpse.

Scores of mourners on Saturday complained of official neglect in retrieving all the victims.

"Such scenes wreck our hearts," one man said, showing the picture in the Bengali daily Janakantha.



**Children look at the body retrieved from a ferry that sank on Tuesday in the turbulent Jamuna river at Aricha on May 18. REUTERS**

# Announcement

**The Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood  
Child Development Project**

**Project Coordination Unit (PCU) advertise the following post for one year 2005:**

## Project Accountant:

### **Key Tasks and Responsibilities:**

- Collect and file all supporting documentation on all financial transactions of the project under PCU management.
- Record on a daily basis all the financial transactions after ensuring that they have been properly authorized and in accordance with the budget and the PCU procedures of internal control.
- Prepare bank reconciliation between the Bank's accountant and the special Accountant (SA) withdrawals on a monthly basis to reflect the monthly receipts and disbursements from the SA.
- Prepare quarterly project financial statements under PCU direct management, and liaise with the procurement officer, to include quarterly procurement results and project's physical progress of activities as measured by project indicators. Prepare based on the above, the Project Management Report (PMR) to be submitted to the SC and then to the Bank.
- Consolidate the information contained in both PCU-PMR section and that is received from UNICEF on a quarterly basis to present a project PMR to the SC which in turn will be submitted to the IDA for replenishment of funds as needed.
- Prepare quarterly withdrawal applications to be submitted to the Bank, along with the consolidated project PMR specifying the amounts to be transferred to the PCU SA and that to the UNICEF account.
- Assist the external auditors in performing their annual audit of the project by providing necessary documentation, written procedures, and annual financial statements.
- Any other tasks as required by the PFO.

### **Qualifications:**

- A minimum of five years of private sector accounting experience preferably with an auditing or accounting firm.
- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in accounting or auditing.
- A good knowledge of and ability to use the generally accepted accounting principles.
- The ability to operate accounting software, keep updated accounting records and books of accounts, and generate project financial statements and other reports as needed by the CDP's management.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

Those who are interested to apply, please send a copy of your CV along with copies of your certificates to the following address:

**Project Manager  
Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood  
P.O Box: 16939 - Sana'a ROY**

Closing Date: **2 weeks from the advertising.**

Interested applicants must be Yemeni nationality.

Only people in the short list will be contacted for interview.



نتقدم بأسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

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Heartfelt congratulations are presented to H. E.

## Ali Abdullah Saleh

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of  
22nd May the Unification Day of Yemen  
Many Happy Returns

## AHMED ABDULLAH AL-SHEIBANI GROUP OF COMPANIES

on behalf of the company

Al-Haj Ahmed Abdullah al-Sheibani  
& Abdulkarim Ahmed Abdullah al-Sheibani



Taiz University  
represented by rector Dr. Mohammed Abdullah al-Sofi  
and all the academic staff and employees of the university  
would like to extend their warm congratulations to

## Ali Abdullah Saleh

On The 15th anniversary of 22nd May  
Reunion Day.

We wish to Yemen the best of success  
and progress towards building  
a strong country headed by its wise leadership  
for years to come.

تقدم جامعة تعز ممثلة برئيسها الدكتور / محمد عبدالله الصوفي ونوابه وجميع  
أعضاء هيئة التدريس وموظفي الجامعة.  
بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

## علي عبدالله صالح

وذلك بمناسبة الذكرى الـ 15 لإعادة توحيد اليمن  
متمنين لليمن دوام التقدم والازدهار لبناء دولة قوية تحت ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة  
وكل عام والجميع بخير.

## 15 عاماً وحدة وتنمية







The 15th Anniversary of 22 May Re-unification Day comes and Yemen has witnessed tremendous development in all various fields. Our celebrations today come in commemorating a historic event, the foundation of the Republic of Yemen, amid propitious signs of good welfare and prosperity.

On this occasion,

### **National Cigarettes and Matches Industry Limited - Aden**

presents its highest congratulations and best wishes to

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen

and to the Yemeni citizens, wishing them many happy returns and that Yemen continues to become more developed and prosperous.

Sheikh / Saleh Salem Bathwab  
Executive Chiarman

تطل علينا الذكرى 15 لإعادة توحيد اليمن وقد شهد بلادنا  
تطورا كبيرا في شتى المجالات فاحتفالنا اليوم بهذا الحدث  
التاريخي لوحدة الجمهورية اليمنية والذي يهل علينا ببشائر  
من الخير والتقدم والعطاء، وبهذه المناسبة  
تتقدم شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة  
باسمى آيات التهاني وأعطر التبريكات الى فخامة  
الرئيس / علي عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية  
وقائد المسيرة ورمزها الوحدوي وإلى كافة أبناء شعبنا  
اليمني الأصيل متمنين أن تعود هذه المناسبة  
وكل المناسبات واليمن في تطور وازدهار

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**National Cigarettes & Matches Industry Ltd - Aden**  
**شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة**



# Announcement

The Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood

Child Development Project

Project Coordination Unit (PCU) advertise the following post for one year:

## Administrative Assistant :

### Key Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Provide administrative and secretarial support to the project manager and PCU staff including verbal and written communication, documentation and archiving.
- Ensure highly quality and appropriateness of outgoing correspondence, communications and other related documents / paperwork.
- Maintains general office files.
- Schedule appointments of the project manger and PCU staff .
- Write the minutes of meetings of PCU meetings or other meetings as required by the Manager.

### Qualifications :

- Bachelor degree in management, business administration, secretarial or related field of study.
- At least five years of relevant work experience.
- Proficiency in speaking and writing in English and Arabic.
- Good computer skills.

Those who are interested to apply, please send a copy of your CV along with copies of your certificates to the following address:

**Project Manager**

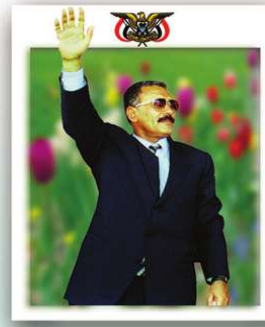
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مجموعة شركات عبد الجليل ردمان  
للتجارة والصناعة المحدودة  
وكافة موظفيها ومنسوبيها  
يتقدمون بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى  
فخامة الأخ / رئيس الجمهورية  
علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة الذكرى الخامسة عشر لإعادة تحقيق الوحدة اليمنية  
متمنين لليمن المزيد من التقدم والإزدهار في ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة  
وكل عام والجميع بخير

*All employees & affiliates of  
Abduljaleel Radman Group of Companies  
For industry & Trade limited*

*Presents their heartiest Congratulations to*

**H.E Ali Abdullah Saleh**

On the occasion of 15th Anniversary  
22 May Reunion Day  
We wish Republic of Yemen the best of  
success and progress towards  
building a strong country headed by its wise  
leadership for years to come.



مجموعة شركات عبد الجليل ردمان للتجارة والصناعة  
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يتقدمون بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات إلى فخامة الأخ /

**علي عبدالله صالح**

وذلك بمناسبة الذكرى الخامسة عشر لإعادة توحيد اليمن  
ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني، ومنذاً من التقدم والإزدهار لليمن في  
ظل قيادتها الحكيمة، وكل عام والجميع بالف خير.

## **Hodeidah University**

Hodeidah University represented by rector Dr. Qasim Bereh  
and all the academic staff and employees of the university  
would like to extend their warm congratulations to

*Ali Abdullah Saleh*

On the occasion of 15th anniversary of  
Yemen Re-union Day.

We wish to Yemen the best of success and progress towards  
building a strong country headed by its wise leadership for years  
to come.



**جامعة الحديدة**



## Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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

OUR  
OPINIONReunification:  
a victory we  
must not lose

It's been fifteen years since North and South Yemen became one. On that day all Yemenis and even all Arabs celebrated this fantastic achievement and I believe many countries were envious and even suspicious. Some even bet that it would be another failing project of the Arab unification attempts that didn't last for long. Today, we can raise our head high believing that we did it. We maintained our unity for fifteen years now and hopefully forever to come. The Yemeni reunification is a lesson for all Arab countries to learn from. There have been many countries with so many similar backgrounds, countries that were actually one in the past.

But as we stand today commemorating this wonderful achievement... one cannot help but wonder why it is taking so long for the country from the far east to the deep west to progress as one. It is natural for people to have their differences but if fifteen years of unity is not able to overcome these differences then there must be something wrong. The Yemeni unity is a victory and an achievement that must not be compromised at any expense. All Yemenis should believe and understand that coming together for the sake of this purpose is their destiny and should give in their hearts and soul for this united country. The differences should not be passed down to future generations. Yemenis of tomorrow should merge within each other regardless of their parents orientations. It is so beautiful to see that even the dialects of the young children have been influenced by their friends from other cities that used to be of a different country only fifteen years ago.

Let us move forward, fifteen years is enough time to get used to each other and it is high time we are united in heart just as we are united in land. To all the Yemeni people, God bless you and happy reunification day!

*Editor*



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

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## Policies:

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- Letters to the Editor must include your name and signature, address and telephone number. Letters should not exceed 2,000 characters in length. We reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity, style, length and legal contents. Any article or letter submitted cannot be returned to the writer under any circumstances.
- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

Political change  
resolution is the  
key to the future

He calls for reform repeatedly come from outside and from within. I believe that reform initiatives are not scary because reform is a continuous process on the cultural, economic and social levels. It is crucial to mobilize all resources for the sake of reform putting the supreme

national interest on the top of the priority list. Reform can not be achieved over night and people are to enjoy or suffer consequences thereof.

Today, we are celebrating 14 years of the age of the Yemeni Reunification which came into existence on May 22, 1990. Soon we will celebrate 10 years since it was reinforced after the cessation war of 1994. Therefore, reforms are imperative and require political volition. The President declared on many an occasion that he would wage a war against corruption and stabilize the state of law and discipline in the modern Yemen. Indubitably, the people of Yemen will go along with him in this direction.

## Priorities

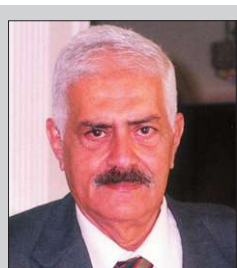
Fighting corruption, unemployment and bribery should have the priority. We also have to take care of security, tourism, investment and exports. These are the principles of the reform program which should begin with courageous decisions that make lay some personalities retired after honoring them and referring corruption files to court to hold accountable every minister, governor, deputy, or chairman surely implicated in corruption.

The President should unmask the identity of law violators and those who stand against development and modernization. No doubt, it is known to every one that all keys are in the President's hand and is competent to perform his duties provided that he overcomes the conventional staff who do not translate his ambitions into actions.

There is still a chance for us to adopt policies based on objective foundations. To defend our rights and stop the general deterioration, they should deal with information and thoughts and define our orientation.

## Hot files

The President has before him hot files. He should begin with the file of the Free



By Prof. Dr.  
Abdulaziz al-Tarb

Zone and set a managing board for it. One month should be devoted to every hot file full of meetings that consequently give birth to workshops. The year 2005 must be the year of modern management and changes. With this, the qualified people, businessmen as well as provinces would vie for improving the whole society.

Yemen has got great investment potentials in many sectors. It would not, however, have been able to exploit them if it lacks security and stability. There is of course public support for the President's reform initiatives. He has only to commence the battle against corruption fearlessly and achieve justice and shift from the people he confides in to the qualified ones.

The big challenge ahead of us is unemployment and its tremendous social, economic and political effects.

In order for efforts to complement each other in terms of alleviation of the problem of unemployment, it is necessary to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises so as to employ a larger portion of the workforce. Intensive efforts are to be directed towards the change of social concepts that prefer public posts which have led to an overloaded governmental system.

Therefore, I call on the President to help businessmen to open markets abroad for local products and services and provide operation incentives.

## Where should the President begin?

This is the most important question: "Where should the President begin his program and when?" First, I confirm that we must begin soon so as to silence the voices calling for external reform. The President should listen to the remarks of the public about their cares and concerns and the concerns of every sector separately. He should make surprise visits because they expose many of the shortcomings of ministries and governmental departments.

The President should adopt the participation slogan "Rule with us. Plan with us. Implement with us." With this, all will feel that development is the burden of the whole people.

The young qualified experienced people are the ones on whom nations rely. Corruption, bribery and nepotism – irre-

spective of any justifications for them- devastate the existence of societies.

## Let us be united for the sake of development

Let us be one hand with the President. On the 14th anniversary of the Yemeni Reunification, we should ask the President to fulfill his promise to launch the campaign against corruption and lay the foundations of the modern Yemen – the State of law and discipline.

The festivals of this year – coming in the 14 year of the Yemeni Reunification and 10 years after the stabilization of the Reunification in July 7- should include tangible measures to reinforce democracy and enhance the concept of peaceful transfer of power through presidential, parliamentary and local elections, through rigorous measures based on discipline and law unencumbered by political compliments and social status that do not serve stability, advancement or development.

Moreover, the President ought to close the file of journalist harassment and arrest. He should cancel the penalty of imprisonment to which journalists are subjected. He should listen to and make sure of the stuff published in the press. These are approached to democracy which consist in listening to the otherness whatever are the consequences and however different opinions will be. The tax of democracy is the listening to the otherness.

In addition, export incentives and removal of all obstacles on the way of investors will help much in furthering the development process especially in the areas of gold mining, vegetables, fruits, and white gold (cotton). Yemen used to export the best types of cotton besides two other Arab countries, Egypt and Sudan. Yet this kind of cotton has disappeared for a long time. The Cotton Board should be resurrected to produce and market cotton. Besides, we have to create a ministry for tourism and let us begin with a Minister of the State for Tourism.

After all, Yemen has to do many things in terms of development especially encouragement of investments in this era that witnesses an unparalleled competition for creating suitable atmospheres and eliminate all economic hurdles to boost development in a multiplicity of areas.

The matter, undoubtedly, is in the hand of HE the President. With his wisdom, he can conjure up the political will for change which will create a thriving country and build the always-dreamt-of and most-spoken-about Yemen.

## To be rich... What?

RAIDAN ABDULAZIZ AL-SAQQAF  
R\_saqqaf@yahoo.com

I received considerable controversy in response to my column "To be rich is glorious" Published here in YT on May 5th, therefore I thought I'll make the time to discuss the subject further.

In the global economy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) plays a crucial role in developing an underdeveloped nation such as Yemen, as it is an important source for building expertise and funding economic growth, this is no news.

However, we, in Yemen, lack a number of important facilities to enhance our economy's attractiveness to FDI, in fact, a considerable amount of FDI is invested by Global Fund Managers and financial institutions, which compare and contrast what is happening across countries and regions, setting their expecta-

tions and investments based on global trends and national investment opportunities. So far, most of these have been deliberately ignoring Yemen due to three reasons:

## Non-existence of a stock market:

Stock markets are a crucial element in attracting FDI, especially from the point of view of international fund managers, for example: between June and August 2003, foreign investors bought 79 billion rupees of shares in Indian stock markets against locally derived stock purchases of 1.4 billion.

## Risks Involved:

Global investors operate on a global stage and have a range of options regarding the safest investment location to put their money, contrasting with local investors who may tolerate the eccentricity of Yemen, in terms of political

risks & instability, inflation, and return on their investment, of course, and comparing that which better investment options in the region and elsewhere in the world. For example Yemen is the only country in the world from which Proctor and Gamble disinvested from.

## Governance:

The governance plays an immense role in determining economic growth, in transparency levels, information disclosure and above all in Judicial reform, with the high rate of controversy in our political scenario as reflected in the free press; the regime in Yemen have been saying the same things to global investors for too long while almost all other economic indicators reflect something else, such as the differences in the quantity of oil reserves in Yemen. Is there no end for this story? Or is a no-end better than a sad ending?

## Letters to the Editors

**Comment on: "The crescent versus the cross, again?"**

"What mentality would drive any human being to take the words of the Al-Mighty, addressed to all humanity and flush them down the toilet? How much insolence must one be prepared to see from an Administration that claims it is getting advice from its "father up in the heavens?" - Taken from your article "The crescent versus the cross, again?"

I doubt that Bush, who

most likely is the driving force behind his administration mixing Christianity with his politics, would have thought that flushing the Qur'an in a toilet was an acceptable means of interrogation. I imaging it was an idea hatched by those in direct control at Guantanamo Bay. I have no means of checking to see if I am right though. "[Bush] probably never read the Qur'an, or probably has no idea what the word Qur'an means." Ha ha! I am sure you are right! I doubt he can pronounce it as well.

"No, for Mr. Bush and his neo-conservative demagogues, there is no place for God in their hearts." Again, I would argue that Bush is a true religious minded person, when his arm is not twisted by the PNAC group that put him at the head of the republican ticket in the 2000 election. One thing I am certain, is that Bush will not be assassinated because then Dick Cheney would come into power as the head of state. It's amazing how much bad press Bush receives when someone like Dick Cheney is wielding a lot

of influence on his own. American cartoons often depict Cheney as a vampire or some other manifestation of evil because, aside from the radical neo-conservatives, we don't like him! He is not known to be a good person. I doubt thoughts of religion, God, or karma crosses Cheney's mind when he makes decisions. The same might be said for Rumsfeld, but I don't really know much about him.

Matt Fields  
USA  
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COMMON  
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

15 years later  
But only on  
the calendar

Yes, we were around when the flag of the Republic of Yemen was being hoisted in Aden fifteen years ago. It was one of the most dramatic moments in the history of this nation, to which so much misfortune has been fated for almost half a century before that moment of elation. When the flag was finally put up, most Yemenis really thought that Yemen was truly embarking on a new era of hope and determination to overcome all the obstacles that stood in the way of the development of Yemen. Actually, unification in itself was thought to be the only medicine Yemen needed to join the international community of progressing countries. We were also told that unification was not all we were getting on that fateful day of 22 May 1190. We had a plateful of democratic reforms that were to really put the country along the ranks of the most modern nations in the world, whose history has shown that unless the people have an active role and say in governance, there can be no progress to look forward to and there can be no prosperity to hope for.

The people applauded. We then had the memorable Transition Period from 1990 to 1994, right after the first real attempt to put this novel democracy we had hoped would put this country on the right course in practice. But, unfortunately by the time we got to those first elections, it was clear that the leading political factions in the country, with their armies and all sorts of state paraphernalia were getting themselves ready for a whole different ball game. Right then and there, we could see armies beginning to take their places, as if Yemen had become the fighting arena for anyone with any muscle to display and impose their renditions of political philosophy on the poor people of Yemen. To think that the latter really thought for a while that their leaders had grown more mature than they have ever been in the past. Wishful thinking, it was indeed. After unification, the people of Yemen actually told their leaders, "thank you very much, and we forgive you for all your past sins and fumbling. We forgive you for all the resources and dough you squandered. Now that you are going to throw the ball back to the people, keep all you have and leave the people to manage with whatever is left." Really, the people of Yemen deserve some gratitude for their gullibility in believing that their leaders had their own perceptions about all that transpired after that day of elation. In fact, one can almost be sure that the powerful political factions were actually gearing the country for an ugly showdown, that was to destroy a lot of whatever accomplishments the country has achieved over the since the Revolution and the end of British rule over the South. It was also the destruction of so many dreams and so many hopes. Progress seemed just around the corner, but alas, all those hopes and dreams were eaten up by the ugly flames of a power struggle, with the end result being that the people again were the losers. What happened? Even after all the political factions signed a historic document that set the ground rules for truly getting Yemen on a sound footing, the Document for Pledge and Accord became no more than a waste of time and effort, because, before that, our leaders had already put themselves on a course for a decisive military showdown to set the clock of time back another ten years from then. The observer only wishes to point out that indeed history has shown that military showdowns based on agendas prescribed by narrow interests can never yield fruitful results for the people of Yemen, who continuously believe somehow that God is bound to right the directions we are heading for. Our leaders have frankly not allowed even fate to do its wonderful arrangement of things to suit the people's aspirations, even when all the factors are going for them!

On the contrary, our people have been misled and misguided as to the real intentions of leaderships that fail to look beyond the borders of their own interests. The partying Amman in February 1994 ended with the Battle of Amran in April 1994, and the war clouds shed their fiery rains in the country. The rest was a matter of arithmetic: who had the numbers and knew how to play with the money was bound to win. This is called government by elimination, not by a peaceful transfer of authority.

Yet, the people were careful to insist that we really wanted the unity and the other side mistakenly believed that it could go back to an ancient era and prove itself and then seek unity later. So, the attempt to put the political clock backwards backfired and the people were left with the same pre-unification regime that once only prevailed on one side of the partition between north and south. The balance of power that existed prior to the War of 1994 did have its merits to a certain degree. It provided an aura of democratic vibes all over the country and if you wanted to say something, you could count on a faction of the competing political machines to back you up. The war ended all of that and all you had was what the winning side was willing to grant: nice words but poor delivery!

After 11 years since that tragic showdown, no balance of power, no hope of political relief from a quasi totalitarian order, with a lot of lip service to democratic political ideals and even contempt for our long cherished values. The future has never been more uncertain than it is now, as we are unable to truly predict what is in store for the nation, when the government has no clear definitive ideas itself of where we are going and when will the interests of the people of Yemen take precedence above all interests? Fifteen years and that question is still looking for a meaningful answer. Now it is not just the Yemeni people seeking the answer. The international community will also have its own say and dictates to decide the course our nation will take. The situation is even more complicated now than it was fifteen years ago and regrettably, most of the complications are intended just to keep the people away from having a real genuine role in mapping out their own destiny.

Happy birthday ROY!



# National Cigarette and Matches Industry Ltd - Aden

honors prominent staff and agents for the year 2004

Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab: Our prime concern is to train and improve Companies' staff

Abdussalam Ba Thawab: May 22, 1990 was the beginning of real steps to restore its status and position



Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab



Mr. Abdussalam Ba Thawab



Mr. Hassan al-Saqqaf



Mr. Ahmed Shamsan



Mr. Mahmoud Hassan Abdul-Qadir

On the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the establishment of the National Cigarette and Matches Industries in 1972, the Company organized a ceremony on the occasion attended by a host of businessmen.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab, Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors, welcomed the audience. "This annual celebration which is regularly organized by the Company is to encourage and motivate the creative and prominent employees and officers of the Company as well as its agents around the country."

He pointed out that the Company particularly focuses on training and qualifying its staff "who have proved themselves to be able to deal with state-of-the-art equipment and take into consideration the international standards and qualities in manufacturing our cigarette products."

Mr. Ba Thawab concluded sending his thanks to the political leadership represented by his Excellency President Ali Abdullah Saleh for supporting investors and constant encouragement and making investors zealous to increase their investments in Yemen.

Mr. Abdussalam Ba Thawab, Deputy Chairman of Board of Directors, spoke at the ceremony. He said, "I thank all attendants for participating in this annual ceremony which forms a tiny portion of the Company's commitment to award every hard-working and prominent person during the year 2004." He indicated that the Company's management has set up plans and programs to train and qualify its staff as well as to modernize the equipment and machinery according to well-studied scientific systems and with the help of Company's senior experts and foreign specialized professionals. He concluded his speech thanking all industrious and honest agents who work diligently in order to achieve continued success which is to yield its fruit to all people. "We are celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and there are just a few days separating us from the Day of Yemeni Reunification which falls on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is the day that did really rejuvenate the Company and make it recover its earlier natural position." He further said, "May 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the beginning of development not only in the city of Aden but in all southern provinces. Having spanned 15 years, now we find a large deal of capitals and investors, among whom we are, who have come back to invest in their Company. The care given by his Excellency President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his unrelenting support for investors sees today the Yemen of May 22 enjoy many achievements in different levels." He thanked the political leadership represented by the President and the Yemeni people on the advent of the Prime Festival, glorious May 22.

Mr. Hassan al-Saqqaf, Acting General Manager, started his speech welcoming the audience and appreciating their accepting the invitation to the Company's annual ceremony as their "presence adds a priceless moral value to the ceremony." In his speech, he explained the vast improvement of the Company over the past 35 years in terms of various successes. "This is by virtue of the sacrifices of the managers, the leader of whom is Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab, Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors."

Mr. Ahmed Shamsan, Secretary of Executive Chairman, said, "The Aden-based National Cigarette and Matches Industries is well known for its special attention of training its staff. It is also distinguished with professional experienced staff. This ceremony is an obvious honoring of Company's employees and officers and as well as paying tribute to its cigarette agents all over the country." He added that the Company, with the support and care of Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab, Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors, takes care and foster its staff by sending them abroad for training and organizing local and external courses for them."

He mentioned the return of the Company's senior engineers from India who "awed outstanding international companies with their success and excellence as they outperformed engineers from countries with reputed tobacco industry, snatched certificates of merit deservedly, and passed the most difficult tests in disassembling and assembling parts of sophisticated tobacco industry machinery."

He confirmed that the Company takes care of its staff and employees by providing them medical and social insurances. "The Company also supports the funds of healthcare, disabled, and youth besides other social charities."

Mr. Mahmoud Hassan Abdul-Qadir, Marketing Manager, said, "I, on behalf of all Company's marketing staff extend my congratulations to Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab, Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors, on the occasion of celebrating the annual anniversary of the Company and honoring its agents, prominent staff and efficient marketers." He added that the Marketing Department has adopted brilliant marketing ideas and plans which contribute to great success. He pointed out that Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab pays attention to training and qualifying the marketing personnel. "The honoring we enjoy on the day of the ceremony is an evidence of the Company's commitment to awarding every hard-working employee throughout the year. All employees of the Company are distinguished and bright each in their specialized field." At the end of the ceremony, Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab, Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors, presented recognition certificates to Company's employees and agents around the country for the year 2004 amidst an atmosphere of joy and applause and exchange of congratulations. Later, luncheon was served.

On the other hand, awardees expressed their gratitude to Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab, Executive Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Mr. Abdussalam Ba Thawab, Deputy Chairman for their personal interest in this annual ceremony. Sheikh Saleh attends the ceremony despite his being busy with many things and his travel abroad immediately after the ceremony.

They said that this honoring will make them exert more efforts and perseverance and go through 2005 with an active and high spirit.

## Snapshots from the ceremony:

- Mr. Abdussalam made sure to sit with and welcome all attendants especially guests. He moves from table to table listening to their remarks and exchanging views with them.
- Employees and awardees conformed to one uniform, which shows how organized they are.
- A large number of personalities attended the ceremony and expressed their admiration for the plausible preparation of the ceremony, distinguished from previous years.
- Mr. Ahmed Shamsan who amazingly introduced awardees enhanced the atmosphere of merriment.
- Borthers Abdul-Qawi and Mahmoud Abdul-Qadir did much in organizing and preparing the ceremony.
- All were happy listening to Adeni, Lahji and Sana'ani pieces of music played by the artistic band.
- Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab left the ceremony for Dubai.





# Yemen Press Review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr



**Saut al-Shoura**  
weekly, organ of  
the People's Forces  
Union of Yemen  
(PFU), 18 May  
2005.

## Main headlines

- PFU denies accusations of the president and holds authorities responsible for the occupation of its main headquarters
- JMP refuses authority accusations, calls for neutral investigation to reveal facts before the people
- Military hostilities continue in Saada
- World Bank discloses clear deterioration in controlling corruption, recession of political stability and government performance in Yemen
- Sana'a University students demonstrate in protest to security suppression

In his article on the events in Saada and signs of their relaxedness, columnist Abdulfattah al-Hakimi says last week there appeared to be some signs of new relaxation in the course of mediations represented by the message signed on 10 May by scholar Badrudin al-Houthi and sheikh Abdullah al-Razzami conveyed to the president Ali Abdullah Saleh the mediator between the two parties sheikh Shajie Bin Shajie. The message contained al-Houthi and Razami welcome of the idea of mediation and arrival in Sana'a themselves or whoever represents them provided the army stops its military operations against them. Moreover, the message clearly replies to those promoting the lie that Al-Houthi refuses the republican system and authority of the president. The letter confirms al-Houthi's stance towards the republican system or the president by denying the propaganda and rumours accusing him of that. Thus, the message blocks the way before all those justifying the war under excuses of al-Houthi fighting against the republican system and the president's leadership. Those have used those excuses to launch the war in Saada in March under the name of defending the republican system.

Al-Houthi's denial of rejection of the republican system and the president's authority places the government in the bottle-neck, given that it has its hands on all key of the crisis and choices of escalation.



**Attariq weekly,**  
17  
May 2005.

## Main headlines

- Chinese companies accept to develop Aden's oil refinery
- Legal measures expected against the two parties of People's Forces and al-Haq
- Prosecution presents documents on plots to assassinate al-Eryani and Bajammal
- Shoura Council stresses the importance of developing performance of official media
- University unions appeal to Sana'a University teachers to return to work

Writer Salem al-Hadhrami says the United Nations Organisation bears great responsibility for protection of the states and their citizens against violations of the human rights law and protection of security and peace in the world. Nevertheless, much of negative work, administrative weakness and hyperactive excess of circumstance and difficulties the organisation is experiencing overshadow those and other tasks. It is incapable of meeting its commitments stipulated in the UN charters. People have found themselves in certain cases unable to depend on the UN to protect them from their governments or protect their states from hegemony and control of other countries.

It seems the international organisation is seeking to seriously introduce radical reforms to its international and monitoring activity. This would ensure advancement in the pioneering role it is entrusted with at a time it is under the phenomenon of flagrant control and interference by the great powers, particularly the United States that always stands openly by the Zionist entity through using the veto right.



**Al-Wahdawi**  
weekly, organ of  
the Nasserite  
Unionist  
Organisation, 17  
May 2005.

## Main headlines

- Battles continue in Saada
- JMP rejects authority accusations
- NUO celebrates unity anniversary

- Ahead of May festivals, Strict security measures in Hadramout
- Teaching staff and assistants of Sana'a University suspend their strike

Al-Wahdawi editorial says there is no exaggeration if we say that the 22nd of May was the greatest turning point in Yemen's modern history and may be the most outstanding event achieved for Yemen following decades of division.

Whatever have accompanied the march if unity of mistakes remain the most sublime goal in the conscience of every Yemeni. Out of its unionist precepts and principles, and out of values and unionist principles, the Nasserite Unionist Organisation has been among the most outstanding callers of unifying the homeland.

Now after the elapse of fifteen years on the unity of Yemen, we believe that the unity is an achievement that could not be squandered under any kind of justification. If there are any practices harming the unity from this party or that, all have to stand up to them. The unity is an accomplishment realized by the people. It is their demand and none has the right to be skeptical on importance of keeping Yemen as unified as it is, whatever the justifications are. The political leadership has to maintain and preserve this accomplishment through realization of the people's aspirations and hopes in a dignified life, equal citizenship and real development, as well as strong fighting against corruption threatening the unity.



**Al-Mithaq weekly,**  
organ of the  
General People's  
Congress (GPC),  
16 May 2005.

## Main headlines

- Plot of the military coup d'etat carried out by military organisation of al-Haq and People's Forces parties
- The president: "clock hands cannot be set backward, I issued a general pardon, and insurgents should abandon their extremist ideas"
- Aidaroos: the GPC would handle the JMP message according to its strategic national precepts
- Al-Mithaq meets with him in his detention place; Muhsin refutes "al-Thawri" allegations



- In demanding for reforming the party, members of the Union of People's Forces seized the party headquarters

The newspaper's editorial says those who think that shouting loudly at people faces and random barrages of statements and speeches heralding misery as well as misleading the people about the value of any national gain as a kind of practicing freedom, are mistaken. They corrupt rather than reform. Those who publish lies in the name of practicing the freedom of opinion are not doing more than increasing the state of cheating in the market. Also, those who bless attack on the constitutional and political legitimacy and tolerate violence and call the implementation of the law as kidnapping could not be advocated of reform. Many of those descriptions are true among some parties of opposition in our country that have abridged democracy as "margin" whereas they employ democracy as vehicle for expressing self tendencies, desires and complexes related to extortion and bargaining leading to instant and individual interests. Definitely, all that has nothing to do with an honest national cause or keenness on interests of the people.



**Al-Wasat weekly,**  
18 May 2005.

## Main headlines

- Al-Houthis respond to the

president's speech with new conditions

- Al-Ahmar boycotts sessions on discussing parliament regulation, GPC bloc withdraws
- U.S. reconnaissance plane kills Haitham al-Yemeni on Afghan-Pakistan borders
- JMP denounces the president's speech and demands not to foment against political parties

The editor in chief of the newspaper has written about marking the Yemeni unity anniversary. He says in a few days time the unity would have completed 15 years of its age and it is very simple to compose poems and songs about the unity. However, he wonders if that is the ideal method of observing the unity anniversary. It is an anniversary of an achievement all the Yemenis have attached great hopes to it.

Cases of disappointment among people about what the unity could have realized for them of equal citizenship and feeling of safety they have missed

with the presence of state and political security apparatuses. The present system was supposed to be better alternative than what was prevalent before the unity, but this has not happened and that was a chance lost. Nevertheless, there is an opportunity to regain that chance. No one can claim that he is not ware of the influential and high-ranking officials who have no qualification other than their closeness to decision-makers. Talking about the unity loses its meaning while the major participants of making it are either living a needy kind of life, abroad losing their credibility among those inside or humiliated, and the more they are humiliated the more rancorous they would be on the regime and its leaders. The state alone is responsible for embracing its sons without any differentiation among them because of sect, political party or ideology. The regime is at present standing before two options, either the people with their woes and problems or the corrupt and the hypocrites.



## Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi  
alolfi@hotmail.com

## The Hungarian & the Portuguese, the most famous yet the most hated man in the Arab World & "Crying Over Spilt Milk"

Portugal and Portuguese are still abundant with Arab names and words. Europeans refer to Arabs at the time when they were occupying the Iberian Peninsula as moors which is an imprecise name and is often meant to be hateful. It is known, that most warriors of the Islamic incursions of those days came from Yemen.

On the other hand, when the Islamic Presence vanished in the Iberian Peninsula, the Turks were already in possession of what remained of the once far-reaching Islamic Empire. The Portuguese and the Spanish following their emancipation went out in search of India and Indian condiments which were brought exclusively through Arab lands, this is why when they reached the Americas they named the indigenous population there "Red Indians" because real Indians were supposed to be darker in color.

The Portuguese who all of a sudden miraculously became masters in navigation finally reached true India and occupied some of its ports such as Madras. However, one day they found the courage to invade Yemen. They discovered that the softest point was Al-Shihir in today's Hadramawt, ("Shihir" is a Himyarite word meaning overlooking the sea). There the battle raged for one week claiming many lives in addition to seven or ten community chieftains.

Some Yemenis joke at that by saying that the chieftains alone fought back the Portuguese while the normal people were kept at bay. Of course, this is untrue and it just shows how the community leaders were at the head of the fighting force, which was not supposed to be the case when it came to others, being put in the same situation. Anyhow, at the time Yemen as a whole was under the Turks who

nominated a Hungarian Muslim as their Vali or Ruler of Yemen.

Captured Portuguese POWs were carried on camelback from Shihir to Sayun and from Sayun through Ramlat Al-Sabatain to Sana'a, where the Hungarian Ruler of Yemen at the time had to pass his ruling against his fellow Europeans.

### The most famous yet the most hated man in the Arab World

Simply going through any Arab town or village you would notice the name of Sharon being written by children in places where it could be tread on and degraded e.g. on asphalt roads, dirty lavatories and trash containers in consequence of his heinous crimes against Arabs, namely Palestinians but at the same time, he still occupies the first rank in notoriety and so by far and large he is the most famous in the Arab world than any other Arab leader or celebrity despite his ill-repute.

### Crying Over Spilt Milk:

Yemenis, particularly politicians or journalists coming from the south after fifteen years from the reunification of Yemen, have just awoken from their state of unconsciousness and realized all of a sudden after oil discoveries in the south that they were wrong to join up with the most populated North and would have been far well off living alone in their cute PDYR. Of course, this is true now that the oil is discovered but before that, they wear dying in eagerness to reunite with the North, so it is their fault for it was they who sought for a catholic marriage and it would be wise on their part to shut their mouths and stop being irresponsible and stupid. Now, they should speak on behalf of all Yemenis, better for them and us.

# Economists' new world order

J. BRADFORD DeLONG

Most academic economics rely on concepts laid down at the beginning of the twentieth century by the British economist Alfred Marshall, who said that "nature does not make leaps." Yet we economists find ourselves increasingly disturbed by the apparent inadequacy of the neo-Marshallian toolkit that we have built to explain our world.

The central bias of this toolkit is that we should trust the market to solve the problems we set it, and that we should not expect small (or even large) changes to have huge effects. A technological leap that raises the wages of the skilled and educated will induce others to become skilled and educated, restoring balance so that inequality does not grow too much.

So a country where labor productivity is low will become an attractive location for foreign direct investment, and the resulting increase in the capital-labor ratio will raise productivity. Wherever one looks, using Marshall's toolkit, one sees economic equilibrium pulling things back to normal, compensating for and attenuating the effects of shocks and disturbances.

Marshall's economics has had a marvelous run, and has helped economists make sense of the world. Yet there is a sense that progress and understanding will require something new – an economics of virtuous circles, thresholds, and butterfly effects, in which small

changes have very large effects.

Perhaps this has always been so. By the standards of centuries ago, we live in a world of unbelievable wealth. Within two generations human literacy will be nearly universal.

Yet three centuries ago there was also technological progress, from the mechanical clock and the watermill to the cannon and the caravel, and on to strains of rice that can be cropped three times a year in Guangzhou and the breeding of merino sheep that can flourish in the hills of Spain. But these innovations served only to increase the human population, not raise median standards of living.

Today, if we divided up equally what we produce worldwide, would it give us a standard of living ten times that of our pre-industrial ancestors? Twenty times? A hundred times? Does the question even have meaning?

David Landes likes to tell the story of Nathan Meyer Rothschild, the richest man in the world in the first half of the nineteenth century, dead in his fifties of an infected abscess. If you gave him the choice of the life he led as the finance-prince of Europe or a life today low-down in the income distribution but with thirty extra years to see his great-grandchildren, which would he choose?

No doubt, we live today in an extraordinarily unequal world. There are families today near Xian, in what was the heartland of the Tang Dynasty Empire, with two-acre dry wheat farms and a single goat. There are other families throughout the world that could

buy that wheat farm with one day's wages.

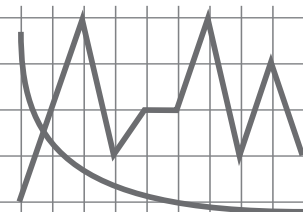
Marshall's economics – the equilibrium economics of comparative statics, of shifts in supply and demand curves, and of accommodating responses – is of almost no help in accounting for this. Why, worldwide, did median standards of living stagnate for so long? Why has the rate of growth undergone an acceleration that is extraordinarily rapid over so short a period? Where is the economics of invention, innovation, adaptation, and diffusion? Not in Marshall. And why is today's world so unequal that it is hard to find any measures of global distribution that do not show divergence at least up until the 1980's?

It has been generations since economists Robert Solow and Moses Abramovitz pointed out that Marshall's toolkit is a poor aid for understanding modern economic growth. The real sources of growth are not to be found in supplies and demands and the allocation of scarce resources to alternative uses, but in technological and organizational change – about which economists have too little to say.

Economic historians like Ken Pomeranz rightly point out that before the Industrial Revolution, differences in median standards of living across the high civilizations of Eurasia were relatively small. A peasant in the Yangtze Valley in the late seventeenth century had a different style of life than his or her contemporary peasant in the Thames Valley, but not one that was



# YT Business



*Higher education requires,*

## Rebalance its outputs in line with labour market

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The higher education and scientific research represents one of the basic pillars of the process of development in Yemen. Nevertheless, the university study this year has seen a recession in the course of educational process because of the strike staged by University professors who demanded the government for an increase. Thus, the matter needs more reconsideration in all the process of education in order to restore balance in a manner compatible with outputs and requirements of the labour market.

Taking into consideration the importance of this sector, Yemen has allocated approximately 25% of its annual budget for education and its strategic projects. So that Yemen has become among the few countries that increase the proportion of what expends on education compared to what it expends on other essential sectors. However, the university education is still suffering from defects in its outputs, as mentioned in field studies.

As a result of university teachers strike the scientific gain has declined. The Yemeni government has taken strict measures and resolutions for the aim of restructuring the university education in the private sector after the higher education has throughout the past fifteen years produced posi-



Hodeidah University

tive results. The number of universities has jumped from two in Sana'a and Aden in 1990 to seven universities in 2004. Those universities are established in the governorates of Taiz, Hadramout, Hudeidai, Tamar and

Ibb. The number of private sector universities in 2004 amounted to eight universities at a percentage of about 700% compared to 1990.

Due to increase of labour market needs for various specialties, the num-

ber of theoretical and scientific faculties at government universities rose from five scientific colleges and eleven theoretical ones in 1990 to 88 colleges and higher institutes in 2005, among them 32 scientific colleges and

56 theoretical colleges. Meanwhile the number of specialised departments at different government and private faculties amounted at the present time to 587 departments and specialties, among them 211 scientific specialties

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	191.8300	192.1300
Sterling Pound	352.9600	353.5100
Euro	242.9600	243.3400
Saudi Rial	51.1500	51.2300
Kuwaiti Dinar	656.7900	657.8200
UAE Dirhem	52.2300	52.3100
Egyptian Pound	33.0800	33.1300
Bahraini Dinar	508.8500	509.6500
Qatari Rial	52.7000	52.7900
Jordanian Dinar	270.7700	271.2000
Omani Rial	498.3100	499.0800
Swiss Franc	157.3800	157.6300
Swedish Crown	26.4400	26.4900
Japanese Yen	1.7906	1.7934

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

and departments and 376 theoretical departments and specialties at an increase rate of 443.5% compared to 1990. The number of academics at universities, majority are Yemeni efficiencies of various specialties, rose from 1073 teaching staff members in 1990 to 4356 members in 2005.

Undoubtedly, the expansion in higher education during the past years in quantity and quality has contributed to accommodate the biggest number of secondary school graduates and thus the number of students joining government universities has risen from 39990 students in 1990 to 174250 students in 2005, among them 46545 female students. The number of students joining private sector universities until 2004 amounted to 19178 students from both genders.

These figure, however, do not mean that higher education has witnessed tangible development. The need still exists for taking more steps to readjust and upgrade its standards and specialisations in coping with requisites and requirements of labour market. The concerned parties have realised this failure and headed for linking outputs of universities to requirements of development and needs of labour market. Therefore, the ministry of higher education and scientific research has prepared a special strategy for higher education in which it has defined programs and needs of higher education and to develop it over the forthcoming five years.

## Bandung II: New hope for the poor?

By PRADEEP S MEHTA\*

Leaders of 106 countries from Africa and Asia representing about three-fourth of the humanity met in Indonesia in April to reinvigorate the spirit of 1995. The Bandung Conference led to the emergence of the Non-Aligned Movement and was the first step towards promoting South-South Cooperation. Bandung I was more political in nature as most of the participating countries had got their political freedom very recently, much of Africa was still under colonial rule and a significant part of South-East Asia was still living under the shadow of US imperialism.

The world is a much different place now and the political objectives of Bandung I have been more or less achieved. The same, however, cannot be said in terms of economic aspirations of the countries. Though much of Asia has made significant progress, Africa remains far behind. Notwithstanding the much talked about South-South Cooperation a large part of Asia became closer to Americas particularly through the APEC while Africa has moved closer to Europe through the Lome Convention (and Cotonou Agreement).

Meanwhile, the importance of South-South cooperation was recognised by the global community as a whole and the UN General Assembly established a UN Day for South-South cooperation (December 20). However, South-South cooperation received a new meaning in 1999, as the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical

Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), in its eleventh session resolved that South-South cooperation should be viewed as a complement and not a substitute for North-South cooperation. This effectively meant that the committee was of the view that a North-South-South cooperation was needed. Thus, came the recognition for the importance of trilateral development cooperation.

As recently as on 1-2 February 2005, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD and the UNDP jointly organised the Forum on Partnership for More Effective Development Co-operation at Paris to promote greater dialogue and mutual understanding among the world's principal providers of development co-operation. The Forum brought together for the first time the members of the OCED with a wide range of non-OECD governments and institutions involved in development co-operation and South-South initiatives. The Forum agreed that South-South and triangular co-operation can improve the aid efficiency and effectiveness in emphasising ownership and inclusive partnership.

Trilateral cooperation does not necessarily mean involvement of three partners only. It is a kind of partnership where three or three groups of actors are involved: donors, technical assistance providers and the recipients. This form of cooperation got extended when some developed country donors started involving agencies and experts from other developing countries. This was done through both involvement of other

developing country government or that of private or non-governmental organisations. CUTS International, an India-based NGO is engaged in capacity building on trade, competition, consumer protection and investment issues in several developing countries under the trilateral cooperation framework. A recent example of such a cooperation is the CUTS project in Africa involving capacity building on competition and regulatory issues in seven countries of the region. The project is being supported by the Norwegian and British governments.

Bilateral assistance programmes have very often been criticised for its tied nature by which aid is tied to the donor country's provision of goods and services. Another issue related to tied aid is that when the donors tie up with local (donor's home country) technical assistance providers, there is a possibility that monitoring by the donors may get relaxed as they are likely to develop alliance. A third country provider of technical assistance is far less likely to develop such a relationship with a donor and hence monitoring is likely to be more rigorous. Hence, trilateralisation may bring more accountability in the implementation of development programmes.

It is well recognised now that importing technologies or policies or legal practices from developed countries may not be appropriate for most developing countries. It may be better for them to draw these from countries that are developing but yet at an advanced stage than they are at. In fact ignoring this has cost many developing countries, especially in

Sub-Saharan Africa dearly as they implemented the Washington Consensus agenda. Trilateral cooperation can be an effective way of bringing "appropriate intermediate technology" and "appropriate policy" to developing countries while taking the help of developed countries in meeting the financial resource need.

However, the issue of trilateralisation of development cooperation has not received adequate attention in Bandung II. This may be due to the fact that the leaders were too overwhelmed by the spirit of Bandung I when the global reality was quite different. Despite the fact that big Asian countries like China and India taking significant stride in providing aid to other developing countries, the need for assistance from the developed countries cannot be ignored as they themselves are struggling with poverty. Moreover, under the Millennium Development Goals, the international community including the developed countries has accepted that the removal poverty is a global responsibility. One important departure in Bandung II was, however, the fact that the role of all stakeholders in South-South cooperation has been explicitly recognised as against Bandung I when only government level cooperation was envisaged.

*\*The writer is the Secretary General of the Jaipur-based CUTS International, a leading research, advocacy and networking NGO working on trade and economic issues at national and international levels and can be reached at pradeep.mehta@cuts-international.org*

## Steps in amending tenders

Under the sponsorship of Mr. Alawi Saleh AL-Salami, the deputy of prime minister and the minister of finance, a 3-day workshop was concluded last week for disusing and studying the governmental bidding documents that had been prepared by the Yemeni government represented in the finance and the High Trends Board based on the recommendations submitted in the World Bank report.

Representatives from a number of governmental bodies, the civic society organizations, and the financial committee of the parliament and Al-Shoura Council, World Bank, Netherlands embassy, the British program "David" and the German Program G.T.Z

A number of documents and papers were displayed and discussed through the three days including Manual for Procurement of Works, Manual for Procurement of Works, Standard Bidding Documents Procurement of Goods, I Standard Bidding Documents for Consultant Services, Standard Bidding Documents Procurement of

Simple Goods, Standard Bidding Documents Procurement of Simple Works, Standard Bidding Documents Procurement of Works, Manual for the Procurement Of Goods. Mr. Mohammed Yahya Al-Syaighi,

consultant of minister of finance, briefly talked about the workshop "The objective of preparing Standard Bidding Documents is to consolidate documents, which will be used by all Agencies which are meant to implement obedient to the provisions of Tender Law, and its Executive By-laws. Also it aims to enhancing transparency, fairness and equity to achieve real competition for complete bids that

are responsive to all instructions, terms and requirements with least possible costs. The workshop discussed all stages and procedures of tenders from the beginning till the end. Through the four session of workshop, the participants come up with a number of fruitful recommendations.

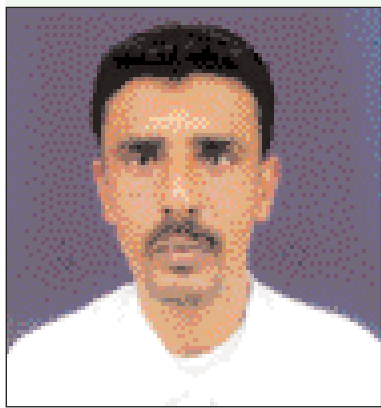
Mr. Anam Al-Shahri, the preparatory committee, spoke about the workshop "This workshop is considered on of the most important one as it is the first of its kind that interested in amending the tenders in Yemen within the program of the financial and administrative amendments that Yemen has adopted since 1995. Tenders occupy a vital role in the government budget. The recommendations and the documents of this workshop will be experienced and implemented for a year. The state budget mainly depends on the construction works and services and many other devices. Thus, the tenders are part of these works."



# PEPA honors 240 workers



Abdulrab Senan Abu Luhood



Mahfoudh Saleh al-Mansouri



Eng. Mohammad A. Hussein



Adel Mohammad Hizam



Eng. Walid Faisal Shamsan



Nadir Mohammad A. al-Rahman



Abduljabbar Zayed

**T**he fourth awarding ceremony of workers at the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority PEPA was held on Sunday May 15 at the Ministry of Oil and Minerals on the occasion of the World Labor Day.

240 workers in the sector of oil and minerals received honors along with some representatives of

foreign companies in the sector of oil.

The ceremony was attended by MPs and other senior officials from the Ministry of Oil and Minerals and the PEPA.

To open the ceremony, Dr. Rashid Saleh Baraba'a Minister of Oil and Minerals delivered a speech in which he said:

"First of all, we have the pleasure to present our sincere felicitations to the political leadership represented by H. E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh and to all the Yemeni people on the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the national day of Yemen.

"We also congratulate all the male and female workers in the field of oil exploration and production, who are also attending the event, on the occasion of the World Labor Day. This occasion is marked every year by the Ministry of Oil and the PEPA in belief of the importance of awarding prizes and certificates of merits to hard and creative workers who have so far manifested their productivity in the field of oil exploration and production," Dr. Baraba'a said.

He added: "let us clarify what concerns us in our difficult procession is the retreat of production in the two well-known blocks in Marib and Shabwa, irrespective of the large quantities of extracted water that accompanies oil. Sometimes, the quantity of water increases in some blocks from time to time and this causes extra burden in the cost of exploration processes, however, we in Yemen always consider the cost of oil exploration one of prominent factors that attract investments in the field of oil and gas, which in some cases exceeds one dollar per barrel."

Minister of Oil and Minerals noted: "what pleases us in the exploration of oil is that we have started to stabilize oil reserve in the base rocks. Explorations were conducted in such places thought to be of the rarest worldwide like those in Vietnam.

The increasing production in such transformed sedimentary and volcanic rocks of vertical and semi-vertical fissures is somewhat impacted by the quantities of water contained in the fissures, however, water in the fissures is considerably little and estimated between zero and 450 barrels, and due to this, oil is found to be accompanied by gas.

According to Minister of Oil and Minerals, findings of well studies showed that today the production of gas in a single well comes at 5 million cubic feet, and such figures



Dr. Rashid Baraba'a

appear to be small but when combined with other figures of other wells, this may cause concern. The exploration costs in such places is comparatively high because of the existence of base rocks that are in some cases 3 km deep and penetrating them requires strong drilling tools, particularly as drills are usually diamond-headed, in addition to other difficulties associating with assigning places of rocks through mapping. As far as we know, rocks can be found by chance in numerous wells.

Dr. Rashid Baraba'a pointed out: "regarding the liquid gas, I think you (addressing the audience) have heard of an advancement scored by the Yemen Liquefied Natural Gas (Y LNG), and this was manifested in signing three preliminary contracts for the sale of gas to the Korean and Swiss markets, as well as the U.S. International Market.

The Y LNG is expected to sign the final draft of the sale contract in the near future."

He added: "we hope the project to score a great leap in developing the Yemeni economy meanwhile prices of energy, oil and gas keep on going high. The availability of gas, as manifested by the exploratory indicators in wells other than those in Marib will help the government to design new plans to profit from in the future. The new plans are topped by the distribution of electrical energy in different parts of the country.

In his speech, Minister of Oil and Minerals stressed that oil compa-



Eng. Nabil Al-Qawsi

nies operating in Yemen should use the new services offered by the project of the Information Bank that recommend operating oil blocks according to the international standards of oil exploration and production.

## Eng. Al-Qawsi: Oil reserve in Yemen rises by 26%

For his part, Eng. Nabil Saleh al-Qawsi, Chairman of Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority (PEPA) said on the occasion:

"I request you to have patience (addressing the audience) while I am standing before you for the fourth time on the occasion of the World Labor Day, the first of May. It is a great honor that you contribute to our happiness as we are awarding prizes and certificates of merit to the distinctive workers at the PEPA, who are also lavishly encouraged in



recognition of their efforts, everyone in his major.

Eng. Al-Qawsi added: "the political leadership represented by HE President Ali Abdullah Saleh pay more attention to the sectors of oil and gas, and as you know, oil-related revenues occupy a great portion in the list of revenues necessary for the development of Yemen. Thus, it is our duty at the PEPA, and according to continuing directives of Dr. Rashid Saleh Baraba'a Minister of Oil and Minerals, to shoulder the entire responsibility of monitoring, supervising and following up all the procedures of oil exploration and production, considering oil the important wealth for development of the country.

He further addressed the audience by saying: "I request you to have more patience so that I can review the most important works achieved so far at the PEPA over the past five years." These works are:

- The PEPA issued and developed the new oil map, which covered 70 blocks in 2001, and then the number of blocks increased to 84 in 2005.
- The announcement of two international renders concerning some of the most important open blocks during 2004-2005. The render included 13 open blocks.
- Commencing production in the two blocks s1 and 51 in 2004; these two blocks were commercially announced in December 2003, and the production of

block s1 is expected to reach 15 thousand barrels per day while block 51 is expected to produce 35 thousand barrels per day by the end of this year.

- Achieving new oil explorations in the new blocks (32, 53, s1, 51, 43, and 9) over the past five years and the potential of base rock of block 10 help increase the quantity of oil reserve in the Republic of Yemen by 26%, while 19% is the percentage of oil ready for reproduction. Additionally, good quantities of gas were explored in blocks 10, 43 and 9 and their preliminary estimates confirmed the 5% increase in gas reserve.

In the field of training the PEPA cadres, the authority holds training courses every year. In 2004 for instance, over 83 engineers and technicians were sent to some Arab and foreign countries to have courses on oil. Besides, there have been 397 technical courses held inside the country as well as other courses on English and computer.

- With respect to improving economic situations and living standards of employees, the PEPA approved of increasing the monthly incentive by 50% and the allotment of block visitation by 100%, in addition to assessing the nature of work. The PEPA allowed a number of engineers and technicians an access to be hired by the operating companies according to



Dr. Abdulmalik al-Shar'abi



Mohammad Hazza'a Qasim



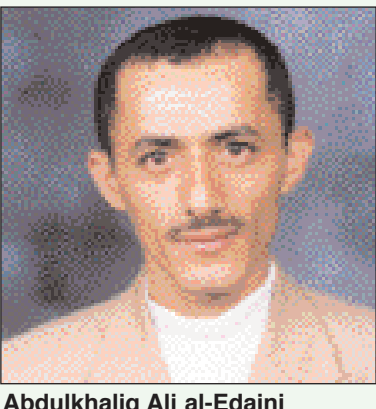
Eng. Mohammad A. N'oman



Eng. Abdullah al-Awawi



Amin Qasim Saif



Abdulkhaliq Ali al-Edaini



Sultan Ahmad Ali



Mobina Hassan al-Dhahiri



Abdulqawi Ahmad al-Sarari





the joint production agreement. The number of recruits and trainees at the foreign companies reached 302 engineers and technicians.

In the field of social activities, the PEPA, directly supported by the Minister of Oil and Minerals, established in 2002 the Social Insurance Fund with the aim to offer financial helps to families of orphans working for the authority and supporting those who are in need of medical treatment.

Chairman of the PEPA indicated: "I have the pleasure to mention some of the difficulties encountered by the PEPA, most important of which is the small budget, the lack of necessary devices and means, as well as the lack of financial resources when compared to the related tasks. In addition, employees at the authority number

interests of employees, we feel ourselves compelled to step up efforts to raise living standards of workers at the PEPA in cooperation and coordination with leaderships of the PEPA and the Ministry of Oil and Minerals whom we warmly thank for showing a positive response to our demands," he added:

Eng. Al-Washali exclaimed the PEPA and the Ministry of Oil and Minerals met their demands including the approval of the nature of work for all employees at the authority, which was put into practice by the beginning of 2005.

He mentioned: "we are pleased with the great attention drawn to us by the Minister of Oil and Minerals represented in the establishment of the Social Insurance Fund, and we therefore expect him to increase the amount of support allotted for the fund to be capable of covering all the costs and the increasing



bound to be positively reflected in their performance in a variety of specializations. Hereby, we have to record a message of gratitude and acknowledgement to the PEPA's leadership for exerting precious efforts to achieve the noble goal."



up to 1400, specifically as the authority receives new faces every year and this causes extra burdens over it.

#### Honored employees: such attention boost creativity and production

On behalf of the Syndicate Committee of workers at the PEPA, Eng. Abdulwahab al-Washali delivered a speech in which he said: "undoubtedly, all of us know about the crucial importance and the great responsibility shouldered by the PEPA being the responsible and concerned party for supervising and monitoring all the oil companies operating in Yemen. We all must work for the sake of upgrading status of the authority, developing its capacity and improving the economic situations and living standards of its employees in order to enable the PEPA to perform its role perfectly. This can not be achieved unless extensive efforts are exerted by workers in different specializations."

"Realizing the balanced activities of the syndicate that aim to fulfill

needs. We should not forget to mention that the ministry was not remiss in fulfilling needs of workers at the PEPA and we had the entire confidence that the leadership of the ministry would show a positive reaction to demands of employees and take for granted their economic situations."

#### On behalf of the awarded workers, Abdullah Ahmad al-Awawi delivered a speech in which he said:

"During these days of every year, people all over the world mark the occasion of the World Labor Day, and we are here celebrating the awarding ceremony of PEPA workers on the occasion. We are happy over the great attention paid to us by the leadership of the PEPA that works harder and harder in response to directives of HE President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the first sponsor of male and female workers in different majors.

He added, "HE President Saleh always calls for developing the abilities of Yemeni cadres and this is

Al-Awawi further said: "the World Labor day is a great occasion marked worldwide and therefore it has its positive effects in our society. The advancement of nations and prosperity of civilizations can never be achieved unless enough attention is paid to workers. This slice with all its different categories is the base of the advancement of societies. The developed countries have been so far perceived to rely on their laborers to achieve prosperity and advancement.

He pointed out, "we attempt through this ceremony to give a clear profile of moving toward the best and your attention and interest (addressing the PEPA Chairman and Minister of Oil and Minerals) are valued by employees who in exchange do their best for raising the quality of oil exploration and production, everyone in his major. It is apparent to everyone that workers at the PEPA play their role effectively and this is manifested in what has been achieved by the PEPA over the past few years.

### Chairman of PETRONAS, Malaysian Company Mr. Mustafa Albukri expressed his pleasure on the occasion.

HE Minister of Oil and Minerals Dr. Rashid Barabba HE Deputy Minister of Oil and Minerals Eng. Abdulmalik Alamah Chairman of PEPA Eng. Nabil al-Qawsi Management and Staff of PEPA General Managers of International and Domestic Oil Companies

"Assalamualaikum and very good morning. It is indeed a great pleasure to be here with all of you on the occasion of the World Labor Day to honor PEPA's employees for their outstanding work.



Mr. Mustafa Albukri

On the occasion, we wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to HE Minister of Oil and Minerals, Management and Staff of PEPA for giving PETRONAS all the cooperation, assistance and technical guidance in our exploration project in Yemen.

We also would like to thank PEPA for giving us the honor to introduce PETRONAS at today's event.

"Your Excellency Ladies and Gentlemen, "PETRONAS" is a

national oil company of Malaysia formed 31 years ago and owned by the government of Malaysia. This is very short time compared to other multinational oil companies but PETRONAS has come a long way, not only in Malaysia but also in 33 countries around the world.

"PETRONAS is currently producing oil and gas in countries such as Vietnam, Myanmar, Pakistan, Chad, Cameroon and Sudan. In Yemen PETRONAS is the operator for Block 52 in Hadramout Governorate.

"Your Excellency Ladies and Gentlemen,

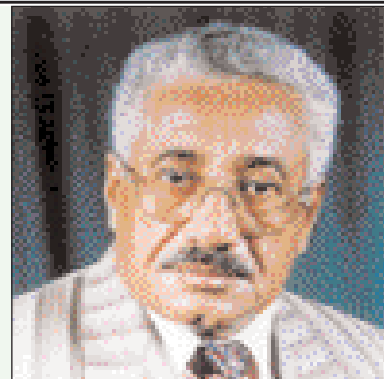
"Let me share with you our long-term plan in Yemen.

"With the good working relationship we have with PEPA and the belief that Yemen is under-explored, PETRONAS intends to establish itself as a capable operator and reasonable partner in an exploration project in order to enhance PETRONAS future investments in Yemen.

"PETRONAS would like to expand F. & P. business in Yemen by participating in the Second International Bid Round. Our team is currently in Yemen to evaluate Blocks that are being offered.

"PETRONAS would also like to seek growth and business integration opportunities for PETRONAS group of companies in both upstream and downstream such as gas, LNG and refinery.

"With the good relationship and cooperation that we have with both organizations, we hope to achieve a long-term presence in this beloved country."



Eng. Mubarak O. Bamahfoudh



Eng. Abdulqawi Moh'd Ahmad



Eng. Fahd Ibrahim Mohammad



Eng. Labib Mohammad Nasher



Eng. Mufadhel Ahmad Mughallis



Ahmad Abduljalil al-Shamiri



Salim Abdulqader al-Hadhari



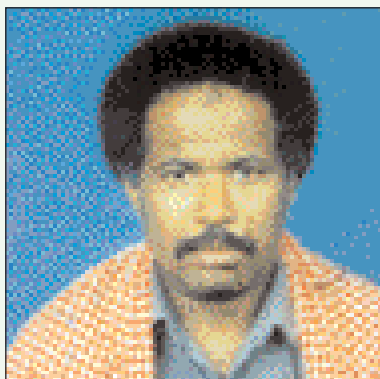
Nadra Yousif



Abdullah Ahmad al-Tishi



Noor Mohammad Hussein



Sulaiman Sa'eed Khamis



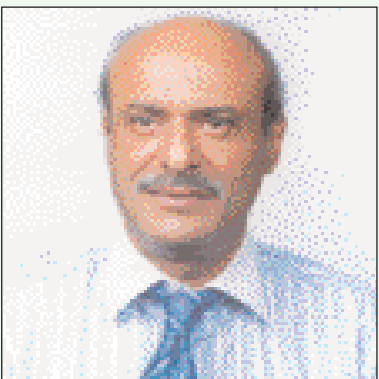
Awadh Salim Ali



Eng. Fatema Saeed al-Khedr



Abdulhamid Mohammad Mer'e



Eng. Labib A. al-Haidari



Abdulelah Mohammad Sulan



Eng. Hussein Abdullah Fadhil



Eng. Mohammad Yahya al-Nahri



# Memories with the late friend Ali al-Anisi (1960-1981)

**Y**emeni songs have always been of the most exquisite and culturally rich songs of the Arabian folklore reflecting Yemeni people's feelings, daily life, and nature. Ali al-Anisi is one of Yemen's most famous artists who enriched the songs culture with his beautiful heartfelt contributions and he was also a friend of mine and hence, deserves a moment of appreciation with this brief narration of phases in his life...

By AMIN DERHIM  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

## The 1st. Phase:

I met the undying artist (singer) of Yemen, late Ali al Anisi during the later part of 1960 in the town of Taiz, through our common friend Ali Al-Khadher. I was amazed by his personality and performance of Sana'ani traditional songs for the first time. Before this meeting my tendencies used to be towards Adeni, Lahji and Hadhrami songs, due to my personal relations with singers Moh'd Murshed Naji, Ahmed Qassem, Moh'd Sa'ad, Abu Bakr Balfaqih, Ahmed Yousef az Zabidi and many others.

At that time, some friends and I were working with the American Cooperation Authority. We used to gather with the elite of Taiz intellectuals of that time such as Ali Sabrah, Abbas al Muta'a, Abdo Uthman, and many others. Our meetings used to be on the first Thursday of every month. Everyone paid one Rial, as a kind of support for the singer of the month. At that time, the sung poems of Ali Sabrah were such as "Ahlan Biman – Welcome that who came " and "Ya Layl hal ashkoo? – Oh Night shall I complain to you?" were superceding the market, but Al-Anisi's performance of Sana'ani was superior.

In 1961, I was visited in Taiz by the prominent singers of Lahj, Fadhl Moh'd al Lahji and Ahmed Yosef az Zabidi. The group met for a night of songs in the house of our friend Moh'd Abbas Ishaq. In addition to the Lahji singers, Ali al Khadher, Ali al Anisi and many art-loving friends attended the gathering. That night, Fadhl played the Oud, while Ahmed al-zabidi sung the patriotic song "Bism hatha at turab – In the name of our soil".

Al-Anisi, who liked the song, directly picked up the poem and rhythm by heart. Later, when the 26th September Revolution erupted, he spontaneously performed the song and recorded it for Sana'a Broadcasting Station. It had a great impact on all Yemenis. And thus was the story behind this famous song.

## The 2nd Phase:

Al anisi accompanied me in his first visit to Aden during late 1961, and I introduced him to some famous singers such as Moh'd Murshed Naji, Moh'd Sa'ad, Balfaqih, Hasan Faqih, Moh'd Saleh Hamshari and many others from Aden and Lahj. He shared many music gatherings with them, exchanged views, concerns and experiences. He came out from this visit by Hamshari's Adenese song "Ishhadoo li ala al akhdhar – Be witness about the brunette", while Balfaqih performed al Anisi's "Ya layl hal ashkoo?" and got it recorded on disks, and it became very famous. The patron of Yemeni singers and artists, the late Abdul Aziz al Aghbari, hosted al Anisi during this visit. During his stay at al Aghbari's house, al Anisi recorded on tapes his most beautiful songs; which are preserved in Taiz by Mohamed, son of the late Aghbari.

Just after the death of Imam Ahmed, a week before the 26th September Revolution we were sure the revolution should erupt. At that time I was renting a flat in a building that belonged to freedom striver Ali Mohamed Saeed, near al Ahmadiyah School, Taiz. I gathered some of the most trusted singers and artists such as al Anisi, al Khadher and Abdul karim Taqi and a very small group of elite intellectuals, and all of us began preparing patriotic songs and slogans for the expected revolution, such as 1- "Gayshana ya Gayshana – Oh our Army", 2- "Alshimal wal Janoub – North and South (Yemen)" and 3- "Bism hatha at turab" and several slogans suitable for the revolution. Brother Ali Moh'd Saeed, used to visit and encourage us. We didn't know he was one of the revolutionaries till we heard from Sana'a Radio his name as a member of the Revolution Command Council.

On Thursday 26th September, the revolution we dreamed about arrived, and we were ready. We dashed through Taiz streets in mass demonstrations, with Anisi at the front, raising our voices with our prepared songs and slogans. Al Anisi moved to Sana'a, where he



late Ali al Anisi

joined the soldiers and officers defending the revolution and raising their morals. Then he was hit during combat and was sent to Asmara for treatment. During 1964 we met again at the house of late Ahmed Abdo Saeed. Ali al Khadher was trying to bring the artists and singers together. We established a musical group which consisted of Ali al Anisi, Fadhl Moh'd al Lahji, Ali as Simah, Moh'd Qalalah, Abdur Rahman al Anisi and Moh'd al Awwami.

Musical instruments were bought from Asmara at the expense of the Taiz Cooperation Authority, which was headed by Ahmed Abdo Saeed. The musical group had a very short life as al Anisi moved to Sana'a and Fadhl al Lahji moved to Aden and was martyred on the Taiz – Aden road at the hands of the colonizing British military.

## The 3rd Phase:

I met Ali al Anisi at Hodeida in the mid sixties, with a group of his lovers such as Moh'd Jubari, Dr. Saeed Shaibani, Omer ba Duwailan and others.

We discussed the idea of documenting al Anisi's songs and agreed to establish a company for that purpose under the name "Ahazeeg wa Aghareed Sana'a". It was agreed that the company would record al Anisi's songs on disks and market them. I was chosen as Chief Director of the Company and Ali

al Anisi himself as Technical Director. He was also granted 8 shares of the company.

Al Anisi was dispatched to Beirut where H.E. Ahmed Jaber Afif, then Yemen's Ambassador to Lebanon, received him. Through cooperation with the famous Rahbani Musical group, al Anisi recorded 10 songs on disks. They were: 1- "Habibi – My Lover", 2- "Qad Allamoooh – My Lover was steered", 3- "La Tajrahoo Hobbi – Don't Hurt my Love", 4- "Dan wa Saja'ah – Sing oh Dove", 5- "Yallah Ridhak – Oh God, Your Approving We Seek" 6- "Ya Qomri San'a' – Oh Tertledove of Sana'a", 7- "Ya Qalb Malak? – What happened to You My Heart?" 8- "Fi Dhil Rayat Thawrati – Under the Flag of My Revolution", 9- "Ta'aesh Anta wa Tabqa – You Shall Live and Survive" and 10- "Wa Mugharred – Oh Singing Bird".

A tape containing the ten songs was presented to Sana'a Radio. Song number eight was chosen as the National Anthem for Northern Yemen and remained so till Yemen was gloriously reunited in 1990, where it was replaced. By then the company had ceased to exist, as cassettes displaced records in the markets.

My relations with the gifted artist and singer of Yemen, Ali al Anisi, continued till his saddening death on 17th April, May God's Mercy Be On Him.

## Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

# The Bible1, the Qur'an and science 1/3

**“I**f the people of the Scriptures had believed and were God-fearing, We would have pardoned them for their sins and entered them the paradises of tranquility. Had they stood by the Torah (Old Testament) and the Bible (Old and New Testament) and all (the revelations) that descended to them from their Lord, they would have eaten from above them and from below their feet; some of them are provident, and many of them, what they do is evil.” (The Holy Qur'an V/65-66)

“Say, Oh, people of the Scriptures, you are not onto anything, until you administer the Torah and the Bible and what was descended to you from your Lord, ...” (The Holy Qur'an V/68)

Verily, those who believed, those who have become Jews, the Saba'ians<sup>3</sup> and the Christians – Those of them who believed in Allah<sup>4</sup> and the Final Day and who did perform rightly, then for them, there should be no fear and they are not to be in grief (The Holy Qur'an V/69)

That there should be conflict amongst people who share convictions in so many ways and differ in their interpretation of morals and Divinely ordained codes of conduct and social cohesion is the dilemma that has perplexed mankind for well over most of Biblical Times until today. What is even more astounding is that, at least for the three major monotheistic faiths of the world today (Judaism, Christianity and Islam), their sources of guidance originate from the same Divine source. So, what is it that causes such difficulty in the followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam to relate to each other? Or rather, what is it that makes the believers in the same God, holy scriptures and prophets willing to shed blood against each other, annulling all the painstaking work of the prophets and the religious dictates of the Scriptures?

The truth of the matter is, according to the author of this truly well researched book on comparative religions, that if the adherents of all the three faiths truly understood the religious convictions of the followers of the other monotheistic faiths, they would find very little ground for conflict. Even more revealing, was the author's belief that if the followers of the different holy Divine sent scriptures analyzed their Books, per se, objectively, then they would come to a stronger recognition of the other monotheistic faiths and maybe assess the validity of their own misconceptions. M. Bucaille attempts to establish a standard by which the Scriptures of the three leading monotheistic faiths should be compared: specifically the findings of modern science and how they relate to some of the events depicted in the Torah (the Jewish Scriptures and their similar Christian counterparts in the Old Testament of the Bible), the New Testament and the Holy Qur'an. He goes deeper than this by presenting a chronological background of their formulation, compilation and structuring. In the former context, Bucaille seeks to show the strengths of the Scriptures texts and their validity based on the progress that science has made in deciphering so many secrets of the universe, that were in the realm of the Unknown when all the Scriptures were revealed, collected and adopted by their believers.

Bucaille makes certain notes that are worthy of consideration when delving into the comparisons:

The Jews only recognize “their own

scriptures” and would have nothing to do with the New Testament or the Qur'an.

The Christians are ready to recognize the Torah with some minor adjustments and of course derive most of the Old Testament for the Old Testament of the Bible and of course the New Testament. They refuse to recognize the Qur'an as Divine Scriptures.

The Moslems insist that the three “books”, as the Qur'an defines the Scriptures, emanate from the same Divine source and were delivered by the same Deliverers of mankind and speak the same language of faith (although admittedly not recognizing the latest versions as the same as the original revealed documents).

The above three quotations from the Qur'an confirm some of these notes and the Qur'an is full of the revelations that the Qur'an came only to substantiate what has been revealed before in the previous Scriptures and correct any corruptions that were introduced later by men, for various reasons, which the author interestingly delves into.

In this critique of the book, we will try to give a brief overview (in this issue) of the book and then proceed to look at some of the findings of the research done by the author and understand what he concludes from these findings.

The author, although of Catholic denomination, assumes that all three faiths should view the Scriptures of all the faiths as Divine revelations and thus does not accept the rejections of any of the three faiths (if any) of the accepted Scriptures of the other faiths: “If we take the objective facts of religious history, we must place the Old Testament, the Gospels and the Qur'an on the same level as being collections of written Revelation. The faithful of the West, under the predominantly Judeo-Christian influence refuse to ascribe to the Qur'an the character of a book of Revelation.

After noting how the Qur'an refers to the Scriptures and prophets of the other two monotheistic with a high degree of recognition, he notes: “The above facts are not generally known in the West.” He blames this on the “way many generations in the west were instructed in the religious problems facing humanity and the ignorance in which they were always kept about anything related to Islam” (underscored by literary critic)

The author is a surgeon and he was attracted to the high level of piety shown by Moslem patients and decided to seek an understanding of Islam. He learned the Arabic language and was amazed at how the Qur'an made certain pronouncements on natural phenomena that science only recently deciphered the meaning of. Further exploration follows in the next Literary Corner.

1 The Torah and the Old Testament as combined by the author

2 The English version. The French version was first published in May 1976, with a Fourth Edition published in 1977. The book apparently aroused the interest of the Presidency of the Shari'ah Courts in Doha, Qatar, who contributed to the printing of the English translation.

3 An ancient Judaeo-Christian faith, in the Arabian Peninsula. Different characterizations have been made of these monotheistic people as to their exact habitat and what their beliefs were exactly. Some suggest it is in Southern Arabia.

4 I.e., God (Christian Arabs also call God Allah).

# Early development childhood required

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**A**s most children are neglected and deprived from their basic rights, efforts to change this situation are being extended. Last month at the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, the Resources Center for Early Childhood was launched. Results of the survey study about Child Rearing Practices were displayed and discussed.

The Early Childhood Development Resource Center (ECDRC) is designed and developed to raise awareness to all aspects of childcare practices and child development. The resource center aims at promoting these issues within a safe, secure and stimulating environment. The goal of the resource center is to provide parents and communities with knowledge in order to improve the quality of life of the Yemeni child. This will be achieved through promoting the physical and cognitive development of the child from conception time up to the age of 8.

Dr. Arwa AL-Amri, the head of ECDRC, further spoke about the mission of the center and its supposed activities "The center is to facilitate networking and building links between relevant governmental and non-governmental institution, local communities and other resource centers in order to promote positive childcare practices. Moreover, the center is to contribute towards curriculum enrichment in academic institutions including promotion of child friendly environment in



kindergartens and primary schools. It will also create awareness of the developmental needs of children and provide information and ideas, which address their physical and cognitive developmental characteristics through various media campaigns. The center will also offer advisory as well as periodic training through seminars and workshops to parents, teachers and other professionals working in the field regarding child development and childcare practices besides promoting growth monitoring and birth registration services."

Then they displayed the results of Child Rearing Practices Study (CRPS) that was conducted by SOUL, the society for Development of Women and Children. The fieldwork, analysis of the data, and report draft was conducted in September to December 2003.

UNICEF reviewed the report and made comments for the final report, which was submitted July 2004.

The project team consisted of UNICEF and SOUL consultants, a field team consisting of SOUL's senior researchers in addition to local individuals from the survey sites. The survey sites were primarily nominated by UNICEF, the sampling system and sample size was set by its experts. The two partner organizations selected the project team; SOUL was in charge of the final phases of data entry, analysis and report.

The CRPS aims at to analyze the behaviors in health care, nutrition, and early development practices in relation to two age groups of children: the birth-2 year-old group and the 3-5 year-old group. In the absence of similar studies in comparable cultural set-

tings, the CRP is the first of its kind in Yemen (and one of the very few in the region) to identify, characterize and describe the factors impacting the survival, physical and psycho-social development of the child. In this respect, the CRPS is a ground-breaking study and opens the way for further, more detailed analysis and intervention.

The CRP was designed to cover three regional domains: urban and rural populations in Al-Zaydia as well as AL-Udayn population.

The study survey was conducted in 2 districts. Al-Udayn district in Ibb governorate and AL-Zaydia district in AL-Hodaidah governorate.

The study has interestingly revealed many different and common facts about children practices in Yemen.

The study is worth reviewing.



# Tihamah basin: The future hydrocarbon province in Yemen

The Red Sea basin originated as an Oligocene cratonic rift between the northeastern part of the African continent and Saudi Arabian peninsula. It has the undergoing sea floor spreading for the last 5 m.y. Countries located in the Red Sea are : Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, Sudan and Egypt(Fig-1).



By: DR. ABDULSATTAR O. NANI  
SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR-  
CHAIRMAN PEPA  
MOM

Sea offshore region prove that the source rocks are available and are mature. These seeps are also plenty in the Yemeni part of the Red Sea ( Tihamah Basin ). Presence of Maqna Play in the above mentioned hydrocarbon discoveries, including Tihamah Basin, leads to future higher hydrocarbon potentiality of this basin.

**MAQNA Formation**  
Age: Lower-Middle Miocene.

Authors: Hughes and Filatoff (1994) as Maqna Group in the Red Sea (Subsurface) area of Saudi Arabia, divisible into two formations each with lateral variations in facies. **Emend.** to Maqna Formation by Yemen Stratigraphic Commission for application to the subsurface succession in the Red Sea of Yemen(Fig-4).

**Synonymy:** Carbonate-Evaporate Group (part), used by some of the operating oil companies; Zeidiye(part) as suggested by Hughes and Beydoun (1992), Karim and Belayim Formation of the Gulf of Suez region.

**Reference(Subsurface) Section in**

**Yemen.** The Zeidiye-1 well serves as the principal subsurface section, with Abbas-1 and Al-Auch-1 serving as additional sections where halites are present, while Hodeida-2 exhibits a non-evaporitic facies. Zeidiye -1 (Fig-5) has about 390m of Belayim-Kareem (Gulf of Suez) equivalent succession consisting of shales-mudstones-siltstones in the upper part and carbonate-anhydrite-shale-thin sand interbedding in the lower part; Abbas-1 and Al-Auch-1 exhibit an interbedding of shale-mudstone with halite ( Belayim equivalent only ) with over 470m present in the first well and over 290m in the second well with the base of the Maqna not reached. Hodeida-2 exhibits over 570m of Belayim equivalent in a facies of alternations, limestones and claystones-mudstones(Hughes and Beydoun, 1992;SPT, 1994;

Doornenbal et al.1991). These are the only four Yemeni Tihamah Red Sea wells to operate the pre-evaporite syn-rift sequence. No surface exposures of any " pre evaporites " are recorded from the area.

Foraminiferal assemblages from these sediments include: *Orbulina universa*, *Praeorbulina glomerata circularis*, *P. transitoria* suggesting an age close to the Early-Middle Miocene boundary.

## MAQNA Play

**Source Rocks:** Miocene (and some Pliocene) oil and gas prone Syn-Rift and Post-Rift shales from variety of laterally limited depositional settings ranging from marine to terrigenous. They typically average 1 to 4% TOC, (maximum 30%) with variable thicknesses.

**Maturation:** Dominantly Late Miocene to Recent, 10 to 0 Ma. Thermal gradients are high, good for the above mentioned ages.

**Migration:** Migration paths are expected to be simple and short in distance.

**Reservoir Rocks:** Miocene and younger sandstones and carbonates from depositional environments ranging from deep marine to deltaic, coastal and sub-aerial. Average porosity is about 22% and permeability of about 1darcy.

**Seals:** The regional seal is extensive Upper Miocene and Pliocene salts, evaporites and shales reaching hundreds of meters in thickness.

**Traps:** Traps are expected to be both stratigraphic and structural. Halokinesis had played a big role in the formation of

different types of salt related structures.

**Remarks:** The Maqna Formation constitutes the upper part of the early Syn-Rift succession ( Lower-Middle Miocene ) of the Yemeni Red Sea area and is equivalent to the Maqna Group of Saudi Arabian sector of the Red Sea and the Kareem - Belayim Formations of the Gulf of Suez, Egyptian sector of the Red Sea. Oil,gas and condensate have been discovered in commercial quantities in these sediments in the Midyan area of Saudi Arabia both onshore and offshore ( Barqan offshore structure ) and Midyan onshore structure. Commercial oil production from these formations in the Gulf of Suez area in Egypt has long been established and sandstone reservoirs of the Kareem Formation (and underlying Rudeis and Nukhul Formations) and in the Belayim Formation (and part of the overlying South Gharib Formation) constitute the main Tertiary oil bearing levels (Ayouti, 1990; Beydoun,1995). These formations contain source, reservoir and seal levels; the source levels can reach exceptional quality locally and in general are good to excellent.

In the southern sector of the Red Sea in Yemen, higher geothermal gradients during rifting make the top of the oil window shallower and variable, even Salif Formation source levels ( within the evaporites and in the Ghawwas Member ) can be late to post-mature at about 1,800m and below in the offshore region of Yemen, close to the axial of Red Sea rift.

In the adjacent Jizan area of Saudi Arabia Red Sea and only some 30km north of the land border with Yemen, three wells recently drilled onshore (centered on about lat.16deg 47min long.42deg 44min, about 26km SE of Jizan Dome), tested 42 API gravity, waxy paraffinic crude oil and dry gas (Cole et al., 1994, 1995) from a Maqna sandstone reservoir ; here the oils were conclusively correlated with the thin Maqna organic-rich mixed oil/gas to oil prone source rock unit immediately below the Maqna sand reservoir in the Jizan North-1 and 3 wells (Cole et al., 1995). The Maqna shales have the TOC which reaches up to 7.48%, and thickens towards the " Kitchen " area.

## Conclusion

1-Presence of Maqna Play in the adjacent hydrocarbon discoveries of Saudi Arabia and the Tihamah basin leads to future hydrocarbon province in the Yemeni part of the Red Sea.

2- Higher geothermal gradients during the rifting make the top of the oil window shallower and variable, even for Salif Formation source levels at 1800m and below in the offshore region of Yemen, close to the axial of Red Sea rift.

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Fig. 1

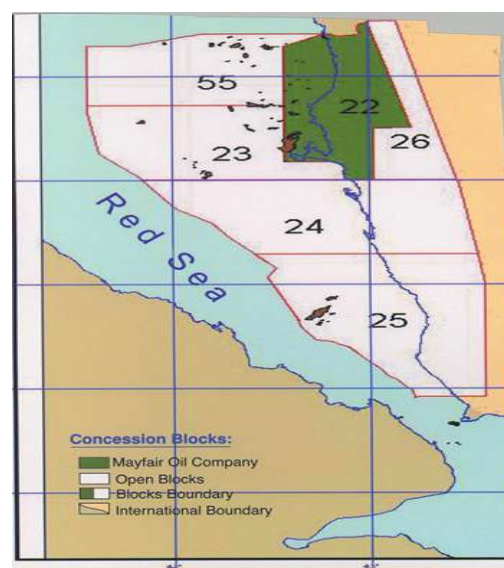
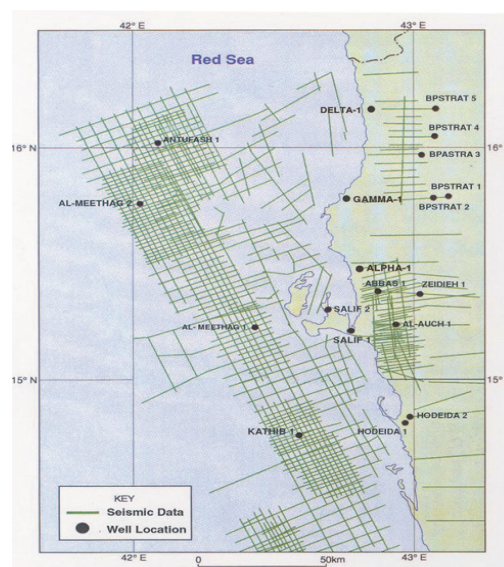


Fig. 2





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# Minding the gap: Intercultural approaches to ELT

I had the privilege of attending the British Council sponsored seminar on **Minding the Gap: Intercultural Approaches to ELT** held from 21st to 26th March, 2005 at Durham University, UK. The event was attended by more than 30 participants from different countries including 3 participants from the Arab World. The deliberations included short theoretical sessions presented by specialists in the field of language teaching and course designing. Each session was followed by extended discussions and/or workshops held by the participants.

## What was it about?

As the title of the event suggests, its main focus was exploring the potential of world languages in general and that of English in particular as instruments to promote the vital qualities of mutual awareness, understanding, tolerance and acceptance of other cultures. It therefore, assumed a great deal of importance from the perspectives of the two main dimensions involved: language and culture.

## Global Perspectives

It goes without saying that with modern inventions and the rapid changes in the fields of technology and sciences, our vast world has become only a "small village" and we are all "neighbors". We can no more live in isolation from other countries and nations, nor can we be immune to the all-embracing sweep of globalization. We need to realize the fact that our world is characterized by increasing eco-

nomie and political integration and, simultaneously, it is confronted with numerous challenges and conflicts involving different nations and cultures. To be able to cope with the web of increasingly complex global trends, we have to sensitize ourselves to the evolving shades of the new levels of cultural awareness and equip ourselves with a critical ability to efficiently understand and effectively communicate with members from other cultures and nations. We need to discover not just what is different, but equally and perhaps more importantly, what we have in common.

## Why language

The field of language teaching has a degree of inherent topic flexibility that other areas DO NOT HAVE. Moreover, promotion of language teaching for intercultural communication is an apt and appropriate response to the political and social realities of globalization. Teachers as conscious sentinels are called upon to integrate the current global issues into their teaching in right earnest so as to help create a global citizenship. This necessitates the utilization of whole paradigm of language teaching: language content, teaching methods, teaching materials, course designing, teacher training and extra curricular activities. Through all



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these factors, language teachers are expected to inculcate mutual respect, promote peaceful co-existence and create an ambience of mutual trust and co-operation among nations.

## Why English

It is the enormous economic and political capabilities of the English speaking countries that herald English as an international language or, say, a global lingua franca. This special

position necessitates a different approach to the teaching of English. As a lingua franca, its main aim is not merely to enrich learners culturally. Rather it is considered as a valuable instrument of intercultural communication whose potentially extensive market creates an immense social demand for it to be taught. It is no surprise therefore that some educators are inclined to evolve a global education approach to English language teaching which, they believe, would go a long way in bridging the gap between cultures. This, according to their viewpoint, can be achieved by bridging the gap between the classroom where it is taught and learnt as well as the real life where it is used.

## Global ( intercultural ) education

Global education is not a new buzz word in the field of language teaching. The UNESCO's (1974) Recommendation Concerning Education for International Understanding, Co-operation and Peace is one of the crucial documents in this respect. It calls for a "global perspective at all levels of education". It underscores the importance of the process of introducing students to the current world issues such as world peace, human rights, environmental pollution, and the dangers of nuclear weapons, for instance.

One major highlight of this approach to language education concerns relevance of

the content as well as the motivation on the part of the learners. The themes and issues discussed in the language class are those that are discussed on TV news and in the newspapers. Another important focus of the approach is the promotion of intercultural awareness. Students learn to understand customs, manners, beliefs and other significant correlates embedded in different cultures so as to promote a much needed cultural sensitivity in them. This approach also purports to provide the learners with the necessary battery of skills for meaningful communication across cultures. They are supposed to learn how to understand and appreciate different shades of cultural nuances presented by the labyrinths of life of the world communities.

*"As language teachers we are builders of bridges and we can promote global peace and togetherness. We can help our students cross these bridges and make a better and more peaceful world where people not only tolerate but celebrate differences".*

## Finally

To our educators in general and to the English language teachers in particular, this onerous task constitutes a new challenge. We need to measure up to the expectations of the nations. We have to face these challenges and never feel complacent. It is time to share with others the different facets of our culture, our history, and our lovely religion, Islam. Others are eager to hear and know about us and we have been silent for a long time. So the time has arrived to act and the moment is now.

## N.B

*I'm really indebted to the functionaries of the British Council office in Yemen for giving me this unique opportunity. My special thanks are due to Ms Tonya A-Ameer and to Mr. Edrees AlQadasi who provided me with everything I needed to attend this International seminar.*

## A letter to the teachers of English: 86 How to avoid copying in the examinations? (3)

Dear Fellow teachers,

One of the requirements for an effective examination is its practicality, which means that the examination arrangements should be taken care of. The examinations I have witnessed in some of the schools and colleges are poor in this respect in that the seating arrangements in the halls help the students to copy rather than deterring it; there are not enough invigilators or too many invigilators who are more interested in their personal chats than invigilating. Believe me, I have seen the only invigilator in the hall in one of the examinations standing at the door smoking while students had a 'free-for-all' time. Students in a few colleges are allowed to sit wherever they choose to and most often they choose 'convenient' places. These observations of mine might sound silly, but one can easily understand how well a careless arrangement for the examinations tempts the students, even the innocent ones, to become copiers. What is the use of crying over spilt milk, when we have the power to control the situation?

A little care in the arrangement will surely reduce the chances for copying. The seats can be arranged with enough space in between and the students allotted to each hall can be asked to sit according to their serial numbers. One of the excuses given against this practice in some colleges is that this will involve boys sitting among the girls or vice versa; this seems to be a lame excuse, as this arrangement is followed in many colleges without any problem. Allotting invigilators to halls needs a bit of planning; the number of invigilators has to be fixed based on the number of students writing examinations in a hall and only those who are serious about their work should be chosen for invigilation work. Finally, the valuation of examination



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papers. I don't feel confident to say what happens in schools in this regard as I am not experienced in it. But I can share my experiences of what happens in the colleges I have worked in. I feel sad that some of us are callous in this very important professional activity, especially in the valuation of answer books in the final examination, when the students do not have access to the corrected

answer books. I have heard some of my colleagues saying that they will be happy if they are relieved of the 'drudgery of paper correction'. Notwithstanding the fact that some teachers yield to the pressure from several quarters to pass certain students, some of us do not take the correction work seriously at all. A casual look at the corrected answer books reveal several evidences: some of the answers are not corrected for their errors; similar answers of two students get different marks; better answers get less marks and poor answers get better marks, to give a few examples. This results in the hard working students getting frustrated about their studies and the average and below average students having a false assessment of themselves. I still remember one of my students (very poor in English) asking me why he failed in my subject whereas he had passed in a couple of other subjects; I am sure that he could not have done those exams well at all. What we need is an effective monitoring mechanism in the Universities. I can only appeal to the good will of those teachers in the interest of the students in the absence of such mechanism at present.

Let's do our best so that our students give up copying, shall we? It is not only our duty as teachers but also our service to this country. Good luck.

*Yours fraternally,  
Dr.M.N.K.Bose.*

## Shakespeare Seminar in Yemen

Although Shakespeare died about four hundred years ago, he continues to inspire and enlighten people even today. The University of Sana'a, for example, is going to organize a national seminar on 24th and 25th of this month.

Post-graduate students and university teachers of English, Yemenis and expatriates alike are coming in large numbers to discuss the how and why of teaching Shakespeare in Yemeni universities in the present context.

# Improve Your English



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# 272

## I. How to Say it Correctly

**Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences**

1. She asked me that I wanted to go to the music festival.
2. Bassim asked me that he was hungry.
3. Adel asked me where do you live.
4. Ahmed asked me open the window.
5. My friend told me that she understands my problem.

**Suggested answers to the previous week's questions**

1. Ann has a **good/large vocabulary**. Ann knows a lot of words.
2. There are **many kinds of** trees in the world.
3. I am studying English.
4. I'm living in the **United States**.
5. I need some **advice**.

## II. Increase Your Word Power

**(A) How to express it in one word**

1. To make the mind or morals better, higher, or more educated.
2. The best or most important people in a social group.
3. To explain or make clear a mystery or difficulty.
4. Set free from legal, political or moral restraint.
5. Order that forbids the movement of ships or trade.

**Suggested answers to the previous week's questions**

1. Showing the belief that all men are equal: **egalitarian** (adj)
2. The self in relation to the outside world: **ego** (n)
3. All the people in the country who have the right to vote: **electorate** (n)
4. To excite and surprise greatly: **electrify** (vt)
5. A type of poem to show sorrow for the dead: **elegy** (n)

**(B) Words commonly confused**

**Bring out the difference in meaning of the following pairs of words**

1. elemental, elementary
2. elfin, elfish
3. elide, elude
4. ellipse, eclipse, ellipsis
5. replace, substitute

**Suggested answers to the previous week's questions**

1. **ecleptic** (n) (the path along which the sun seems to move): The path of the ecliptic is shown on the map.
- elliptic** (adj) (shaped like a regular oval): The earth's path round the sun is elliptic.
- eclectic** (adj) (method or approach formed by borrowing freely from various sources): The teacher

should adopt an eclectic approach in the classroom.

2. **inquest** (n) (official inquiry to learn facts concerning an unnatural death): The police have sent the body for an inquest.

**inquiry** (n) (investigation to find out the reason for something): The authorities have ordered an inquiry into the incident.

3. **every** (determiner, used before singular countable noun and singular verb): It is used when thinking of a whole group, like **all** with a plural verb. Ex. Every child loves sweets = all children love sweets.

**each** (determiner, used before a singular noun. It is used to refer to things, one at a time): Each of the boys got a prize.

4. **end** (n) (the point where something stops, or beyond which it doesn't exist): A failure in the exam need not be the end of the road.

**finish** (vt) (to reach or bring an activity to an end): When will the lecture finish?

5. **brigand** (n) (member of a band of robbers): The notorious brigand was killed in an encounter with the police.

**brigade** (n) (a group of people who have certain duties): The fire brigade labored hard to put out the flames.

**(C) Phrases and idioms**

**Use the following phrases in sentences**

1. pour oil on troubled waters
2. get one's fingers burnt
3. call the shots
4. like the wind
5. take one's mind off (something)

**Suggested answers to the previous week's questions**

1. **nothing to it** (very easy): 'Come on, take the test - there is nothing to it!'
2. **just around the corner** (very near in time, soon): Every one is buying presents - Id's just around the corner.
3. **turn over a new leaf** (to begin to behave well after a period of bad behavior): He used to behave very roughly with his wife, but recently he has turned over a new leaf.
4. **put all one's eggs in one basket** (to depend totally on the success of one particular plan): A wise man never puts all his eggs in one basket.
5. **be up to no good** (to be doing something wrong or illegal): Unless there is strict surveillance in the hostel, the inmates will be up to no good.

## III. Grammar

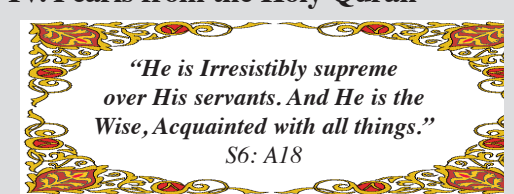
**Rewrite the following sentences using just about to (do), was just (doing), or has just done**

1. Ashwag was in the bath when there was a knock at the door.  
Ashwag —
2. Ann had been on the point of ringing the bell. She noticed that the door was slightly open.  
Ann —
3. Ann closed the door. Then she dropped her handbag.  
Ann —
4. Arwa finished her bath. She heard a noise.  
Arwa —
5. Ann picked up her handbag and at the same time she knocked over a chair.  
Ann —
6. Bassam decided to phone the police. He heard another noise.  
Bassam —
7. Mohammed shouted for Jamal. He noticed Jamal standing by the phone.  
Mohammed —
8. Bushra dialed 999, and at the same time she heard a familiar voice shouting her name.  
Bushra —
9. She put down the phone. Then she saw her friend Fatima standing in the doorway.  
Bushra —

**Suggested answers to the previous week's questions**

1. When we got to the post office, it **was closed**.
2. My ring **is made of** gold.
3. Your name is Ramzy Al-Hamzy. **Are you related to** Ali Al Hamzy?
4. This fruit **is spoiled**. I think I'd better throw it out.
5. Tom **is drunk**. He is making a fool of himself.
6. Ahmed loves his job. He **is interested in** his work.
7. What's the matter, little boy? **Are you lost?**

## IV. Pearls from the Holy Quran



## V. Food for Thought

**"I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you." —Elizabeth B Browning**

## History of English teaching in Yemen

Yemen is one of the countries where English is taught as a foreign language. English was first introduced to the schools of North Yemen, through a textbook, by Imam Yahya in 1926 (Sulaiman, 1994), whereas in South Yemen, namely Aden, it was introduced by the British in the early thirties of the 19th century. In 1962, in North Yemen, Egyptian school textbooks such as "English for Use", were used in preparatory and secondary schools. The teaching practices were modeled, by and large, on *Grammar Translation Method*.<sup>1</sup> In the school year 1968/69, the "English for Use" course was replaced by "Living English for the Arab World", a course that used to be taught in the neighboring Arab Gulf countries at that time.<sup>2</sup>

In the school year 1982/83, two different English courses were trialled at grades 7 and 8 in some preparatory schools in Sana'a and Taiz. An earlier version of the *Crescent* designed for the Yemeni schools by an Arab Gulf country was piloted at grade 8 classes in the two cities. The other one was "The English for Yemen", prepared by the British Council team on the basis of some preliminary investigation about the local situation and the educational and social needs. (A report by. Mountford)

Eventually, *English For Yemen* was chosen to be the official textbook in the schools of the northern governorates. It was used till 1992 when there was a felt need for having one common textbook for all the schools in the country. In the school year 1992-1993 an agreement was reached with Mr. Rod Web, the author of *Crescent*, to incorporate certain amendments to the course. By printing the new textbooks in cooperation with Oxford University Press, Beirut Branch, the Yemen Ministry of Education changed the old textbooks and replaced them by the revised *Crescent*, which is now captioned *English Course For Yemen*.



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In addition to schools, English is also taught in the Faculties of Education, Arts and Languages, as well as in those of Medicine and Engineering. There is a perceived need of more Yemeni citizens with a good level of proficiency in English. Creating a great number of competent users of English, as teachers to teach in schools and as users of English in a

whole range of professions, businesses, workplaces and enterprises is undeniably a high national priority.

In the fitness of things, the government encourages the private sector initiative to be involved in the enterprise of teaching English. As a result, numerous language institutes and English medium schools have mushroomed through the length and breadth of the country, offering courses from the kindergarten to the tertiary levels.

Yemeni students are also eager to study English for their own occupational purposes such as joining the Faculty of Medicine or Engineering. They also want English to get better jobs in the future, especially in the multinational companies or joint ventures or to study abroad.

The *English Course For Yemen* requires teachers to teach English communicatively in classrooms as it is mentioned in the Teacher's Guide; Book 2, (page 2 & 3). The introduction of this functional textbook, in which communicative teaching aims have been set and the communicative functions to be taught listed, is a key element to achieve all the above mentioned goals. As we know, communicative language teaching (CLT) aims at promoting the learners' communicative competence, helping them fulfill their communicational needs. As Nunan (1988) and Galloway (1993) aptly observe, sufficient exposure to the target language brings about a positive effect on the EFL learners. This is expected to be a key element in Yemen as well, facilitating the learners' access to the outside world and augmenting the nation's drive towards modernization.



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## Tajikistan: rising from the ashes of civil war

**D**espite formidable challenges in the aftermath of a deadly civil war, Tajikistan persists on the road to peace and recovery in a scarcely reported effort.

At a time when much of the world's attention was focused on the raging conflict in the Balkans, civil war also engulfed a small country in another part of the world, Central Asia. In Tajikistan, which became independent in 1991, bitter fighting between the militias representing different regions of the country, led to massive destruction and tore the country apart. The conflict and its aftermath resulted in the deaths of over 50,000 people and led to a humanitarian catastrophe, with some 1.2 million becoming refugees or internally displaced persons.

Today, Tajikistan is on the way to a hard won peace brokered by the United Nations in 1997, which brought an end to hostilities and began the process of reconstruction. Scant attention has been paid to how the country overcame insurmountable divisions between the Government and the United Tajik Opposition (UTO) and laid the foundations of political pluralism. Tajikistan deserves acclaim for its little known achievements in containing internal conflict and building bridges with its neighbours in a fairly unstable region of the world. Former combatants are learning to use a common language of peace. The Tajik capital, Dushanbe, will play host to an anti-landmine conference in May to advance dialogue on the legacy of

landmines in a region of the world where the conflict is over, but the struggle to build peace continues.

Spanning 12 years and several different stages, the UN's peace efforts in the country have been central to providing the tools for reconciliation and rehabilitation. The UN responded promptly to the appeal to provide political assistance in mediating the conflict and sent the first fact-finding mission in September 2002, followed by a goodwill mission two months later. Those first initiatives laid the ground for the establishment of a UN political office in Dushanbe in 1993. In 1994, in cooperation with eight regional countries, the UN succeeded in bringing together the Government of Tajikistan



and UTO for several rounds of negotiations, which yielded a landmark

### "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**

agreement to end the hostilities. In December 1994, the United Nations Mission of Observers of Tajikistan (UNMOT) was established to monitor

demobilization, voluntary arms collection and employment creation for former irregular fighters. However, the political equilibrium in Tajikistan remains fragile as the nation struggles to deal with a legacy of problems related to the civil war, including the high unemployment rate among ex-combatants, the spread of small arms among civilians, drug trafficking and the resurgence of extremist organizations. At the same time, Tajikistan has come a long way and a broad-based assistance effort by the United Nations, involving the political office and 12 aid agencies, is aimed at ensuring that the country remains firmly on its path towards peace, stability, democratization and economic recovery.

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the Agreement and consolidate the gains achieved. However, progress towards peace was complicated and suffered a number of serious setbacks until a peace agreement was concluded in 1997.

Over the past three years, the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (UNTOP) jointly with the United Nations Country Team has played a lead role in a wide array of UN post-conflict activities in the country aimed at consolidating peace and national reconciliation, promoting the rule of law and strengthening democratic institutions. As part of that effort, it has helped to mobilize international support for programmes promoting

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