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Accused of supporting al-Houthi, communicating with Iran

Al-Dailami receives death sentence

By MOHAMMED BINSALLAM
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Specialized Criminal Court on Sunday 29 May 2005 issued its death verdict and reprimanding against Judge Yahya Hussein Al-Dailami for his communication with Iran and his supportive stand with the "Believing Youth" movement that was led by Hussein Badruddin al-Houthi who was killed by Yemeni government forces in September last year. Other charges against al-Dailami were also his conspiracy to topple the regime and the republican system as well as fomenting of protest sit-ins and leading demonstrations.

The same court had also issued an eight-year imprisonment sentence against the scholar Mohammed Muftah for the same charges.

The condemned al-Dailami and Muftah had refused to recognize legitimacy of the court and consequently they refused and objected the court's verdict, saying, "It is an unconstitutional court," and describing it as "oppressive and unjust court and the verdict it has passed reached it ready made from the authority."

They claimed they were not granted the opportunity to defend themselves and their lawyers were not allowed to defend them. Both al-Dailami and Muftah had emphasized that they were advocates for peace and had never once called for violence, claiming that the charges attempted to be attached to them were fabricated and false.



Al-Dailami (left) and Muftah as seen from behind the bars of the Specialized Criminal Court. PHOTOS BY GAMAL NOMAN

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Despite assaults Rahma and Hafid will not stop defending rights & freedoms

By YASSER AL-MAYASI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Tension rose over the publication of an imprudent article against journalist Rahma Hujairah and her husband on the first issue of "al-Bilad Newspaper" last Tuesday.

The indecent article targeted Rahma Hujairah, Chairwoman of Women Journalists Forum and her husband Hafid al-Bukari, Secretary-General of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS). This conduct has been strongly denounced by media and civil society organisations.

The article published last week irritated Yemeni journalists from different newspapers who in turn expressed solidarity with Rahma and her husband at the head-office of the YYS. They issued many statements that denounced assaults of journalists and called on all Yemeni journalists to stand up to those who want to degrade the status of journalism and disgrace reputation of journalists.

The YYS decided to freeze the YSS-membership of al-Bilad Chief Editor Abdulmalik al-Faishani and the newspaper's Managing Editor Abdullah Bushr for publishing such bad articles and incorrectly fabricated stories. The



Hafid al-Bukari



Rahma Hujairah

YT photos by Y. Al-Mayasi

Yemeni journalists collectively decided to stage a sit-in at the court and file a lawsuit against al-Bilad Newspaper.

Journalists Hafid and Rahma appointed three lawyers, namely, Nabil al-Mohammadi, Nasser al-Bukhaiti and Jamal al-Ja'abi to represent them before the court.

Hafid al-Bukari and Rahma Hujairah said in a statement to the Yemen Times that, "we perceive the size of challenge facing us when we work for defending

freedoms and human rights. During our activities, we have been subjected to several harassments but we never expected such conducts that target the morality of journalists."

"Such practices will never make media personnel silent and the solidarity declared by journalists encouraged us to defend our rights and freedoms of the press and democracy," Hafid and Rahma added.

Continued on page 3

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Mauritanian president visit to Sana'a concludes
 President of Mauritania Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Al Taya who arrived in Sana'a on Saturday afternoon in a four-day official visit to Yemen, departed from Sana'a International Airport today.
 He was welcomed at Sana'a International Airport by President Saleh and other senior Yemeni officials.
 During his visit, in the company of a high-level delegation, the Mauritanian leader held official talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh over bilateral relations and issues of common concern.
 It is worth mentioning that President Ali Abdullah Saleh awarded President of Mauritania Maaouya Ould Sid Ahmed Al Taya First Class Republican Medal, which is the highest medal of its kind in Yemen, while in turn the Mauritanian President awarded president Ali Abdullah Saleh the Large Shawl the achievements medal of Mauritania which is the highest award in Mauritania.

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Police called to end domestic quarrel

TAIZ- Locals in Tha'abat last week asked for the intervention of the security authorities to settle a quarrel between a wife and her husband.

Eyewitness stated a bloody domestic quarrel continued for half an hour in the main street during which the husband and his four brothers used all kinds of sticks and wires and severely beat the women in different parts of her body.

Locals called the police to end the tragic quarrel after they felt unable to save the life of the woman who was then transferred to a private hospital in the neighborhood.

Hope forum is to launch a new diploma course in programming the human optimal psyche (HOPE)

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The HOPE forum will start soon launching a new diploma course : for programming the human optimal psyche called (The Hope Neuro-Linguistic Psychological Programming). "many candidates have already registered their names," said engineer Abd-Alrhaman Al-Oulfy, general secretary of the Sana'a based NGO the (HOPE)forum to "Yemen Times". He added that the course is derived from the human optimal psyche theory concepts that are mainly based upon the Islamic revival modern koranic interpretations deduced and adopted by Islamic Middle Contemporary School of thought that is calling for Islamic cul-



Dr. Mohammed Al-Sharafi

tural revolution, and recently founded in Yemen and as well from modern human schools of psychology, neu-

rology, medicine, Philosophy ,sociology, theology and other related sciences. It aims mainly to restructure the prevailing psychological state of the individual humans to be more balanced, harmonized and continuously developing internal tranquility , security, satisfaction and peace. It renders individuals to radiate these values and psychological healthy states of internal equilibrium to the external environment ,expressed in complete tolerance to other human mates, adding positively to the societal stability, security and peace. Answering to a question from Yemen Times , he said one of the major aims of this program is to fight terrorism by the proper ideological means , philosophy , psychology, and educa-

tion. He said that the program is mainly composed by professor Mohammed Yahia Al-Sharafi , the eminent revivalist Arab Islamic philosopher, the senior neuropsychiatry consultant and lecturer and the founder of the Human Optimal Psyche (HOPE) theory , a new personality theory carrying his own name.

He ended that the course is conducted in Arabic language for Moslems and non Moslems and the forum accepts cooperation with all NGOs and Yemen Times.

Worth mention that Yemen times has formerly published a series of pioneer articles titled "HOPE Is the only way to peace" written by Pro. Al-Sharafi.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Do you think that the Specialised Penalty Court is a non-constitutional court like the military courts that try citizens on political cases?
 - Yes it is not constitutional
 - No it is a normal legal court
 - I don't know

last edition's question:

Do you think the Yemeni newspapers are united?
 • No each newspaper has its individual interests 50%
 • They try but anti-freedom efforts are creating disputes 24%
 • I don't know 23%
 • Yes, they are 3%

Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard!

Tender Announcement

Ministry of Technical Education & Vocational Training
 Strengthening Priority Areas of Vocational Training (SPAVT)

Supplies of hotel and school furniture, computer and training equipment for the NAHOTI (National Hotel and Tourism Institute) in Sana'a, Yemen

The tender dossier can be downloaded from the following web page:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/tender/index_en.htm

Or the complete tender dossier including annexe can be purchased with a submission of a written application to the Project Management Unit (PUM) and upon a payment of a none-refundable fee of YR 10,000 at the:

Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training
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 E-mail: SPAVT@y.net.ye

The contract includes supply and installation of furniture and training equipment for NAHOTI (National Hotel and Tourism Institute). The future NAHOTI will provide both theoretical and practical training facilities for six occupational skill areas: Front Office, Food and Beverage Service, Housekeeping, Food Production, Travel agency and Travel guidance. The institute includes a training hotel, as well as a dormitory for the students.

- Number and titles of lots
 Lot 1: Technical Equipment
 Lot 2: Furniture
 Lot 3: Office and Hotel Equipment
 Lot 4: First aid, security and fire protection
 Lot 5: Housekeeping
 Lot 6: Kitchen equipment

Site visit **25th of June 2005 10:00 a.m.**
 Meeting at the PMU in the MoTEVT **at 10:00 a.m.**
 Deadline for submission of tenders **11th of July 2005 12:00 p.m.**

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Agricultural quality boosted

The Technical System at the supreme Council for Exports Development organized a training course for agricultural exporters. The aim is to develop their capacity of building and earn them new skills and experiences on the concept of modern quality in exporting fruits and vegetables.

The course also aims to make trainees acquainted with the healthy agricultural practices that help produce crops with high competition capacities.

Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Tehama Development Authority, the General Authority for Research and Agricultural Guidance and the Hodeida Chamber of Industry and Trade, as well as representatives from agricultural associations and export centers took part in the course organized in Hodeida.

Participants delivered lectures on quality requirements and quarantine, as well as the activities of the technical system at the council.

Lecturers concentrated on the means of avoiding pollution sources and called for paying field visits to



some export centers in the Governorate. Genera of the Supreme Council for Exports Development and Dr. Yahya al-Ghashm Chairman of Tehama Development Authority, attended the inauguration of the course.

Mohammad Saleh Shamlan Governor of Hodeida, No'man Mohammad al-Molse Secretary

Marginalized women banned from walking at night

TAIZ- A security decision was issued last week for banning women belonging to the marginalized category from walking in the evening in many zones in the city of Taiz.

Colonel Nasser al-A'awash, General Director of the Police Department of West Taiz, told the Yemen Times that his department received numerous complaints by locals in al-Musalla Street urging policemen to arrest marginalized women (from Akhdam category) who walk in the street over the

night. According to locals, these women commit immoral crimes with youths in the zone.

Colonel al-A'awash added all the marginalized women are prohibited from walking in streets at night, and some of them were arrested and released after they pledged not to leave their homes at night.

According to the police, whoever violates the regulations will be arrested and punished.



Tender for Water Tanks Building supplies

CARE International Yemen is looking for qualified suppliers of construction and water materials for its *Increased Water Safety Project - Al Mahweet (echo funded)*. Project sites are in all districts of Al Mahweet governorate.

Interested suppliers can obtain detailed materials and equipment list and other tender documents from CARE head office at 68 Arwa School St. (near Mujahed St.) or from Project's office at Al Sanhani Building, Aldairi road, Al Mahweet. Final submission of tender documents is 11th of June, 2005. Tenders will be opened in public session on 12th of June 2005 at 10.00 am.

For further information, please contact:
 Mr. Mohammed O. Taleb
 Tel. 07-879218 or 07-404697
 Mobile: 71748522
 Email: creechomah@y.net.ye

Yemen-born man denied bail after threat to NY Post

NEW YORK (Reuters) - A Yemen-born Manhattan newsstand owner accused of threatening to blow up the New York Post newspaper's offices for publishing photographs of Saddam Hussein in his underwear was denied bail on Friday by a New York judge.

Nagi Nashal, 53, a naturalized U.S. citizen, was arrested by New York City police on Saturday on charges of making a terrorist threat against the newspaper, owned by

Rupert Murdoch.

Nashal's attorney, Melvin Greenwald, said he had known his client for 25 years and insisted he was "of good character."

But Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Anthony Ferrera denied bail, saying: "He threatened to blow up the New York Post."

"He can't threaten to blow up a major paper because they used a photograph of Saddam Hussein in his underwear," the judge said.

A state law enacted days after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks makes making such telephone calls a felony, punishable by up to seven years in prison.

Greenwald said his client "was misunderstood" and that the call to the tabloid "was 'misinterpreted.'"

The judge dismissed that assertion: "They traced the phone call back to him, for God's sake. What's not to understand? You tell me how that could be misinterpreted?"

According to the indictment, Nashal has lived in the United States for more than two decades and called the newspaper's circulation office on Saturday morning with the threat.

"I am very upset with the photos of Saddam Hussein in the Post. How dare you disgrace my people. I will come down there and blow up the building," Nashal is said to have told the newspaper, according to the indictment.

Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Adam Kauff said Nashal then tried to cover up his actions by fabricating a story that a taxi driver who had visited his Manhattan candy store had instead made the threatening call.

Pictures showing the former Iraqi ruler clad in his underwear were published in tabloid newspapers in New York and London on May 20. The Pentagon responded by declaring that their release was unauthorized and launching an investigation to find out who did it.

Continued from page 1

Al-Dailami receives death sentence

A number of activists representing civil society organizations have demanded the cancellation of the Specialized Criminal Court at once and to consider all the verdicts it has been issuing as null and void and demanded to tackle all consequences of that court in order to guarantee equal rights and equal citizenship. A statement issued by representatives of ten civil organizations and participants in the sit-in staged in front of the Supreme Court and the ministry of justice last Tuesday, affirmed that the Specialized Criminal Court represents the worst image of judiciary.

It is to be recalled that a presidential decree was issued at the beginning of May 2004 ordered the creation of extraordinary courts. Many lawyers deem those courts as being formed in violation of the constitution. The lawyers say those courts were entrusted with considering crimes impinging the state security in addition to highly dangerous social and economic crimes.

The lawyer Mohammed Najji Allow,

chairman of HOOD organization had earlier said the Yemeni constitution would not permit the formation of extraordinary courts, mentioning that they were equal to military courts and those dealing with the state security. He added that those courts try civilians from political activists and mostly from among the opponents. Consequently, they are violating the constitution and are unconstitutional.

Lawyer Allow said the Supreme Court that approved formation of those courts was short of knowledge and that could be applied to jurist organizations and the political parties that have taken an inactive stand vis-à-vis a court that is supposed to face outright rejection. According to the constitution in Yemen, specialization of ordinary courts and their prosecution covers all types of issues.



PHOTOS BY GAMAL NOMAN

Rahma and Hafid will not stop defending rights & freedoms

"We are waiting for justice to take the legal procedures and punish the wrongdoers, and therefore we expect to encounter some difficulties in obtaining our rights as we are fully acquainted with the situation of journalism in the country."

They added, "We hope to find the state of law and the constitution we are still dreaming of and we usually work for its sake. What happened is considered as desperate attempts to thwart the dream and despoil the human principles and values as well as to kill the soul, which advocates for making a change to the situation we experience as citizens. The rights of Yemeni citizens are often violated here and there but we have enough confidence to score victory at the end."

The majority of Yemeni newspapers strongly denounced such illegal practices against the profession of journalism.

That misconduct was denounced by several non-governmental organizations including Women Journalists without Borders, which confirmed in a statement that what Rahma Hujairah was subjected to was a kind of real

terror against the female journalists. Such practices aim to eradicate the participation of women in the political life and targeting Rahma Hujairah was thought of as a humiliation of all journalists.

In addition, the Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate (YLS) affirmed in a statement it would stand by journalists Rahmah Hujairah and her husband Hafid al-Bukari, General Secretary of the YJS.

In its statement, the YLS urged the government to take legal action against the offenders and their conducts, as a kind of moral bankruptcy and deterioration of the profession.

Several international organizations condemned the practices aimed to harm reputation of Rahma Hujairah and her husband, and International Journalists Union (IJU) condemned the assault against Hafid and Rahma.

The IJU, which includes around half a million members from across the world, expressed full solidarity with the two-targeted journalists who have been subject to attack.

The General Secretary of the IJU noted such crafty attack against prominent journalists who defend

freedoms of the press and rights of citizens raises concern. He confirmed a newspaper that was suddenly issued a few days after both journalists Hafid and Rahma criticized the government and its policies made such an attack.

The IJU called on the Yemeni authorities to respect the freedom of expression for guaranteeing a constructive environment that can develop journalism in Yemen.

There are many organizations and personalities who have stood by journalists Hafid al-Bukari and Rahma Hujairah but the report will not be enough to include all of them.

Some political analysts and people interested in the situation of journalism attributed the attack against the two prominent journalists to their views that oppose policies of the government and their strong will to defend rights of journalists.

Those observers hold the view that articles published by Rahma Hujairah, the last of which was published in al-Thawri weekly on Thursday May 19 under the title "President's war on media and multi-party existence" were the main reasons behind such immoral conducts against her

Al-Qaeda: Gold sales claims

Ten Arab men suspected by Swiss authorities of supporting the al-Qaeda terror network allegedly engaged in illegal gold trading besides smuggling illegal aliens, said Swiss authorities on Thursday.

According to the 2004 Swiss report on national security, the 10 suspects, the last two of whom were released in April, transferred proceeds from their gold trading to a Yemen-based pressure group with suspected links to al-Qaeda.

The report said the 10 were believed to have smuggled several hundred job seekers from the Middle East to or through Switzerland.

The men were also suspected of providing fake documents that enabled collaborators to enter Switzerland and European countries.

In April, Swiss authorities released the last two of the group from detention, but they were still under investigation.

As a condition of their release, the suspects - who included seven Yemenis, two Somalis and one Iraqi - must report regularly to local police authorities.

The men had been rounded up in Swiss raids between December 2003 and May 2004 after being linked to numbers in cellphones seized from terror suspects in Saudi Arabia.

Society news

A member company of the Indian Reliance Group signed on Saturday an agreement of Public Telecommunications Corporation (PTC) and the Flag Telecom to link Yemen with a new telephony system at a cost of 36 million dollars.

A delegation from the Arab Lawyers Union (ALU) headed by the union's Secretary-General Ibrahim al-Seblai and the Governor of Hadhramout Abdul-Qader Ali Helal met in Mukalla on Saturday for the first round of the ALU's permanent bureau meeting in Mukalla city on Sunday.

The meeting of assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization (UNESCO) Abdul-Wahed Badr-Khan appreciated the development of Yemeni media and focused on the development of media in Yemen in the framework of the democratic practices and freedom of the expression.

Twenty-two sanitation management officials from Sana'a, Hajja, Hadramout, Dhamar, Ibb, Abyan, Mahra, Dhale'a, Abyan and Hodeida are participating in a training workshop on solid waste management which began in Sayoon. The GTZ and the public works ministry are involved in the workshop.

A Saudi interior ministry delegation is supposed to visit Yemen for a security discussing on Sunday.

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1. Publication reference EuropeAid/ 120548/D/S/YE

Instead of:
19. Deadline for submission of tenders
On 28th May 2005 12:00 noon (local time).
Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.
20. Tender opening session
On 28th May 2005 13:00 noon (local time) at:
The ministry of Public Health and population, Support to the health sector reform project, Al-Hasabah area, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

Please read:
19. Deadline for submission of tenders
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Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.
20. Tender opening session
On 21st June 2005 13:00 noon (local time) at:
The ministry of Public Health and population, Support to the health sector reform project, Al-Hasabah area, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

Also more information is valid on the EC website now and another information will be posted between 30 May - 2 June.
http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/ten-der/index_en.htm

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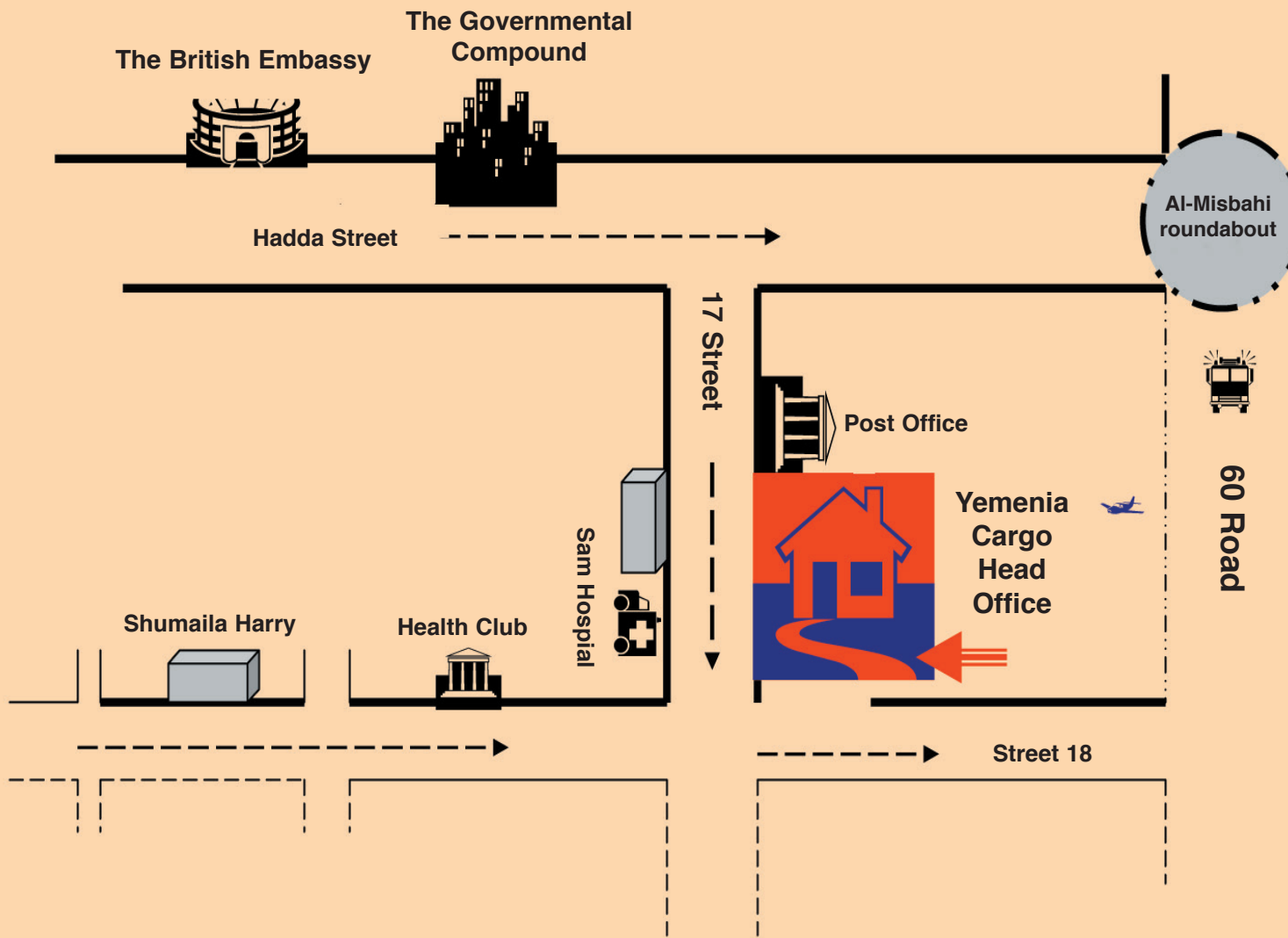


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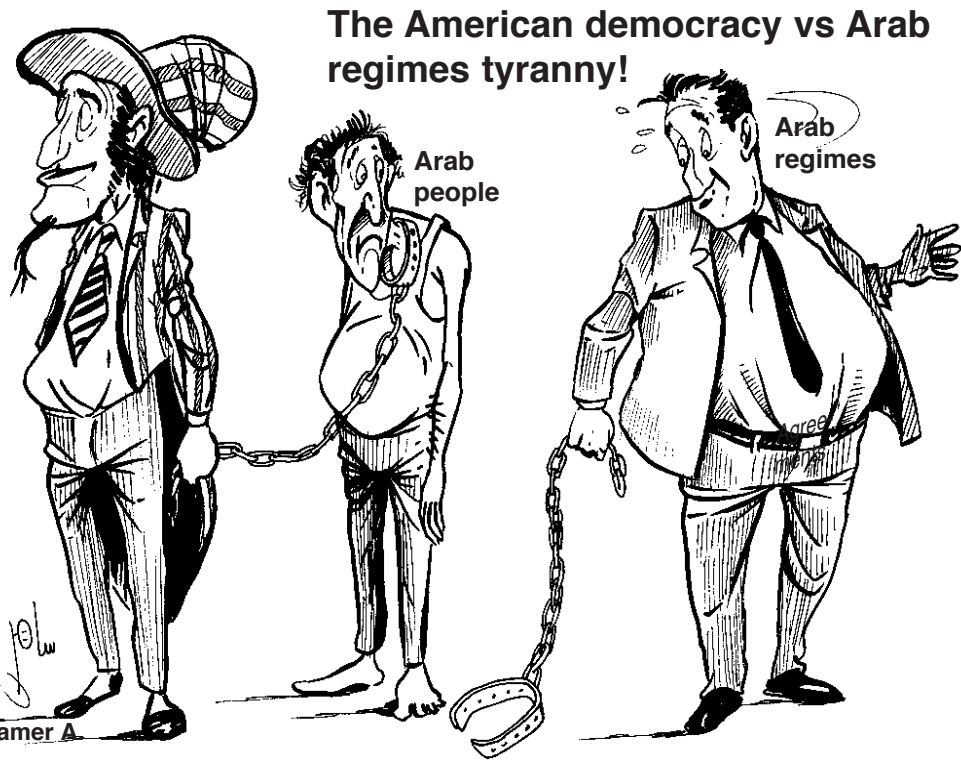
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SABAFON

By Samer A.



Arab leader shot dead in Iraq city of Kirkuk

OKIRKUK, Iraq, May 28 (Reuters) - Gunmen have shot dead a former member of Kirkuk's city council, Iraqi police said on Saturday, the latest killing of a local official in a city where tensions between Kurds and Arabs run high.

Naif Sabhan al-Jibouri, an Arab tribal leader and former council member, was shot dead outside his home late on Friday, police colonel Adil Zain al-Abdein said.

Jibouri was said to have developed good ties with Kurdish officials on the council, which Kirkuk's deputy mayor suggested might have been a reason for the killing.

Over the past two years, more than a dozen local leaders -- including Kurds, Arabs and Turkish-speaking Turkmen -- have been killed in Kirkuk, a city that draws wealth from huge nearby oil resources and which is claimed by all three groups.

The city lies about 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad.

There are fears any explosion of tensions in Kirkuk could provide a spark for



Iraqi soldiers detain suspects during an operation in Baghdad's Abu Ghraib district in this handout photo taken on May 22. REUTERS

a larger ethnic conflict in the country, but so far local animosities have largely been held in check.

Kurds make up about 20 percent of Iraq's population and live mostly in three northern provinces, where they have their

own regional government and enjoy a high degree of autonomy.

Ultimately, Kurdish leaders would like to see Kirkuk assumed into the Kurdish region and made its capital, goals that Arab leaders would staunchly resist.

Saudi officials say Fahd in stable condition

RIYADH, May 28 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's King Fahd is now in stable condition, a day after he was taken to hospital with pneumonia, Saudi officials said on Saturday.

They said the king, in his early 80s and incapacitated by a stroke since 1995, had undergone treatment to have water drained from his lungs. "He has now stabilised," one official said.

Fears about the king's condition had heightened on Friday after a royal statement urged Saudis to pray for his recovery. The palace has issued no further update on his health.

Should Fahd die, diplomats expect a smooth succession in the kingdom, the world's biggest oil exporter, which has been fighting al Qaeda militants trying to topple the royal family.

The script calls for Crown Prince Abdullah, the king's half-brother and a cautious reformist, to ascend the throne and for Defence Minister Prince Sultan to become crown prince.

Life appeared normal in the capital Riyadh, with busy traffic after the Friday weekend and no sign of extra security.

But despite palace assurances, the king's health was of great concern to many Saudis in a country where information is often filtered and rumours fly. Some believed the monarch was in a coma while others were convinced he was critically ill.

Others took the government's requests for prayers for the king as an ominous sign.

"I think the fact the government so quickly told us about the king's condition means things are very serious this time," said Abu Fahad, a 24-year-old university student.

Mohammed Sulaiman, a 47-year-old businessman, went further. "I actually think he is already dead and that the authorities are holding out on telling the people so that the news doesn't come as too much of a shock," he said.

"We are worried about the king. We know it's likely he will die, but we're



File photos of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah (L) March 28, 2002 and Saudi Arabian King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud April 15, 2000. Saudi Arabia was on alert and cancelled all leave for its security forces on May 27, 2005 after King Fahd was taken to hospital with a lung ailment, an Interior Ministry official said. Fahd has ruled Saudi Arabia since June 1982, but since suffering a stroke in 1995, the day-to-day running of the country has been in the hands of the crown prince. REUTERS

praying that he survives," said Hajar Mohaisen.

Saudi security sources said princes had started arriving in the Saudi capital, a sign of concern for the king's health.

Hariri leaves for Riyadh

Witnesses in Beirut said Saad al-Hariri, the son of Lebanon's assassinated former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, left for Riyadh on Saturday, even though he is fighting elections in the Lebanese capital on Sunday.

An aide to Hariri said he was paying a brief visit to the king. Hariri, like his slain father, holds Saudi as well as Lebanese citizenship and runs a large business in the kingdom.

King Fahd has been ailing for a decade. Rumours about his health have often surfaced in Saudi Arabia and on world oil markets, but this time they appeared to be better founded.

Reports that he was sick were blamed for a 4.69 percent drop in Saudi stock prices on Wednesday. In morning trade on Saturday the index was down nearly

1 percent.

Oil prices jumped to \$52 a barrel on Friday on expectations of high U.S. gasoline demand and reports the king was ill.

Fahd has ruled Saudi Arabia, birthplace of Islam, since June 1982, but after his stroke, a weakened and wheelchair-bound king passed control of day-to-day affairs to Crown Prince Abdullah.

Abdullah, commander of the national guard, has overseen a crackdown on al Qaeda militants who waged a campaign of suicide attacks, hostage-taking and assassinations in the Gulf state.

Washington pressed Riyadh to quash militants after mainly Saudi hijackers carried out the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States that were inspired by Saudi-born Osama bin Laden.

The Saudi royal family maintains a tight hold on power in the conservative state, home to Islam's two holiest sites. Its strong alliance with Washington has, however, sparked a violent backlash from Islamist militants loyal to bin Laden.

Thousands greet U.N.'s Annan in troubled Darfur

KALMA CAMP, Sudan, May 28 (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of chanting refugees lined the muddy streets of Darfur's largest camp on Saturday to greet the U.N.'s Kofi Annan, who later listened as women raped during the conflict told their stories. Men carried signs saying "We are looking for freedom and justice" and women ululated to welcome the U.N. Secretary General almost 11 months after his first visit to Darfur.

Annan listened as refugees complained about police and Arab militias who they said had attacked, killed and raped their families inside the Kalma Camp in South Darfur state.

The state has seen some of the worst recent violence in a three year conflict that has killed tens of thousands and forced 2 million from their homes, according to U.N. estimates. "Since we came to this camp, they have killed 56 people," said Suleiman Abka Taha, a local tribal chief.

Taha, who was speaking in front of government officials, said he wanted Annan's guarantee he would not be detained for what he said.

Annan asked ministers for such a reassurance and received it from Mohamed Yousif Abdalla, Sudan's state minister for humanitarian affairs.

Aid workers told Annan their organisations continued to suffer problems getting aid to the displaced in Kalma but the presence of African Union (AU) police in the camp had helped.

"For the past week, the AU has been present 24 hours, 7 days a week and

since (then) security has improved in the camp," the camp's aid workers said in statement that was read out.

New camp

The aid workers said the Darfur emergency presented an extra challenge because insecurity rendered many areas out of reach.

Donors needed to keep funds flowing for what the aid workers saw as "a long stretch ahead".

About 2,300 AU troops and hundreds of police are monitoring a shaky ceasefire in Darfur. On Saturday, they kept control of the crowds who tried to swarm Annan's 20-car convoy.

Annan then talked alone to female rape victims, one of whom was pre-pubescent. Last June, Kalma Camp

housed 26,000 displaced in an area meant for 5,000. Now 110,000 Darfuris live in makeshift shelters in the area east of Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state.

Aid workers said they were preparing a new site called al-Salam camp to house about 25,000 refugees to ease pressure on Kalma.

AU officials said on Friday that donors had pledged nearly \$300 million to fund a bigger AU force to help end fighting in Darfur, where a rebels took up arms against the government in February 2003 complaining of neglect.

Annan, who arrived in Africa's largest country on Friday, was due to return to the capital Khartoum later on Saturday to meet Sudanese First Vice-President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha.



U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan speaks to journalists upon his arrival in Khartoum, Sudan, May 27. ore money to help end bloodshed there. REUTERS

Iran says US, Israel are the real nuclear threats

UNITED NATIONS, May 27 (Reuters) - The United States and Israel represent the real nuclear threat to the world, not Iran, Tehran's chief envoy to the United Nations said on Friday after an abortive conference on controlling nuclear weapons.

Javad Zarif, Iran's ambassador to the U.N., said the United States never intended to scrap its nuclear arsenal, despite promising to eventually disarm when it signed the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the landmark arms control pact.

Zarif, in an interview with Reuters, said Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear weapons, was the threat to the Middle East region.

"There is unanimity on the threat that is posed not only by Israeli nuclear weapons but by its aggressive policy (in general)," he said.

Washington is backing efforts by Britain, France and Germany to persuade Tehran to halt its nuclear fuel program, which they fear may be intended to make atomic bombs.

Iran denies this, insisting its program is peaceful.

Zarif dismissed as hollow U.S. pledges in 1995 and 2000 reaffirming its commitment to scrap its nuclear arsenal.

"The U.S. never had any intention of living up to its commitments under Article 6 of the treaty," he said.

In Article 6 of the NPT the five treaty signatories with nuclear weapons -- Russia, the United States, France, Britain and China -- agreed to eventually disarm.

Smoke screen

Zarif said U.S. attacks on Iran's nuclear program were a "smoke screen to divert attention from its violations" that included a U.S. willingness "to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states."

Every five years the 188 members of the NPT meet for a month to review the landmark treaty.

The 2005 review ended on Friday without any agreement on how to improve the accord.

Many delegates blamed both Washington and Tehran for what they described a failure of the conference to do anything.

Washington worked hard to prevent the conference -- which works by consensus -- from approving any documents that refer to its 1995 and 2000 pledges to disarm, while Iran blocked anything that referred to it as a proliferation threat and NPT violator.

The conference approved a document that merely listed the agenda and the participants.

Egypt also worked hard to prevent any substantive conclusion from the conference when it saw it had no chance of focusing criticism on Israel's assumed atomic arsenal.

"Israel is the threat to the region," he said.

"It is one of the great ironies of our age that a country outside the framework of legality in the area of non-proliferation is one of the countries that is the most active participants against Iran," he said.

Like atomic-armed India and Pakistan, Israel has never signed the NPT.

It neither admits nor denies having the bomb, Israel is estimated to have some 200 nuclear warheads.

Iraqi militant group says it killed Japanese hostage

BAGHDAD, May 28 (Reuters) - Insurgents holding a Japanese hostage in Iraq said on Saturday they had killed him and posted footage on the Internet showing what the victim's brother later confirmed was his corpse.

The video showed identification papers and a passport bearing the name of Akihiko Saito, 44, a former paratrooper and veteran of the French Foreign Legion, who had been missing since his convoy was ambushed in western Iraq on May 8.

"I saw the footage and confirmed that it was my older brother," Hironobu Saito said in a handwritten statement to media organisations, adding that he had conveyed his view to police and to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

The Foreign Ministry was still making checks, an official said.

The Army of Ansar al-Sunna, one of Iraq's most feared insurgent groups, said earlier this month it carried out the ambush near the U.S. al-Assad base and that Saito had been seriously



Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi speaks to reporters in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo May 28. after Japanese media reporting that a militant group has released new statement and footage via a website saying they have killed Japanese citizen. REUTERS

wounded and captured.

The new footage showed the body of a man lying on his back with blood covering his face.

"This is your punishment ... infidel," shouted an unseen man as gunshots rang out.

A statement accompanying the video said the group shot and killed Saito.

Saito worked for British-based security firm Hart. The firm says 10 Iraqi members of the convoy were killed in the ambush.

South African Nick Coetzee is missing and presumed dead, the firm says.

Iraq's government condemned the killing of Saito.

"This criminal act will not affect diplomatic relations between Iraq and Japan," Abd al-Karim al-Enzi, Iraq's minister of state for national security, said in a statement.

Japan still waiting on possible WW2 soldiers

GENERAL SANTOS, Philippines, May 28 (Reuters) - Japanese diplomats re-established contact on Saturday with a mediator who has promised to bring two former World War Two soldiers down from the southern Philippine mountains.

Japanese officials and media have rushed to Mindanao island after reports this week that two elderly men are the first cases in 30 years of war-time stragglers being found.

"We have had several telephone conversations with him since Friday," Japanese embassy spokesman Shuhei Ogawa told reporters, referring to the mediator.

"We are working out a plan to deal with this issue."

He said the contact, a Japanese trader who only gave his name as Asano, asked for more time due to poor security in the mountains and concerns about the throng of media waiting in General Santos City.

Japanese diplomats had expected to meet the men on Friday but were

unable to contact the mediator. They say they are not yet convinced the story is true.

But Japanese media have reported that the men's names -- given as Yoshio Yamakawa, 87, and Tsuzuki Nakauchi, 85, -- appeared in official records as being in an imperial army unit that was posted to Mindanao near the end of the war.

The reports said they had become separated from their unit and had settled with tribal communities in the mountains -- which are now infested with communist and Muslim rebels -- afraid they would face a court-martial if they returned to Japan.

The Philippines, invaded by Japan in 1941, was the scene of heavy fighting at the end of the war as Japanese soldiers fiercely loyal to the emperor fought U.S. troops across the sprawling country, which has thousands of remote islands.

In 1974, former Japanese army intelligence officer Hiroo Onoda was found living in the jungles on the Philippine

island of Lubang. He was unaware of Japan's defeat in 1945 and only agreed to return when his former commander was sent to convince him.

The last known Japanese straggler from the war was found in 1975 in Indonesia.

Brutal occupation

Japanese media played the story of the possible former soldiers prominently at home, showing footage of Japanese troops during the war but not touching on a brutal occupation that is believed to have left as many as one million Filipinos dead.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told reporters on Friday that if the two were found to be Japanese soldiers, the government would try to repatriate them, if that was their wish.

Ogawa said the Ministry of Health was investigating the case after it received what appeared to be handwritten letters from the two elderly men.

Investigators from the ministry left Tokyo for Mindanao on Saturday.

The Daily Yomiuri newspaper reported that Yamakawa was a lieutenant and Nakauchi a corporal in the 30th regiment of the 30th division that was sent to Mindanao in 1944.

On a roster of Imperial Japanese Army members kept in the Health Ministry's archives, the two men were registered as dead, the paper said.

General Santos residents said it was well known that some Japanese soldiers had avoided surrendering to allied forces and had married into tribal communities in the nearby mountains.

Hehache Tao, a local church minister and a descendant of a Japanese soldier, told reporters he had heard about the two stragglers from his grandfather but doubted they were still alive or, if they were, that they wanted to go back to Japan.

"One of the reasons why they don't want to go back to Japan was fear that they might be killed or punished by the Imperial Army," Tao told reporters. "They don't want other people to know that they are still there."



Manila's Japanese embassy official Shuhei Ogawa (C) talks to reporters in the southern Philippines city of General Santos on Mindanao island May 28. Japanese officials were checking the identity of two elderly men in the southern Philippines on Friday to find out whether the men were Japanese soldiers left over from the World War Two. REUTERS

Clinton says to visit S.Lanka rebel areas next time

KALMUNAI, Sri Lanka, May 28 (Reuters) - Former U.S. president Bill Clinton visited a corner of Sri Lanka on Saturday that was one of the hardest hit in the Dec. 26 tsunami and said he intended to tour Tamil rebel-held areas on a future trip.

Clinton, the U.N. envoy for tsunami relief, talked to community leaders from different ethnic groups in Kalmunai, a fishing town on the east coast, where the tsunami killed more than 2,500 people.

He said he wanted to show local leaders his support for a proposed "joint mechanism", in which the government and Tamil Tiger rebels would work together in allocating nearly \$3 billion in tsunami aid that international donors have pledged.

Asked why he did not visit areas held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to show that support, he said: "Keep in mind I'll be back a lot and I expect to go there and I expect to look at

every place in the country."

Clinton said he only had time on this trip for one meeting and wanted to meet Tamils, Muslims and Buddhists "at a neutral ground, where all the parties could come".

"And I think we achieved that. We had representatives from all the communities there."

The LTTE's bloody two-decade war for autonomy killed more than 64,000 people until a ceasefire with the government three years ago.

The island republic is dominated by the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese, but Tamils form a significant minority.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga said last week that signing an aid sharing deal with the rebels could pave the way to a peaceful solution to a conflict that has undermined the country's development.

The tsunami, which devastated much of the island's coastline, killed nearly 40,000 people in Sri Lanka.

Clinton said the "joint mechanism" was key to getting the slow rebuilding process going.

He expressed concern at the meeting with community leaders about the government's plan to relocate people who before the tsunami lived within 100-200 metres of the coast, saying it was not always practical to do that.

The solution he said was "to build stronger houses" in that area.

Clinton arrived in Sri Lanka from India, where he visited the badly hit fishing town of Nagapattinam in the southern state of Tamil Nadu where about 8,000 people died when the killer waves slammed into its crowded coast.

He will tour tsunami hit areas of the Maldives on Sunday, before flying to Indonesia's Aceh province, which accounts for most of the 228,000 people feared killed in the unprecedented tsunami spawned by one of the strongest earthquakes in history.

Nepal king says aims to hold polls in stages

KATHMANDU, May 28 (Reuters) - Nepal's King Gyanendra, who seized power in February, said he planned to hold polls in phases to all elected bodies in the revolt-torn nation, but set no dates.

The monarch's comments on Friday came more than one month after he unveiled plans to hold elections to 58 municipal assemblies by April 2006.

There has been no parliament in Nepal for the past three years and Gyanendra, who drew widespread global flak for his move to fire the government on Feb. 1, rules the impoverished Himalayan nation through an unelected council.

"Necessary preparations have already been initiated to hold these (municipal) elections and activate, in stages, all elected bodies," the 57-year-old king said late on Friday in an address to Nepal's oldest university.

"We call on all political parties having faith in democracy to commit themselves to safeguard democracy from terrorism," Gyanendra said. Analysts said



Political activists from Nepal Student Union shout anti-government slogans in the streets of Kathmandu May 26. The students are demanding the restoration of democracy in the country. REUTERS

Gyanendra's latest comments signalled that the municipal elections would mark the start of a phased vote, ultimately leading to national polls.

The king's decision to take power plunged Nepal into political turmoil as he jailed politicians and suspended civil liberties, saying he was acting to control a raging anti-monarchy Maoist insurgency

which has killed 12,000 people since 1996.

Hours before Gyanendra's speech, seven of Nepal's main political parties organised a pro-democracy rally in Kathmandu, the second in a week. About 5,000 people marched through the capital demanding the restoration of civil liberties.



Job Opportunities

The Embassy of The United States of America announces for an immediate job openings within its organization.

"Assistant Accountant"

The position is located in the Yemen America language Institute, American Embassy under the supervision of the YALI Accountant. The Assistant Accountant is actively involved in all aspects of the Institute's financial administration of YALI, which has current annual monetary activity of \$1.75 - \$2 million annually. The Assistant Accountant receives tuition fees, prepares invoices, reconciles receipts and expenditures, prepares internal accounting reports and, in general terms, backs up the Accountant in all financial matters in the Accountant's absence.

Required Qualifications:

Education: Completion of secondary school is required. Some additional education in accounting is required.

Prior Work Experience: Two years performing responsible work in clerical accounting or bookkeeping (or, two years of work in an administrative capacity at YALI) with at least one year performing work equivalent to the next lower level in a USG agency and six months experience in managing cash items.

Language Proficiency: Level IV English and Arabic (Fluent) is required

Knowledge: A basic knowledge of standardized bookkeeping and accounting procedures is required.

Abilities: Ability to analyze accounts, to organize data and maintain records, to pay attention to detail and to learn YALI and USG accounting procedures is required, as is an ability to work well with others and to be client-oriented.

Grade/Salary: EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-8 (to be confirmed by Washington)

Ordinarily Resident: FSN-6

"Computer (LAN) Operator"

The position is located in the Information Management Section, American Embassy, under the immediate supervision of the Computer Management Assistant and the general supervision of the Information System Officer (ISO). Position is assistant to the Information Systems Officer (ISO) and Computer Management Assistant. Primary responsibilities include the day-to-day operation of the unclassified LAN system, including troubleshooting and installation of hardware and software, and providing support (including training) to system users.

Required Qualifications:

Education: A combination of secondary school and computer technical training equivalent in duration to secondary school is required.

Prior Work Experience: At least two and a half to three years of progressively more responsible experience of a technical or administrative nature with emphasis on analytical abilities with respect to operation and management of a Windows Local Area Network and use of Windows computers and applications.

Language Proficiency: Level III English ability (good working knowledge) is required.

Knowledge: A thorough understanding of Microsoft Windows operating systems and applications, as well as personal computer hardware and networking equipment (e.g., routers and switches). Experience installing PC components and application software. Experience in maintaining web sites is required.

Abilities: Incumbent must have ability to manage a Windows Local Area Network and peripherals. Must be able to work with the user environment, passing on information to users in formal and informal environments such that users can use their software and hardware.

Grade/Salary: EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-7 (to be confirmed by Washington)

Ordinarily Resident: FSN/ERR-7

"Human Resources Clerk"

The position is located in the Human Resources Section, American Embassy, under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Specialist and the general supervision of the Management Officer. Employee will be responsible for performing a variety of clerical and administrative support duties.

Education: Completion of secondary school is required.

Prior Work Experience: One to two years of clerical and/or administration experience in human resources is required

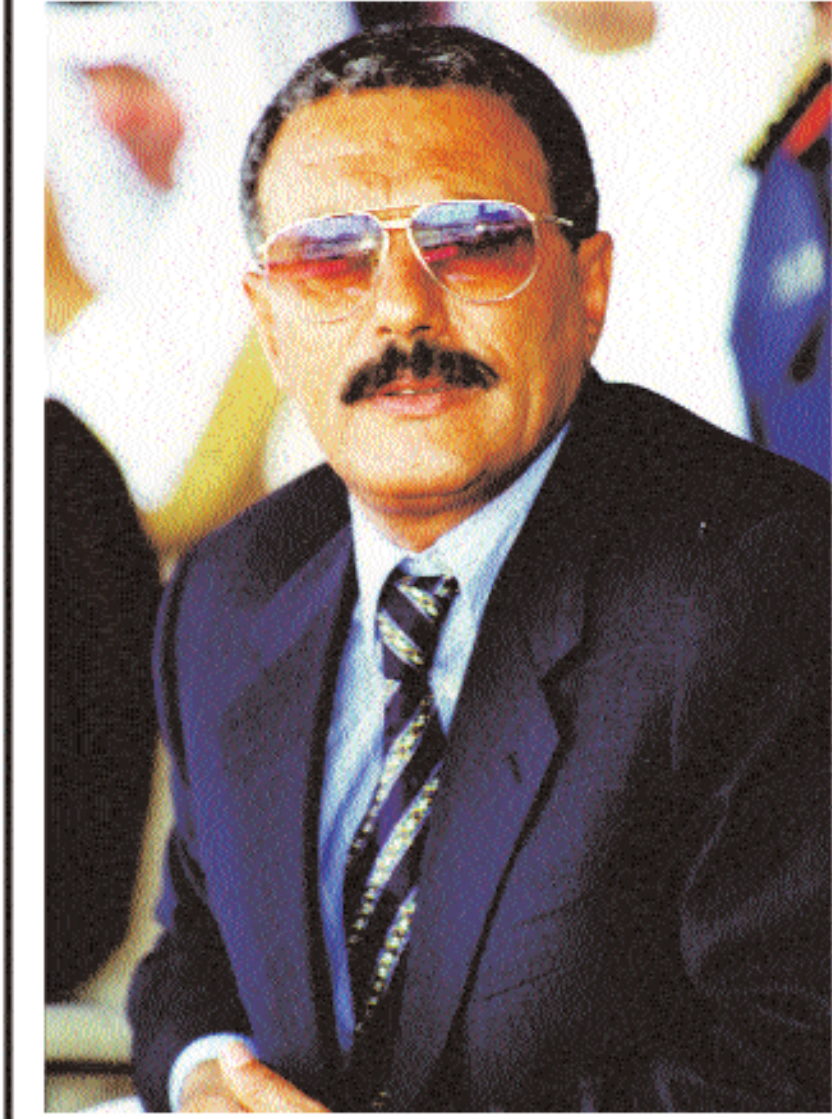
Language Proficiency: Level III English (good working knowledge) and level IV (fluent) Arabic are required

Knowledge: Must have a good knowledge of general office operations and procedural requirements pertaining to functions performed in a human resources office.

Skills: Ability to work under pressure, level II typing, good working knowledge of word processing and Access applications.

How to apply: All Interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sanaa, Yemen, Tel: 755-2000, Fax: 303-182 no later than June 08, 2005.

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



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*Presents its warmest compliments and
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Ali Abdullah Saleh

*On the 15th anniversary of Yemen Reunion Day,
and to all Yemeni people, wishing them more
advancement and prosperity
under the shadow
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Many happy returns every year.

On their behalf

Mr: Wyndell Caviness

Vice President and General Manager

Mr: Khalid Ali Al-Khader;

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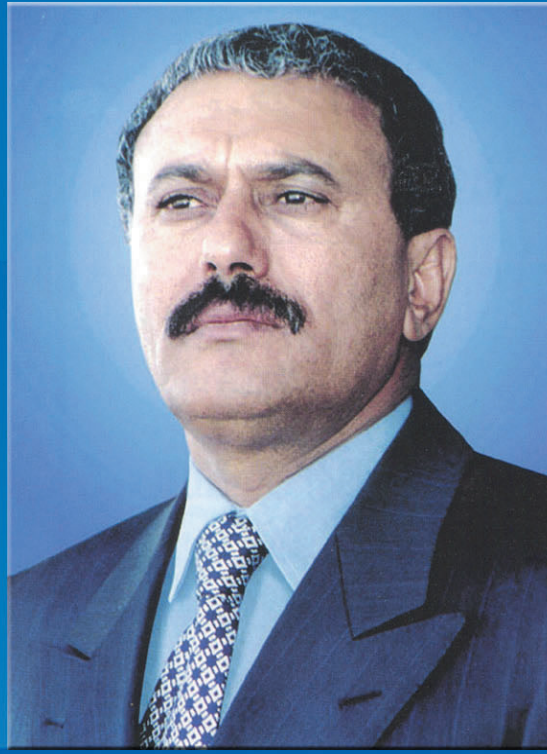
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Mr. Didier Morel

The Area General Manager of Accor Hotels Yemen
and all the Management and the Staff are Presenting
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H.E President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and to all the great population of Yemen
on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of
the reunification day, of 22 nd May
many happy returns



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Words of Wisdom

Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen need accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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

OUR
OPINION

I'm still sad

I am sad because I don't see much improvement in the democratic scene in Yemen. In fact, its like our glorious achievements are slipping away. I'm sad because the thoughts are being buried alive in the minds of free people in this country and around the world. I'm sad because the young men and women of Yemen today do not believe in the principles and ideas of their parents, the causes for which blood was shed cheaply and lives sacrificed.

I'm sad because journalist and writers look over their shoulders every time they dare to write something true reflecting real life sufferings.

I'm sad because even the small efforts and little voices calling for liberty are being hushed away in the immense chaotic angry noises of evil.

I'm sad because I don't really know where the danger is coming from and I fear the smiles are only masks hiding ugly faces. I'm sad because although I'm proud of our national achievements I could not enjoy the fireworks and celebration because of the muffled cries of hungry people are still echoing in my mind.

I'm sad because new means have been invented to dishonor today's freedom fighters in order to distract their attention from the real battle.

I'm sad because someone somewhere is plotting against my country, someone wearing patriotic mask.

I'm sad because after 33 years, we are still going in circles, revolving around a dream that never came true. I'm sad because I love my country. I'm sad because I have a real patriotic heart more than it will ever show.

Editor



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

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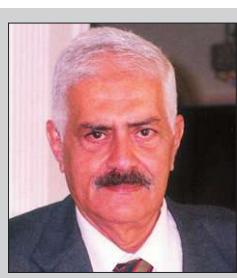
Mr. President and the 15th Anniversary of May 22nd

Amidst our happy days of the glorious May 22nd festivals, which mark the achievement of the Yemen Reunification, I have the pleasure to extend heartfelt congratulations to your Excellency and, through you, to the Yemeni people inside and outside Yemen. I pray to Allah that this magnificent occasion would bring about goodness, stability, development and prosperity...but there is something I would like to expatiate upon:

In a booklet published by the Yemen Times Establishment on the last year's Reunification Anniversary, we pledged to go hand in hand with you toward modernization, reform, corruption eradication, and building a modern Yemen with law and discipline.

The Reunification achievement has its bearing on partnership and the principles of plurality and democracy which provide the ground for contest and competition for the sake of the people.

Actually, this great commemoration comes as citizens remember historical addresses and steps over the last year concerning corruption fight, injection of new blood into the civil, security and military apparatuses of the government and motivating the local councils to do their duty so that citizens get convinced to reelect them. They urged parties, including the ruling one, to stop their word warfare which harms Yemen's reputation and called for non-imprisonment of journalists over opinion or writing charges. They called for strong opposition to back the government which may be in the opposition in the future. However, after a year, things have become worse. We expected that corruption cases would be tackled and corrupt officials tried along with extremists and terrorists who scared the people and



By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarb

impaired your invitations of Arab and foreign investors to come to Yemen.

Unemployment should be addressed with more job opportunities in the sectors of fishery and agriculture. Local, regional and international voices warned of a shortage in producing and exporting oil and that to depend heavily on it would cause a problem soon.

Your Excellency, we still have confidence in your initiatives to reform the political and economic conditions. However, it seems that it is time you put your statements into practice. You are in a sore need for a management able to set up plans and programs and not for people who coax disintegration and disunity of the national solidarity by fueling political schemes and disagreement that serve nobody but Yemen's enemies. They engender conflicts before the coming elections.

Your wisdom is needed to reform things and fight for the citizens to improve their livelihood, security, jobs, and medical services. Central capitals are to be reinvested to serve the above aims and corruption files are to be referred to the court. Then, you will feel that the Yemeni people is going with you along the development path and sacrifices for a better tomorrow.

You are in need for a new-brand men and a cabinet working on reassessment and treatment of the existing conditions far from disputes and useless statements. Such a government would give the citizens the impression of free elections to come with the box as the sole judge instead of waiting for the foreigners to reform and change things. Pondering on what happened in Egypt and President Mubarak's approval of constitutional amendments providing for multi-candidate elections and the events in Lebanon in the wake of al-Hariri's assassination should have given us a hint to reform our

local affairs before others do it in their discretion.

Your Excellency, all of us should shoulder their responsibility. You ought to quickly apply reform, set the record straight, refer the corrupt to the court and terminate the service of the diehards.

Soar prices are no characteristic of a free market. Companies and businessmen should vie for the public interest. Otherwise, the globalized world's multinational companies would devastate everything.

The wages law falls behind inflation prompting senior and junior officers to uplift their living standard even through zigzag ways as law is absent and the reward-and-punishment principle is flouted.

Your Excellency, Yemen and the PGC are well-stocked with reliable men. Let them work under your leadership to restore smile. To marginalize people is not in favor of the next stage. Justice, security and sound management have to be ensured.

Your Excellency is able to achieve equality and make officials realize that days of abuses and narrow loyalties are gone and that accountability has been established along with new appointments and modern state's philosophy.

You are closer to the cares of the people and are indubitably the safety valve of the national unity. The Reunification was finalized and joy prevailed when the Reunification was consolidated with blood in 1994. WE need nothing else but the state of law and discipline and the presence of control.

Indeed, the opposition as well as the current government have failed to materialize your ambitions. The period you set is to about to finish. Your Excellency, why don't you form a new government that can restore people's confidence in the PGC and its platform.

May you and the Yemeni people remain always in prosperity, bless and continued work for the new Yemen

The unity: Deepening the crises

Mr. Ali Salim and a number of his colleagues from the leadership of the party felt through their stance in the new state that they could not cope with the ways of conduct in San'a.

Most of them could not absorb the nature of the relations between the center, the sheikhs and the tribal community.

A decision taken by the Cabinet or broadcast in the media during the previous southern state era would have been executable from Aden to Mahra without questioning any one can contradict it, the grip of the sate was strong beyond endurance.

The 1993 parliamentary elections came to insure the strong hold of each partner in the previous regimes. The success of Islah Party in gaining several seats had increased the Socialist Party's fears, a skepticism that was revealed later during the war.

The Cabinet was reshuffled on the basis of 2+2+1 and the Islah became a partner in the top power. It was rumored then that the Socialist Party was behind the suggestion of al-Zandani to be a member of the Presidential Council, no one knows why.



By Ibrahim Hussein Mohammed

The crises deepened after the elections, the slogan of land against the majority of population and number in Parliament was clear and reflected in the results of 1993's elections. Such was expected by the Socialist Party who experienced heavy losses in the areas of his popularity. During preparation for constitutional amendments, it was agreed that the president and his vice would be directly elected, and they would be in one list while Mr. Albeed was in U.S. for a medical trip.

There was another suggestion of amendment containing another thing stipulating that a president is to be elected and then he would appoint the vice president.

This matter arouse a great amount of mystery and a number of questions were being asked why the agreement was altered in the absence of Albeed, who ratified it for his Socialist Party. So what does the amendment imply?

The partner's crisis became overt, and the media men of both parties pledged a role in escalating it, and each part had reproduced his past hostility against the other.

Many party leaders and government executives headed back to Aden with the

intention to finally settle there and by the beginning of 1994, it was clear that the South of Yemen was governed in isolation from the unity agreement and the deputies and deputy assistants could not do their work and therefore lost power.

Salsily Aden commissioner had directed some of them to leave to Sana'a where there was anxiety in the south among people and the former sectors that all northern employees were security members even workers and vegetable settlers, while it was not so sharp in the Sana'a and the north.

Signing the treaty in the Jordanian capital was a sort of hope to overcome the crisis, but the abstention of some Socialist Party leaders to not return to Sana'a gave an impression that the signing was only for the gain of time. It was clear that the Socialist partner did not want to stay in Aden, receiving the letter and seemed to be ready for war, for which we had been prepared well earlier.

The socialist partner's preparations for war began late, presumably in the last time session has reached the execution stage and preliminary skirmishes started. The Aden Partner did not have the experience in dealing with America and the west even Kuwait and Saudi Arabia backing was lacking satisfaction in dealing with a Socialist regime. The motive was to punish Sana'a for backing Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait.

Translation in service of dialogue

Translation process is the mechanism of transferring the core of the ideas and concepts, it is intended to make people of another language understand the ideas. The significant thing is to concentrate on understanding others, is to attempt to cover the gap of civilization.

Translators should concentrate on translating the non-controversial issues like science and technology and leave the sensitive issues of every nation's speciality aside so as to narrow the differences and build a better understanding and trust.

One can observe that translation has played and still can play a big role in the dialogue between civilizations, and as much as the relation between the Arabic and western civilizations are concerned. The Arabs throughout history were producers, digesters and transformers of ancient civilizations. The Holy Quran is a book for dialogue, tolerance and under-

standing.

The aim of any translation process is to have an impact on the reader of the targeted language. Every translation activity has one or more specific purposes. The aim of translation is to serve as a cross-cultural and bilingual communication vehicle among nations. The activity of translation has developed with rising international trade, immigration, wars, expansion of the mass media, development of information technology and globalization activities.

Translators play an important role as a bilingual or multi-lingual cross-cultural transmitter of culture. Translation approaches nations and cultures from each other. It plays as a tool of peace, security, safety, understanding and dia-



By SAMEER ABDU HAQ
SENIOR SPECIALIST
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MINISTER

logue among nations.

Translation created a special relation among nations that extends to human relations, political, social, economic and moral relations. It is a bridge in the history of nations with all their religions, ethnic, races and colors. We do not forget the role of Islamic - Arabic civilization during the time of Ibn Rushid, Ibn Sina, Al-Farabi up to the time of Harun Al-Rasheed and al-Maamoon who encouraged translation and were the conveyors of sciences, geography, philosophy to the west benefiting from them in developing their countries. The current scientific development returns to Arab-Islamic civilization since ages and without this role of translation such development was not possible.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Can we get out of our rut?
Let us try sound
governance

Notwithstanding all the problems Yemen is confronted with at this important stage of its development, this observer still believes very strongly that Yemen can still reach for the ultimate. Many people will say this is unthinkable with all the challenges facing the country internally and internationally and there are quite a few times when this observer was inclined to feel the same way. This is understandable as clock ticks away, while little progress is made on any of the fronts that will set us on a proper course and launch the promising sectors in our economy towards dynamic growth and sustained development. This observer also believes that even the not so promising sectors in government do offer opportunities for reforms that could make government operate more efficiently and remove the stubborn corruption that has curtailed any drive towards improving efficiency and performance across the board.

The reason there is still optimism, even with the dismal picture that the current political and economic environ seems to reflect, is because there are mechanisms and institutions that can help bring about a healthy change in attitude towards government and public service. All these mechanisms need to be is more functional and conducive to the responsibilities they shoulder.

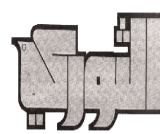
While the government must provide the major impetus that could bring about this reversal, one cannot expect that the government alone can wield the dynamism needed to harness all our energies and mobilize all the available resources towards the achievement of realistic goals and objectives. In this regard, people and institutions outside government should set out their own goals and objectives and begin to determine the most appropriate means to arrive to these goals, given the current situation. Many people will say that government stimulus is necessary for any positive move to be meaningful outside government. This is true to a considerable extent. In this context then, it is appropriate to point out that government must recognize that government can simply not carry on the way it has been doing over the last fifteen years of the unification experience. For government to get out of its present rut and stagnancy, there are basically two suggestions that can be very helpful: Government must recognize that it is not in the healthy condition that it hopes to have people believe it is in. There are major drawbacks to sound governance, largely due to the absence of accountability and transparency in most of government activity. Furthermore, government institutions that are responsible for insuring the proper conduct of government and the institution of law and order are simply not doing their job, or doing it very poorly. Parliament and the Courts are simply not performing up to par. Perhaps executive authority still has excessive influence in blocking the effectiveness of these two important institutions of government and the balance of power of the different government institutions is just not operative. But, to blame this on excessive interference by the executive branch is not enough of an excuse when the elements that are in the legislative and judicial branches of government make little effort to exercise their constitutional functions and uphold their powers. The observer is not failing to recognize the possible drawbacks that stand in the way of making this assertion of power wholly effective. However, one is not ready to forgive legislators who are more inclined to work out the political arithmetic of their stands rather than the contributions they could be making to sound governance if they only insisted on asserting their constitutional rights and carry out their functional duties with a greater sense of responsibility and conscientiousness. They should not forget that they are elected by the people and therefore, their constituencies deserve from them some degree of adherence to principles of sound government that they must uphold, if they are to show their gratitude for the votes they obtained. This would guarantee their reelection better than any political arrangements or conformation of their stands with that of the executive authority. As it stands now the general population is disappointed in the tepidness of the oversight functions of Parliament and many are ready to suggest that Parliament is serving no more than a decorative function to impress "the international community". Back home, the overwhelming majority are not at all impressed. The courts have even been worse at trying to assert their authority and have been far weaker in exercising their proper role as interpreters and enforcers of the Constitution and the Laws. This represents a real major drawback to the implementation of sound governance. This results in poor confidence, not only among the people of Yemen but also among prospective investors from the many wealthy Yemenis who are abroad and international investors. Unless the law is applied equitably and fairly on all citizens, there can never be any hope for convincing anyone inside Yemen and outside that Yemen is truly a state of Law and Order.

No one is suggesting that this will not require brave stands to be taken by the elements that make up our legislative and judicial branches of government, and even sacrifices. But there is really no other way to ensure that each authority is functioning as it should and there is no other way that the overall interest of the Yemeni people will be served effectively. It is not easy, but then again, it is also clear that the present situation is also not easy to live with anymore.

On the non-governmental side; i.e., civil society and the private sector, there needs to be some assertion of public responsibility. Efforts must be made by people to organize into interest groups that can wield strong influence on government if these organizations are themselves run in the proper ways of sound governance. This entails transparency, greater participation by members in decision making and accountability of officials in these organizations (including political organizations). Civil society must also work towards spreading awareness among the public as to the peaceful ways by which they can influence government decisions. The private sector needs to get out of its monopolistic mentality and realize that there is enough for everyone to have. They should not encourage government officials to be corrupt, but do all they can to take a united stand against corruption. Sound governance is in their interest also in the long run.

Yemen Press Review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr



Ath-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 26 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Blasting offices of the YSP resumed
- YSP Central Committee holds its session Monday
- In the constituent of the preparatory committee of youth and students, GPC chairman, YSP deputy chairman and Islah general coordinator
- Wide-scale denunciation for attacks the two colleagues Hafidh and Hujaira have come under
- A follow-up committee for prisoners formed

Columnist Tawakul Abdulsallam Karman writes saying the abandonment of democratic contents that came as a condition and twin of the unity, emptying the draft constitution of the unity through amendments and omission of its essential articles, such as relinquishment of the presidency council, wide-range-authorities local rule then the fearful receding from the democratic margin, make us feel that while we are celebrating the political unity we find ourselves pitying our feeling of our national unity. It also makes us fear to see those who came to the unity by their own will, their convictions about the unity have receded after 15 years of unity.

Democracy is the major condition for the stay of the national unity of the unity state people and it is a moral and legal obligation. The more there is dis-

tancing from democracy, the more there is the danger against the unity. In this Day of Unity, the regime appeared to be bankrupt. Its inability has become clear in meting its obligations towards the unity, its agreements towards its people and the world at the same time.



As-Sahwa weekly, 26 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) secretary-general meets Sudanese information minister
- Doctors threaten to go back to comprehensive strike
- Aggressions on citizens because of painting and flags
- FM visits Tehran; the visit discusses Iran's relation to Saada events
- In Arhab college of education, oppressive practices against students
- Lawsuit against sales tax law accepted
- Leading member in the JMP discloses draft for political reforms adopted by the opposition
- Abortive attempted assassination against director of criminal investigations in Shuaib district in Dhalie

Columnist Zaid al-Shami discusses in his article the question of the availability of will to avoid the delay in implementation of projects in various sectors. He has selected the renovation of the city of Mukalla where celebrations of the unity Day were held this

year. He says in a few months the city of Mukalla has rid itself of its tattered attire and put on the most beautiful image. The roads of Mukalla have been paved with asphalt, its walls painted, its squares illuminated, the cornice street completed and the sewage terminal developed to a Khore (inlet) connected to the sea...etc. All that carried out in a short period, while many projects delayed, floundered and taking years to finish. In this regard, we praise the speed of accomplishment in the city of Mukalla, we have to point out that our problem lies not in capabilities, as they are available and proven in what was implemented in Mukalla. The problem lies in the lack of will or the inability of carrying out duties of responsibility. Similar to what happened in Mukalla took place in the capital on the 10th anniversary of the unity.

The Yemenis are now hoping that all the days of the year are celebrations so that the active movement continues for the accomplishment of works and projects, providing work opportunities for the unemployed.



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress (GPC), 22 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Radical changes achieved under the unity, cause of pride for the Yemenis
- Official source: Yemen commitment to parliament recommendations, means not deprivation of Hunt its right to present competitive tenders

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqalif says in his article that maybe the talk of Arab unity in the fifties and sixties was colored with an amount of romanticism. But the whole matter has now changed. The general attitude towards unity and its thought has sprung from the conscience and the feeling of alignment and grouping the Arab division to face the dangers that are gathering day by day in an attempt to contain the Arab homeland as a first step to destroy it.

The dream of a united, strong and advanced Arab homeland makes the people all over the Arab world watch the realization of that dream and makes them completely forget their small differences and regional jingoisms and may lead them to denouncing the state of division that tempts the enemies to act against them. Even the Arab regimes that were afraid of the talk of unity are now hoping the return of unitary sentiments to their earlier warmth to create a resistance to the return of the forces of occupation under new names and excuses to achieve their intentions of hegemony over the Arab land and to control its resources and markets as

well as to tighten the grip around the competing big powers.



Al-Mu'aradha (Opposition) weekly, 26 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Islah party boycotts unity celebrations
- National coalition government headed by al-Attas
- Emergence of two leaderships compete for legitimacy in leading the Baath Regional leadership
- Al-Attas criticizes opposition from abroad, decides to return home soon
- Two killed and seven arrested from al-Houthi followers in Sana'a
- Demonstrations in protest of cement black market in Amran governorate
- Non-official statistics: 20 thousand AIDS cases in Yemen

Editor in chief of the newspaper writes saying it has become one of the undisputed things the disclosure of the false allegation of the American administration that it is a bearer of the banner of democracy and human rights. The fact is that the American administration uses these slogans as a cover to hide and pass on its interests and interfere in internal affairs of countries, steal their riches and control the courses of their development in the manner serving the American and Zionist interests.

The image of the American mentality has been clearly depicted in dealing with the heroes of freedom in the Iraqi prison of Abu Ghaib, desecration of the holy Koran in Guantanamo Bay detention and the humiliation of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein through publication of degrading picture without observing the minimum degrees of respect of human rights at least as a citizen. On the other hand, the Zionists are preparing themselves to desecrate the Aqsa Mosque to storm it and destroy it. They (Americans and Zionists) look at us as backwards who do not deserve to live on this earth. They practice against us the ugliest sorts of terror and arrogance because they possess a tyrannous power empty of any morals.



Ash-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces of Yemen, 25 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Continued military movements and demolition of houses in Saada
- Six victims in armed confrontation between the security and al-Houthi supporters in the capital Sana'a



By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
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SILVER LINING

Defamation...another way of hassling media

We have all been shocked by the defaming article published in the zero issue of al-Bilad weekly against Haifz al-Bukari, Secretary General of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) and his wife Rahmah Hujairah, head of the Yemen Female Media Forum. It is disgusting and awful language that the paper used in badmouthing the two journalists. All journalists were very much outraged by such kind of articles that aim to demolish the profession of journalism at large. The trash paper did not do that out of nothing, rather it showed through that piece that it is angry over the articles written by Hujairah and the stands taken by al-Bukari from his position in the YJS to defend freedom of media.

It seems that the political regime in Yemen is running out of all its tricks and ways of hassling journalists, opposition figures and human rights activists. Some days ago, the police invented the new accusation for the famous opposition writer Abdulraheem Muhsen. He was arrested under the pretext that he was driving heedlessly for being drunken. This is a silly joke and invited the laughter of everybody.

Now, it is the turn of our colleagues al-Bukari and Hujairah. The two guys were defamed and painted with a shameful language. There is no ground for such an attack against them expect for the fact that Hujairah wrote an article criticizing the behavior of the authorities in arresting Muhsen and the rule of President Saleh. Al-Bukari is trying his best to live up to the expectations of his colleagues in the YJS and stand by freedom of media and work against harassment of journalists. This is the stroke that broke the camel's back.

The authorities have tried several ways to gag journalists, sometimes by beating them up, putting them in jails or even accusing them of being agents or Zionists working for "foreign agencies to hamper the national interests", splitting political parties, creating clown

newspapers to compete strong and influential ones and many other kinds of such stuff.

The political regime understands well that putting journalists in jail will break hell loose and will go against its commitments to the world to respect democracy, human rights and freedom of press. It understands that the donors are no longer ready to grant their money to totalitarian regimes that use such funds in oppressing their people.

As the rulers recognize the important and watchdog role some newspapers have started to play in reporting corruption issues and criticizing wrongdoings, they have started inventing a new way of silencing opposition voices, if even through funding yellow papers to play this role of defamation and abuse. As the ruling party directed its newspapers to stop fighting back against the opposition media writings, it has pushed some of their people to start new papers like al-Bilad and others to do the job, claiming they are independent papers.

In this way, the big guys believe that they will hit the nail on the head and do two jobs at the same time; one defaming and attacking critical voices calling for justice and an end for corruption, attempting to undermine their role of comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable corrupt crooks. The other will be demolishing the noble value of the press and its role in informing the public and in democratization drive at large; it thinks this will make the press lose its credibility among the public.

But, we as media professionals should not let up and be scared. Rather, we should continue to write and disclose the wrongdoings of the officials. We should also defend the professionalism of our profession through the YJS. If we work professionally, we will be able to make our voice heard. The attack against our colleagues whose honor cannot be questioned expect by such trash papers makes us know we are on the right track and doing the right job. Do not you think so?!

- Parliamentarians: Hunt incapable of suing
- Legal organizations stage sit-in strike demanding abolishment of Specialized Criminal Court

Columnist Abdulrahman Mohammed Al-Sharif says in his article endeavour to dissolve the two parties of the Union of People's Forces and the al-Haq and the unjustifiable official antagonism against them. This stance can be felt from the speech of the president of the republic in which there was an open fomenting against the two political parties in dependence on al-

Houthi interview in the Al-Wassat newspaper and an interview with Dr Mohammed Abdulmalik al-Mutawakil in the Annas newspaper. All those were merely ordinary press interviews having nothing that may arouse this revolt against democracy and political pluralism.

It has not been in mind of anyone that our country falls to this degree of recession in the level of freedom and setback of democracy in this form heralding of serious consequences. This backing down from democracy and despotic measures would not lead to control of the regime on reins of power in full.

Saving the trees of life

By CLAUDE MARTIN AND IAN JOHNSON

Nobody can get through the day without using a product that comes from a forest. To a greater extent than most people realize, the paper we write on, the water that comes out of our taps, the medicine that heals us, the wood that builds our houses and furniture, all originate from forests. Forests provide the fresh air we breathe and habitats for endangered species. They also provide us with recreational opportunities, increasingly important in our complex world. Approximately 1.5 billion of the world's rural poor directly depend on forests for basic needs like food and fuel-wood.

Yet deforestation continues. Every year, we lose 14.6 million hectares (56,000 square miles) of forests - an area almost four times the area of Switzerland. Irresponsible forest management, enhanced by poor governmental regulation and enforcement, and markets that reward illegal logging, are conspiring to denude the world's most valuable and threatened forests. Once forests start to disappear, a host of environmental, social, and economic ills usually follow, affecting us all in some

way. Indonesia's Sumatra Island is a good example. Pulp and paper companies are driving rampant and illegal destruction of forests that contain the richest diversity of plants in the world. It is likely that plants not yet discovered will disappear along the way, as well as such endangered species as the Sumatran rhino and elephant, as well as the orang-utan. When Sumatra's forests disappear, entire communities of people will also find themselves with no proper place to live and no decent way to make a living.

Moreover, the distortion to global markets caused by trading in illegally, cheaply produced products results in disadvantages for responsible corporate citizens. Developing countries are losing \$15 billion in tax revenues annually due to illegal logging. To make matters worse, the demand for wood for reconstruction following last year's tsunami is intensifying the already untenable demands being placed on Sumatra's forests.

Similar threats to forests are evident in the Amazon and Congo Basin. The recent UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) shows that forests in these and other critical regions are in serious decline due to mismanagement and will continue to disappear unless serious measures are taken. Information

released by the government of Brazil indicates that deforestation of the irreplaceable forests of the Amazon, due to factors such as agricultural conversion, reached 2.6 million hectares (roughly 10,000 square miles) in the past year, bringing the total deforested area of the Amazon to 17%.

But the battle against deforestation is not lost. Diverse organizations, environmentalists, and corporations concerned with the state of world's forests are joining forces to reverse deforestation and improve forest management. For example, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the World Bank have helped Brazil's government kick-start an initiative that established over 17 million hectares (69,000 square miles) of new forest-protected areas such as national parks. The WWF/World Bank alliance also motivated partners to establish a trust fund to manage these protected areas in perpetuity.

Similarly, a summit among the leaders of the Congo Basin countries resulted in extraordinary cross-border cooperation on forest conservation and responsible management. This in turn led to a \$53 million initiative by the United States State Department to promote Congo forest conservation. Since the leaders first met in 1999, 3.5 million hectares (more than 13,000 square

miles) of new protected areas have been established in the Congo Basin.

Nevertheless, given the effects of last December's Asian tsunami, the weight of evidence provided by the MEA, and deforestation statistics from key forest regions, our efforts must continue. The World Bank and WWF recently pledged to unite in an effort to assist in reducing the rate of global deforestation by 10% by 2010, and to work with other public and private sector institutions to pursue ambitious targets on forest conservation.

WWF studies show that if the world's forests are allotted among a mix of uses and types - including protected areas, responsibly managed commercial forests, and restored forest landscapes - we can provide the world's needs for forest products while conserving important environmental and social values for the foreseeable future. Business leaders, governments, and civil society organizations must play their part in realizing this vision.

Dr. Claude Martin is Director General of WWF International and Ian Johnson is Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank.

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Reflections

By Yahya Al-Olfi
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MARD PAR AMERICA MARD PAR ISRAEL

"Jane Novak a docile pupil of a monkey monk"

Jane Novak unfortunately has fallen as a victim to the allegations of the Houthists. Dear Jane Novak, this is not in defense of Ali Abdullah Saleh or in defense of the Yemeni influential people who are in control of Yemen at the moment. You should know the thoughts of the Houthists whom you naively defend. They do consider Yemenis other than themselves as insects and dung because they do not belong to the mythological two tummies. To them their enemies are the Yemeni people who do not believe in their primitive backward sect, the devil and then Israel and America. They do not believe in democracy and they want us to be slaves as we were before 1962 revolution. I am not defending America or Israel because they know how to defend themselves. If Houthists consider non-tummyists insects and dung, their Slogan is: "Death to America, Death to Israel" copied from the Iranian Fanatic Slogan "Mard Par America Mard Par Israel" in other words they are implementing an Iranian agenda in Yemen. So, if you like racists and backward people and is enamored with the use of a backfiring gun, then it is your business and Americans cannot fall victims to a mentally retarded monkey like Al-Wazeer the Tabaranist (a native of Tabaristan in northern Iran) who has not learnt yet after all those years of stay in USA to look at the world and humanity from a different developed perspective but is still narrow-minded thinking that he is a descendant of a sublime extraterrestrial jewel and other Yemenis are dung-descendants. Some women like being battered and it is only natural that there are other women who are for predators. If you do not believe me, you are welcome in Yemen to read their thoughts and ideas so that you can have an unbiased opinion and I am ready to meet you if you so wish.

I have received many messages criticizing me for attacking Al-Hassani who as they say has legitimate gripes. Everybody should know that I am not against his criticism of the rulers but I

am completely against him when he accuses all northerners as a foreign occupation of the south and that the South is "South Arabia" not "South Yemen". If Mr. Hassani speaks for all Yemenis north and south I am with him. Furthermore, Mr. Hassani is not that clean to speak about anybody because he is red-handed and an opportunist all along. If he gets my advice he would have been stronger and more convincing and thanks god he did not.

An intelligent reader of my articles would know that I am not siding with anybody, simply because I am an independent and a mere normal simple and humble citizen and I am not going to change my line or way of thinking due to false allegations of this and that, who are color blind. Mr. Hani Sharei who is to me a known Houthist believing that Yemenis who do not belong to the Batmain (i.e. two tummies) are dung and insects says in his letter to YT that I have sold myself to the devil i.e. the Yemeni Regime. Mr. Sharei knows very well that the Houthists are still in control of Yemen South and North and that they are like chameleons, ungrateful like cats and sinister like vipers for although they constitute 10% of the population, being of Persian stock and are in control of 80% of Yemeni fertile land and capital. They are the rulers, the opposition and the clergy and are still complaining being oppressed while they are the oppressors. Moreover, if I were a beneficiary of the state coffer, I would not live miserably, use public transport and have to contend day and night in order to make ends meet.

Finally, I am with all those Yemenis who call for an overall change and who defend all Yemen and speak for all Yemenis without regional or sectarian distinctions. I am not with those who derive sanctity and supremacy from religion like Mr. Hani Sharei or those who because they lost their interests like Hassani call selfishly for the repartition of Yemen. If after all this you think this is like selling oneself to the devil then, I am for it.

Ministry of Education & Japan International Cooperation Assistance

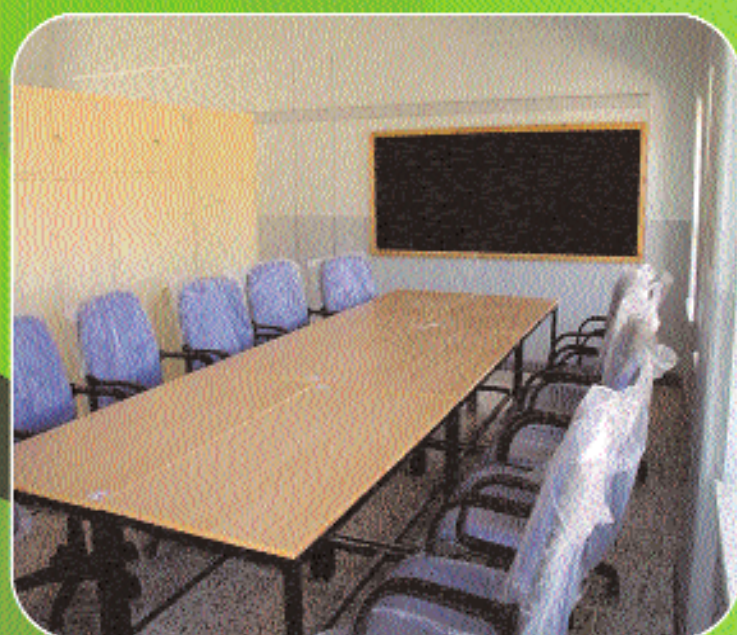
*Present their Congratulations to the people of Yemen
On the occasion of 15th Anniversary of Yemen Re-unification Day.
Wishing them more advancement and prosperity.*



THE PROJECT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOL FACILITIES OF BASIC EDUCATION

GRANT AID FROM THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN
AS A TOKEN OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN AND JAPAN

مشروع إنشاء مدارس التعليم الاساسي
هدية الشعب الياباني رمزا للصدقة والتعاون بين الجمهورية اليمنية
الجمهورية اليمنية واليابان



*With the coincidence of the Yemeni Unification Day 15th Anniversary Celebrations in Mukalla,
A remarkable milestone achieved in Hadhramout Governorate*

Canadian Nexen Yemen East Al Hajr Ltd. (CNPE) Inaugurated its First Oil Production from Bashir Al Khair Oil Fields in Block East Al Hajr (51)

On Thursday - May 19, 2005, a remarkable milestone has been achieved in Hadhramout Governorate by Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al Hajr Ltd. (Block 51) that pumped its first oil production from Bashir AL-Khair Field with a daily range of 24,000 barrels per day through its sales pipeline going down towards Ash-Shihr Oil Export Terminal in AL-Dabbah coastal area approximately 45 kms east of Mukalla City, Hadhramout.

Under the auspices of H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen, Dr. Rasheed S. Barabba, Minister of Oil & Mineral Resources, inaugurated the East Al Hajr Block (51) First Oil Production in Hadhramout Governorate and in order to celebrate this occasion Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al Hajr Ltd. (CNPE) had arranged a ceremony held in its Block 51 camp in Ressib District, Sah Directorate, attended by MOM, PEPA, Hadhramout Governorate officials, Hadhramout members of Parliament & Shoura Councils, local community dignitaries, contractors, local and international employees.

Eng. Nabil AL-Qawsi, Chairman of Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority, Chairman of the Celebration Preparatory Committee, started the celebration by delivering a speech in which he said: "It is of great pleasure for me on behalf of myself and my colleagues to be here at this special moment marking history in Yemen's oil production. Especially that this celebration comes in line with the 15th anniversary of the blessed Yemeni Unity. Block 51 of East Al Hajr has achieved tremendous achievements and has topped its continuous efforts with this production. The company has worked steadily and through scientific and accurate means step by step discovering (Basheer Al-Khair A1) then (Basheer Al-Khair B1) in an optimum times and finally the development of the Basheer Al-Khair oil fields. We are very proud of this relation with Canadian Nexen and rely on the good spirits that we share. Our relation is characterized with transparency and through common work we believe we can achieve further success and eliminate any obstacles that we may face."

After Mr. Nabil's speech, a fine poem was addressed by a local Yemeni poet, 2 Yemeni dancing bands and a charming group of school girls performed impressive Yemeni folklore dances.

Following the dances, Mr. David Mitchell, President & General Manager of Canadian Nexen East Al Hajr (Block 51), gave a speech in which he emphasized that the work comes as a result of the combined efforts of the teams behind this block and that he is happy it coincides with the Yemeni Unity celebration. He commented further: "This is a very proud moment for the entire Block 51 team. Working closely with our partners in the Operating Committee, Ministry of Oil, PEPA, Local Authorities and Communities in the Hadramout Governorates, and with our contractors, together we achieved first production through an early production system and a new sales pipeline, on November 9th last year, over four months ahead of schedules and less than 11 months from the deceleration of commerciality, while working to the highest safety and environmental standards. Today we are producing 24,000 barrels of

oil per day. This fast development of production is a tremendous achievement which would be hard to equal in any country in the world. We could not have done this without you, and to all our staff, contractors, and partners in government and in the local communities, a special thank you for your continuing strong support as we complete construction through the coming months."

At this point came the warm comments of Mr. Charles Fischer, Nexen's President and Chief Executive Officer from Calgary, Canada. This is Mr. Fischer's fifth visit to Yemen and who as stated by Mr. David Mitchell: "Charles and Larry Murphy have been directly responsible for developing Nexen internationally and in Yemen. Charlie Fischer has also been directly responsible for developing Nexen's core values of integrity, safety and environmental responsibility, for which Nexen is today known as respected internationally."

In his statement, Mr. Fischer said that he is delighted to be back in Yemen again and especially celebrating the national event of May 22nd with all the Yemeni people, to celebrate peace, harmony and progress. He termed this inauguration of the 51 Block as an exciting milestone that represents a significant investment in time, cooperation and hard work. He said: "Nexen's partnership with the Yemenis had very humble origins. It began with a dream in a desert landscape way back in 1986. But hard work, cooperation, trust and friendship built that landscape into a world-class world-renowned operation. We began producing oil from Yemen in 1993, and ever since, we've seen tremendous success from these operations. Nexen and the Republic of Yemen are very dependent on each other. We are very proud of the positive relationship and of the friendships that have been built with the government and at the local level. It is a relationship built on trust, communication and respect. For us, our future in the republic of Yemen continues to be a bright one. We had two explorations discoveries on East Al Hajr (Block 51) in 203. The first of these discoveries came on-stream late last year using an early production system, and the second discovery will begin production later this year. We are very pleased with the speed with which we have been able to develop these oil fields."

Mr. Fischer mentioned that this year the company is planning to invest US\$ 200 million to complete development in BAK-A and BAK B fields and to continue exploring the block by drilling four exploration wells, and he emphasized that early exploration results are promising. He added: "To be successful, a project like this requires the collaboration of a diverse group of highly skilled people working together to achieve a common goal. We were assisted on our quest by many different people throughout Yemeni government, including the Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority, the Hadhramout Governor, the governorate offices and many local community dignitaries and members, and the local and international employees including many local contractors and subcontractors. On behalf of Nexen I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your hard work and support for this project." He emphasized: "Our philosophy has always been that we should behave as though we are guests in your country and conduct our business accordingly."

H.H. Dr. Rasheed Barabba, Minister of Oil & Mineral Resources, commented on the event saying: "These achievements in the oil and minerals sector are an implementation of the President of the Republic's instructions to enhance economy and

تحت رعاية فخامة الأخ / علي بن عبد الله صالح رئيس الجمهورية
قام الأخ الدكتور / رشيد باربعاء - وزير النفط والمعادن
بتدشين إنتاج النفط الخام من قطاع (51) شرق الحجر بمحافظة حضرموت
بتاريخ 19 مايو 2005م - الموافق 10 ربيع ثاني 1426هـ

Under the Auspices of H.E. President
Ali Abdullah Saleh
H. E. Dr. Rasheed Barabba' Minister of Oil & Minerals
Inaugurated the East Al Hajr
Block (51) First Oil Production in Hadhramout Governorate.
(19th of May 2005)



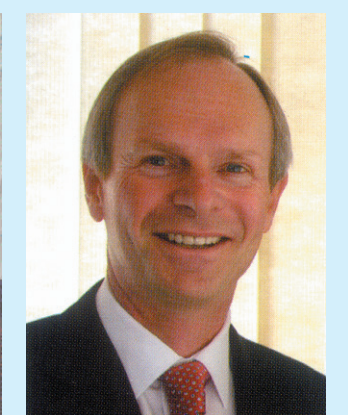
H.E. Dr. Rasheed Barabba, Minister of Oil & Mineral Resources



Eng. Nabil Al-Qawsi, Chairman of Petroleum Exploration & Production Authority



Mr. Charles Fischer, President & CEO, Nexen Inc. - Canada



Mr. David Mitchell, CNPE President & General Manager

encourage development and open up to more investments. We have done this through setting out attractive strategies to encourage investments in this sector and to provide a number of insurances and guarantees for the investors in order to secure more successful projects. Our celebration today proves that achieving such ambitions is possible and that this policy is the way to development. We repeat our congratulations to Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al Hajr and all Yemeni and foreign staff of the company who helped turning ambitions into reality."

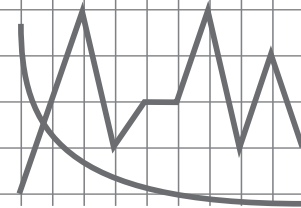
After the Minister's speech, it came the historic moment when H.H. Dr. Rasheed Barabba along with Mr. Charles

Fischer, with the warmest applause from the ceremony attendees of high ranking officials, guests of honor, Nexen's board of directors & CNPY & CNPE top managements, cut the ribbon of the first oil production memorial marble plate. Then His Excellency stepped the ceremony stage, turned on the production valve and so quickly the production pointer raised up to the average of 24,000 barrels per day. Finally, the ceremony guests of honor had lunch at Block 51 site.

In general, Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al Hajr Ltd. (Block 51) first oil production is a considerable success and a significant addition to the Yemeni economy.



YT Business



Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	191.9900	192.2600
Sterling Pound	351.4000	351.8900
Euro	241.5500	241.8900
Saudi Rial	51.1900	51.2700
Kuwaiti Dinar	657.3600	658.2900
UAE Dirhem	52.2700	52.3500
Egyptian Pound	33.1000	33.1500
Bahraini Dinar	509.2400	509.9600
Qatari Rial	52.7500	52.8200
Jordanian Dinar	270.9800	271.3600
Omani Rial	498.6700	499.3700
Swiss Franc	156.1900	156.4100
Swedish Crown	26.3100	26.3500
Japanese Yen	1.7850	1.7875

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

Hunt exercises pressure to,

Violate parliament resolution

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Parliamentary sources have deemed the pressures the American oil company Hunt practices on the Yemeni government for continuation in operating the oil sector No. 18 in the governorates of Mareb and al-Jawf does not depend on any papers possessed by the company for violation of a decision taken by the parliament on non-renewal of the contract with Hunt that would expire by the end of November.

In a meeting held between the Yemeni prime minister Abdulqader Bajammal and president of Hunt company, the government confirmed that it had no other choice but to seek the help of another operator to manage the sector following the decision of the parliament. Nevertheless, the prime minister said that the Hunt Company would be given priority in case it desired to continue its work according to new agreements for operation.

The parliamentary sources commented on that by emphasizing that the government commitment to parliament decision was stemming from an economic stand at the backdrop of the parliament resolution that had been taken according to legal procedures no bearing any political dimension.

Media sources had earlier mentioned that the company would demand compensation amounting to \$7 billion but parliamentary sources ruled that out because the company does not possess any legal excuses for suing. Prime Minister Bajammal and the regional director of TOTAL Company had agreed on seeking help of an independent consultant to present a neutral report to assist the Yemeni government to operate the liquefied gas project. That project has



been delayed for a long time because of the crisis of Southeast Asia and some companies dillydallying in its implementation in addition to non-availability of external markets for exportation. Yemen attaches great expectations to the liquefied gas project whose cost amounts to \$5.2 billion, as Yemen is considered among the poorest countries in the world with regard to possessing alternatives to oil reserves that might deplete by the year 2012. President Ali Abdullah Saleh has warned that petroleum reserves would exhaust by that date and that the government had to search for alternatives.

Yemen seeks to export its natural gas resources that are estimated at about 2.10 trillion cubic feet and they are situated in the region of Mareb to the east of Sana'a along with oil

reserves. However, the total reserves of natural gas in Yemen seem to be very small in comparison with Qatar's reserves of gas, which are estimated at 900 trillion cubic feet. Yemen plans the projects, costing \$5.2 billion, which is the most important in the history of the country since 1997. The project was, nevertheless, postponed due to the great world drop because of the Asian economic crisis and thereafter (1997-1998) but the latest rise in demand has encouraged the Yemen Gas Company of which shares the TOTAL Company owns 43%, to begin the project after finding possible buyers. Yemen has lately signed three contracts for exporting natural gas, ranging between 6 and 7 million tons of natural gas per year, to the United States and South Korea over 20 years starting from 2009. The contract stipulates that the Korean Firm for gas should begin buying from December 2008 of an amount estimated at least 3.1 tons a year and over 20 years, to be increased by one million tons later. The American market would take the remainder amount of production per year beginning from May 2009, via the French TOTAL Company and a Belgian company. The project includes the construction of 320km-long pipeline to transport liquefied gas to liquefaction factories in Aden at a rate of 5.3 million tons per year, in addition to building a gas

exportation terminal. However, Mr. Mustafa al-Ruwais, representative of the World Bank in Yemen said the liquefied gas would be an alternative to petroleum. Director-general of the Yemen Natural gas company, who was working for the French Company TOTAL says despite that the project would not solve the Yemen problems; it would give it a push for 20 years ahead. If the project is not implemented in the few coming years there would be no revenues, and absence of revenues, along with population increase, constitutes a source of anxiety for the west. The population of Yemen is over 20 million and it is not an OPEC member. Its daily production of petroleum amounts to 380 thousand barrels per day, according to what was mentioned by the Yemeni deputy prime minister, Ahmed Mohammed Soufan. Yemen exports more than half of its modest production of petroleum and this represents more than 90% of the country's exports and more than 70% of the budget revenues. There are no accurate estimates on Yemeni petroleum reserves but international organisations estimate that they would finish after 20 years. The deputy prime minister, minister of planning added that Yemen was facing dangers of water resources depletion during the similar period, and that the gas project may help in fighting terror in the country, as the

American International Herald Tribune says, as it is known that the individual share of the annual revenues of the country is 510 dollars and illiteracy among women is over 70%. The minister added that the president's call for looking for alternatives to petroleum was springing from the rapid growth of population that is expected to double in the coming twenty years. A western diplomat says they are trying to help Yemen to get rid of terror and pointed out that the international community was generous with this poor country.

Director-General of Yemen Gas Company said security was among the hindrances of the gas project that is situated nearby Mukalla where a terrorist attack had taken place against the French oil tanker Limburg and resulted in the death of one person. He added that they were building an underground pipeline and would take all security precautions in cooperation with the Yemeni authorities. He says the local tribes could benefit from the project and would take part in the security measures. Experts demand from Yemen to implement reforms it is in dire need for besides the gas project, especially the abolition of the government's subsidiary to petroleum products that cost the government \$800 million and amounts to fifth of the government spending.



Yemen wins World Bank prestigious award

BY WALID AL-SAQAF
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Washington - The Yemeni team representing the Ministry of Water and Environment, had won a World Bank award totaling about \$127,000 for the implementation of a proposal in 'Reusing Mosque Water for Irrigation'. Yemen was one out of 30 winners in the Development Marketplace 2005 event held in Washington last week. The award was handed over by President of the WB

James Wolfensohn on Wednesday to the head of Yemen's delegation to the event, Dr. Hussien Al-Gunied, Deputy Minister for Environment Affairs at the WB's headquarters in the American Capital.

"I am quite happy for our achievement and winning this prestigious award. Being awarded among 2,600 competitors means that we have achieved the top 2% rank in the world. This is something we ought to be proud about." Dr. Al-Gunied said.

The application for grant from Yemen was solely organized by the

Department of Environmental Affairs of the Ministry and aims at conserving scarce water resources in Yemen through the reuse of cleansing water from mosques for irrigation.

"This shows Yemen's willingness and ability to be innovative and help develop projects that will have great impact on farmers in the grassroots level. I believe that this is also a source of encouragement and motivations for Yemeni NGOs and civil society organizations to participate in future marketplace events," the Deputy Minister said.

"I believe the project will be

successful and we are committed to use the grant effectively to benefit the community. This project is a message to all that mosques may not only be a place for worshipping, but it could as well serve in irrigation, education, and assistance to the community."

Through a partnership between the government's Department of Environmental Affairs and a water engineering firm, this project would develop grey-water treatment and distribution facilities to recover grey water from mosques in 3 pilot communities. In doing so, it would increase incomes by adding irrigated

land and increasing water availability. To promote social acceptance and to increase understanding of grey-water reuse and sustainable water management, the project would conduct a public awareness campaign and seek the support of religious leaders, sheikhs, and government officials. In addition, the Department of Environmental Affairs would disseminate the project experience and results gained to other communities.

This project expects to reduce groundwater extraction for agriculture and initiate an industry to reuse grey water throughout Yemen.

Completion of the strategic coastal way in Mahra governorate

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Implementation and construction works pertaining to tunnels of the strategic coastal road linking the district of Sihoot to Nashtoon area, the governorate of Mahra.

The road is 146 km long at a total cost amounting to \$25 million with joint funding by the government and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Secretary-General of the Local Council at Hasween district Mohammed Ahmed Shamlan said the project, whose 90% of it was finished up until now, included digging and construction of four tunnels in the Fartak Mountain-1 parallel to Nashtoon coastal area with a length of 1015 meters, the second near to Hasween district with 1540 meters long, the third tunnel, 360 meters long and the fourth tunnel 250 meters long.

Mr Shamlan considers the project Sihoot-Nashtoon road in the governorate of Mahra of the important strategic roads as it links the coastal stripe areas of the governorates of Mahra and Hadramout, on the one hand and Yemen to the Sultanate of Oman and via it to the Gulf State on the other. He has made it clear that the project would serve regions of the coastal stripe, facilitate movement trading activity and marketing agricultural, and fish products to the coastal districts of Hasween, Kasha, Sihoot and Maseela in the governorate of Mahra, rich with fish wealth fishery. It would also reduce the time span of the trip between the governorates of Mahra and Hadramout from seventeen hours to just five hours.

Promotion of investment projects abroad

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sources at the State Authority of Investment have announced that the authority has taken the first steps for promoting a number of strategic projects in a number of Arab, Asian and world markets. The sources clarified that the projects included various sectors among them industries and assemblage of cars, iron and steel, tourist villages and resorts as well as the industry of marble, glass, granite and cement whose raw materials are existent in economic quantities on the Yemeni territories.

They added the authority would pay much attention in this regard to Yemeni investor expatriates abroad, especially in the coming period, in order to attract their investments to Yemen. They indicated that the authority was always keen to keep pace with world new variables in the area of investments, confirming that the law of investment in Yemen was flexible and the authority could introduce amendments to it any time there would be need for that with the purpose of offering further facilities and simplified procedures to improve the investment climate and environment in Yemen for the flow of more investments.

Women's Voice

"Islam came to change tradition and culture in favor of women"

BY ABEER YAHIA ALERYANI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Yemeni women are much luckier than their peers in neighboring countries. In Yemen, women have their civil rights complete and equal to men. It is guaranteed in the constitution. We don't suffer any discrimination from the government's side. Regardless of the belief that the government's approach towards improving women's situation is an attempt to gain favor of the Western world, the fact is that Yemeni women are benefiting from this approach. They live a blooming era, mainly in terms of political rights and career opportunities.

Personally I think that Yemeni women have been offered a lot since the revolution and have benefited from it as a "full" citizen. They were encouraged to enhance their education by the government, and have been able to apply and get good jobs. They have been allowed to drive cars and to elect whoever they choose to represent them in the Parliament. Recently, they have been nominated and elected to occupy key positions in the government sector and become decision-makers.

In Yemen, women have their independent identities. In fact, they have the right to hold identity documents. In some neighboring countries women are not even permitted to obtain ID cards! This is still considered as a dream for women's rights advocates in other countries.

However, the problem of women in Yemen is due to the way the other half of the Yemeni society, men, are treating women. Women's problems in Yemen are not caused by the régime or the constitution. No matter what great efforts and privileges the government issues, the Yemeni male's mentality will remain the same. Their view that women are inferior will remain the

Did you know that women are not obligated to cook, clean, or wash? Did you know that the Prophet (PBUH) did all those tasks, and helped his wives at home? Did you know that the Prophet (PBUH) always asked the opinion of his wives, sometimes on matters regarding state affairs?

same. The discriminatory and prejudicial attitude of Yemeni men towards women will remain the same as long as women themselves, as mothers, sisters, and daughters are not capable of changing this mentality.

As long as Yemeni women succumb to the unjustified traditions and customs inherited from hundreds of dark years in our history and consider them as sacred and divine rules, women's problems will continue. Their situation will deteriorate even further and they will lose the rights they acquired since the revolution. These inherited traditions and customs have nothing to do with religion. In fact, they are in complete contradiction!!

Inherited tradition and culture has caused contradiction in everything between men and women in Yemen. Men can deal respectfully with women as female colleagues and a competent workforce. Yet many will not allow their daughters, sisters, or wives to join the workforce. Some families, though small in number, will allow the women in the family to work various works from teaching to architecture to medicine. Yet the vast majority of the society will not even allow the women in their families to get an education beyond elementary school.

This society, both rural and urban, gives women less rights and more duties and obligations than their male counterparts. This is particularly true in

rural areas where women are expected to work the land, cook, get water, raise the family, take care of the husband, take care of guests, as well as other tasks. Yet, women do not have an opinion in the affairs of the society, or the family for that matter. Women are still forced to get married at young ages. No account is taken as to their young age and their maturity and subsequent ability to bear the responsibility of a family. This is not to mention the health related problems of early marriages, especially in case of pregnancy.

Islam came to change tradition and culture in favor of women. Yet, it seems that no one remembers!! Religious teachings never differentiated between educating any of the genders, nor prohibiting work for either. What religious practice advise is that women are the most important half of society. They bear the responsibility of raising the next generation. By the way, did you know that it is the only obligation of wives towards the family? Did you know that women are not obligated to cook, clean, or wash? Did you know that the Prophet (PBUH) did all those tasks, and helped his wives at home? Did you know that the Prophet (PBUH) always asked the opinion of his wives, sometimes on matters regarding state affairs? There definitely is a big gap between what Islam says and what inherited culture and tradition state!!! Did you know that it is prohib-

ited to force women to get married without their approval?

The gap between religious teachings must replace the current traditions and cultures that are a burden on the society. The government is not required to impose a large amount in the annual budget to impose women affairs. There is no need to spend such large sums and have the Yemeni citizens bear the burden of this cost. In a country that is among the 30 poorest and less developed countries in the world there must be other social and economic issues that deserve the governments concern more than this one. However, the government can spend a fraction of what is spent now on educating the society on the rights and obligations of both men and women, towards each other and towards society.

However, the large part of this matter will have to be left to the people of the country. Both men and women must be educated in their rights towards each other and towards society as a whole. The men must realize the rights and obligations of the women within their families first and then within society. They must start thinking attentively of what the Koran and Prophet Mohammad advised them regarding women and stop corrupting and misinterpreting the religious instructions according to their own wishes. Women also must educate their counterparts regarding their rights and obligations and stand up for their rights. Women should not comply with the unjust inherited customs and traditions that were only made by man to corroborate his authority and domination over women.

Until then, nothing will make Yemen a country of liberty regarding women's affairs. No efforts of the government and International Organizations will make a distinctive impact unless the will of change and developing comes from both the men and women of the country.

Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

The Bible, the Qur'an and Science (2/3)

Author: Maurice Baucaille
Language: English (translated from French)
Publisher: American Trust Publications¹
Year Published: (1st) 1978

"There are those, from the people of the Scriptures, who believe in Allah², and that which descended to you, and that which descended to them, submissive, they do not purchase the verses of Allah at a small price³. Those, are for whom there is reward with their Lord, God is speedy in his accounting" (The Holy Qur'an III/68)

We gave to Moses the Scripture and with him we designated his brother Harun⁴ a Minister⁵ (The Holy Qur'an XXV/35)

Then the angels said to Mariam⁶: Verily does Allah gives you advance word from Him, his name is Christ, Jesus the son of Mariam, a distinguished personality in this world and the hereafter and among the intimate... He will teach him the Scriptures, wisdom, the Torah and the Bible.

In this part of the review of the above book, we will consider how the author dissects the Torah and Old and New Testament part of the Bible.

The author of the book has concluded that in the Old Testament, while not questioning the revelation origin of the scripture, the human element in the Old Testament is seen to be quite considerable. He adds: "It is not difficult to understand why from version to version (the author has shown the various versions, editions and languages that the Bible has been produced in over the years) and translation to translation, with all the corrections inevitably resulting, it was possible for the original text to have been transformed doing the course of more than two thousand years" (underlined by literary corner).

To strengthen the legitimacy of the genuineness of original revelation, Maurice Baucaille points out: "It is perfectly possible to believe in the reality of the Creation, God's transmission to Moses of the Ten Commandments, Divine intercession in human affairs, e.g., at the time of Solomon." However he qualifies this presupposition: "This does not stop us, at the same time, from considering that what has been conveyed to us is the gist of these facts, and that the detail in the description should be subjected to rigorous criticism."

The author then goes into the historical details of how the Books of the Old Testament came to be collected, noting them to be a "collection of works of greatly differing length and many different genres ... written in several languages over a period of more than nine hundred years".

Then the author goes into the comparison of the descriptions or events in the Old Testament and the findings of modern science that are of relevance. His emphasis in this regard is the Creation (of both the Universe and Mankind). He suggests that there are contradictions within the accepted Yahwist and Sacredotal texts, with the latter containing additions to the similar items covered by both. For example the Yahwist version makes no mention of the Sabbath whereas the Sacredotal insists on the Seventh Day of the Creation Period, being the day that God rested, hence the Sabbath. He also questions some of the logic in the order of appearance of creatures: "The beasts of the Earth are not mentioned until the sixth day in Genesis; after the appearance of the birds. This order of appearance, beasts of the earth after birds is not therefore acceptable." The time span (six days) does not agree with the modern scientific assertion that the Earth alone went through four stages of formulation, with man appearing in the fourth. The span here is 4 - billion years. There are also doubts as to the genealogical tables offered in the Bible, which make Adam the father of mankind go back 40 centuries before Christ, whereas science and archeology have shown man to go back to tens of thousands of years, if not hundreds of thousands of years. Baucaille wonders

why many Bible experts do not delve into such issues, but rather leave them there and regard them as merely necessitated by the authors to conform to the acceptable beliefs of their time, depending on who is doing the writing. Furthermore, the Church for many centuries, prior to the 17th Century would not sanction arguments against Biblical text even if it contradicted itself from version (Yahwist-earlier, to Sacredotal-later). The additions that were found in the Sacredotal version, clearly reflect a human interference. He then points out the issue of the Flood and how it relates to archeological and scientific reasoning, ruling out the Flood as being a full destruction of all life and the regeneration of civilizations in less than three hundred years. This contradicts with many archeological findings in Egypt and Babylonia, for example.

On the Gospels, or the New Testament (the words of Jesus Christ), the author notes that there was a deliberate attempt to avoid having all the New Testament circulate among the worshippers: "At a Roman Catholic school, I had copies of the works of Virgil and Plato, but I did not have the New Testament. The Greek text of this would nevertheless have been instructive. It was only much later on that I realized why they had not set us translations of the holy writings of Christianity. The latter could have led us to ask our teachers questions they would have found it difficult to answer." After noting the inconsistencies and difficulties in the acceptance of the genuineness of the textual versions of the Gospels the author points out: "Observations such as these denote the element of human participation in the writing and modification of the texts. The author presents how modern historians or chroniclers have been able to come out with a plausible rendition of the early days of Christianity and how the Gospels were formed. Out of Judaeo-Christianity and Pauline Christianity, the latter triumphed. The struggle between the two, however produced the Gospels as they are known today. While he Gospels originate in their most recent versions to the Second Century A.D. it was not clear whether they were reliant on textual material or related traditions (oral renditions). In 170 AD he Gospels acquired the status of canonic literature.

The modern attitude towards the Gospel maybe summarized as the author has suggested: "According to the declarations of the Second Vatican Council, a faithful account of the actions and words of Jesus is to be found in the Gospels; but it is impossible to reconcile this with the existence in the text of contradictions, improbabilities, things which are materially impossible or statements which run contrary to established reality".

In summary, the Gospels are the life story, teachings and sayings of Jesus Christ, in four different versions, Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. Although they are taught by the Church to be apostles of Jesus, the author points out that they in fact wrote their gospels much later than the time that Jesus lived. The author points out the various discrepancies and inconsistencies in the four Gospels and notes the far deviations found in John's Gospels with respect to the other three. After discussing the source background and the linkages and discrepancies or differences among the four Gospels, the author writes: "The conclusion to be drawn from the above is that when we read the Gospel, we can no longer be sure that we are reading Jesus' words.

¹ 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.

² I.e., God
³ i.e., they place great value to what Allah says in the Scriptures.
⁴ I.e., Aaron
⁵ i.e., a distinguished assistant.
⁶ I.e., Mary (PABUH)

Tribalism in Yemen, its relation with the State and the political parties

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Tribalism in Yemen is a historic and social phenomenon. The Yemeni tribes emerged within the political existence in the reign of the Queen of Sheba. These tribes, including Hemiari, Madhaji and Hamdani, which are also considered as the most famous and contemporary tribes in Yemen, played an important political role in the south parts of the Arabian Peninsula.

From these tribes, descended other smaller tribes such as Hashidi and Bakaeli that are stretched over different parts of the country and still maintain their traditions and social decorum. When one reads the reality of the tribe as a social phenomenon, he/she is bound to perceive a great change in the social values and concepts toward the contemporary life. The tribal groups proved themselves capable of strong interaction, prompt response to the new political and economic impacts.

Reality of the tribal community today:

The political conflicts and clashes experienced in North Yemen after the September 26 Revolution and events of central areas in the eighties made popular militias out of the tribes that have their impacts on the economic and social situations of the country.

Over the past three decades, the observer could realize that Yemeni tribes got involved in civil wars and revenges, and this in turn led to exacerbating the tribal violence which is still pursued up until now. Series of wars and revenge incidents are on the rise without any immediate action taken by the State or the political parties, and negligence of the State compelled tribes to live in isolation for a long time.

Relation between the tribe, State, and the political forces:

Some cultured people hold the view that it is necessary for the State to get rid



of the tribal system, particularly as the tribal beings constitute an insurmountable political barrier, which hinders the development of modern Yemen. The fact can be found in the development of history of the area where the state appeared to be a strong political and administrative regime. The tribal communities succeeded in integrating themselves in the frame of the state and its cultural and ideological system, this means that the tribe is not higher than the state as expected by others, rather it is a social institution that is usually affected by the social, economic and political developments of the whole country.

Crisis of relation between the tribe and the state on one hand and political forces on the other:

The ongoing Sa'ada events and their consequences confirm frailty of relation between government dignitaries and locals in the area and the capability of political forces and religious figures in coping with the tribal community. Political forces and religious figures manifest their power in transforming tribal groups to military wings to be exploited when needed.

Frailty of the state's relation with the tribal community is manifested in its being limited to some certain personalities who exploit the individual to serve their personal interests, particularly in

days of election.

Political parties and religious forces secured fertile places in tribal communities in order for them to develop their views, and support their prominent figures through using tribes as military wings.

Political parties and religious groups exploit tribesmen by inciting wars and conflicts between members of the same tribe with the intention to support their candidates of parliamentary elections.

The obstacles facing the tribal community these days are the result of wrong policies adopted toward the tribe and the kind of treatment with their individuals. Parties and authorities never contribute to developing the tribal community; rather they appear to consider any tribe as a traditional institution to be exploited when needed.

The State and the political parties never help the tribal communities in facing the economic challenges. Education, for instance, experiences ongoing deterioration in almost all the school grades, and such is reflected in the educational outputs. Moving toward the religious education run by religious groups in the primitive areas and the frailty of public education in such areas help the tribe restore the traditional concepts.

The government's dominance over most of the tribal areas can not be achieved by gathering and intensifying

military troops. This can rather be achieved when tribesmen feel that the existence of the government provides them with safety and protects them from revenge incidents as well as giving them jobs in public institutions and providing them with public services.

The government should not resort to threats and arrests in case a tribesman carries some violent acts as is realized in many areas. A better alternative for the State is to improve and consolidate its relation with tribes to avoid losses of bodies and properties.

Tribe and weapons:

The authorities accused late the military wing in al-Haq and Popular Forces Unionist parties, both adhere to the Zaidi movement, of standing behind Sa'ada events, and by tomorrow, one can expect the authorities to accuse the military wing in parties of so and so of standing behind events in Marib or al-Jawf.

A multidimensional question appealing to the mind is: "How were such military wings formed, how did they get weapons and how were they trained?"

The tribal community is considered a military wing armed with its weapons it buys from the markets of weapons left after conflicts between republican and monarch supporters. The tribal communities are found to keep their weapons to protect themselves from wars, revenges and racial conflicts prevailing the tribal environment.

If the government eradicated violence and ethnical conflicts between tribesmen, it would be able to disarm tribesmen easily, particularly as they are still not proficient to mishandle different types of weapons.

The killing of 525 and wounding of 2708 military troops and volunteers in Sa'ada events does not reflect firmness and strength of al-Houthi followers, or the view they are well trained to mishandle weapons proficiently.

So the phenomenon of carrying weapons cannot be eradicated unless revenge issues and conflicts between tribesmen are exterminated.

Possible modes of HIV transmission to the Middle East Region

By Dr K ABDEL-AZIZ
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FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is continuing to spread across the globe. Spread of HIV to the Arab World is real, and if this is allowed to happen, it would result in devastating effects on the regions health, economy, education and bring the already slow process of development to a halt. Countries that have taken measures to prevent, or slow down, the spread of HIV have avoided the catastrophic effects, while countries that failed to do so have suffered terrible consequences including loss of half of their populations and complete collapse of their economies.

In this short communication, we have discussed the potential modes by which HIV could spread to the region, and suggested a number of measures that could be taken to prevent such spread.

Potential routes by which HIV could spread to the region.

1- Through returning HIV-infected students and tourists, while abroad, indulge in sex with prostitutes, the majority of whom are HIV-infected. A number of research papers have shown that 20-50% of the prostitutes in Uganda, India and South East Asia are HIV infected. Similarly, the number of HIV-infected prostitutes in the West is also relatively high. Therefore, the chance of those students/tourists becoming infected with the virus is quite high. On returning, these same people would undoubtedly indulge in sex with the regional hidden prostitutes, who would in turn pass it on to all their clients. In turn, the latter would then spread the virus to their families and children. Moreover, since screening for HIV during blood donation may not be perfect in all parts of the region, the virus would spread to a large part of the population through blood transfusion. In addition, repeated use of HIV-contaminated medical appliances (e.g. syringes) in some parts of the region would lead to further spread of the virus.

2- Through imported HIV-contaminated blood products. The second potential route of spreading of HIV to the region could occur through the use of imported HIV-contaminated blood products. In the early nineties, drug companies in France, Canada and Japan sold, knowingly, HIV-contaminated blood-products to their local populations, resulting in the infection of hundreds of haemophilic patients

with HIV. These companies had a large stock of blood-products that had not been heat-sterilised. When research showed that heat-sterilisation inactivated the virus, all companies were required to heat-sterilise their blood-products, including that already in stock. However, since the process of sterilisation of the stock would have cost millions of dollars, many companies risked selling their stock products with out sterilisation. Subsequent investigation into the spread of HIV in the haemophilic populations in each country led to the exposure of these companies (Nature-90s). These companies sold un-sterilised blood-products to their own populations, knowing the strict screening and law enforcement systems of their respective countries. One is forced to ask what would they do when dealing with Third World countries?

3- Through sex trade which is flourishing in some parts of the region. Prostitutes who are brought to the region in increasing numbers from abroad would serve as a good nucleus for the spread of the HIV to the regional population.

4- Finally, through illegal emigrants. Thousands of illegal emigrant enter the region annually. Most of these emigrants originate from HIV endemic countries. Relaxation of the morale codes in the region, combined with poverty, particularly amongst those emigrants, would encourage prostitutions thereby accelerating the spread of the HIV across the region.

Potential preventive measures

We believe that the risk of HIV spreading to the region is real and consequences of this happening are grave. Academics, health professionals and health-planners would need to take this topic very seriously and appropriate actions are taken.

The most effective way of combating the spread of the virus has been through educating the population on the ways the virus is transmitted, and the consequence of becoming infected with HIV. Through education, the West has managed to halt the spread of the virus. Today in the UK, the rate of HIV infection has been reduced to 2000-3000 per a year. In countries where educational programs were not implemented, the virus has spread rapidly infecting half the populations in some African countries. Similarly, the spread of HIV in India and Russia is growing at an alarming rate. Therefore, appropriate educational programs would need to be devised and implemented. Below we have made a number of suggestions:

1- Produce educational booklets on

HIV/AIDS and distribute them to all students/tourists/businessmen travelling to HIV-endemic countries.

2- Produce educational programs for the general populations and air them at peak viewing times.

3- Initiate basic research work into the general population awareness about the mode of HIV-transmission, consequence of infection and its avoidance.

4- Establish local/regional call centers for the dissemination of HIV/AIDS education.

5- Direct special HIV/AIDS educational programmes to poverty stricken areas where prostitutions would likely to occur

(although tackling poverty itself would be the best solution).

6- Strengthening of the morale codes and fighting prostitution. One way of achieving this is to tackle poverty and thus provide prostitutes with an alternative incomes as well as providing them with appropriate counselling.

7- Appropriate solutions to the commercial sex industry in the region.

8- Controlling the spread of pornographic materials to the region.

9- Encourage tourists to travel to Regional countries (e.g. increase the production of holiday programmes and advertisements of regional holiday

resorts).

10- Import blood products from well known companies that use donated blood only (companies which use bought blood risk HIV and other viral contamination, since the majority of people selling their blood are either drug addicts or prostitutes; both are HIV high risk groups). In addition, regardless where the blood products are imported from, all batches would need to be tested locally for HIV, HBV and HCV, using up to date screening methods.

11- Ideally, produce blood-products locally/regionally.

12- Educate all health professionals on

the danger of re-using medical appliances (e.g. syringes).

13- Audit the existing sterilisation procedures for medical and dental appliances.

14- Use of up to date HIV-screening methods in blood donation centres.

15- Put in place strong legislations to deter medical/dental negligence.

16- Improve the health and safety systems in both the academic and the medical sectors (e.g. education of safe disposal of clinical and laboratory materials, compulsory vaccination against HBV for medical, dental and other health workers).

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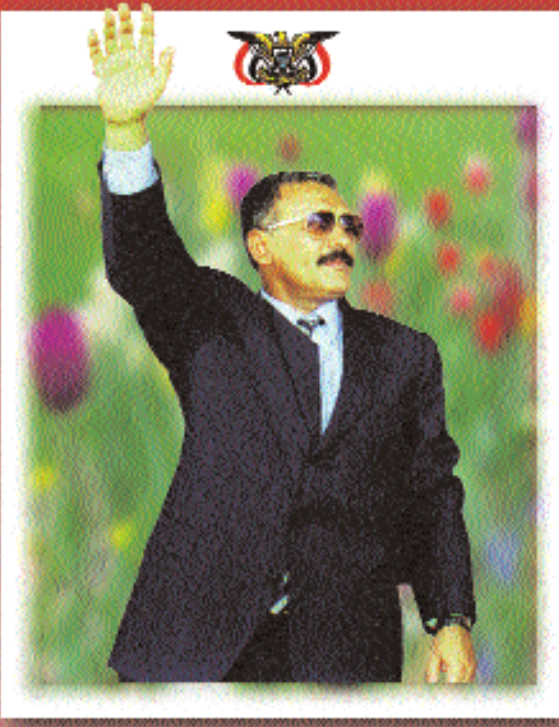
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علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى كافة أبناء شعبنا اليمني العظيم
بمناسبة إحتفالات الشعب اليمني مجلول الذكرى الخامسة عشر ليوم 22 مايو
يوم تحقيق الوحدة اليمنية المباركة
متمنين دوام التقدم والإزدهار للوطن اليمني الذي يشهد إنجازات تنموية كبيرة
في ظل رعاية فخامته الحكيمة وكل عام وأتم بخير



تتقدم مجموعة الجيل الجديد بأحر التهاني وأطيب التبريكات للأخ الرئيس /

علي عبدالله صالح

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ظل قيادتها الحكيمة، وكل عام والجميع بألف خير.

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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.



ANG

مجموعة الجيل الجديد

Artificial Intelligence: An introduction

In an attempt to understand the concept 'Artificial Intelligence' (AI, for short), and also AI as a field of serious, scientific study, we shall look at the following definition of the term in some detail:

The concept 'Artificial or Machine Intelligence' may be provisionally defined as 'electronically simulated human intelligence'.

This may appear to be a fairly straightforward and easily comprehensible definition you have ever come across, but I must warn you that it is somewhat deceptive. For example, what do you understand by 'human intelligence' (HI, for short), to begin with? I am sure that you believe that it is one of those household words like, 'foolishness', 'sensitivity', and so on. Synonyms such as 'shrewdness', 'cleverness', 'brightness of mind', etc., may also occur to you. The problem, however, is that while HI as it is used here is certainly not incompatible with the sense of 'cleverness' or 'brightness of mind', it is technically wrong and misleading to equate the word with these meanings. For example, even a fool is said to be endowed with HI, if he can spontaneously smile a smile of recognition, say, when he meets a friend after a gap of time. That smile is a sure indication of the fact that the person is capable of adjusting his behaviour to what happens around him and this capability is symptomatic of HI. Again, if an idiot can avoid fire when he sees it, with out having to come into bodily contact with it, he is 'intelli-



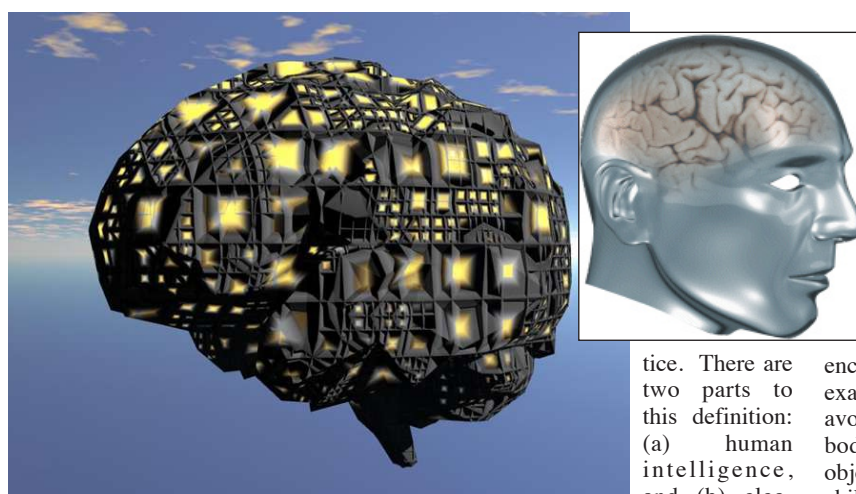
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gent', too. In other words, HI is that faculty of any normal (that is, not mentally retarded) human being, which accounts for all his actions, speech and behaviour – idiotic as well as informed.

Now, when a computer is programmed to simulate this faculty of human beings, it is said to be 'intelligent', and this capability of the machine is 'Artificial or Machine Intelligence'.

Let us, in the next place, turn to AI as a field of serious, scientific study. Here it is useful to make a distinction between AI theory and practice. As theory, AI is the engineering counterpart of 'cognitive science'. Cognitive science is a cover term for 'philosophy', 'linguistics', and 'psychology', each of which claims to account for certain complementary aspects of HI. Philosophy asks and answers questions about 'knowledge', and its nature and expression; it seeks to find out whether all knowledge is realized only in terms of language or whether there is a kind of knowledge which is language independent. The nature and expression of 'meaning' have also been the subject matter of almost any school of philosophical enquiry. Now, no serious discussion of 'intelligence', be it natural or artificial, can afford to ignore the philosophical enquiries concerning 'knowledge' and 'meaning'.

As for linguistics, it is the scientific study of language, its structure and function. It aims to relate the world of meanings to the world of sounds on the



one hand, and the world of graphic symbols on the other. Our definition of HI laid down that all human actions and behaviour, including 'speech' are symptomatic of intelligence, and speech certainly belongs to the domain of linguistics.

Psychology, to be more precise, cognitive psychology is an equally important constituent of cognitive science, and is very closely related to intelligence. Of particular interest to us, here, are those aspects of psychology which attempt to characterize mental models of objects – captured as facts and reasoning of various kinds.

Thus, various aspects of HI are fruitfully studied from the view points of philosophy, linguistics and psychology. The viability of any AI theory directly depends on how effectively it can capture the essential features of HI for purposes of AI modeling and hence the suggested influence of cognitive science on AI theory.

Let us return to our definition of AI once again, before taking up AI prac-

about them second hand. We develop intellectually perceived artifacts, talk about them, and thereby exchange KNOWLEDGE about them. We come to KNOW about many things without being aware of the process; we also acquire KNOWLEDGE through conscious training, and education. A large body of knowledge is merely inferred knowledge; there is no need for us to have personally experienced this body of knowledge. For example, it is intelligent behaviour to avoid coming into violent, head-on, bodily contact with a fast-moving object, like a speeding bus. The human ability to avoid this collision course is not necessarily based on personally experienced knowledge; nor does this ability come necessarily or consciously education or training; it is, in a large number of cases, based on inference or reasoning.

Now, having said that all actions of any normal human being are symptomatic of intelligence, how then do we account for variations in intelligent behaviour among people? Good question. Well, these variations are due to personal styles of behaviour, culturally conditioned styles of behaviour, and even misbehaviour, brought about by intellectual intervention. Thus, at the heart of any intelligent behaviour are knowledge and reasoning, which may be assumed to be located in the human brain. The application of this knowledge in a given situation and the activation of the reasoning capability may be substantially moderated, coloured, or influenced by the personal emotions and the impulses of the individual concerned. We know how the parents' judgment of their children's behaviour

is often characterized by a degree of tolerance, which they may not be prepared to show when it comes to judging the behaviour of other children.

Our intelligent response in a given situation may be further moderated by 'cultural conditioning'. Thus people belonging to different cultures show different intelligent behaviours. For example, what is morally right and constitutes social justice in culture 'x' may cause a revolt in culture 'y'.

Against the background of this discussion of what constitutes HI, let us examine the principal concern of AI practice, namely, electronic simulation of HI, or the design of an intelligent software to programme a computer to behave like a human being to the extent possible. The concern may be expressed in the form of the following questions:

a) What aspects of HI are capable of being electronically simulated? Which of them defy any attempt at electronic simulation and why?

b) How to simulate what is to be simulated? What are the mechanical means of simulation?

c) What constraints operate on electronic simulation?, etc.

For reasons of space, I do not intend to answer these questions here. I may, however, briefly indicate that those aspects of HI, such as, personal emotions, moral overtones, cultural colouring etc., which defy quantification, defy any attempt at simulation. It must, however, be mentioned that AI practice is still in its infancy and that no great progress has been made in the matter of successful simulation, except in some areas like, robotics, expert systems, and so on. Even in these areas there is further scope for improvement.

Book Review

"What is a life? Why was this life lived as it was?"

James Reaney: A Short Biography

P.A. Abraham, *James Reaney: A Short Biography*, Quortaba Printers, Sana'a, 2005, Paperback, ISBN 81-85233-24-9, Pp 163. Price: Not mentioned.

"Literature is the space in which questions about the personal identity are most provocatively articulated." Biography (in the case of a writer) is such a genre which deals with the personal identity of the "human subject" intersecting the form of a *Kunsterroman* ("artist-novel"); remapping the growth of a writer or an artist "from childhood into the stage of maturity that signals the recognition of the protagonist's artistic destiny and mastery of an artistic craft". Professor Abraham's biography of James Reaney is in this sense may profitably be read as a "recognition" of James Reaney's "artistic destiny in the form of a *Kunsterroman*. Professor Abraham's portrayal of James Reaney's growth as a writer "in the rich historical and geographical context of Reaney's beloved Southwestern Ontario" (p 9) is admirable for at least two reasons: first, it reflects his interest like James

Reaney, to borrow the phrase used by Margaret Atwood, in "the digging up of buried things" (p 9) and second, he keeps himself successfully out of the dangerous terrains of personal praise and superfluous details. For these reasons, Coral Ann Howells, professor of English and Canadian Literature at the University of Reading, Berkshire, England, has appropriately called Professor Abraham "an eminent Reaney scholar and archivist" (p 6).

In the very beginning, the book, besides establishing the "archaeological perspective implicit in any biographical exercise" (p 6) quotes as epigraphs from Reaney's books and articles emphasizing his ideas about childhood as a stage not "necessarily one of nostalgia and sentimentality" but of being "reborn" and the significance of the place for the survival in the industrialized communities with the "possibility of such humanizing and peaceful experiences". James Reaney, obviously links childhood as

the actual state of innocence and simplicity as survival gear in an industrial society and as an objective symbol for a part of man's existence. Reaney's childhood described in by Abraham reminds us of the childhood of D.H.Lawrence with all its incidents of "pain and ambition" (nostalgia too!) and "the boy's ability to survive imaginatively with his wide reading till finally he escaped to high school and then to the University of Toronto" (p 7), as his destiny was awaiting him there, to be the cultural iconographer of his age.

Professor Abraham has suitably quoted Rosemary Sullivan in the preface that this biography of James Reaney "is not about secrets. It is a different kind of search" (p 13). It is the biographer's attempt to write the life of a person as a book and therefore this book must be rewritten by someone else who has the gift of knowing what to leave out as Abraham says, "Sometimes there is more significance in the omission than is what is record-

ed" (p 19). He is right when he says that Reaney's life is "compelling enough to deserve attention" (p 15). It is very interesting to note that for Reaney, his plays are "an oral and visual artistic experience" (p 16) and Reaney says "through the play-box you eventually see your whole life" (p 17). He looks at life "through the fresh imaginative eyes of a child" (p 19) Though greatly influenced by William Blake in whose poetry innocence is transformed into experience, whereas in Reaney's artistic vision "we will be able to change this frightening world into a world of peace and happiness" (Ibid.).

Chapter 1 is an account of the settlement of the Crerar family indicating the pains of being "exiles from our father's land" (p 21). And then the "growing pains" are evident in Chapter 2 from Reaney's collection of poems, *Colours in the Dark*. The farm life at Brocksdon is again reminiscent of Lawrence's autobiographical novel, *Sons and Lovers* and Paul Morel's attachment to her mother. Reaney too is described as greatly attached to his mother, Elizabeth, (who was too like Lawrence's mother a school teacher) "as he grew older he would often walk over from home with his mother, or all alone to meet her there" (p 30) and whose "profound love [that] made it possible for him to survive" (p54). Abraham describes atmosphere of Reaney's ancestral home, his grandparents with power and cogency. Chapter 3 describes the father and the stepfather of Reaney as it begins: "Difficulties between fathers and sons were not uncommon in those days" (p 45). As a result, "as Reaney grew older he missed a strong father" (p 51) who could provide him with a "role model" (p 36). "High school was for Reaney quite awful owing to the unbearable life he had at the farm and the constant nagging of his stepfather" (p 55).

However, Reaney after his marriage "became friend with his stepfather" (p 55), William Tugwell Cooke. A sensitive person as Reaney was, he realized later that "If he had not met William he might never have realized that men were not all like his father, so muted by melancholy and too gentle a person to be a farmer" (p 56). In Chapter 4, Abraham concentrates on Reaney's religious upbringing. His early religious rearing has been

responsible for his "melodramatic vision" expressed through his Gothic dramas such as *The Killdeer*, *The Sun and the Moon* and *Listen to the Wind* (p 62). Under the influence of Northrop Frye and Richard Stingle, Reaney develops a mature religious vision.

Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 8 are immensely fascinating accounts of Reaney's development and maturity as a writer and teacher both. Besides, they also throw significant light on the writer as an activist "who became more actively involved in the development of a Canadian identity" (p 122). These chapters, as rightly remarked by Coral Ann Howells in the foreword, are details of Reaney's "fascination" with history and myth and poetry and drama (pp 6-7).

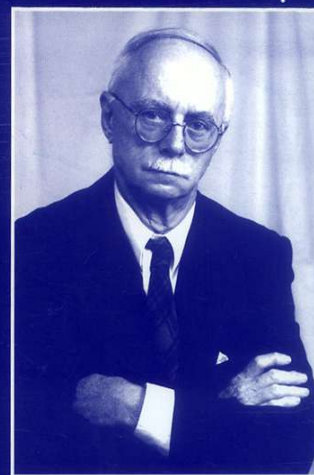
Undeniably, of all these chapters the most interesting is Chapter 6: "Making of a Writer" which tells the reader about Reaney's interest in drama that "reaches back to his childhood experiences in school plays and to attendance at a performance of the Dramatic Society at the Stratford Normal School where his mother took her teacher training" (p 91) and the influence of Northrop Frye in "developing his creative imagination" (p 92). Abraham convincingly observes: James Reaney's original and experimental works give "Canada a name and a place in the history of world drama" (p 103). The inclusion of Reaney's personal correspondence with Abraham bestows on this "small book" the aura of authenticity and appeal. It is also worth mentioning that this biography of James Reaney establishes him also as a lover of India. The very fact that he donated "his personal library to Gujarat University, Ahmadabad" (p 14) reflects his generosity. And the

performance of his play *Wacousta* in Kathakali mode by Indian students in Trivendrum at the international conference of the Canadian Studies in 1996 shows Reaney's importance as a cultural iconographer of the present century who could "produce a play like *Wacousta!* which negotiates the border crossing between countries, cultures and languages" (p 9).

"A big book", said Callimachus, the Alexandrian poet, grammarian, and employee of the famous ancient library of Alexandria, "is a big misfortune". And it seems Professor Abraham has followed the piece of advice offered by Dr Johnson in writing *James Reaney: A Short Biography*: "Books that you may...hold readily in your hand are the most useful after all". In the "Acknowledgements", Professor Abraham with his characteristic humility, calls Reaney's biography as "this small book". But this small book is about a "big" writer and is valuable for both the students and the research scholars of James Reaney alike for it is not a shallow and sketchy life-sketch but a lucidly written, well-documented portrayal of a creative genius the reading of which will create in every reader profound echoes of answers emanating from an intense deep, to the searching questions invariably asked while writing a biography: "What is a life? Why was this life lived as it was?" (p 13).

James Reaney

A Short Biography



P. A. ABRAHAM



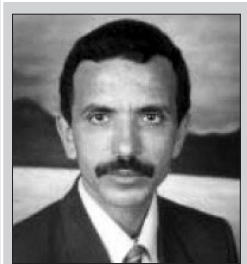
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To the 29th Batch!

Dear 29th batch!

It is my pleasure to say a few words on the occasion of your graduation ceremony. You have lived almost as members of a family in the Department of English, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University. Although things usually change a little towards the end, yet I do hope you will be as you were before the last term.

Congratulations anyway! Words fail me to express my feelings and say 'bye', though I feel happy to say 'congratulations' to you on such an important occasion. Parting, according to Shakespeare, is a 'sweet sorrow'. You are all set to spread all over the country and probably the world. Meetings, hereafter, may take place purely by chance. Though life is made up of meetings and partings, yet I hope and trust, we will be in touch and



meet again. Partings thus become a way of meetings. In this context it has been aptly said: 'We live our lives, for ever taking leave.' Let me assure you that we will always feel your presence, though you may be physically absent. As John Gay (1685 - 1732) remarks:

"We only part to meet again.
Change, as ye list, ye winds; my heart shall be

The faithful compass that still points to thee."
So we hope to meet you again somewhere on the life's highway, hopefully as reputed leaders in the community. Your success will be our glory and pride. We earnestly call upon you all to render your signal services to the community. Prove yourself by giving an excellent account of yourself in all spheres of life, thereby bringing credit to your department. In the

labor market of the present age of consumerism, the good only sustains. You need to remember at all times that determination is the key to success. It is the first chapter in the book of achievement. It does not mean that if you succeed in your study, you will automatically succeed in life. Life, as it were, is made up of a series of inter connected cycles of ups and downs. If you are well-armed with faith, knowledge, broad-mindedness, you will move smoothly from one loop to the other. Being successful implies that you are able to fit easily in a new environment while maintaining your identity. You ought to think always of the larger interests of the country that you belong to. Think of what you can give, not of what you get. We wish you all success. Let me conclude on the following note:

'Till we meet again, God hold you in the palm of his hand.'

Yours,
Ayid Sharyan

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People with disabilities:

A treaty seeks to break new ground in ensuring equality

A milestone international accord is in the works to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

This May, governments will consider a breakthrough treaty on persons with disabilities, which, if approved, would create a legally binding framework for the protection and promotion of their rights. It will go far beyond the traditional concept of access to the physical environment to a broader implication of equal access to social opportunities, health, education, employment and effective political, economic and social development. And in a dramatic global leap, governments that sign on will be legally bound to treat persons with disabilities not just as victims or a minority, but as subjects of the law with enforceable rights.

An initiative proposed by Mexico in 2001 at the fifty-fifth session of the UN General Assembly led to the drafting of the Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities. The increasing international acknowledgement of disability rights as human rights can be traced to the International Year of Disabled Persons (1981), which led to the adoption of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons. The early nineties saw the adoption of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. In the same decade, the UN Human Rights Commission recognized that it was up to the international community to create a legal framework

"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



to protect the rights of people with disabilities.

The rights of persons with disabilities are only covered implicitly by the existing human rights conventions to the extent that they apply to all human beings. Only the Convention on the

Rights of the Child makes explicit reference to children with disabilities in one article. At the same time, instruments that address the rights of people with disabilities are legally non-binding. Consequently, persons with disabilities face the dilemma of being legally "invisible" in their societies and even in the international arena. Most concerns raised by persons with disabilities have been largely treated as part of a social welfare approach. Now they stand to become "rights holders" and "subjects of law" with full participation in the formulation and implementation of plans and policies affecting them.

The road ahead is an obstacle course of competing viewpoints. Some countries are pushing for a comprehensive convention that not only restates the rights contained in existing human rights instruments, but goes further to provide tangible services and equal opportunities. Others have pointed out that the rights of persons with disabilities are intrinsically connected with the

economic resources of a country. They are therefore concerned that in the developing world the financial burden of compliance will make a treaty unappealing to many governments which are committed to the principle of equal opportunity but could not make it a reality. The unique feature about this treaty is that the process of negotiation is open, consultative and accessible to persons with disabilities and their organizations as they work together with government experts at the United Nations. Partnership is the key word — both as governments develop their own inputs to the convention and as they work together in the drafting process. Clearly, this new legal instrument brings to the fore the need to raise awareness of a wide range of related issues, and this is an area where the media can play a key role in focusing attention on a matter of vital concern to some 600 million people worldwide who experience disabilities of various types and degrees.

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