

Trial uncovers shocking terrorist plots

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- May 30- In its Monday session, the counter-terrorism court tried terrorists involved in plotting terror attacks against western interests in Yemen.

During the session, the prosecution presented all the seized tools planned to be used by the armed band in assaulting western interests in Yemen including the British and the Italian embassies and the French Cultural Center.

The terrorist plans also included assassination plots against senior government officials.

The prosecution presented to the court a computer device, grenades, 30 bullets, video camera and a military uniform as well as a bag containing two daggers.

In the session, top defendant Anwar al-Jailani, an Iraqi with Swiss citizenship and one of the 8 tried suspects, con-

Anwar al-Jailani

PHOTO BY M. AL-QADHI

fessed to the possession of the articles seized by the prosecution.

The top defendant denied the seized hand grenades were possessed by him and he never used any camera to take photos of the targets (the British and the Italian embassies and the French Cultural

Center) as the prosecution mentioned. He affirmed that he used the camera for personal purposes.

Previous reports of the general prosecution emphasized that Anwar al-Jailani made a confession of the tools seized in the investigation report, and other documents related to plotting western interests were uncovered.

Suspect Ahmad Khaiti, a Syrian national, confessed in the session that the computer never contained any data relevant to terrorist operations. The computer was taken away from his house two months after he was arrested, and therefore he claimed the court to return his computer since it was of no relevance to the plots.

Defendant Abdurrahman Basurrah confessed that he bought a military uniform 5 months before he recognized Anwar al-Jailani, and the purpose of the uniform is to imitate the role of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in one

of the student activities.

Suspect Salah Othman stated the cheques presented by the prosecution in the session are real ones carrying the names of beneficiaries in handwriting.

The prosecution responded to appeals of the defense advocate of suspects No. 7 and 8 concerning the illness of suspect Amran al-Faqih and forwarded a medical report stating that the suspect does not suffer from anything though his heart is placed to the right side of his chest.

The court granted the suspects a chance to respond to evidences filed against them by the prosecution.

It is worth mentioning that trials of the 8 terrorists involved in the formation of an armed band disclosed several shocking facts. The trials uncovered the 8-terrorist band was plotting to carry out offensives on western interests in Yemen.

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As guerrilla raids go on Confrontations between army and al-Houthi supporters resume

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SA'ADA- The areas of Nishoor and Al Shafe'a witnessed on Sunday May 29 bloody confrontations between military forces and elements belonging to Aal al-Namri Tribe. Some tribesmen from Aal al-Namri Tribe carried out offensives on military checkpoints leading to several death cases and injuries from both sides, however no accurate numbers of casualties have been mentioned.

Tribal sources in the area confirmed that some Aal al-Namri elements claimed the government to release their tribesmen who have been detained by the authorities since the latest Sa'ada events. Despite intensi-

Badraddin al-Houthi

fied troops and air strikes on their villages and houses, Aal al-Namri Tribe

pledged to continue its assaults on military sites unless the government meet its demands and release the detainees.

The tribal sources stressed that fear circulates among locals who have just returned to the area of Nishoor after they escaped the fierce military strikes and they do not go outside their homes after 4 pm as they dread any assaults by the army.

Rumors of an increase in the number of al-Houthi supporters in the area of al-Naq'ah, to the south of al-Jawf near the border with Saudi Arabia, circulates among people.

A large number of people expect old cleric Badraddin al-Houthi, 86, and Sheikh Abdullah al-Rizami to still be existing in al-Naq'ah, and this caused concern that confrontations between

the army and al-Houthi followers may resume.

On the other hand, two al-Houthi supporters were killed seven days ago in 2-hour clashes with the security forces in al-Akama, Ma'een District, west of the capital.

An official source at the Ministry of Interior announced the security apparatuses arrested the leader of Sana'a Cell, belonging to Badraddin al-Houthi, in the area where fierce clashes took place.

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As prosecution postpones investigation Ms Hujairah declares resignation

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Journalist Rahma Hujairah announced on Tuesday May 31 her resignation from work at the Ministry of Information for which she has been working there for almost 2 years.

She commented that it is out of honor not to work for the Ministry of Information, as it never showed any reaction to the impolite article published in al-Bilad Newspaper in its zero

issue.

Journalist Hujairah has shown its resignation at a meeting held at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) after a great number of journalists expressed solidarity with her and her husband Hafez al-Bukari who both were subjected to defamation by al-Bilad Newspaper.

The last few days saw a large number of local and international journalists strongly denouncing the indecent writ-

ings that badmouthed the two spouses, expressing solidarity with them.

The Press and Publications Prosecution postponed investigation of the case filed against al-Bilad Newspaper till next Sunday upon the request of the newspaper as its editor-in-chief is on travel.

The prosecution rejected the request offered by one of the lawyers appointed by Rahma and her husband who demanded that al-Bilad Chief Editor

should not be permitted to travel abroad.

The Press and Publications Prosecution allowed journalists to attend the investigations.

Tens of journalists held a sit-in last Monday insisting on attending the first investigation hearing of al-Bilad editors.

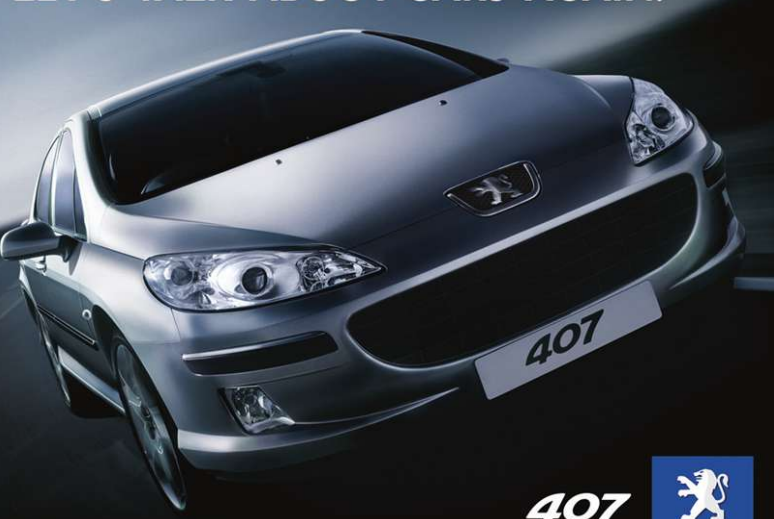
The angry journalists insisted to send a letter to the Ministry of Information to halt issuance of al-Bilad Newspaper

and circulate notes to all the printing establishments in order not to offer services for the undisciplined newspaper.

Journalists are planning to stage a sit-in next Sunday at the Press and Publications Prosecution and send a letter to the leadership of People's General Congress (PGC) to examine their stand since al-Bilad Chief Editor is a member at the PGC's Permanent Committee.

Continued on page 3

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UN and International Community united against polio in Yemen

A request from WHO Representative in Yemen was circulated to the UN Agencies and International Communities to join WHO and UNICEF efforts in providing International Observers for the planned National Immunization Campaign for Polio Eradication on 30th May to 1st June. In a meeting held at WHO premises on the 24th May and in an unprecedented step all UN agencies and some international organizations responded positively to join efforts to combat Polio in Yemen. The UN Resident Coordinator Ms Flavia Pansieri was

the first to volunteer to be an International Observer in this campaign demonstrating a good example of leadership. UN agencies such as UNDP, WFP, UNFPA, and UNV provided more than 16 international volunteers. This is in addition to already available 12 international observers from UNICEF and 13 from WHO. International Organizations such as GTZ, PHRplus, USAID, ICRC and ADRA will also provide support in supervising the Campaign. ADRA will do a good job by assisting the government in covering the difficult Al Jawf governorate.

Yemen is planning a national campaign starting from 30th of May to 1st of June targeting about 4.6 million children less than five years.

The campaign is aiming at stopping the ongoing Polio Outbreak, which hit the country since late February 2005 and so far affected 179 children until 29th of May 2005. Yemen was polio free for the last 4 years. The virus responsible for the outbreak is the Wild Virus Type 1, which was imported from Sudan after being introduced there from Nigeria.

The outbreak mainly hit Al-Hodeidah governorate and lesser extent in 10 other governorates out of

the country of 21 governorates.

Yemen was polio-free for the last 4 years. The campaign will be carried out from house-to-house and large number of teams (33,000 health workers and volunteers) are deployed by the Ministry of Public Health to implement the campaign.

For the first time mono-valent Oral Polio Vaccine (mOPV) will be used which contains only type 1 polio vaccine.

Another round of vaccination will be implemented by mid July 2005 to stop transmission and boost the immunity of the children of Yemen against wild Poliovirus.

Tourism revenues hit peak record

According to Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper (May 29, 2005), the Yemeni Tourism and Culture reported that the value of the Yemeni tourism sector's revenues hit a peak level of \$214 million last year, up from \$139 million in the previous year. The same source added that 273,000 tourists, of whom 178,000 Arab tourists and 95,000 foreign tourists, had visited Yemen last year, a 41% rise compared with the previous year.

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Suicide cases terribly increase in Taiz

Taiz- A married lady named Maymona Hassan Sa'eed Bamahboub, 25, committed suicide and lost her life on Wednesday last week.

On the same day, Nashwan Abdullah al-Mekhlafi, Maymona's age, committed suicide by shooting himself dead by his pistol.

On Saturday May 28, a schoolgirl named Abeer Mohammad Sha'ef, 15, hung herself to death over a domestic quarrel with her parents. The victim was then rushed away to a hospital in the neighborhood where she died.

A fourth suicide operation took place in al-Kamb Zone May 30 when Fa'ez al-Turki, aged 38, shot himself dead using his personal pistol inside his house.

Suicide operations taking place in Taiz numbered 4 over one week.

Alawa calls opposition to pressure Saleh for reform

SANAA, May 28 (Sahwa Net) — Outspoken opposition lawyer Muhammad Naji Alwaa, Chairman of Yemen's National Foundation for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) Saturday said in a response to a question on his thoughts of the latest Amnesty International report on human rights in Yemen: "What came in the

report is the reality we're living and tangible facts and it's nothing but a small drop of what is really happening," adding "what we're suffering is way more than what came in the report especially in the hands of the special penal court which is an illegal court." Alawa called on the opposition to "pressure the President and his ruling party for reform," stressing

"there's an absence of justice in our courts and in prisons and the prisoner stays in custody for months without a charge in addition to the humiliating and inhumane treatment of prisoners." He accused the government of "restraining freedoms and muzzling mouths via the inventions of hundreds of lawsuits against opposition newspapers," and

called for the annulment of the ministry of information which is "a scourge on the freedom of press in Yemen." He ridiculed steps by the government to curb the judicial system saying "plans to fix the judicial system are government plans and they won't work ... the judicial system has to fix itself from within and through the supreme court."

India's Flag Telecom to set up two landing stations in Yemen

MUMBAI, May 30 Asia Pulse - Flag Telecom, a Reliance Group company, is to set up two landing stations in Republic of Yemen, making it the first international cable system to land in that country.

The landing stations are being jointly set up by Flag Telecom and International

Telecommunication Company Ltd (TeleYemen), which has also agreed to purchase resilient capacity on FALCON terabit/s cable system, to be lit up by September 2006, Reliance Infocomm said in a release here today.

The agreement which includes providing two landing stations at Al Hudaydah and Al Ghaidah and

purchasing capacity on high-quality fibreoptic cable, was signed today in Yemen between Yemen's Minister for Telecommunications and Information Technology Abdulmalik S Al Moalimi and Flag officials, it said.

Flag has signed similar agreements with leading telecommunications operators in Bahrain, Egypt, India,

Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

FALCON, a high-capacity resilient loop cable system, is being installed to provide multiple landings throughout the Gulf region, with submarine links stretching from the west Asia to Egypt in the west and initially, to India in the east.

Yemen participates in "Enlightened Moderation"

Presidential Advisor Abdul-Karim al-Eryani would take part in evaluating proposed changes for Enlightened Moderation initiative.

In a two-day conference for senior Organization of Islamic Conference members to start in Pakistan Saturday, Yemen's representative will take part in examining recommendations on the initiative that was offered by Pakistan's leader Pervez Musharraf in Islamabad early last June.

The initiative will be presented to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the OIC in Sana'a in late June. Under the terms of the initiative, Moslem countries would join hands in economic and religious modernization while the United States commits more efforts in resolving political conflicts.

Official Says Fight Against Corruption Progressing

SANAA, May 28 (26-Sept) — In a seminar held Saturday to discuss technical cooperation between Yemen and Germany in fighting corruption, Presidential Office Chairman, Ali Al-Ansi said "the joint Yemeni, German cooperation in fighting corruption is witnessing a tangible and positive progress and it's almost giving its expected fruits hoping to achieve utmost transparency and safeguarding public fund and eradicating the phenomena of corruption." He added "President Ali Abdullah Saleh has always given the issue of fighting corruption his utmost attention and painstakingly follows up all the outcomes achieved in this field which has become a major concern."

Meanwhile, Minister of Civil Service Hamoud Khaled Naji stressed the urgency of "job

categorizing" saying "job categorizing is essential in fighting corruption and has always been one of the factors that led to the prevalence of corruption," adding "before the unification we started a campaign to classify jobs but it was halted." He added "President Saleh considers fighting corruption one of the most important national issues which must be given priority."

Meanwhile, Chairman of German Technical Cooperation Association (GTZ) Halmout Grouz [sp.] said "the main reason for the joint Yemeni, German cooperation is not to study cases of individual corruption but rather to exchange expertise that will increase the level of financial and administrative reform measures for the state in an effort to reach good government." More than 60 state employees attended the seminar.

Rawfah Hassan calls for public flogging of reporters

SANAA, May 27 (Sahwa Net/Ray) — Chairman of the Cultural Development Foundation, Rawfah Hassan Thursday called for the flogging of reporters for slandering a female journalist. She said "if we keep quiet about the slandering, we'll pay a dire price as well as journalism in Yemen," adding "as reporters, we should only seek to implement the Sharia (Islamic law) which calls for the

flogging of slanderers and the writer of the slanderous report must be flogged in public at al-Tahrir Square or at al-Sabeen Square if we wish to have an effect for the word in our lives ... we want our lives to be governed by the rule of law not by barbarism and savagery and I expect all the journalists will adhere to this request [of flogging]." She added "it's shameful that the first issue of al-Balad newspaper comes out of the

toilet." The pro-government weekly al-Balad vilified female journalist Hajirah in its first issue last week and the Minister of Information Hussein al-Awadi has voiced dismay at the report but he said "we can only go to the law to resolve this issue." Meanwhile, Journalists syndicate Friday announced the nullification of the journalist card of the editor of al-Balad.

After buffaloes Offering, Dhamar governor pardons attackers

DHAMAR, May 29 (Nas Press) — Dhamar Governor Abdul Wahab al-Dharah Sunday announced his pardon of a number of tribesmen from al-Hada tribal grouping who showered his car with bullets last week. Al-Dharah Sunday accompanied by sheiks in the area, social figures and representatives of political parties met at the government main building tribesmen from al-Hada headed by their Sheiks who brought with them 11 buffaloes to sacrifice for the governor as a gesture of sorrow. But the governor said he has forgiven the assailants and the buffaloes were spared. The governor was attacked last week during the funeral of his father.

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Rebels attack military: Security comb Sanaa for suspects

SANAA, May 29 (Ray/Al-Ayyam/Israh Net) — Members of the Zaydi radical movement the Faithful Youth group launched surprising attacks on military posts in Nashur and al-Razamat region in Sadaa on Sunday. No casualties amongst the armed forces were reported but one rebel was killed and three others captured. Meanwhile

Sheiks and social figures in Sadaa are planning to send a letter to President Saleh urging him to "order the armed forces in the province to make an end to the rebellion once and for all after the rebels continued their strikes." They also met with Sheik Shajaa Muhammad bin Shajaa who is leading the negotiations with the rebels and asked

him to "announce the failure of the negotiation efforts after al-Huthi and his supporters refused to comply by a presidential pardon." In other news, security forces in the capital Sunday launched a widespread manhunt for seven rebel suspects after one of them was apprehended late Saturday.

Continued from page 1

Trial uncovers shocking terrorist plots

The band was led by Anwar al-Jailani who was aided by two Syrian brothers and five Yemenis.

The suspects were captured in Yemen for being involved in plotting to attack western interests in Yemen including embassies and foreign cultural centers, as well as forging documents carrying unidentified names to

facilitate their tasks.

Previous court sittings disclosed these terrorists were backed by "al-Tawhid Battalions Organization", which is also believed to have stood behind terrorist operations against western interests in Saudi Arabia, mainly U.S. owned facilities.

Trials on terrorists revealed the 8-

terrorist band was plotting to assassinate government dignitaries topped by Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal, Interior and Defense Ministers, President of the Yemeni Intelligence Organization and a number of the People's General Congress Party leaders.

Confrontations between army and al-Houthi supporters resume

The same source added the leader of Sana'a Cell was captured after the security forces stormed a house in the west parts of the capital used by the cell to plan its operations. In the house was the cell leader and two of his accomplices who were killed in an explosion of a grenade after they failed to throw it at policemen during clashes with security troops.

The source clarified large quantities of grenades, explosives, military uni-

forms and timers were found inside the house that was stormed by the police.

A report recently issued by the Amnesty International revealed that hundreds of people were killed during clashes in Sa'ada between the government troops and objectors to republican regime, while other hundreds were detained.

The report said: "Most of the people captured in the past years are still

detained without any charges or trials, however in rare cases some of the detainees were referred to the court to be tried according to international standards."

"The situation of human rights in Yemen has deteriorated due to the armed clashes in Sa'ada between the government troops and al-Houthi followers as well as other acts of terrorism exploiting the absence of the law," added the report

Ms Hujairah declares resignation

Journalists Rahma Hujairah and her husband Hafez al-Bukari confirmed they respect the judiciary but they fear their case may be prolonged, and they do not accuse any party of standing behind prolonging case-related procedures.

The two journalists affirmed they do not want their case to be politicized since it is a case concerned with defending violated rights and freedoms.

Numerous journalists expressed their denunciation of the Ministry of

Information that never took any action against a newspaper defaming the honor of journalists. Observers believe the passive stand of the Ministry of Information implies its support for al-Bilad Newspaper.

The Yemeni journalists denounced the stand of al-Thawrah daily, a state-run newspaper, as it never published any statements issued by the YJS on the case, as other newspapers did. Meanwhile a number of non-government organizations expressed their sup-

port and solidarity with Mrs. Hujairah and her husband.

On the other hand, for the sake of defending rights and freedoms of journalists, the YJS appointed defense-advocate Jamal al-Ja'abi to defend the two journalists Mohammad Saif al-Garari and Abdulqader Abdullah Sa'ad and file a suit against the Governor of al-Dal'e for ordering his guards to attack the two journalists while they were on duty in the begining of last April.

Child polio campaign kicks off in al-Jawf

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Al-Jawf- YT- The national campaign against child polio commenced on Tuesday May 31 and will last for 9 days. The campaign is being implemented by the two organizations ADRA and P.H. R. Plus, and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in coordination with the Health and Population Office in the governorate of al-Jawf.

The campaign is aimed at vaccinating around 40 thousand infants in many districts all over the governorate.

At the inaugural ceremony, Mansour Ahmad Saif Governor of al-Jawf called on locals to not listen to the propagandas of some malicious people who hope the epidemic to stay in Yemen for a long time.

He confirmed a great attention has been drawn by officials at the governorate toward the 9-day vaccination campaign.

The governor added the development process in al-Jawf is closely connected with security and stability. With the provision of security, the number of projects increases, and frustrating any project will delay up public services to reach different parts of the governorate.

According to the governor, citizens should cooperate hand in hand and pre-

vent malicious people from hindering the reach of public services to several areas.

He praised the efforts expended by the USAID that lavishly supported the campaign making it a success with the aim to raise quality of the health sector in al-Jawf, and expressed his happiness at efforts exerted by officials of the two other organizations.

For his part, Abdussalam al-Kuhlani, from P.H.R. Plus, delivered a speech in which he confirmed the success of the campaign that covered different parts in al-Jawf and this will help encourage the USAID to support other vaccination campaigns due to be held in the future.

Naji Khalil Director of USAID in the

country commended the efforts of locals and their cooperation with the charitable organizations to make the campaign a success.

He affirmed the campaign will cover all the districts of al-Jawf Governorate. Meanwhile the regional director of the organization indicated the campaign coincides with the distribution school furniture and medical facilities by the USAID in five al-Jawf districts.

Dr. Abdulmalik al-Sana'ani, health office coordinator at the organization mentioned the governorate was divided into three parts to facilitate the task of the campaign recruits who number up to 658.

Al-Qirbi: Most GCC countries want Yemen to join

SANAA, May 28 (Nass Press) — Foreign Minister Abu Baker al-Qirbi Saturday said in an interview with United Press International "there's no problem about the Yemeni, American cooperation right now," adding "the stand of the Yemeni opposition from the American requests for establishing military bases is one of the weakest in the Arab world," stressing "instead of dealing with facts, it [opposition] tries to fabricate issues in order to tarnish the governments .. and the Americans

don't need any more bases than what they have now." Al-Qirbi said "nothing threatens the Yemeni unification," but "disgruntlements exist in the North and the South because people are expecting developments, schools and hospitals." He added "Yemen's pitch for joining the Gulf Cooperation Council is no longer a mere Yemeni longing but most of the GCC countries want Yemen to join because it's part of the Arabian Peninsula and its security."

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*Beggary takes a new organizational turn***Beggary on the rise**

BY NAZEEH ABDULLAH
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ADEN BUREAU

Begging, as a phenomenon, has become a perilous social problem the Arab communities, including Yemenis, are nowadays suffering from. This problem is mainly growing due to increase of unemployment and instable economic situation. Those factors have led to spread of beggars in the streets practicing various methods to get money to meet their living needs.

In Aden, the phenomenon of beggary has become an annoying sight for visitors. Beggars of different ages; old people and young children, are seen clearly spreading on sidewalks, public places and markets asking for money or any kind of help in a manner provocative of visitors and tourists feelings.

Yemen Times have monitored this tragic phenomenon and resolved to discuss it with the authorities and social and psychological specialists. In the governorate of Aden to give their opinions on that social problem.

Beggary profitable

On the sidewalk of a street and amidst noises of cars, we noticed women, children, girls and elderly people moving from car to car in quest of gaining money.

We stopped a girl beggar of ten years of age and asked her about the period since she has been practicing begging. She responded by saying that she had come to Aden from Tihama area, Hudeida governorate before three years and she was practicing begging, along with her father and sisters, just to gain their living and that the whole family does not meet until bedtime. While we were talking to that young girl, we were surprised by a group of people interfering to prevent us from interviewing the girl and threatened to beat us if we insisted on talking to her. As we were leaving the girl the sight of a middle-aged woman, carrying her infant on her bosom caught my eyes. She was there amidst the scorching hot temperature degree of the sun usually known in the city of Aden at this time of the year. We asked her about the reason why she was exposing her child to such harm, to which she replied that she was doing so to attract passers-by attention and to get quick profit by begging, which according to the woman, has become better than any other job. She mentioned that she gains more than five thousand riyals in a day; a sum of money helps her to cope with wants of her nine children and their bedridden husband who receives six thousand riyals as a pension salary. The husband's salary is too little to meet needs of the family, to pay for electricity and water bills and other requirements of liv-

ing. She is an inhabitant of the city of Aden and the reason why she resorted to begging was that she had tried hard to get a job at any government or private sector establishment but had failed, as is the case with large numbers of university graduates who are unemployed.

A job, not phenomenon

These are some of the cases of beggary that we have tried to gather and to portray the people's sufferings. We carried our information to some specialists in sociology and psychology to sound out their opinions about the phenomenon of beggary.

Professor Abdulrahman Abdulwahab, teacher of psychology at the college of arts, Aden University answered our question on the means of putting an end to the phenomenon of begging in Aden. He said in order to curb beggary and mitigate its degree; we have to discuss it with concerned sides in the government, the private sector and companies in a bid to find work opportunities to those beggars and to rehabilitate them

to be skilled labour. Managing to do that we would benefit from them in the productive activity. We have to provide them with health insurance so that they would feel secure and safe in a society seeking economic and social stability.

We asked him about their role in solving that problem which has vastly spread and having various aspects. He supported our remark and added it had taken a new turning point through the organization of some individuals forming organized groups for gaining rapid benefit through begging. Other groups have become very dangerous. Those are employed by fancied social organisations claiming to be charitable undertaking the help of the needy and the poor, but in reality, they practice econom-

ic and moral extortion in the name of the poor. Mr Abdulwahab expounded that there are many sociological studies confirming that the phenomenon of beggary is a form of poverty and could develop into a phenomenon of violence and crime of different types threatening security of the society. The beggary, as a phenomenon, is especially dangerous particularly when it leads to pupils' truancy at the basic stage of education searching for work. This act is sometimes under the knowledge of the family and sometimes it is without their awareness. Those truants could join the multitude of the illiterate who are steadily increasing. Thus, the state has to act for fighting beggary as it is deemed a bad social aspect there is great necessity to join forces in the bid of mitigating it.

Beggary has become an activity worrying the society and may result in the dissemination of crime and threaten security in the governorate. In this regard, those in charge of police stations indicate that beggary has become a profession exploit-

ed by some beggars for violation of security and deform the image of the city. It is especially so because of the migration of many Somalis into Yemen. Large number of them has been detained and sent to infirmaries or juveniles care houses. But many of them are released by prosecution. They confirm that many beggars were seized red-handedly practicing indecent acts and theft and many of them were sent to court.

Society-destructing phenomenon

At the office of social welfare whose tasks are embodied by fighting poverty in the society we asked the director general of social care fund Nasser Ellaiwa why they do not give priority to paying attention to the segment of beggars who are in great need for the office of social welfare. He said the law of social welfare had defined different segments of the society, among them the orphans, the deserted and divorced women and widows and stipulated granting them a financial assistance between 1000 to 2000 riyals, equaling the cost of one food meal. As for beggars, he says, they are not responsible, claiming they have their own fund from which they get assistance and adding that the phenomenon is a destructive one in the society. Nevertheless, he says the fund offers care to beggars who are disabled and could not work. In case the office discovers any person getting assistance from the fund to be practicing beggary, the fund stops giving him assistance. We said statistics indicated that there was an increase in cases of poverty in Yemen and that may cause an increase in the number of beggars and he remarked that the fund for social welfare was an independent establishment and the number of poverty cases registered with them were 21820 of poor families and a 90 million riyal was allotted for offering care to them. We detect poor families according to developed system. Employees conduct field observation and investigation in every area in the governorate of Aden to gather correct information and it is then sent to Sana'a to provide us with amounts of money. He affirmed his office had

referred 200 cases and they will get assistance according to the rules. As for the increase of poverty cases he said the state should work out a strategy for fighting it and that they are on an executive party.

A problem with no solution

We went to the office of the social affairs in Aden that is responsible for tackling the phenomenon of begging. We asked the director of the office Ayoub Abubakr why his office did not work for finding a final solution to the phenomenon of beggars while that is part of their responsibility. He responded that the problem of begging is a big one and that no final solution has been found, adding that they have put a special priority in cooperation with the UNICEF for building a center concerned with offering care to street children to alleviate the phenomenon of begging, as it is followed in the capital Sana'a nowadays. Mr Abubakr told us they had no specific statistic about the number of beggars in the governorate of Aden because they are increasing day by day and some of them come to the governorate from other areas, a matter that makes it more difficult to count their number. Responding to our remark about the existence of certain sides or companies encourage beggars and use them, he said he was not able to ascertain that but noted that the beggars have become organized in their work and places where they gather and leave, promising they would detect those sides that employ beggars and exploit children for that purpose. He agreed that the problem has no solution but added that it could be solved through encouragement of investment, develop the economic situation to the better and put an end to unemployment.

On our part, we think that the phenomenon of beggary would continue its exceptional growth under the nose of all. It is noted that beggars have reached the government utilities that have done nothing to curb it. Here we may ask for how long would be hear and read resounding statements by officials on curing all social phenomena, negatively affecting the society without having any tangible solution?

Ali Ashal to Yemen Times

“Democracy came with unity and we now experience a multiparty society”

For many years the Yemeni Parliament was seen as inactive and a puppet in the hands of the state. However, there had been some angry voices recently representing the concerns of the people of late. Whether this has changed really or if it is just a coincidence we don't know, but it's only fair to throw light on some of brave voices that demand to be heard. Member of Parliament Mr. Ali Ashal is one of the active members involved in the oil and minerals committee of the parliament. In an interesting interview, Mohammed bin Salam of the Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Ashal and filled in the following lines...

Ali Ashal

Q: Parliament has warned against unfairness towards Yemen in recent LNG deals with some companies. How does this unfairness exist? Is this the beginning of a new disagreement between Parliament and the government?

A: Unfairness comes from many sides. We were first surprised by the hushing up condition of this deal. Parliament was kept away as it had been the trend of the ministry. Recently, the government reached an agreement with Total to extend its contract. This agreement was never sent to Parliament although it is concerned directly. The extension of this contract should have been agreed by Parliament in advance or at least sent to Parliament to debate.

What disturbed us is that the Korean Company said that Korea saved 40-45% by signing this contract which means that the company shall save \$14 billion in the next 20 years. Isn't this a lot of unfairness?

The Company also mentioned on its website that the price of Yemeni gas is slightly more than 3 dollars/unit, while it is more than 47 in the market. We don't know really the reason why our government is throwing away this asset in this way.

We also feel that Total which was given a share of Yemeni gas in return for the infrastructure and finding markets did not adhere to the agreement. Total did not find us the best possible markets and prices as it is supposed to.

It is said also that Total has bought also a share of our gas. How can it be a buyer and marketer at the same time? Oil and Development Committee in Parliament has written to the Oil Ministry warning of the consequences of reaching any decisions regarding the gas project without Parliament being acquainted with the details.

Q: Do you think the government shall continue its moves to finalize these deals or shall yield to the demands of the Parliament?

A: As far as we know this deal is only a provisional deal. It isn't yet final. So it seems we can make right what we can. Today we have a meeting with the ministerial side about this subject. We feel that the government's orientations don't take the interests of Yemen in consideration.

A recent report by OPEC says that our region is moving towards utilizing gas as an alternative clean source energy. Yemen shouldn't sell its reserves of gas before securing its own needs first for at least 50 years. Only after that may Yemen sell gas.

Q: Why doesn't our government contract directly with gas buyers instead of going through marketers who grab 2/3 of Yemeni gas?

A: Government argues that exporting LNG is very expensive. It cannot provide the necessary infrastructure which need billions of dollars to build. As a result Yemen now owns 27% of its gas while foreigners own more than 70% only for providing the infrastructure and markets.

As Yemen didn't benefit from this gas during the last decade, it is supposed not to extend these contracts which disregard our national interests and are the subject of much slackening and bias. It is said that Total doesn't want to export Yemeni gas in the time being because that might not serve its interests now or its partners'. Total doesn't care whether Yemen benefits or loses now.

Q: As there are trespasses in the gas project, what is Parliament going to do?

A: The current Parliament has proved that it has enough will that had made the common man in Yemen regain his trust in Parliament. You might have heard that this Parliament had succeeded in some previous oil issues in which it had a loud voice. The Government had to yield to Parliament on several cases. The sale of sector (53) was nullified and so was the extension of Yemen Hunt Oil Company's contract. We now hope that we shall study the gas issue till we come to the facts. If it becomes clear that selling gas on these terms doesn't serve our interests, I think Parliament shall have a serious position as it did before in several cases.

Q: Who are behind these deals? Who benefits from them? Certainly these are individuals or powerful centers who stand to benefit from such contra like the one with Total, though they are aware it doesn't serve the interests of Yemen!

A: As Arabs say "The results shows the cause." When you see the national interests being squandered, you can say that somebody has pursued his personal interests and didn't care for the national interests.

To our sorrow we are suffering an irrational condition in managing our oil and gas sector. We had drawn the attention to this point many times. Between 30-40% of our resources are being squandered. It is clear that there is collusion with oil companies. The governmental side administers the whole affair as kind of brokerage which becomes the base in initiating some economic projects disregarding the national interests. Those behind these deals look first for their personal interests. Because they know they aren't staying for long in their current posts. They adopt the culture that says that the smart one is that who avails himself of the opportunity as long as it exists.

Q: What about the difference between the estimated price of oil in the budget of 2005 which is \$22/barrel and the market prices which is about \$40 or more? Where does the difference go? How is it spent?

A: We have raised this point before. Parliament had recommended that a special account be opened for such revenues to be deposited in and that they shall be spent only upon Parliament's consent, but the government has always discarded such recommendations.

Can you imagine that revenues from oil make 70% of our 2005 budget? This means that our economy depends on oil. When oil prices are estimated at \$22/barrel while it is sold at \$45 or more. This means that huge amounts of money are lost.

To our sorrow, at the end of every fiscal year, the government comes to Parliament asking for additional appropriations that exceed YR 183 billion to cover expenditures that weren't included in the budget nor in the investment plan. The least to say is such projects are at random projects or that they show expenditure. When a question is raised about the source of revenues they say from the difference in oil prices.

I respect what was stated in the World Bank report that Yemen has never benefited from the difference in oil prices. This could be noticed also by us as the funds are spent unavailingly on things that don't help more development in Yemen. They are spent as unalotted expenditure or as show expenditures and some on unreal projects or on projects that never get implemented.

Regrettably enough, this shows that Yemenis are managed by a mentality that

doesn't depend on planning or scientific administration when drafting its budget but on the frames of mind.

Q: President Ali Abdullah Saleh said when oil was discovered in Yemen back in 1982 that all oil revenues shall be spent according to development plan concentrating on agriculture and the improvement of the infrastructure but even such a plan wasn't implemented. What do you think was the obstacle?

A: Here is the big defect. Oil is a depleting resource and we must create alternatives. Our basic economic constituents should have been enhanced such as agriculture as a basic eternal asset of Yemen. Had this taken place, a qualitative leap forward could have happened and sustainable development could have begun.

Our other sectors such as agriculture, tourism, industry and fisheries didn't evolve into real engines for our economy and we just kept on depending on oil revenues. Our revenues from these sectors are insignificant compared to those of oil.

Our president has great and wide hopes as can be noticed from his speeches but I am sad to say that he has been left down by many technical officials in government.

Great hopes like these should be built on a credible government in which ministers and high officials are chosen according to their efficiency people who can push forward development of this country.

If such hopes are built on a shabby government with such a worn out situation then reform efforts shall only keep marking time.

Q: Are you saying that the President did not succeed in imposing reform?

A: No, I don't say that. Reform isn't a matter made by just a stroke. In a situation with such a wide corruption, the politicians will have to be serious and well aware of time. It might be difficult to fight corruption but it is necessary to depend on the political will. This must be translated into measures and needs to depend on efficient and trustworthy organs and experienced inner circle.

It is illogical to say the one brother the President can do it alone although he is the spearhead. He must get aid to help him in reforming the deteriorating conditions.

Q: Economists say that Marib oil shall decrease by the end of 2005 while President Saleh warned that oil shall be depleted in Yemen by 2013. What's your comment?

A: In fact this may not be correct or precise, scientifically speaking. It is a fact that production is decreasing because no new main fields were discovered and most exploited new oilfields are marginal. But it cannot be said that our oil sector is not going to improve because this needs further exploration. If no new discoveries are made and our current main oilfields continue to be our main source, then oil will be depleted in the near future.

Our President depends on the figures he is given which are given to us also. But nobody can be scientifically sure about this and I believe that some foreign power might be spreading this information.

Q: Is Parliament informed periodically or annually by government about the facts about the real exports and revenues of oil?

A: The government no doubt provides us with these reports about every sector.

These reports are characterized by much transparency. As regards the differences of prices, we can only say that the Oil and Development Committee in Parliament cannot be sure about the level of performance.

Q: Is there a kind of strict monitoring on oil exports by Yemenis? Or do we depend on the figures we are provided by the oil companies? Maybe people rumor about companies that report wrong figures.

A: As a legislative organ, Parliament lack the technical means to verify allegations. We monitor policies. We do hear that the revenues of exports doesn't reach the public treasury but there has been no proof of these allegations. However, if such information proves to be true, then it will mean that we are a very careless state.

About companies that misreport data, there is in reality a lot of collusion by some governmental parties, especially when oil costs are calculated because that is usually deducted. Corrupt officials might endorse such misreported data.

It happened that an ex-Yemeni official reported that the American company misreported data and as a result Yemen lost 20 million dollars. The company later returned that amount of money and said it was a mistake, but that efficient official was replaced at the governmental organ by someone else.

Q: Do you agree to lifting the support given to oil products prices?

A: When I say that such support should be lifted I must provide alternatives. We spoke with the governments on two importation sectors: why doesn't the government provide electricity by utilizing gas which should reach every place in Yemen. The industrial sector could then shift to such energy instead of fuel.

There are also other countries that provide support for certain sectors or products such as milk and agricultural products.

The government did not lift support of oil products till now, although it is already decided, because it fears the reaction.

Q: How do you evaluate positively and negatively 15 years of unity of Yemen?

A: The unity of Yemen is most importantly characterized by the fact that it ended the chronic rift in the Yemeni society. Yemenis were the victim of instability and anxiousness because of the division of the homeland and this was the cause of a lot of tragedies in our long history before unity.

Unity has brought us to terms with ourselves, this is something that must be highlighted.

After 15 years of unity there are qualitative changes. Democracy came with unity and we now experience a multiparty society. We now decide by ballots. People learn how to participate politically despite some shortages. All of this wasn't possible before the unity of Yemen.

Yemenis now have rights that never existed before. However, the democratic margin is somewhat decreasing. Dialogue is needed to protect the democratic margin in society. No doubt the southern governorates are experiencing a prosperous time, at least some of them.

The private sector has created a kind of development despite the rise of prices and inflation.

In general, after 15 years of unity I believe there are many accomplishments and achievements.

Q: How do you explain the deterioration of health and educational services?

A: No doubt, these are some of our sufferings. What is spent on these is very meager when compared to regional standards and in other countries which are less equipped than Yemen. Reports received by Parliament speak about much negligence.

Q: There are reports that tens of thousand of students leave schools because of poverty? Isn't it that a factor that made millions of students leave the schools?

A: No doubt there are a lot of students dropping out of schools especially girls. There are families that can not support a student in school and need him doing some work outside school. There are also other social causes for this but I think the

Half of the World

By Nisha

Violence against women and Information Communication Technologies (ICT): New challenges to VAW

In the recent years, ICT has emerged as a major medium of spreading notions of masculinity and 'manliness'. And these notions are so deeply connected to the display sexual power over women, multiple partners to demonstrate virility and many more such deeply held notions. Even if we ignore the pornographic material on internet and look and generally at the kind of messages that are being communicated through information technologies, there's a huge amount of subtle material that stress aggressiveness and dominance and lack of responsibility in sexual relationships as 'manly' qualities or traits.

But the use of ICT, especially Internet, to disseminate messages of pervert sexuality, violent sex with women and children, bestiality and so on. In many parts of the world, for example in India, it is not uncommon to find a load of flesh on the computer screen when you click on a webpage saved on the desktop in an internet café. I have come across websites that explicitly promote rape and encourage sexual violence against children. The messages and sites are not general. They are targeted at men. What Internet has done is made these messages and sites easily accessible to anyone who could afford to pay Rs 10-15 per hour, a price far cheaper than a pornographic magazine or a book. In addition, the video and webcam images offer much more perverse excitement that a still picture. The cost effectiveness of this medium in disseminating violent sexual messages and images and its easy access are the kind of challenges that are extremely hard to meet.

Issues like trafficking in women have acquired a worse dimension. Now along with the trafficking of women in person, we have to deal with trafficking in images – usually taken under force and through violence.

Among other main challenges to moving forward on gender equality and ending violence against women (VAW), are deeply entrenched negative attitudes and stereotypes about women, which are institutionalized in the various systems. This makes it extremely difficult to engage in preventing and countering the messages of VAW and sexual violence against children in equal proportion and with more intensity. Breaking down the barrier created by the decision makers or power holders in the ICT business who put business before ethics and rights of women, and disadvantages that anti-VAW activists face in one way or another, requires tackling deeply entrenched values, norms and attitudes that work against women. It also requires changes in national and international ICT policies. These policies are more or less gender neutral and have so far treated ICT only as a medium of business and education. It has also heightened the challenges in increasing women's access and participation in expression and

decision-making in ICT. It is no longer just a matter of women's numerical equality in communication and representation of women's basic needs and their solutions. There's a need to broaden and redefine advocacy related to gender and ICT to address VAW through ICT.

Traditionally, communication has been an extremely sensitive and critical for advocacy and action against VAW. However, male monopoly over access and technical training, gendered segregation of ICT jobs, language of ICT education, training and services, etc have practically kept women out from decision-making and wide-scale use. This implies that the anti-VAW advocates remain at the mercy of the power holders despite a boom in ICT which has space to address women's concerns, new manifestations of VAW and to promote women's rights. As a result, at the mass advocacy level, grassroots activists have not been able maximize their advocacy efforts through the use of new ICTs.

Transnational advocates and advocates backed by institutions have been more successful in using ICT. And a significant aspect of this engagement is that new ICTs have provided a space for researchers, activists and policy makers to exchange understanding, information, experiences and approaches. Anti-VAW researchers have also used new ICTs extensively and engaged in collaborative research. Similarly, gender and development professional working with international NGOs and other institutions have widely used ICTs for cross-sectoral integration of anti-VAW efforts.

Now the question is: is it possible to look at ICTs to prevent VAW. There's no choice but to look at ICTs as one of mediums to end VAW. New ICTs are being used by activists and women's organizations to promote their initiatives, forge linkages, build networks and exchange information. Perhaps it is not possible to use ICT in equal measure to counter VAW being inflicted through ICT, but ICTs must be used as a critical tool in fostering awareness and action on VAW. Such usage of ICT must be supported by advocacy for policies that recognize and address challenges arising from ICT as a tool to perpetrate VAW. This kind of engagement today may create a situation when VAW coming through ICTs could be prevented.

What also need to be emphasized is that VAW communication and information sharing through ICT should strive to be more inclusive and representative. Role of men in ending VAW, promotion of men's groups who are challenging stereotypes and addressing men's roles and responsibilities in sexual relationships, positive sexuality, sexual rights, sexuality education, etc are some of the issues having a strong link to VAW which need to be taken up through new ICTs.

main reason is the economic conditions.

ing implementations mechanisms.

Q: Do you think that Yemen is in real need of radical political reform? Is Yemen unity endangered as the opposition says?

A: To say there is a danger to unity is bogus. Our unity is due to the grace of God. As I told you, unity has eliminated the division in the Yemeni conscience and Yemenis aren't going to abuse their unity.

Regarding reform, it is now a local and regional slogan. It is important, necessary and wanted. As I said the democratic margin is decreasing and so is political participation. We need to emphasize the principle of the peaceful change of authority. The opposition also complains about the brutality of the state. All of these should be subject to dialogue. We have to confuse that we need radical changes. There are deformities in our political process which should be abolished. Some of them are relevant to the constitution or laws, and others are relevant to mechanisms. Our canonization of democracy and human rights might be good but the implementation is to the contrary.

Reform might be the door to reforms in the constitution and laws but the most important things is that regarding reform-

Q: Every high official speaks about the spread of corruption who do you think is responsible?

A: It is known in the science of management that responsibility rises with authority. And God deters by authority what isn't deterred by the Qur'aan. It is indisputable that those organs that are authorized to make things right need themselves to be reformed. The will to change is in the hand of that who has authority.

Q: Do you think that the authorities have the will to reform?

A: Any rational authority or responsible government is keen to reform because it serves its own interests.

Q: Any final thing you want to add?

A: I hope first that this interview shall be published in full. I would like on this occasion to congratulate every Yemeni on the 15th Anniversary of the Yemeni Unity which arrives during a very critical state. I hope Yemenis shall manage their affairs wisely whether in the authority or in the opposition. They should rise to the level of responsibility needed. We have to meet the challenges in front of us all.

Hyundai Revs Up

Chairman Chung Mong Koo steers South Korea's largest carmaker away from its checkered past and toward a global success story

BY MICHAEL SCHUMAN | SEOUL

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PHOTOGRAPH FOR TIME BY KIHONG PARK / KISTONE

Chung Mong Koo, chairman of South Korea's Hyundai Motor

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Chung Mong Koo, chairman of South Korea's Hyundai Motor, carefully scrutinizes a newly designed gearshift lever for the automaker's Sonata sedan while his entire senior management team hovers around, anxiously awaiting his approval. The execs are justifiably edgy. Engineers added a plastic plate beneath the shifter to prevent spilled coffee and other flotsam from falling into the mechanism and gumming it up. It's a minor change, but no one is treating it that way, least of all Chung, a hard-nosed, detail-oriented boss with a penchant for micromanagement. ("He still makes the decision on how big a Christmas tree to put in the lobby," quips one former Hyundai executive.) After eyeballing the plastic plate from several angles, Chung demands, "Is this enough?" He's worried that the gizmo won't do its job. Finally, he nods his O.K., but reminds his executives: "We can't allow any defects to damage our cars."

Chung, 67, has spent six years hammering this zero-defects message into the heads of Hyundai's employees—and the result has been one of the most surprising turnabouts in automotive history. A few years ago, Hyundai, South Korea's largest car manufacturer, was a synonym for "shoddy." Seoul was the only place in the world where you were likely to see large numbers of its cars on the street. Today, the company's line of pleasantly stylish, relatively inexpensive and certifiably reliable sedans and

sport-utility vehicles is tailgating the industry's best-known brands in several prime markets. In the U.S., where the Sonata offers a lower-priced alternative to Toyota's Camry and Honda's Accord, Hyundai's sales reached 419,000 cars last year—up 360% since 1998. In Europe, sales spurted 21% in 2004. In India, Hyundai's 17% share of the passenger-car market makes it the largest foreign automaker and the second biggest car company overall behind Maruti, a Suzuki subsidiary. Hyundai is beating competitors by modifying its small cars with ingenious features designed for Indian customers, such as elevated rooflines to provide more headroom for turban-wearing motorists. Perhaps most surprising: in China's hotly contested emerging car market, Hyundai's joint venture with Beijing Automotive sold more cars than any other automaker in the first two months of this year. In fact, with a compounded annual revenue growth of 20% over the past five years, Hyundai has been the world's fastest-growing major automaker since 1999, according to Lehman Bros. Hyundai is "putting pressure on everybody," says Rob Hincliffe, an auto analyst at UBS. Indeed, even Toyota vice chairman Fujio Cho has acknowledged the blur that is getting bigger in his rearview mirror. "Hyundai has quality and prices that have caught customers' attention, not to mention ours," he said at an auto conference in August.

It should be easy enough for Cho to recognize the secret of Hyundai's success. The South Korean company is following much the same formula that Toyota used decades ago to overcome

its "cheap Asian import" stigma and become one of the world's most respected brands. When Hyundai first entered the U.S. market in 1986, its Excel sedan—an econobox with a \$4,995 price tag—was an instant hit with frugal buyers. But customers soon discovered they were getting what they paid for: Excels were prone to quality-control problems and frequently needed parts replaced. Sales tanked, and Hyundai became a laughingstock. In 1998, *Late Show* TV host David Letterman listed his "Top 10 Hilarious Mischief Night Pranks to Play in Space"; No. 8 read: "Paste a 'Hyundai' logo on the main control panel." Says Brandon Yea, director of Hyundai's marketing-strategy team: "The Hyundai brand was worse than nothing."

But like Toyota, which overcame consumer prejudice in part by inventing *kaizen*, a manufacturing process and corporate mantra translated as "continuous improvement," Hyundai has rapidly built up regard for its products through an almost fanatical attention to Getting It Right. *Consumer Reports* magazine recently named the Sonata the most reliable car in the U.S. And Hyundai rose to second place in J.D. Power and Associates' 2004 survey of initial car quality, tied with Honda and trailing only Toyota. Six years ago, Hyundai ranked among the worst in terms of initial defects. The comeback "is astounding," says Chance Parker, executive director at J.D. Power in Westlake Village, California. "We really haven't documented that level of turnaround in that period of time. They've adopted a quality mentality they didn't have before."

The architect of Hyundai's rise is Chung, who was named chairman in 1998. Although his father, Chung Ju Yung, founded Hyundai Motor in 1967, it was clear the son would not get a free ride. Shortly before his appointment, the Korean economy had been slammed by the 1997 Asian financial crisis and Hyundai was forced to lay off 25% of its staff. Complicating matters, Hyundai agreed in 1998 to acquire South Korean rival Kia Motors, which had to be assimilated. Chung had little experience with the automotive industry—he had spent most of his career managing a smorgasbord of affiliates in the Hyundai conglomerate, including a steel company, a pipemaker, a shipping-container manufacturer, and Hyundai Motor's service business. When Chung began broadcasting his intention to turn Hyundai into a top-five automaker, few outside the company took him seriously. Hyundai, like many family-controlled Korean companies, was ultra-hierarchical and slow to change. Managers rarely cooperated with one another and division chiefs ran their operations as personal fiefdoms. "When a problem occurred, each division would blame other divisions," says Lee Hyun Soon, a senior executive in research and development.

But Chung was quietly engineering a revolution. Revered by the staff as a member of the founding clan, he was able to gather information quickly and impose his will on the organization. After years managing the after-sales service operation, he concluded that quality problems were the crux of the company's ills. Suh Byung Kee,

Hyundai's president, recalls Chung bursting into his office five years ago and saying: "Quality is crucial to our survival. We have to get it right no matter what the cost!"

Though Chung's revelation might seem obvious, it wasn't to Hyundai's staff. A premium had always been placed on making cars quickly and cheaply. Even Suh, who is in charge of Hyundai's quality-improvement efforts, admits, "When I first came to Hyundai, I, too, didn't think quality cars were important." But the new chairman made blemish-free manufacturing the top priority. To break down interdivisional barriers, Chung forced designers, engineers and factory managers to work as a team by creating joint committees to examine blueprints of new models and weed out potential defects. Twice a month, Chung summons senior managers of Hyundai and Kia into a conference room at his Seoul headquarters to analyze reliability issues, sometimes bringing in a whole car and lifting it up on a hydraulic platform to get a first-hand look. Likewise, the company's 68,000 workers are encouraged to make suggestions for improving quality in regular factory-floor meetings. Late last year, Yu Seung Byul, a quality inspector on the assembly line in Hyundai's Asan factory in Korea, invented an improved method for detecting missing bolts and brackets in hard-to-see nooks inside the car frame. He and his managers spent weeks debating how to solve the problem, with no results. Then, says Yu, "I woke up one morning, looked in the bathroom mirror, and realized 'That's it!'" He simply installed a row of mirrors above part of the assembly line to gain a better view of the car's innards.

In the short run, Chung's obsession with quality can be costly. Last year, he delayed the launch of a new Sonata in Korea for two months while engineers cleaned up 50 minor defects. In 2003, he asked Lee, the senior R&D executive, to get rid of an annoying noise made by grinding gears in the transmissions of Kia Amanti sedans. Lee worried that he'd have to shut down production entirely to work on the problem. "I told him that we'd lose two months of sales," he recalls. "The chairman said: 'If it's for quality, it's O.K.'"

Of course, quality isn't everything. Chung has also ramped up efforts to ensure Hyundai is competitive with Japanese benchmarks in technology and styling. Hyundai's R&D budget has expanded 110% since 1999, to \$1.6 billion this year. Hyundai invested \$200 million to open or expand research-and-design centers in California, Michigan, and near Frankfurt, Germany; a \$60 million proving ground in California's Mojave Desert opened in January. In South Korea, Chung expanded his R&D headquarters, adding a new design center last year complete with a 3-D cinema for viewing virtual models of new cars. Lee says Chung visited his office recently and asked: "Do you have enough money?" Lee, with a wry smile, says he told his boss he didn't. Chung immediately offered several hundred million dollars. "I have an unlimited account," Lee says.

Meanwhile, Hyundai has also needed to be innovative to woo reluctant customers back to its dealerships. In 1999,

the company began offering a 10-year warranty, at the time the best in the industry, to rebuild confidence in its cars. And to compete with bigger brands, Hyundai has loaded up its models with special features that many of its rivals sell only as expensive extras. A 2006 Sonata for the U.S. market will come with six air bags (most competitors offer only four as the standard), a six-speaker CD and MP3 player, and an advanced antilock-braking system—all for less than \$20,000.

With some of its biggest rivals in disarray, Hyundai sees an enticing opportunity to build on its progress overseas. Slammed by rising costs and slumping sales, General Motors recently shocked investors by predicting a first-quarter loss, and Ford followed this month by downgrading its 2005 profit forecast. Chung is determined to keep the pressure on. He's moving Hyundai's product line away from its traditional small cars into larger, higher-profit vehicles. In October, Hyundai unveiled a small sport-utility vehicle, the Tucson, and later this year, the company will launch a new high-end sedan for the U.S. market, the Azera. Down the road Hyundai plans to roll out a larger SUV and its first hybrid gas-electric vehicle. In addition, the company is opening manufacturing plants around the world that should help it penetrate key markets. Hyundai is investing \$600 million in a factory in the southern Indian city of Madras; due to open in 2007, the plant will be Hyundai's second in the country. And in April, Hyundai opened its first U.S. factory. The \$1.2 billion plant in Montgomery, Alabama, will produce 150,000 upgraded Sonatas this year, and next year will likely start making the Santa Fe, Hyundai's popular SUV. The highly automated factory,

Hyundai's most modern, is a sea of frenetic welding and painting robots. Components are shuttled about by unmanned vehicles guided by electronic sensors in the floor. Chung says the factory gives Hyundai "firm ground as a global leader in the auto industry."

Even with its recent success, Hyundai's market position remains insecure. The next few months will be especially challenging. With a host of new models coming out and its U.S. plant just revving up, Hyundai may have a harder time maintaining quality. "They're not out of the woods yet," says J.D. Power's Parker. Dwindling profit margins are another problem. The average Hyundai car retails for 10-15% less than a comparable Toyota or Honda in the U.S., but with rising labor costs and a weaker dollar, Hyundai must persuade customers to pay more so that profits keep growing. Last year, Hyundai's earnings edged up a mere 2%, while sales grew 10%. Zayong Koo, an auto analyst at Lehman Bros. in Seoul, says it could take several years before Hyundai achieves this crucial pricing power: "They need to show a track record of good-quality cars in order for them to take that next step and raise pricing."

After all, Hyundai's road trip is really just beginning. Despite its impressive winning streak, the company is still only the world's seventh largest carmaker, with 3.3 million vehicles sold globally—and that includes sales by its Kia subsidiary. But Chung has grand ambitions. "We will make ourselves an invincible competitor," he says. Hyundai's larger rivals should mark those words whenever they check their rearview mirrors for overtaking traffic.

With reporting by Daren Fonda/New York and Frank Sikora/Montgomery, Alabama.

Words of Wisdom

These days, people routinely, talk about the relationship between sovereignty and human rights. That is because there is a rising level of world intervention against regimes oppressing their people. Basically, what is happening is that the concepts of territorial integrity and political sovereignty are now given second place to human rights considerations.

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

OUR
OPINIONThe politics
of oil

The oil issue is more than just an industry or an economic subject. Oil more than anything else is politics. Perhaps because of the vital importance of it to sustaining human life and as a source of power. Nevertheless, it seems that the state in the last minutes discovered that it should clean some of the smelly practices and policies, a fact that in turn would fire back and increase the liability of the oil companies working in this sector in Yemen.

Considering this, and keeping in mind that the parliament is preparing for the coming elections in April 2006, something urgently had to be done. It started with the increasing pressure of the donor organizations such as the World Bank on the government to fulfill its promised reforms. Today, the current government is playing in the compensation time as the actual time of the match is over. President Ali Abdullah Saleh two years ago had declared that the current government had two years to prove its ability to create reform and to improve the economy. Since April 2005 the current government had been anticipating the evaluation of their performance. And it seems that some faces will have to be sacrificed, clearing the way for some new changes.

The current government, faced by both the demands from the parliament and the World Bank is really in trouble and a way out needs to be cleared soon enough, at least so that the president holds to his words regarding reform.

This in brief is what had been going on to some extent, in the oil sector. And while the GPC Member of Parliament Oil Committee Mr. Sakhr Al-Wajih deemed the government's commitment to revoke extension of Hunt block 18 PSA a significant victory for the oil management reform, mentioning that the government had extended an LNG contract with Total for three times without referring back to the parliament. Premier Bajamal meets Total and Hunt Oil authorities to discuss relations and the companies' performance in Yemen.

So what's the story with oil these days and is it really the rise of the conscious among MPs? Or the is there something else to it? More to say about this in the next issue.

Editor

When journalists
lose protection

Fifteen years ago, exactly when the Reunification was achieved in 1990, democracy was reborn and the unity came accompanied by the freedom of press and expression after they were missing for a long time. Since then, Yemen has witnessed a great change in the development of journalism and a vast leap that cannot be denied by anyone.

The independent journalism received a great share of freedom and the journalistic issuances multiplied to reach 142 daily and weekly newspapers and magazines. The Yemeni journalism could move from its restricted role to a broader role with the aim to circulate concerns of the public and give them a greater chance to know about their surroundings.

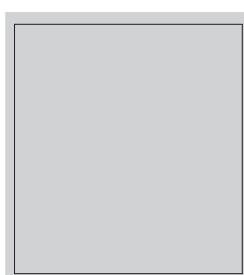
15 years ago, the press played the role of a communication medium and an ideal type for founding diverse and effective journalism. By virtue of this, Yemen became one of the rarest countries in the Middle East, gaining respect of the international community due to the perceived freedom of press. The press worked for assessing the negative policies followed by the government and the private institutions and contributed in renewing the real democratic practices.

Journalists and the profession of journalism were subjected to different problems and difficulties due to a vari-

ety of reasons, most important of which is the absence of clear vision of government officials and social figures of the role of journalism considering it a fourth authority. Journalism should be included within the democratic frame. The absence of professional journalists and specialists led to conveying a negative picture of the journalistic practices and activities, and those who do not abide by morals of the profession spoiled the status of journalism.

The most important thing to be taken for granted is that many journalists were subjected over the last few years to assaults and imprisonments and paid the price for adoring the profession.

Journalist Rahma Hujairah, a woman leader of courageous attitude working for human rights organizations was subjected last week along with her husband Hafid al-Bukari, General Secretary of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) to an outrageous campaign that aimed at dishonoring their life. A newspaper called "al-Bilad" believed to be supported by the government published an indecent and irresponsible article in its first issue. The article published on the front page of the newspaper attempted to dishonor life of the two journalists and defame their reputation with the aim to extort them and put pressure on them to stop their activities. The arti-



BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
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Lets society
define its needs

BY AMAL MOHAMMED AL-ARIQI

I participated in a training course, was organized by the Social Fund For Development, called "Participatory Rapid Appraisal" or PRA. The aim of this course was to enable the participants to use the means, techniques, and the methods of PRA to encourage citizens of objective community to define their needs and priorities, and be involved into the developmental process.

This mission is not easy. The researcher may face a closed local community that has not welcomed or trust on any strangers. Many citizens are giving up to miserable circumstances that they use to live, believing that the government has backed out its promises of reforming many times, so there is no benefit to cooperate with such researcher.

Therefore, the researchers must have

certain qualities that enable them to communicate with the local community, such as simplicity, humility, appreciating others sufferings, and top of that not making any promises.

They must have good relations with sheikhs and heads of the local community in order to offer the facilities that they need.

Whatever the difficulties and the obstacles that may face the researchers, the results and the reports produced by PRA are very significant. They reflect the needs and the wants of the citizens, so any project is going to be established in the light of these results will guarantee its success and continuity. Whereas the random projects that are based on randomly evaluations, hasn't any success, that exactly what happened in an area in Haja, when some organization built a school for girls, however the girls didn't go to school, because they were busy bringing water from distant

regions. That is, the need and the priority was for a watery project, not educational project.

Giving information, defining the priorities, studying the problems, and suggesting the answers, etc. If all these staff are achieved by the citizens freely without any affect of any authority or any superior level, will create a sense of responsibility in the citizens, that enable them to help themselves and protect the developmental benefits.

Organizations, businessmen and investors must take a look in such studies and researches since they give clear significant and indications of the living level of the citizens and their needs and priorities. Therefore, it is important to support such appraisals and studies, and removing the obstacles that may face the researchers. This mission needs the cooperation of all the interested organizations, and the local councils.

Letters to the Editors

Yemeni Reunification

"Reunification: a victory we must not lose" was an extremely well written and motivational piece. But why stop there? Why not generalize the feeling toward others: Other citizens of other countries; of other faiths; of other ethnic groups...

We may not share the same borders, but we share the same planet. Our children share the same air.

Don Barrick
balto_db@yahoo.com

Comments on latest editorial

The message of your article is full of optimism and encouraging! As a foreigner, I do hope that one-day Yemen will pass its current socio/political struggles and will enjoy a greater political openness.

Manuela Paraipan
MP

side. You said Mr. Information Minister of Sudan, that your government is ABOUT to do something, since when, when will you actually ACT on it. Christians or not, I believe many people who have seen the suffering of the people in Darfur have much more concern than your government for your dying citizens, I know because I have seen it and cannot imagine how your government is more concern on rattling comments and blames to other groups than doing something. Our faith teaches us that true religion is taking care of the poor and the widows, that is why we try to push the issue so the supposed CONCERNED group will IMMEDIATELY ACT on it, we are doing it not in the name of religion but of LOVE AND COMPASSION toward the less fortunate.

Mmcj

Youth column is needed

I think the idea to establish a column especially for youth and by youth is a great idea. Some titles that come to mind at the moment are "Brave New Voices" or "The Free Zone".

Last summer we organized a youth

development conference in Yemen and your newspaper was kind enough to cover the event. For more information about the conference please visit: http://www.ycrc.ca/en/conf_introduction.shtml.

At the end of the conference the participants adopted what has become to be known as the Sana'a Youth Action Plan 2004. Please advise if you would be interested in receiving a copy of the report. The report covered the youth's perspectives on the MDGs in Yemen and the role of each of the govt., UN and youth in achieving these goals in Yemen.

Youth are the most valuable resource of any nation and particularly in Yemen. Initiatives like the youth column by your newspaper are an encouraging step for all Yemeni youth at home and abroad.

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COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Amid all the theatrics:
Blood and destruction
under different themes

With all the theatrics of the Iraq War, one wonders how much blood and destruction must accompany the American debacle in Iraq, before the Bush Administration realizes and admits that it simply decided to go to war in the wrong place and at the wrong time and of course for the wrong reason. When the going gets tough and the world reaction is pointing to the obvious that "we told you so", Zergawi is said to have become wounded! How much baloney can one really take as America carries out a war breaking all the rules set by international conventions that took more than a century to put on the international legislative and diplomatic framework? At the same time it wishes to convince us that this is a war against terror and now is on the verge of redefining its policies and strategy.

One wonders really if the intention of the Bush Administration is to fully deliver on its War on Terror, as it has allowed most of the Al-Qaeda top leaders (and Zergawi) to escape unharmed and actually finds ways to support their operations. How does one explain the ability of people like Bin Laden and Abu Musa Al-Zergawi to have access to the Internet and other communications media to "keep the War on Terror" alive? The third news of Al-Zergawi's injuries points to a clear effort to give some credit for the American drive to terminate the "insurgency", while at the same time to bolster the image of Al-Zergawi among the Moslems of the world, who are not at all pleased with the ugly bloodletting that are attributed to Al-Zergawi and his murderous bunch. The theatrics are simply too corny and are becoming less and less credible as they point to a dirty game by careless ideologues from here and there, who think that the whole world is a stage that they can manipulate to their own desires and to meet their own goals. Needless to say, those goals are not fully transparent to the American people at large, nor the international community. However, you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time.

Rather than finding ways to overcome the failure to show signs of success, the Bush Administration is broadening its efforts to include an all out War on Islam, through the implementation of a War against Extremism. Perhaps this is what the War on Sa'ada is all about. The extremism is left for anyone to define in a way that suits their whim, even if it means diverting from the War against Al-Qaeda to a War against established traditional religious institutions that are as harmless as lambs, comparatively speaking, but nevertheless strong on convictions that are consistent with traditional values and work to uphold stolen rights of Moslems that need to be redressed.

By Fahmia AL-Fotih

The answer is
with YOU!

Through this first column I would like to start by whispering a short story to you. This story was told to me by Mr. Nassim Al-Rahman, UNICEF representative here in Yemen. I really like the story as it has within it a strong message, which I thought was only fair to convey it to you.

The story talks about a Chinese wise man who claimed that he knew every thing in this world and had an answer for every question. So one day he called all the media people for a press conference and demanded that they would ask him any question and that he would definitely answer it. The journalists were amazed. Then one smart journalist stood and decided to ask that wise man. The journalist was holding behind his back a pigeon. He told him that there was a pigeon behind his back and he asked the wise man if he could tell him if the pigeon was dead or alive. The journalist intended that if the wise man's answer was the pigeon was alive he would suffocate it and he would prove that the wise man knew nothing. But if he answered that the pigeon was dead he would let the pigeon fly and he would prove that he was a false wise man. The wise man knew the intention of that smart journalist and he was confused what to do then he stopped thinking and pointed to the journalist saying "The answer is with you."

I hope, dear reader, that you get the idea of the story. We, who work in the media, have a power of change and the ability to make a difference in our society. The media people can tangibly tackle the nation's issues and discuss them fairly and transparently trying to find out the facts, condemning the negatives, praising the positives, finding the solutions for the problems and taking part in prosperity of their nation. Media people should know that they have a strong weapon and they have to appreciate and use it appropriately. They are the tool of change.

Through this column, I will attempt to shed light on some of these real stories and crucial issues that happen repeatedly in our country and in other countries as well. I will try to reflect the reality as it is. These stories will mainly focus on the vital social issues. As a media people we try to show them objectively not for excite the readers but to call the society with all its members, parents, teachers, interested people who are responsible and who will be responsible in future to ponder in the content in these stories to find out solutions for such tragedies and problems and we ourselves shouldn't repeat the same mistakes.

I wish that the whispers here would be heard and find good ears particularly among the concerned people. I wish also, that I, as one of the media people, will be able a bridge the gap between the simple and poor people, those whom cannot be heard, and the decision makers.

Again, thanks Nassim for you inspired me to write the first story in this column.



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Al-Nidaa weekly, 25 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Military pressures for passing on unhygienic sugar deal from the port of Aden
- Sit-in against the criminal court before the ministry of justice
- Prosecutions report: Delay in presidency endorsement to verdicts and lack of efficiency

Columnist Said Thabit writes on the celebration of the Yemeni unity anniversary saying this year the celebration has come unlike the usual previous times, in venue and time. The governorate of Hadramout to be the venue of celebration and that was a strong message to local and foreign forces wagering on the return of the hands of the clock to pre-1990.

There have been some threats of taking out the governorate of Hadramout from the fabric of the Yemeni unity. The celebration in Mukalla this year came as a reply to such dreams and a confirmation of the unity of the homeland.

Ash-Shumou weekly, 28 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Al-Attas to Sana'a to attend the YSP's 5th conference
 - Yemen loses hundreds of million dollars because of the war of reports
 - Yemen Journalists Syndicate freezes membership of three journalists for violation of the profession conduct
- Al-Shumou newspaper political editor writes about prospects of changes expected to occur in the region and their

Presented by Mohammed Khidir

impact on Yemen. He says there are data under developing pointing out the possibility that the Gulf region would use strongly dangerous variables in case of demise of the king of Saudi Arabia Fahd Bin Abdulaziz. The writer sees there are prospects of occurrence of some double consequences that would overshadow the region if the king departed in such a critical period and were to be added to consequences of the occupation of Iraq. It is especially so if we concede that departure of King Fahd may create new consequences inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia itself and those could affect the Yemeni reality that is haunted by certain suspicious activities. Here he cites the quartet of the four ambassadors of Iran, Iraq, America and Britain who altogether move on the national arena in an integrated echelon through which they try to draw up features of a coming variable and formation of its spectra.

26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 26 May 2005.

Main headlines

- Yemeni-Mauritanian summit
- PM Bajammal discusses oil and gas project cooperation with officials from Hunt and Total
- Korean minister of Industry, Trade and Energy visits Sana'a
- Capture of leader of Sana'a terrorist cell, affiliate of insurgent al-Houthi
- FM al-Qirbi carried a message to from president Saleh to president Khatami, Rafsanjani stresses the importance of serious Iranian relations with Yemen
- Foundation stone for the industrial city in Aden, laid
- International participation in Palestinian refugees conference to be held in Sana'a

In its editorial, the newspaper says all the Yemenis with their various political, cultural and ideological affiliations are today called for contemplating those facts displayed by landmarks of the new Yemeni reality associated with unity and

their accomplishments. They should also ponder deeply what that reality has witnessed of interaction and national action in different lifestyles. Maybe the most prominent aspect of that reality is that the free people of Yemen have become the masters of themselves and maker of their decision and that freedom and democracy are headlines of their new life. Mastering the reins of future stems from those capabilities potentials and various national energies emerging under the democratic situation in which the all in Yemen are living.

The Yemenis, mainly the political parties, the organisations of the civil society are requested to conscious response to the sincere call unleashed by president Ali Abdullah Saleh on the eve of celebration of the 15th anniversary of the national day. They have to respond positively to his call for dialogue and opening a new chapter for all in the homeland to disseminate the values of tolerance, fraternity and national alignment. Whatever were the challenges and variances in visions, that is a normal condition under a democratic and pluralist reality, the rift and staying behind barricades of ideas and suspicions and illusions and absence of bridges of communication could not create a natural and healthy climate serving the supreme interest of the country.

Diversification, plurality and even differences in politic and ideas are normal things in life but that should not lead to disputes and division, and for the some they should not make it a dishonest means to achieve illegitimate purposes that would threaten the society's coherence and its coalition.

Al-Umma weekly, organ of al-Haq Party, 26 May 2005.

Main headlines

- The journalists defend their honor and stand up to the attempt of ethics assassination
- Al-Haq party political office head Hassan Zaid: 1994 war established

SKETCHED OPINION

By Samer A.

On your PDUNsteady...GO!
He who kisses the Royal hand first gets the promotion!

Qualifications and experience

- There are forces working for crating crises aimed at effecting confusion of the political system
- Civil society activists demand cancellation of the special criminal court
- JMP refuses accusations against al-Haq and the Union parties
- Arrests and explosions against partisan offices in Hudeida and Abyan
- Civil organisations follow up procedures of the implementation of the general pardon decree; warn against continued detention of children

The newspaper's political editor writes about the decision of general pardon and the necessity of speeding up its implementation. The writer says acts of violence, tensions and storming practices have come back to capture the news in local press and the talk of the street in all that has relationship with the Saada crisis despite of the issuance of a presidential general pardon. The decision, up until now, is not carried out on the ground and there are no measures that would help alleviate the tension in Saada.

News reports from Saada confirm continuation of operations of storming and arrest, the latest of which the suspension in paying salaries of hundreds of education employees in Saada. Majority of those employees have no relationship with the so-called the Believing Youth or the events in the

governorate. The authority alone, represented in person by the president of the republic, is able to finish the procedures pertaining to the pardon decision, the call for the national unity and discard of racism and sectarianism and all forms of harmful to the homeland tendencies. This also dictates on all the good people in Yemen spell out their say in solving the problem and rejection of wars.

Al-Isbou weekly, 26 May 2005.

Main headlines

- FM al-Qirbi denies Iran's involvement in al-Houthi
- Journalists set fire to copies of al-Bilad newspaper in expression of their solidarity with journalists al-Bukari and Hujairah
- Houthi backs down from enmity to America
- Sheikh al-Ahmar: The government opens competition of mobile phones and monopolies the fixed phone

The newspaper's political editor has written saying that the officials of Yemen have many precautions against defining certain accusations on involvement of Iran in supporting al-Houthi. A Yemeni official told Al-Isbou newspaper Yemen's denial about Iran involvement in backing al-Houthi but affirmed the existence of external

support. The Yemeni foreign minister Abubakr al-Qirbi, who paid a visit to Iran last Tuesday, said he was carrying a message from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the Iranian president Mohammed Khatami.

Though, sources confirmed the outbreak of a Yemeni-Iranian difference because of information about an Iranian involvement in supporting al-Houthi and that the Iranian ambassador to Yemen had visited Hussein al-Houthi I Saada mountains before he was killed and met with his followers without warning the Yemeni authorities. Nevertheless, the sources said that Yemen has calculations and some observers see that Yemen's caution from hurling accusations at Iran is because of the desire of not escalating the sectarian aspect in the latest problems in Saada. And due to its religious weight, Iran has the capability of mastering the Shiites in the Islamic world.

According to the Yemeni foreign minister, sources of support are personalities and groups, denying that countries as source of support but he did not define those groups or personalities.

Those sources do not see in that as a denial of the Yemeni authorities' possession of indications on Iran's involvement, but that evidence are seen by the regime as could be used in a better way, such as Iran's intervention to stop the sectarian mobilization that is aroused by continuation of confrontations with al Zaidi sect extremists.

The "Right" growth for Africa

By JANVIER D. NKURUNZIZA

Africa has the highest level of poverty in the world and is one of the two regions where poverty has not declined in the past twenty years. As the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's forthcoming *Economic Report on Africa 2005* shows, the proportion of the poor – those living on less than one dollar a day – halved between 1980 and 2003 at the global level, from 40% to 20%. But in Africa, the share of the poor increased slightly, from 45% to 46%. Africa's poverty rate in 2003 exceeds that of the next poorest region, South Asia, by 17 percentage points.

Recognizing the link between economic growth and poverty reduction, those who crafted the UN's Millennium

Development Goals (MDG's) estimated that halving poverty by 2015 in Africa requires countries to achieve an average minimum growth rate of 7% annually. Whether or not African countries will reach this goal is an open question.

Since the mid-1990's, African economies have been recording growth rates that are higher than world averages. According to the World Bank, the average growth rate for the period 1996-2002 in Africa was about 3.6%, compared to the world average of 2.7%. Growth in Africa in 2004 averaged 5.1%, the fastest in eight years. Growth rates this year and in 2006 are projected at 4.7% and 5.2%, respectively.

These average rates mask stark differences between countries. In 2004, for example, Chad's 39.4% annual growth rate contrasted sharply with Zimbabwe's -6.8% economic contrac-

tion. Nevertheless, there is no doubt that African economies, taken together, have recovered from the dark years of the 1980's. So the big question is why growth hasn't translated into poverty reduction.

One reason is that Africa's recent growth rates, while high by international standards, remain too low to have a substantial impact on poverty. Initial conditions are so low that only high and sustained growth levels may have a noticeable impact on poverty reduction. In no year has Africa, as a continent, achieved the 7% average growth rate required by the MDG's.

Consider Ethiopia. With its per capita GDP of about \$100, a growth rate of 7% means that a typical Ethiopian will increase his income by \$7 a year (if this additional income is evenly distributed). But if this rate of growth were sustained

over a period of just ten years, per capita income would double, which underscores the need for *sustained* high growth rates.

Very few countries in Africa have posted growth rates consistent with the MDG's threshold. In 2004, only six countries – Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Ethiopia, Angola and Mozambique – had annual growth rates higher than 7%. And only four countries sustained a growth rate of 7% or more over the past five years.

Moreover, most of the observed growth was generated by capital rather than labor-intensive sectors. If the fruit of economic growth reaches the poor through employment creation, growth in capital-intensive sectors has a limited effect on poverty reduction.

Indeed, recent growth in Africa appears to have been fueled by increas-

es in oil exports and high oil prices. Eight of the top 10 performers in 2004 are either oil-exporting countries or post-conflict economies, with the latter's high annual growth rates explained mostly by the proverbial "dead cat bounce" – the low base period over which growth is measured.

Economic growth reduces poverty only if it benefits the poor, and the effect of growth on poverty reduction is a function of the pattern of income distribution within a country. Africa as a continent has the world's second highest measure of income concentration. This suggests that the new wealth created over the last ten years has mostly benefited the rich.

To help reduce its poverty, Africa must strive to increase even further its growth rates and sustain them over a long period. Moreover, there must be

greater balance between capital-intensive and labor-intensive activities. But encouraging labor-intensive industries, which create jobs for the poor, must not be at the expense of capital-intensive industries.

Finally, Africa's income distribution must become more equitable. This is difficult, given that a skewed income distribution is usually a legacy of a country's history. But it is not impossible, particularly for those African countries that succeed in modernizing their political institutions.

Janvier D. Nkurunziza, an economist, works for the Economic and Social Policy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

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Weimar Russia Revisited

By LEONID RADZIKHOVSKY

The phrase "Weimar Russia" first appeared about 13 years ago, at the height of the confrontation between then President Boris Yeltsin and the Supreme Soviet that ended when Yeltsin's tanks shelled the parliament. The meaning was clear to all: Weimar Russia, like Weimar Germany, signified a weak republic attacked from within by nationalists yearning to restore authoritarian ways.

In the late 1990's and the early years of this decade, the problems that incited fears of a dysfunctional state seemed to fade. But over the past 18 months, the specter of Weimar has once again begun to haunt Russia.

If taken to extremes, Russian society's response to its wrenching modernization could degenerate into a national-

ist revolution led by xenophobes. A different and healthy conservative response is possible if the tattered remnants of old threads, torn apart in the course of postcommunist modernization, can reconnect and grow together in a new way.

The problem is that everyone writes history in their own manner, and that there are no scales that can fix the precise point at which the remedy of unifying patriotism turns into the lethal poison of rabid nationalism. Weimar Germany blindly poisoned itself.

In the period from 1991 to 1993, nationalism was on the rise because Yeltsin's infant democracy seemed weak, with the country in the throes of a deep economic crisis, as well as an acute confrontation between different branches of government. But what explains today's resurgence of nationalism, when the regime and economy are

strong, and all branches of government appear to operate in total unity?

Indeed, there are no practical reasons for Russia's current system of governance to fall into crisis (although such reasons may emerge in the event of an economic downturn). But there is another reason, no less important, that concerns morals and ideology.

Challenges to established political authority have been chilled, fairly effectively, by means of state-sponsored patriotism. But the virus of nationalism has survived and multiplied.

Opinion polls, for example, indicate that 50% of Russians support the slogan "Russia for Russians." Moreover, nationalism has spread from the streets into the elite. Nationalist statements that would have been confined to the extremist newspaper *Den* in the early 1990's are now considered normal, "centrist," even commonplace.

Today's hardcore Russian nationalists consider Putin's regime too soft, too pragmatic, too reasonable – in their language, "weak and indecisive." They loathe it for its "surrender" in Ukraine to the "Orange Revolution," and they condemn the decision to give land along Siberia's Amur River to China.

The "Putin Center" can be displaced. Recall that Russia's pro-Western liberals, ascendant a decade ago, have been relegated to the ideological fringe, with the very word "democrat" (let alone "pro-West") now a term of abuse.

Fortunately, there is no sign yet (not even on the horizon) of a charismatic leader capable of forging the scattered energies of national-socialist grievances into a critical mass of hatred and "national revival." Stalin's ghost is no substitute for a real live leader; he will never leap out of his portraits, no matter how often they are waved.

Moreover, times have changed. For example, no one even mentions the idea of introducing a dictatorship, abolishing elections, and so on. No matter how harshly Russia's "democrats" are abused, the word "democracy" remains a sacred cow.

Instead, a populist-nationalist revolution might resemble the attempt to overthrow Mikhail Gorbachev in August 1991, or a Russian version of Ukraine's Orange Revolution. It might be some sort of "democratic nationalist revolution" – spontaneous, and not made by any one political party but by a popular mass movement. It would be anti-bureaucrat, anti-oligarch, anti-West, and staunchly pro-nationalist. These are the key ingredients in the nationalist stew that seems to appeal to Russians nowadays.

Judging by Putin's most recent address to parliament, his regime is fully aware of the danger posed by populist nationalists. It is likely that the regime will attempt to counter this eruption of nationalism while maintaining its strong statist rhetoric. But, in order to defeat the far right, Putin's

regime will be forced to take its stand on more or less liberal ideological grounds. This won't be easy for a regime based on the twin pillars of bureaucracy and the security apparatus.

What liberals should do in these circumstances is obvious: support Putin's regime insofar as it maintains the foundation and institutions of a liberal order. The populist nationalists, because they reject these fundamentals, are the unremitting political antagonists of all liberals.

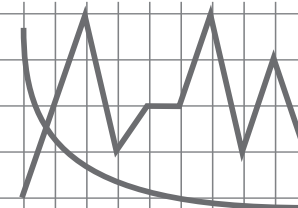
Yet an alliance with the nationalists against Putin currently tempts many Russian liberals. Indeed, the most popular tactic among liberals nowadays is to unite with all opponents of the regime.

That scheme is both absurd and dangerous. After all, the word "Weimar" draws its infamy from the pact with the devil that German conservatives and royalists made by backing Hitler.

Leonid Radzikhovskiy is an independent Russian political analyst.

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YT Business



What tradesmen want to protect their products?

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

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Merchants and businessmen have stressed the importance of creating or selecting trademarks to distinguish the commercial work in the market. There are certain companies specialized in founding or establishment of trademarks consistent with needs in compatible with the type of the company. Consultants in the area of trademarks in the field of marketing believe that there are no fixed and final rules for defining the successful trademark. Nevertheless, there are some useful guiding principles. Among those principles are first to be ascertained that the proposed trademark would meet legal terms for the purpose of registering the trademark. The second thing is that the trademark should basically be distinguished in a shape and form enough to be expedient for protection and registration with the concerned parties and its distinction would help the consumer to differentiate it easily.

In remarks and statements to the

Yemen Times, merchants said many consultants of trademarks in the world have set some essential criteria generally followed in the introduction of trademarks in their designing or selection. Among those criterias, as experts say, are to take into account that the trademark sign should be easy for reading, writing, pronouncing and learning in all wanted languages and

should not indicate any negative meaning in the colloquial and foreign languages. According to experts, the Yemeni market is in need of conducting a research on the trademarks to be ascertained that the concerned trademark is not able to be benefited by another company in the market or the targeted markets, and to be registered with offices concerned

with trademarks in various countries without matching registration of existing trademarks or applications received beforehand. Research in trademarks could be done through referring to network data or the specialized companies or with national establishments for registration of trademarks. It could be easy to define the trademarks that are identical to a

mark of a company but it is difficult to determine the trademark that is similar to another one in a way that could produce confusion. According to importance of a certain case, it is preferable to seek help of services of an agent or lawyer specialized in trademarks in order to conduct research in trademarks.

Specialists in this field think that

forging trademarks would double the corruption of goods in the Yemeni market through bringing bad medicines via smuggling and falsification. Recently, many cases of forging trademarks have been disclosed and some of them have been seized in the Yemeni market and those responsible for them have been sent for investigation.

Plan for Yemeni airports' services modernization

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It is scheduled that the Yemeni Airways would, beginning of this month, modernize ground services of its air fleet at the airports of Sana'a, Aden, Seyoun, Rayan, Taiz and Hudeida at an estimated cost of one billion and 800 million riyals.

Sources at the Yemeni Airways have made it clear that the modernization plan includes supplying the airports with maintenance equipment and systems, buses for passengers'

transport, up-to-date stairs fit for the new Airbus 033-002 airplanes as well as equipment for transporting goods back and forth airplanes. The modernization also includes provision of wagons for loading and unloading passengers' luggage, equipment for air pumping, wagons for transportation of supplies, cleaning equipment and vehicle for transporting the sick and the handicapped.

The sources said the plan that would be implemented in two phases aimed at creating a qualitative transfer in the standard of services offered at the

Yemeni airports so that to keep pace with modern world specifications and effect advancement to the level of services rendered to airplanes, whether those owned by the Yemeni Airways or affiliate to world airways companies working in Yemen.

The Yemenia Airways had in late last year provided its planes fleet with two modern 033-002 Airbus planes costing \$280 million. Those airplanes have contributed to develop and enhance performance and capabilities of the company as well as to expand the domain of its flights.

Aden customs confiscate 70-ton smuggled goods

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Administration of Aden customs and concerned security apparatuses have recently confiscated 70 tons of smuggled and banned goods that have been smuggled into Yemen illegally. The goods were aboard a locally-origin ship that was intercepted by gunboats of Yemeni coast Guard in Yemeni territorial waters at Bab El Mandab Strait last Saturday.

Customs sources in Aden said the captured goods contained prohibited fireworks, packages of forged medicines and quantities of beans.

File investigation with owner of the ship and those accompanying him were sent to concerned parties to take legal necessary and deterrent procedures in order to curb the repetition of such acts detriment to the national economy.

Countering water shortages in four governorates

Replacement of qat by coffee, exportation of grapes to Europe

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In order to come out with solutions to the crisis of water some of the governorates are facing in winter season of every year, technical arrangements are under way at the state Authority of agricultural Development and Rural

Advancement of the northern regions to begin implementation of 70 new water projects during 2005 in the governorates of Sanafa, Amran, Hajjah and Saada. The total cost of the projects is estimated at YR 1.6 billion.

Official sources said the Authority had completed procedures for the implementation of 24 projects and it

was in the process of finishing implementation procedures of the remainder projects. They added that the authority was preparing a study for the development and expansion of the plantation of grapes and the work for increasing and improving quality of grapes as well as coordination with relevant sides for its exportation abroad, particularly in cooperation

with the French embassy in Yemen.

The sources have also indicated the Authority has implemented a number of projects in the past few years at a cost amounted to YR7 billion. They clarified that the authority has also managed in the period from 1997-2005 to finish construction about 80 water installation ranging between dams, lakes and water barriers and

storages in various regions of the four northern governorates. They added that one million mango trees had been planted in the area of Aifbs, Hajjah governorate, the area of which is estimated at 8000 hectares.

The sources have added that 200 thousand trees of qat were plucked out and replaced by Yemeni coffee trees in the area of Haraz.

From house to house fortification campaigns with hope of 90%

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Polio reappearance in Yemen raised many questions and arguments. Yemen started in 1996 many national vaccination campaigns to eradicate from this viral disease. In 2001 WHO announced Yemen as a polio free country.

However, because of the rejection of Nigeria to use the vaccines that had been offered by WHO under the excuse that the vaccines were polluted by viruses lead to barrenness or AIDS. Many children were infected by polio in Nigeria and the infection was transmitted to the African region. In 2004, 126 cases were discovered in Sudan. That situation created fears and forced the Regional Director of Middle East of WHO to send a letter to Yemen recommending to condense epidemic monitor for any polio case might appear. According to this recommendation, the Ministry of Health investigated and got the surprise. There are polio in Yemen.

Although the in-consisted numbers of polio cases (between 86 to 200 cases most of them in Hudaida) from the first discovering on 13th of March, Dr. Mohammed Al-Nuami, Minister of health said that 179 cases, distributing between 11 governorates were discovered until May 29, 2005.

The press reported from citizens and officials in organizations that there were many reasons behind the outbreak of polio. For example the hearsays that associated the previous campaigns that the vaccines were polluted. Some official officers said that vaccines were badly stored which led to the spoil of the vaccines. Other citizens complained from the lack of vaccines in their regions.

The Ministry of health and UNICEF stressed on the safety of the vaccines. Nascem Ur Rehman, Chief information & communication in UNICEF said "ministry of health, WHO, and UNICEF have an excellent partnership the "set back" has come from the region. There is a proof that this virus came from the African region. The vaccines are definitely safe".

Dr. Al-Nuami insisted on that there is

no rightness that was lack of vaccines saying "we insured to offer the medical centers with extra-vaccines. For example if we know that the children in some region are 1000, we provide this region with 1500 vaccines". He palmed the parents who didn't take the former campaigns seriously and didn't vaccinate their children. He also directed the media, religious men, local councils to cooperate this time effectively to a rise the awareness at the citizens of the dangerous of polio.

To prevent the outbreak of polio, Ministry of Health has received 6,000,000 doses of vaccines to organize an emergent fortification national campaigns. The first stage began on April and continued for three days. 650,000 children in Hudaida has been vaccinated. Second stage began on May 30, 2005 throughout Yemen. The target was children, who are under 5 which are about 4,653,578. These campaigns will continue to enter their third and fourth stages (3-4 weeks between each stage).

In spite of all these effort, the ways of the infection of polio from African region to Yemen are still unknown, and as long as the African region undergoes polio, Yemen will be under the threat of polio.

Hashem Zeen, WHO representative said that polio virus typically enters the body through mouth and multiplies in tonsils and lymph nodes of the upper respiratory tract. Infection proceeds from the mouth into the stomach to the intestines and is shed from the body in feces, often resulting in future infection. For example a parent can become infected by infant during diaper changes, or improper waste disposal can lead to contamination of water supply. These infections in turn will spread the virus more widely. Therefore, according to Dr. Noumi, the role of epidemic monitoring will not be easy, especially at the passages at boundaries, since any person may carry the virus but he or she is not sick. "however when we found polio cases, we examined their adult relatives and found the virus in same cases" he said.

The only way to stop polio is to vaccinate the children and to create protection for the body against the virus.

Scientific Academy: A step to improve health sector performance

By AMEL MOHAMMED AL-ARIQI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It is a well-known fact that doctors must be kept updated about the latest medical advances, researches and inventions. But because of the lack of specialized libraries that offer such valuable information, it becomes difficult for doctors in Yemen to improve their scientific performance and knowledge. The scientific academic sector is considered a new establishment in Al-Gumhory Hospital. It was built in January 2002, to improve the functional performance of the medical staff of the hospital. To find out the activities and work of the sector we meet the director of the scientific academy Dr. Mohammed Al-Badani.

What are the objectives of Scientific Academy?

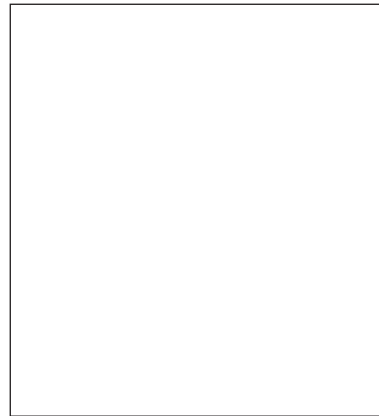
The aims of this sector are to develop the scientific activities of all sections of the hospitals. We present weekly lectures, and scientific seminars. The academy is working to qualify the staff and the nurses by giving them training courses in computer, Internet, and English. We aim to develop the functional performance of not just the doctors in the hospital; we aim to train the executive staff of the hospital.

What are the activities of the academy?

There are many activities. We take the opportunity of any visiting foreign medical team to our country, to invite them to visit our sector and ask them to give lectures to the doctors, nurses. For example, when the Austrian team visited Yemen, they offered many lectures in February. Recently the Jordanian team made valuable lectures about the radiation therapy. Many organizations relevant to childhood and motherhood, and those relevant to ministry of health can use the auditorium to offer their lectures.

How is the academy supported?

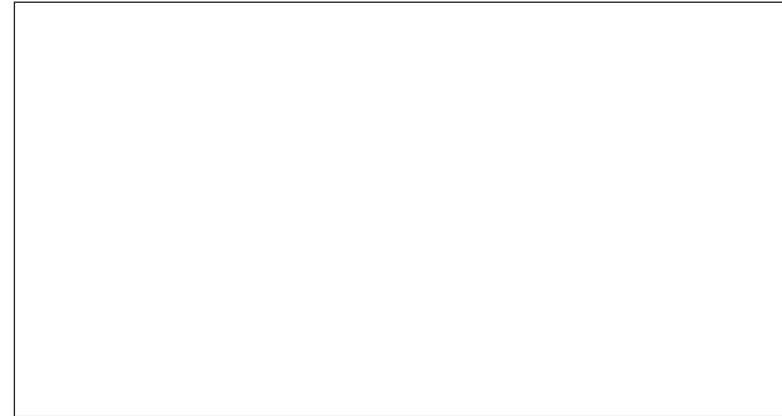
Well, the Scientific Academy is a



result of the efforts of many individuals and authorities, such as Dr. Abdullh Alhamidi, ex- director of Al-Gumhory Hospital and Mr. Nabeel Shamsan, agent of civil service who help us a lot to connect with different universities in Sana'a. For example we have been provided by tens of scientific books from the university of Science and Technology. We bought books that cost about 8000 to 10000 \$. So we have a library that contains different kinds of scientific and medical books. We also prepared ten computers that connected with Internet to be available for the doctors and students. There are about 400 CDs that used as illustrative and explanatory means through the lectures.

What about funding and equipment?

When we decided to open the academy we tried to fulfill specific needs and



requirements. And since the Al-Gumhory Hospital's budget is small, we began to cooperate with private universities and public universities such as Sana'a University and the university of Technology and Science. We also connected with some organizations and medical companies.

Now the management of the hospital, stand by Dr. Nabeel Dhaban, specifies some money from the local support to supply the scientific academic sector.

In the future we are going to cooperate with international organizations such as WHO and UNSCO, and the private sector.

The sector still needs many illustrative equipments and means such as T.V, video, computers...etc.

How updated is the academy with the international research and development?

How updated is the academy with the international research and development?

We attempt through the library, regular lectures and Internet to keep the doctors in touch with the last and most advanced medical researches. We had a project to prepare a scientific medical magazine by which we can publish the researches of our doctors and that would interact the researching activities. However, we faced financial and technical difficulties that prevented us to finish this project. Now we try to communicate with relevant organizations that interested in scientific searching. We need also to connect with the medical magazine in Sana'a University, and the university of Science and Technology to publish the researches. We have already sent them 6 searches that depend on personal efforts of the doctors and they put some comments on those searches to justify them to be good for publishing.

World-class car brand agents speak of their expected participation in the Fourth International Automobile Exhibition

Intensive preparations and much activity on the part of traders and international car agents

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Car agents promise: We will introduce the best products of technology in the world of automobiles. Visitors of the spectacular show will see unpredictable surprises.

Apollo for International Exhibitions will be organizing the Fourth International Automobile Exhibition at Expo 6DQDD during July involving famous car manufacturers and reputed spare SDUW wheel and lubricant companies.

Mr. Omar al-Nihmi, SROOR Marketing General Manager, said that they received many reservations from many companies. "All concerned companies are interested in participating as they want to compete and snatch a good share of the Yemeni market."

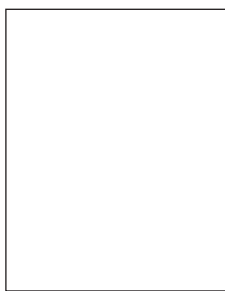
He affirmed that the Exhibition is the ideal place to acquaint oneself with the nature of YHPHQ car market and know the most modern innovations in the world of automobiles.

"The Exhibition is going to be the best promotional campaign for the season when car sales peak (July)"

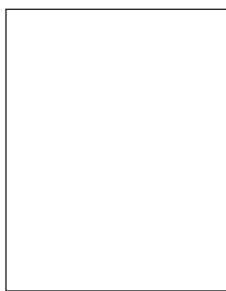
Many businessmen talked about the importance of the Exhibition in which great car companies SDU participate such as 1LWVDQ+QGD 3RUVFK)RUG TTRWD 6L +RQGD VROYR)HUFHGH)BMW Land Rover 6QRF 0RELQDQFR)DUV)K)R)UD



Omar al-Nihmi



Amin Bahammam



Omar Thabet

HHS Votor VLNH Jelly 6KDQD Golden ULYHQ 1LWV)NLQJ)JDPDV %RVK)Frol +RJO and DO Ghanami Batteries.

Tehama Company called their participation an "invitation and challenge + FRPSDQ's logo

Mr. Omar Thabet, General Manager of 6DQDD Office of Tehama Trading Company which acts as an agent for Nissan and 3H)HRW VDLG) We will astonish the Exhibition goers with new models (Armada & Murano). They are a new breed of Nissan SU. We will give the public the chance to compare our competitive prices. During the (KLELWLR) HDU Nissan installment sale program will be launched through the International Bank of Yemen with which we signed an agreement. Our participation in the Exhibition is perceived as an invitation and challenge: the public is invited to see the models challenging each other.

We are working with no FRQVWUDL)W) offering markets faster and open new horizons by virtue of our modern and new models."

"Nissan is an exceptional unique car; thus did Mazen Salman, Nissan & Peugeot

Sales Manager put it. "We will deliver in the Exhibition lectures on the installment program of car sales and introduce Peugeot to the public. This car is called the "Gem" as it symbolizes tech QROR)FRPELQHG)ZWKFRQ)H)PSRUDULQH)WV)WLDV)K)X

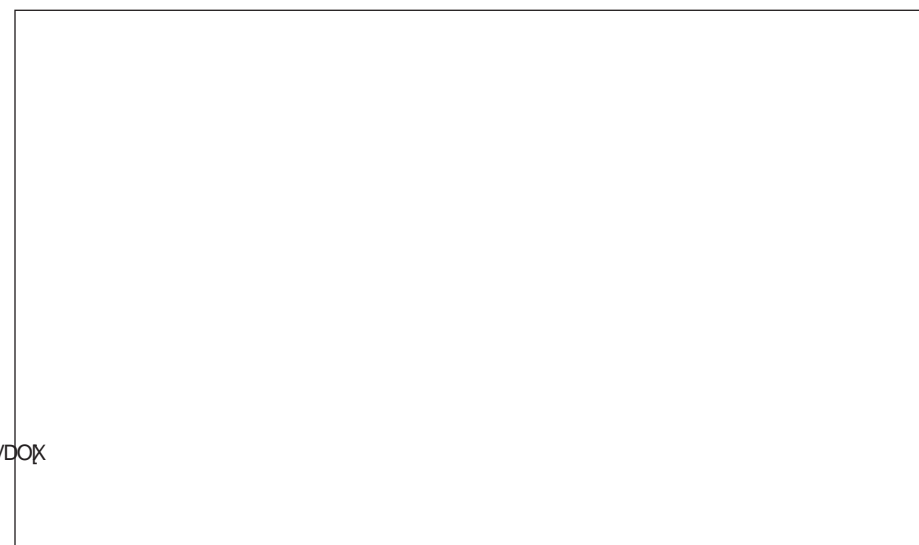
Suzuki will be competing fiercely in the Exhibition. Tariq Sabeha, Commercial Manager of Sabeha Trading Company, agent of Suzuki in Yemen said that some of Suzuki models are affordable by Yemeni consumers.

"Suzuki will compete strongly in the International Automobile Exhibition at Expo 6DQDD Through SDUW)FLSD)M)R)Q) sure that Suzuki will be able contributing to honest competition in Yemen and catch up with developments in the country."

New Toyota models will make their debut appearance at the Exhibition. 6DHHG Ba Mashmous, Sale Manager of the Commercial Center for Automobiles and Engines D)VDL)G)W)E will fight our way through the Exhibition with new models of Toyota with KLJKT)OLV) standards conforming to those of the Gulf States."

He DGGHG) Reducing custom duties by 5% is something pleasant in the eyes of most car agents in Yemen. It is a leap forward. The Exhibition fore shadows improvement in DJHQW) sales to compensate for the loss they suffered due to the flow of sec RQ)K)D)Q) cars into the country in the past.

6SR)ZL)VK)D)Q) expects sales to increase by 25%. Mohammed al-Khaiyat, Sales Manager of al-Rowaishan, agent of German BMW considered the Exhibition as a significant step with HFRQR)PL)F) social and political connotations. The government KD)VED)Q)Q)H)GL)PSR)U)W)D)W)LR)Q)R)IV)H)FR)Q)K)D)Q)G)F)D)U)W)E) Exhibition Surprise



the volume of car sales in Yemen due to lowered custom duties.

NATCO: We will present jaw-dropping models

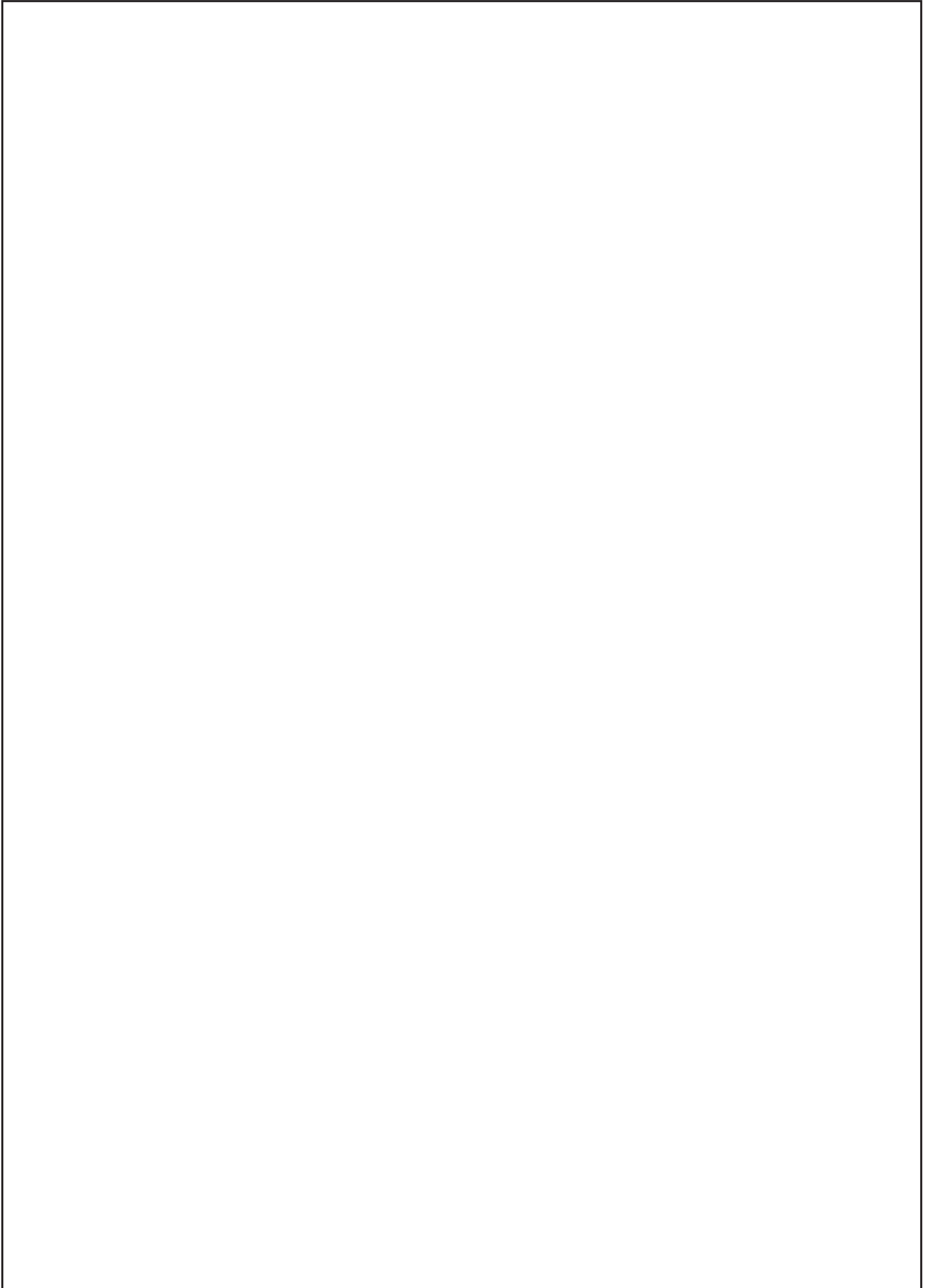
Amin Bahammam, Sale Manager of Hyundai & Ford said "We will introduce fascinating models. Hyundai customers from across the social FD)W)H)G)ories and has made great achievements world wide. We are the only company that provide the sale installment service and SR)W)VD)G)H) services. Our sample cars will be modern and diverse from Hyundai and Ford. The Exhibition is the only place WKD)W)SL)W)D)OOD)J)H)Q)W)D)Q)G)V)H)W)W)K)H)P)W)R)K)R)C) tion. It will provide customers with the chance to shop and see the EHV)W) most contemporary and most wonderful cars. They can then purchase the PRGH)U)Q)F)D)U)W)R)H)S)U)L)F)H)V)D)U)H)F)O)R)H)W)R)W)K)H)W)H) hand and HQY)LR)Q)H)Q)S)R)O)Q)M)S)Q)J)H) The Exhibition will inevitably catapult our sales. We have many surprises in store (Hyundai Summer). Our customer class is broad and we most of the time sell to individuals. People confide in us much. They know that it is cool to deal with us. Our service centers are scattered throughout Yemen."

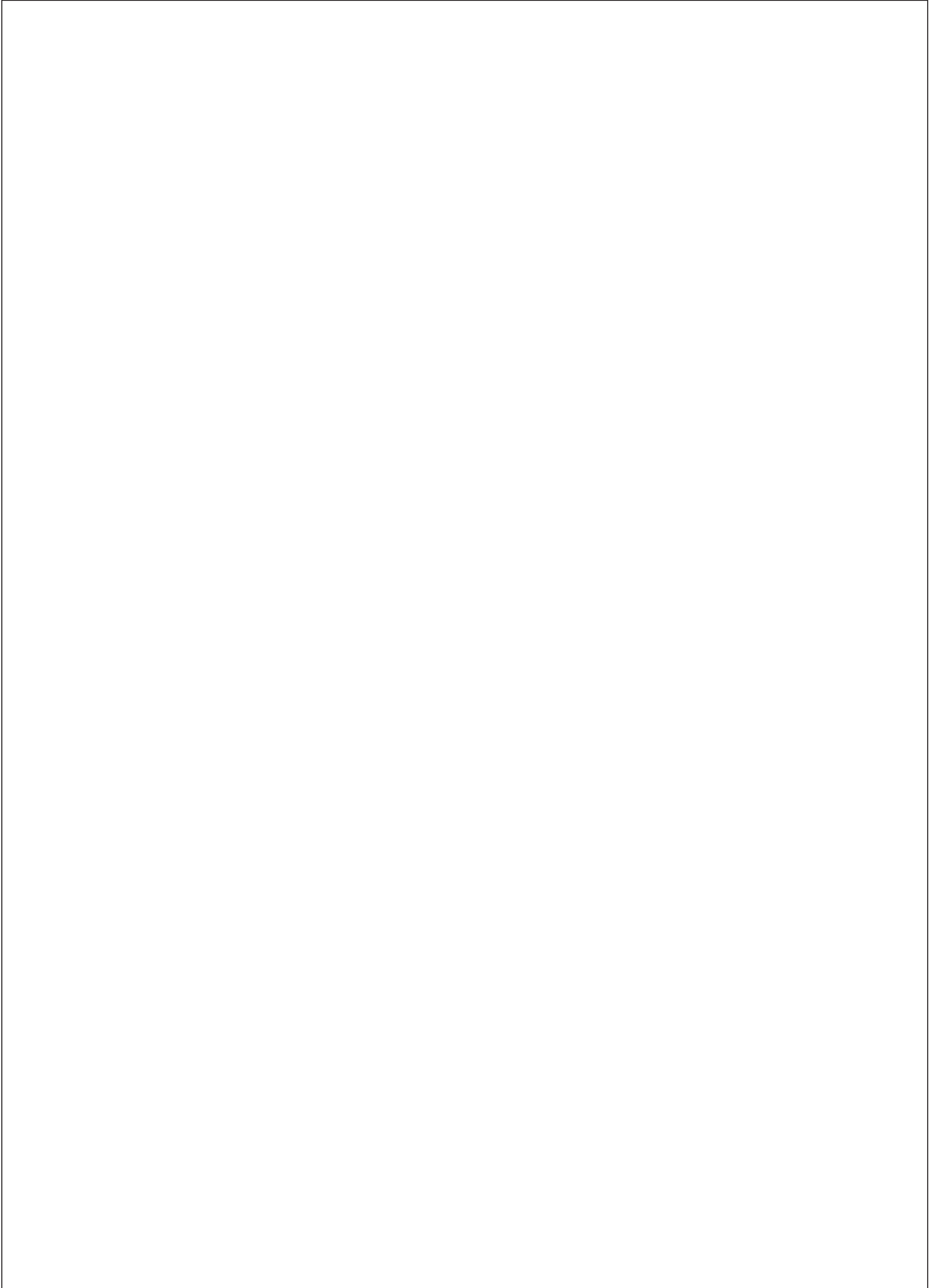
Porsch will be featuring new models of RU)O)G) class quality and tempting SR)W)VD)G)H) services. Luxurious Ford models will be on show as well.

System will be displayed. It is a system that allows the driver to continue driving a car with a pierced tire with full control until they reach a safe place. On the other KD)Q)G)R)R)O)S)ides will be exhibited. They are used to prevent the penetration of sun heat and rays into the car through the glass. They are fitted on the glass to prevent harmful rays. They are sure to prevent as much as of infrared rays and 98% of ultraviolet rays.

Hyundai	Adnoc	Shana
Porsche	Mobil	Dunving
Ford	Marshal	Nitting
Toyota	Aurora	Framas
Nissan	Jeep	Bosh
Suzuki	Votor	Frol holg
Honda	Bike	BMW
Volvo	Jelly	Falcon
Mercedes	Golden	Al ghanami
Land rover	driven	batteries

At the (KLELWLR) Iron Punctured Tire Safety





Zamora goal hands West Ham place in top flight

LONDON (Reuters) - West Ham United won promotion to the English Premier League by beating Preston North End 1-0 in the second division playoff final, the world's richest club match, on Monday.

Striker Bobby Zamora got the winner for the east London side from Matthew Etherington's left wing cross 12 minutes into the second half with his 13th goal of the season.

"It's a dream come true for me," said Zamora, a lifelong Hammers fan, while the club's relieved manager Alan Pardew told Sky Sports: "I'm chuffed for this lot (the fans)".

West Ham, who lost the playoff final to Crystal Palace at the Millennium Stadium last year, return to the top flight of English football two years after being relegated.

Second division champions Sunderland and runners-up Wigan Athletic won automatic promotion. West Ham finished the season in sixth place, the lowest qualifiers for the playoffs. The trio replace relegated Southampton, Palace and Norwich City.

Consultants Deloitte said the match was worth 35 million pounds to the winners.

REPKA CLOSE

West Ham's Czech right back Tomas Repka almost put them in front in the fifth minute when he ran on to a through ball from the middle by Shaun Newton but shot against the net post.

Six minutes later the Londoners had what looked like a legitimate

West Ham United's goal scorer Bobby Zamora celebrates winning the English Championship play-off final at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, Wales May 30. West Ham won promotion to the English Premier League by beating Preston North End 1-0 in the second division playoff final, the world's richest club match, on Monday.

claim for a penalty waved away after Zamora was brought down by Youl Mawene.

Etherington's stinging shot from a Zamora pass over his bar for a corner in the 21st minute.

Preston's Carlo Nash then turned The second half got off to an

exciting start with Newton heading a Richard Cresswell header from a corner off the West Ham line in the 49th to deny Preston their best chance so far.

Two minutes later West Ham missed three chances in as many seconds when Nash palmed away Marlon Harewood's point-blank shot, Mawene then booted Zamora's follow-up effort off the line before the Preston keeper stopped Harewood's goal attempt.

West Ham's goal was not long coming though, with Zamora, whose two goals at Ipswich Town in the second leg of the semi-final had put them in the final, involved in the build-up.

He passed the ball to Etherington out on the left before the tricky winger sent a precise cross back into the middle for the striker Zamora to slot calmly past a diving Nash.

With Preston's most famous player, the 83-year-old club chairman and former England striker Sir Tom Finney, watching from the stands North End responded defiantly.

David Nugent shot straight at West Ham goalkeeper Jimmy Walker and Cresswell was just wide with another effort as Preston tried to find a way back into the match.

Walker twisted his knee coming out to the edge of the box to catch a high ball five minutes from time, earning a booking for handball, and was replaced by Stephen Bywater, who immediately saved Paul McKenna's low free kick as West Ham held on to win.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS	cheap detective novels	Dakota	18 Flat contracts
1 1970s hitmakers	Trinity member	Kind of beam	19 RQW Bring Me
5 Some places that pamper	W&S big on Leno	Archimedean	RQW grp.
9 Bestow upon	28 Wife of Abraham	BUOGPRYHU	23 Gibbs or Maples
Beginning course	30 Hayes of Westens	50 Longish span	25 It may be mounted
perhaps	35 Corrections agent?	51 Pixie	26 Free bakery advertisement
15 2.2 lbs.	37 Part of a famous VROLO	53 Foot part	27 Follows a recipe direction
16 Ham carrier	39 Professor	55 Stage performers	29 Sprain site
17 Just what the doctor RUGHUHG e.g.	3OR's game	60 Butter beans	31 Tummy trouble
20 "Lazy ___ OROO\ Chubby Checker hit)	Really does the trick	66 Parcel out	32 Strident sound
21 It may be in a box in the corner	Oscars cousin	67 FRLDduller relate	33 Grand Canyon worker
22 Woman in	WinnerV take Capital of South	68 Words of com prehension	36 Scottish terrier
		69 Sudden RW pouring	38 Bring to a point
		70 "Jurassic 3DUN" actress	39 Doomed Geometric shape
		71 Spring event	40 Public esteem
			41 More extensive
			42 W&S right under your nose
			43 Command to the band
			44 DEEHURFN start
			45 Desperate cry
			46 Melodious
			47 Fitzgerald
			48 ATM feature
			49 Slangy negative
			50 Ground animal feed
			51 Between ports
			52 GODQW survey results
			53 She may feel cooped up

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"... WHERE &S('76 DUE" by James E. Buell

Crouch to make England debut

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Striker Peter Crouch will make his England debut in a friendly against Colombia in New Jersey on Tuesday after proving his fitness in training.

However, defender Sol Campbell is out with the ankle injury he suffered against the United States and his replacement on Saturday, Zat Knight, will make his full debut against Colombia.

Defender Wes Brown is also sidelined while Kieran Richardson, who scored twice on his debut in the 2-1 win, is doubtful with a hamstring strain. Left back Ashley Cole has recovered from a similar injury and will play.

England's other doubts are striker Andy Johnson, who has a slight calf strain, and defender Luke Young.

"The preparations have not been ideal and it was a difficult training session with three or four players away having scans on injuries," Eriksson said after Monday's workout.

"But that does not mean we will not prepare as best we can for a match against a great football nation in

Southampton's Peter Crouch celebrates after scoring against Crystal Palace during their English Premier League soccer match at Selhurst Park, London, May 7, 2005. REUTERS

Colombia." Southampton's Crouch was due to face the U.S. in the first friendly of the short tour but injured his ankle in England's

final training session and missed out. However, he has had round-the-clock treatment and looks like starting in attack alongside Michael Owen, who joined the squad on Sunday along with Real Madrid team mate David Beckham.

"I had doubts about whether I would make it or not but I've come through training fine," Crouch told reporters. "I will put ice on the ankle again but I am sure I will be fit."

"This is a big lift for me because I was devastated on Friday. It is not every day you get a chance to make your England debut and to miss out against America was a big blow."

The injuries to Campbell and Brown mean Eriksson will have to pair the inexperienced Knight and Glen Johnson in central defence.

Eriksson said: "They have not played together before but I think they can handle it. Knight did very well when he replaced Sol Campbell on Saturday."

Probable team: James, P Neville, G Johnson, Knight, A Cole, Beckham, Jenas, Carrick, J Cole, Owen, Crouch.



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Persons with disabilities:

A treaty seeks to break new ground in ensuring equality

"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

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. It could create a legally binding framework for the protection

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 year the UN Human Rights Commission recognized that it was up to the international

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, employment and development. And in a dramatic global OHDS governments that sign on will be legally bound to treat persons with disabilities not just as victims or a minority subjects of the law with enforceable rights.

An initiative proposed by Mexico in 2001 at the 56th 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 which led to the adoption of the

community to create a legal framework 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. Instruments that address the rights of 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 attitude about this treaty is that the process of negotiation is 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 in both

as governments develop their own inputs to the convention and as they work together in the drafting process. Clearly a 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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