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## Who would save Al-Sofi?

By MOHAMED BIB SALAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A-Oct. 10- Yemeni Journalist Syndicate, issued a communiqué last Monday in which they commiserated with their colleague Nabil Alsofi, Editor of (News Yemen) site and his staff, over the campaign which poses a threat to their lives.

The Syndicate requested that the Islah party leadership to live up to their political and ethical responsibility and stop the campaign which is targeting their colleague, Nabil Alsofi.

The communiqué asked all parties to stop misinterpreting journalists, and not to hold them responsible for policies that they do no more than report. They also requested them not to instigate hatred against them.

Sheikh Alzindani's office considered what was published in (News Yemen) about the international list that demands the freezing of Zindani's balances as an accomplice to expose him.

They think that it is a prompt for foreigners to target Al-Iman University and The Sheikh.

In an interview with (Shora net) site, Alsofi said ' News Yemen has no personal problem with Sheikh Alzindani. We referred the news we reported to their original sources. The Zindani's office could have refuted these allegations instead of attacking us. But instead of that the Sheikh chose to hold us responsible as if we are the real sources of those accusations and not the USA and the Security Council.'

Alsofi added, 'the transparency with which the press tackles each case, is for the good of Zindani, because it keeps him in touch with the international movements over his case. These are the same information that he had complained before that the government conceals from him.'

'It seems that the head of the islah Shora and Aliman University thinks his only problem is the media and not the USA which accused him of financing



Nabil Alsofi

terrorism. In the releases which he often publishes, he says that the sources of the American accusations are the local media accusations to him.'

The report that News Yemen published on Zindani, coincided with three other articles in local press. This made

Zindani's office think that it is an organized campaign.

The journalists are concerned and are taking serious the release of Alzindani's office, because it placed News Yemen in the same manner as it holds UAS accountable. They consider the site and USA as traitors and instigators against the government and Sheikh Alzindani, as one of the journalists put it. He added, 'A release such as this, that is published by a cleric is considered a religious fatwa waiting for some one to carry it out'

Other sources belittled the Alzindani's report over News Yemen. They think that 'press terrorization is not the aim of Alzindani's office. It is a message to the government that they had attacked before, accusing it of abandoning Alzindani in his plight and describing the effort as defeatist.'

In previous interviews Alzindani disclosed that he had complained to President Saleh about the governments inaction over his case.

## EU gives Yemen 100 million euro

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Oct.10- The British Ambassador Michael Gifford, representative of the European Union (EU) for the present period, held a discussion at the embassy premises on Yemen's relations with the EU.

The meeting focused on the political dialogue staged on the 21st of last September in Brussels. The British Ambassador described the dialogue between Yemen and the EU as good and mentioned that Yemen asked for more support, but that the dialogue was devoted to other issues.

'There are many Yemeni achievements, but they are offset by many challenges and the EU is extending its support for Yemen to confront different problems,' Mr. Gifford said. 'The EU helps Yemen although not everything in Yemen may need help, but that fact is that all Yemenis accept assistance and are very cooperative.'

'The Europeans showed Yemen their interest for the coming presidential and local elections and stressed the importance of restricting arms trade, adopting serious measures for improving the financial management and combating corruption. The EU has shown concern over the killing of many Yemenis- civilians and troops in Sa'ad events,' the British Ambassador went on.

'Yemen and the EU discuss the press freedom, what Yemen is doing now and how it will look in the future, as Europe has been very concerned by the recent treatment of Yemeni journalists. EU has shown points of concern over the situation of human rights, womens rights and the status of prisons.'

European officials confirmed that Yemen has shown total commitment to transforming toward democracy and freedom of the press and vowed to hunt for perpetrators who launch attacks against journalists and issuing an arm ban, according to the Mr. Gifford.

He added: "we told Yemen there is no need for the availability of 60 million arm pieces or 9 million since the country lacks economic reforms and is in urgent need to offer benefits for

investors, a fact that cannot occur without the provision of security and safety measures for investors."

He also pointed out that even Yemeni investors are in need of stability and that the most important challenges that face Yemen are the rapid population growth, lack of economic diversity and the inadequately qualified administration.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Gifford said, "Yemen is important to the EU that funded implementation of developmental projects with 100 million euro, emphasizing that the EU is concerned about the mishandle of money granted to Yemen, either by the Yemeni side or the European one. He asserted that the European Commission investigate into current corruption cases filed to it on one of the EU-supported projects.

On the other hand, the British Ambassador to Yemen H.M. Michael Gifford paid a visit on Tuesday the 11th of October to the Islamic Relief Office (IRO) in Sana'a.

During his visit, Mr. Gifford had a look at a detailed report on the programs offered by the Islamic Relief Organization (IRO) in Yemen in the field of development.

For his part, Mr. Khalid Ahmad al-Mowallad, IRO Representative to the country explained to the British Diplomat the efforts expended in the governorate of Sa'ada, including a faster's break project in Sa'ada and projects on health and education in al-Silw, Taiz governorate.

In addition, the IRO launched projects for orphans care in Tehama, the Hodeida governorate, as well as other projects on health, education and early income for children of special needs in the Capital Secretariat.

Mr. Gifford had a glance at an applied study on the enhancement of international partnership between the Islamic charitable foundations and the international community and forwarding such an idea to the concerned organizations to have an effective partnership in humanitarian work.

The EU representative made specific reference to Yemen's critical role in the region and its importance as a leader and coordinator.

## Disputes hinder implementation of irrigation canals

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

MARIB- Oct. 11- The local authority in the eastern province of Marib has asked the cabinet to oblige the international construction firm, Hawk, to finish works in the irrigation canals in Marib Dam. The company pulled out its equipment to the governorate of Shabwa.

The local authority stressed the necessity of completing the work in the irrigation facilities and confirmed that what is claimed by the company are merely alleged problems to evade work.

The authority stated that the company did not start working on the primary and secondary irrigation canals.

Hawk sent reports to the ministries of local administration and agriculture, stating there are a number of barriers and obstacles that hinder work, such as a dispute between the project administration and the executive authority in the governorate.

A number of farmers in the governorate of Marib requested the President of the Republic and Sheikh Khalifa Bin



An aerial view of Marib dam and the artificial lake

Sultan Al-Hayan to prevent playing on money granted by the UAE to the project.

Marib locals ascertained that disputes between contractors and officials are the primary reasons behind halting implementation of the project and that millions of riyals were embezzled by the Eastern Areas Development Authority in the guise of supporting agriculture and farmers.

According to locals, the President of

the Republic and the UAE Government should inquire about the money that were allotted for developing agriculture in Marib. These amounts have apparently been spent on the purchase of cars and the building of luxurious houses in Sana'a for officials in the authority.

The locals stressed that flagrant corruption and embezzlement of public money are found in the agricultural institutions in Marib with no reaction shown by the responsible sides to such

violations. They requested Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sultan Al-Hayan to send a representative to follow up and monitor the way in which the funding allocated for the project is spent.

An agreement was reached in November 2002 between the contracting companies and the Yemeni Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. These companies won the bid for implementing the project at a total cost of 23.9 million dollars, which are funded by the

UAE's government.

The project covers implementation of irrigation canals for an agricultural area of 7400 hectares and the rehabilitation of the system of canals including the Northern Canal (BN), which was damaged by torrents in 1996 and the Southern Canal (BS). In addition, there is the installation of 69 km of secondary canals in the north and south parts of the governorate.

The project also includes covering a 35 km long road with tarmac and constructing a protective fence for roads and irrigation canals from torrents.

Local authority officials stated that up until July 30, 45 percent of the project

has been implemented while observers mentioned that there is no guarantee of implementation of the project, adding that there is a practice of corruption and embezzlement of money allotted for the project.

Locals in the governorate claimed that corrupt officials responsible for construction of the project should be held accountable and that the companies should finish the work and care for the interest of farmers. The locals demand close monitoring to improve the quality of agriculture and support of the farmers who stopped pursuing agriculture due to water shortage and skyrocketing prices of fuel.

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## UNICEF and media partnership to combat child trafficking

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Mr. Nassem Ur Rehman chief of UNICEF in Information and Communication articulated one of the millennium development goals as being to combat child abuse, violence exploitation and trafficking in Yemen.

He also stated that UNICEF will have a field program during Ramadan with a number of journalists, for meeting local officials and a



number of smuggled children and their families. This is aiming at acquainting the journalists with the problem, so that they could be able to write freely and in a manner that they think it is appropriate to raise public awareness of combating the phe-

nomenon.

He said that combating child trafficking is a social responsibility to which we are all obligated.

## EC commends democracy and human rights in Yemen

ADEN - Oct. 8- The European Commission (EC) Acting Representative, Rolf Drayar, praised on Saturday the remarkable progress in democracy and human rights Yemen.

During his meeting with Yahya al-Shuaibi, Governor of Aden, the EC official expressed his appreciation of the significant role played by the pri-

vate sector in improving investment, development and economic growth in Yemen.

The two officials also discussed the EC aid offered to Yemen in different fields, including education, health and vocational training development.

Al-Shuaibi also appreciated the role demonstrated by the EC to support development in the Aden Free Zone.

## Diplomat: Yemeni students in Pakistan are in good health

SANA'A - Oct. 9 - Abdu-Elah Hajar, the Yemeni ambassador in Islamabad, said on Sunday that Yemeni students in Pakistan are in good health, and that nobody was hurt in the latest major earthquake that shook in the subcontinent.

The earthquake had a magnitude of 7.6 and struck at 03:50 GMT. It centered about 95 km northwest of Islamabad, near the Indian border, and four

aftershocks of magnitude between 5.4 and 5.9 followed it. The earthquake shook buildings across the subcontinent, among other places in the Afghan and Indian capitals, Kabul and New Delhi.

Eyewitnesses reported that Islamabad locals were screaming in fear inside their houses and that car and house alarms were activated during the initial earthquake, which lasted about one minute.

## Band forging president's signature arrested

BY HASSAN ALZAIDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

AMRAN-Yem.Oct.11- Security sources in Amran say they have apprehended a group of criminals who forged the president's signature.

During their recent car registering campaign, the customs authorities in Hamdan, said that there are forged president's signatures of car customs exemptions. This was in spite of the fact that

the President stopped all exemptions, even for security personell.

Three years ago the security authorities caught a band that used to forge signatures, by which the gang received a large amount of money and cars from the ministry of finance. They were assisted in this by an official in the ministry of finance. The band confessed that it had issued directions for appointing a number of officials as executive managers.

Forgers crossed Yemeni borders abroad. A professional Yemeni forger serving a prison term had forged an Omani check and received 700 thousand Omni Rials. He was discovered when he entered Yemen.

Forgers have also forged car plates and arm carrying permits from the ministry of interior. Investigations revealed that these arm permits were used in attacking American USS Cole in Aden in October 2000.

## 2005 Ramadan aid campaign

The Turkish International School in Sana'a is organising a charity and food package delivery program this year for the people in need. The campaign is planning to reach more than 2000, determined in advance, families in need. For the families indicated by the Aid Campaign Committee an arranged food package will be distributed by the school staff and the students. The aid package contains 5 kgs of rice, 5 kgs of sugar, 5 kgs of flour, 4 liters oil, 2 kgs dates, 12 cans of beans and one box of chocolate.

The Aid Campaign Committee visited the Yemen Times and talked about their remarkable initiative. Ali

Omar Abdo Kaud of the students in the committee said that they are very happy to participate in this initiative and that they feel it is their duty to help their community. They had gone to well-wishers and merchants and asked them for their support. He commented: "We have started distributing these



aid to many poor families in Sana'a. Our teachers helped us locate the poor families and we coordinated with many charities so as to create the maximum impact of our initiative." I b t i s a m Abdullah al-Zouba of the same committee said that the Turkish school

has started this initiative especially in this holy month were they realised that there are many people who could use their support. "It is all made of personal initiatives, we take from our time, effort and money to try and make a difference. We are aiming at providing the poor families with school bags so as to encourage education in the future. We hope that people who read about our initiative would cooperate with us." She said.

If you are interested in supporting this campaign, please send an email to sivitoglu@hotmail.com, or gemalyigit@yahoo.com else contact the school through phone number: +967-1-448258.



## Ethiopian death still unclear

SANA'A - Oct. 11- The body of the wife of Ethiopian refugee, Hawi Jaber Abdulkader, is still in the morgue of Althorah hospital, after her husband demanded to know the cause of her death. The wife was found dead in her house in Sana'a while her husband was away in Aden in the beginning of October.

The attorney general has assigned a mortician to diagnose the body of Rahama Idy Mohamed Saeed and sub-



mit the cause of death.

The Ethiopian refugee said that his request was not heeded though he already submitted it on October 3. He feels that the Health Development Project for Refugees is postponing his case. Prior to this incident they had sent a letter to the police asking them to investigate a case of transgression on the house of the Ethiopian refugee by men who were wearing military uniform.

## Yemeni consumption for meat doesn't exceed 3 kilos

Sana'a- Oct.8 - An Arab report revealed that the Yemeni annual consumption of lean meat doesn't exceed 3 kilos a year. This rate is 68 kilos in Kuwait while the average consumption in the Arab world is 14 kilos. The report said that the average Yemeni consumption of legumes is not more than 3 kilos a year, whereas the average Arab world consumption is 8 kilos.

The report that was prepares by the

Arab Union for food Industries pointed out that the Yemeni consumption for milk and milk products is around 18 kilos a year whereas the average rate in the Arab world is 96 kilos.

Concerning fish, the report estimated the par consumption in the Arab World to be 8 kilos a year. It is about 109 kilos in Mauritania and 1.3 in Syria. The par consumption of eggs is 3.5 kilos that is about 70 eggs in a year. The rate varies between 11.3

kilos in the Emirates. The Somali rate is about 2 kilos. This is equal to 4 eggs annually.

The source said that the Arabic food varies from the local, regional and the international. It constitutes the fresh and the processed. Some of the foods keep up with standards while others don't. In present Arabic conditions some of the Arabic food could be checked in Arabic labs against cheating and contamination.

## Yemen celebrates World Post Day

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 4 - The World Post Day was celebrated by The Republic of Yemen, represented by the General Authority for Post and Postal Saving (GAPPS), along with other countries all over the world.

Engineer Mohamed Murghem, General Manager of the GAPPS, said that on October 9 they will celebrate the day by reviewing what was achieved during the year and discussing future views. 131 years have passed since the World Post Union was established as a specialized organization for postal transactions.

In 1930, when the Republic of

Yemen joined the World Post Union, a lot was done to make enhance the spirit of cooperation among the post employees in the governates all over the country.

Murghem stated that the World Post Day coincides with celebrations of the Yemeni revolutions on the September 26 and October 14. The day will be the starting point for a number of post-related projects in different Yemeni provinces with a total cost of 511 million and 537 thousand riyals. There are already 11 postal projects in the governorates of Amran, al-Dhal'e, Dhamar, Taiz, Aden, Sana'a, Hadramout and the Capital Secretariat cost of 226 million and 901 thousand riyals.

Murghem pointed out that these projects are aimed at expanding the post network in different Yemeni governates. He added: "The GAPPS has scored a distinctive leap in offering services to beneficiaries inside the country. Particularly during this last year where both the postal services and salary distribution has been improved".

The authority has activated the service of electronic riyal and postal savings. The transactions and sales of electronic riyal for settling the Internet, telephone, water and electricity bills through the Internet totaled 16 million and 459 thousand riyals between January and August of 2005.

### Readers' Voice

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

#### This edition's question:

Most of the infringements against Yemeni journalists are official while others are attributed to unknown. Do you think that transgressions against journalists are an official policy?  
Yes  
No  
I don't know

#### Last edition's question:

Do you think that Yemen is seriously insistent on working for the release of Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo?  
No 69%  
Yes 26%  
I don't know 5%

Go to our website at:  
[yementimes.com/#poll](http://yementimes.com/#poll)  
and have your voice heard

## Ramadan 10th is the deadline for Hajj registration

SANA'A- Oct 09 -- Minster of Endowments and Guidance Mohammed Obad, highly recommended all pilgrims to sign for Hajj registration as soon as possible, as only few days are remaining.

He said the 10th of Ramadan is the closing date for the Hajj registration and that 20,000 pilgrims from Yemen are expected to be allowed to join the season of Hajj.

The number of the registered Yemeni pilgrims this year reached more than 17,000, and all preparations of the voyage have been finished.



MARIE STOPES INTERNATIONAL

## Vacancies

Marie Stopes International (MSI) provides reproductive health care in more than thirty countries, including Yemen. MSI-Yemen requires a director and managers for its new Social Marketing Department, which will market a range of modern contraceptives.

**Compensation:** commensurate with qualifications and MSI human resource practices.

**Deadline.** Applications, including a cover letter and resume/c.v. must arrive at Marie Stopes International-Yemen, 14 October St, Hadda, Sana'a, Yemen, E-mail: [jdavies@alephx.com](mailto:jdavies@alephx.com), or by mail to P.O box: 16160 by **October 22, 2005**. Only short-listed candidates will be interviewed.

### Social Marketing Director

**Job Description/Responsibilities.** The Social Marketing Director will lead: (1) the start-up, management and development of the Social Marketing Department, including planning, organizing, staffing, budgeting, outsourcing, and implementation of field activities; (2) selection, employment, supervision and development of human resources; (3) representation of the Department at meetings, workshops and conferences in Yemen and other countries. He/she will report to the MSI-Yemen Country Director.

**Qualifications.** The ideal candidate will have an appropriate university degree plus at least five years of management experience in private companies or non-government organizations (NGOs). He/she will be accustomed to producing action plans, writing reports, negotiating outsourcing contracts, and giving multi-media presentations. He/she will speak and write excellent English and Arabic and be familiar with Microsoft Office software. Preference will be given to Yemeni nationals.

### Behavior Change & Training Manager

**Job Description.** The Social Marketing Behavior Change and Training Manager will have a lead role in planning, organizing, budgeting, outsourcing, launching, monitoring, assessing and reporting on all aspects of the Department's behavior change communication, promotion, advocacy, and training activities. He/she will report to the Social Marketing Director.

**Qualifications:** The ideal candidate will have an appropriate university degree or equivalent experience in the types of responsibilities described above. He/she will have five years or more experience with private organizations such as pharmaceutical companies or advertising agencies, or with NGOs that undertake similar work in Yemen. The ideal candidate will be familiar with MS Word and PowerPoint and will be comfortable in writing descriptive reports and giving multi-media presentations. The Behavior Change & Training Manager will also have trained field workers such as doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists and community volunteers. He/she will speak and write excellent English and Arabic and be familiar with Microsoft Office software. Preference will be given to Yemeni nationals.

### Research Manager

**Job Description.** Responsible for management of qualitative and quantitative studies including assessment of research needs, development of requests for proposals, outsourcing and monitoring contractors' fieldwork, while providing technical assistance, as needed. He/she will also help other members of the Department to interpret and use results of studies to enhance marketing of MSI contraceptive products and services. The Research Manager will report to the Social Marketing Director.

**Qualifications:** The ideal candidate will have an appropriate university degree or equivalent experience in market research or other forms of social research. He or she will have five years or more experience in management and/or implementation of quantitative or qualitative social research, be familiar with MS office software and will be comfortable in writing descriptive reports and giving multi-media presentations. He/she will speak and write excellent English and Arabic. Preference will be given to Yemeni nationals.



# Response to "YALI - the best"

DEAR YEMEN TIMES

**W**e used to know your newspaper as a neutral paper that only publishes credible news and arouses no skepticism.

We were really surprised with the article that evaluates a field questionnaire from some institutes that we have

never heard of. One expects the article to discuss the questionnaire without pointing to any particular institute. Unfortunately, what was published was a full article on YALI American institute with a photo of the institute in addition to notes about some of those who were said to be the elites. A second surprise is the interview with the manager of the American institute in which he discussed how the institute

became the best. This is the point where we blame your newspaper. We object to no article on rival institutes if it is based on factual studies, but our objections are the following:

1. On what basis is study done to conclude that Yali is number one? If it is a questionnaire answered by 14500 students of Sana'a University, we request to be shown that study.

2. The number of students at

YALI does not exceed 1500 at the summer climax period, so where did you get the number of 6000 students?

3. How can the evidence of a YALI official be taken for granted as being an academic expert?

4. The article described YALI's teachers as being the best, but have their qualifications been checked? Most of them are Sana'a University graduates and they have not got the qualifications for teaching English as a foreign language like those of CELTA, TOFEL and TESOL.

5. If the questionnaire that was conducted covered more than an institute, why was a photograph of YALI in particular published?

6. MALI, which has more than six years of experience, is the only institute that has the authorization of the British Cambridge University. How can such an institute be compared with institutes that were established only a few months ago?

Your article was clearly biased in favor of the YALI institute and the study was only a preparation for the article. We demand an explanation.

*Mazin Shawqi Loqman  
Modern American Institute -  
MALI*



## Consultancy Announcement No. 12/2005

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified local consultant to submit their proposal for the consultancy of Impact Assessment of the Child Development Project (CDP), Yemen.

Under the supervision of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, the consultant is expected to undertake the following tasks:

1. Compile raw data from CDP baseline survey, Household Budget Survey (HBS) census & other sources + analyse the impact between CDP and non-CDP
2. Draft the preliminary and final report in English.
3. Present the report to CDP Steering Committee.

**Duration:**  
Mid October to mid December in 2005 and April-May in 2006 (4 months)

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED:**

- Advance degree in statistics or social science
- Proven experience in data analysis and similar impact assessment
- Excellent writing skills in English

Interested and qualified consultants should send their applications to:

**The Operations Officer, UNICEF, P.O. Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**  
Applications received after 15 October 2005 will not be accepted.

## External Vacancy Announcement 05/08

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified applicants for the position of the Assistant Project Officer safe Motherhood at NOB level based in Ibb, Aden, Taiz and Dhala'a. Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Project officer - Safe Motherhood (L-4), the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

**Responsibilities:**

1. In close collaboration with Monitoring & Evaluation section supervises activities leading to the preparation of the situation analysis for program development on Montreal and Neonatal Health (MNH) and periodically updates by monitoring and analyzing the social, political and economic trends in the country that affect services to women and children;
2. Assist in formulating program goals and objectives and develops strategies and implementation frameworks for (MNH) in close cooperation with relevant government department and other partners involved in (MNH) projects. Coordinates preparation of all related documentation for funding, reporting and advocacy;
3. Assist in providing guidance and direction for program planning, implementation and analysis through ongoing consultations with various units, especially on general policy direction and program management;
4. Meeting with government officials as well as multi-lateral and bi-lateral agencies, to advocate and promote UNICEF policies on safe motherhood and Neonatal care, its program goals and objectives, and communicate with major partners on (MNH) situation in the country. Participates in meetings with government ministries responsible for program/project development and

reviews, and follow-up on the implementation of recommendations and agreements;

5. Establishes program work-plans, monitors compliance and provides training, support and guidance to the perform team in order to meet objectives. Identifies human resources requirements a non going staff development and reviews, and follows-up on the implementation partners;
6. Monitors the overall allocation and disbursement of program funds, making sure that fund are properly coordinated, monitored and liquidated in accordance with the Program Budget Allotment (PBA);
7. Draft relevant program reports required for management, the Executive Board, donors, budget reviews, program analysis, annual reports, etc.

**Qualifications:**

- University degree in Public Health, Maternal & Child Health, or Community medicine.
- Five years of progressively professional work experience at the national levels in health, social development or management.
- Fluency in English and Arabic language is required.
- Computer skills, including internet navigation and various office applications required.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with their CV to the **Operations Officer, UNICEF, Sana'a, P.O. Box 725. Applications received after October 29, 2005 will not be considered.**

UNICEF encourages qualified women candidates to apply. UNICEF is a non-smoking environment.

## External Vacancy Announcement #05/09

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) invites applications from qualified applicants for the position of a Project Officer (NOC) based in Sana'a. Under the overall guidance and supervision of the Project Officer - Health (L-4), the incumbent shall perform the following main responsibilities:

**Responsibilities:**

1. Contribute to health facility based assessment of service delivery infrastructure for safe motherhood in target governorates by implementing baseline surveys in order to identify existing service delivery and gaps in safe motherhood services. This will include assessment of human resources capacity and technical services offered and needs including equipments, infrastructure and budget;
2. Facilitate community based baseline surveys to assess the existing coverage with safe motherhood services in target governorates with a view to identifying existing demand and potential gaps in service delivery infrastructure;
3. Review existing recording and reporting system on safe motherhood at different levels of health care providers with a view to identifying the gaps and improving the recording, reporting and feedback mechanisms for improving service delivery;
4. Implement community based action research on safe motherhood services with a view to identifying best practices and weak links to help promote positive behaviors and discouraging harmful practices, and to initiate mechanisms for listening to the voices of women that influence the content of the program;
5. Identify training needs among various levels of service providers at the peripheral health units and referral hospitals;
6. Contribute to establishment of various mechanisms for receiving and giving feedback from and to different levels of service providers and sharing of information which could include publications including e-bulletins and discussions forums;

7. Assist in establishing a safe motherhood database at ministry, governorate and district levels with a view to improving planning coverage with safe motherhood services. This would include database to catchments population by districts and use of safe motherhood services;
8. Provide technical support to Ministry of Public Health, Counterparts and to selected Governorate(s) in assessing the EMOC services;
9. In consultation with EMOC experts, local leaders and educational institutions identify target audience for advocacy for promotion of maternal health an safe delivery practices. The target audience may include in and out of school adolescent girls (married and unmarried) with view to enlisting future generations for safe delivery practices, mother-in-laws, general female population and males members of society especially husbands.

**Qualifications:**

- Advance university degree in any of the following: Public health, community medicine, social sciences. MCH and GYN-Obstetric background are an asset.
- Five years of progressively responsible experience at professional level in a related field in support of development projects, M&E.
- Proven experience of working in a multicultural environment.
- Good knowledge of common computer applications.
- Fluency in English and Arabic.

Interested and qualified candidates should send their application along with the curriculum vitae to the **Operations Officer, UNICEF Sana'a, P.O. Box 725, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen. Applications received after 28th of October 2005 will not be considered.**

UNICEF encourages qualified women candidates to apply. UNICEF is a non-smoking environment.

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its project "Strengthening National Human Rights Capacity"



**Post Title: Human Rights Project Assistant (SC-5) Responsibilities**

- Assist the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) in managing the project's office (including filing) and local staff.
- Assist the CTA in managing of all financial operations of the project and its office, missions costs, payments to local suppliers, etc; and follow up with UNDP country office as required.
- Provision of equipment, both to the project office and to the project partners.
- Assist the project experts and consultants to liaise with UNDP country office, local partners, authorities and NGOs.
- Prepare background materials, briefing notes for meetings and missions.
- Provide international experts with translation and/or interpretation services (English/Arabic), as and when necessary.
- Oversee and ensure the provision of logistics support to international short-term experts and missions as required.
- Assist CTA with the preparation and production of project reports.
- Undertake any other tasks assigned by the CTA.

**Qualification**

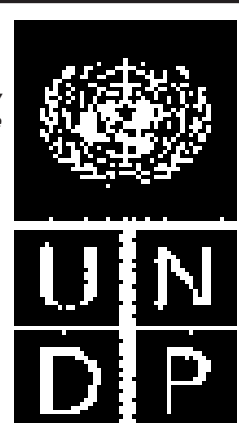
- A minimum of a university degree.
- Excellent command of Arabic and English.
- Excellent communication and writing skills in both languages.
- Proficiency in standard computer software (especially MS Office) and ability to use the internet.
- 3 to 5 years experience in working with UNDP or similar projects preferably in managing both administrative and financial aspects.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: [registry.ye@undp.org](mailto:registry.ye@undp.org)  
The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 22nd October 2005

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following positions with its project "Integrated Framework" to work with the three following Ministries:



- Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
- Ministry of Fish Wealth
- Ministry of Trade and Industry

**I. Post Title: National Project Manager SC-NO-A/B (three posts)**

**Responsibilities**

1. Responsible for strategic planning and implementation of the project activities to agreed timescales.
2. Monitor the progress of the project activities against the work plan, and recommends and implements remedial actions as appropriate.
3. Manage the National Project Personnel.
4. Assesses, prescribe and manages the changes which may be necessary in staffing, procedures, office layouts, and budgets.
5. Oversees the building refurbishment project.
6. Controls, with technical assistance as necessary, the building of the project.
7. Co-ordinates the national training activities related to the project implementation.
8. Arranges co-ordination with other Government Departments, and other bodies, which will be affected by the introduction of the project.
9. Ensure that the monthly progress reports and the six-monthly project reports as set out in the project document and its annexes are produced and distributed.
10. Attend Board of Directors meeting when requested.
11. Perform other duties that related to the IF projects, when requested.

**Qualification**

1. Five years experience as a senior manager.
2. Good experience in Government administrative structure.
3. Excellent command of Arabic and English.

**II. Post Title: Information Technology Experts SC-NO-A/B (three posts in Ministry of Trade and Industry)**

**Responsibilities**

1. To assist the project team in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and to oversee the management of the system and the implementation of national applications such as the creation of national applications control files and statistical databases, and to ensure that full system testing is carried out.
2. The NIT shall act as a full contact point for the project on all technical aspects.
3. The three IT experts shall take the responsibility of designing the web site forms and format, design the Intra-net as well as the link inside the ministry and take care of all training issues of the project.
4. To co-ordinate the procurement of computer equipment.
5. To take on the responsibilities of system maintenance, control of hardware and software and maintenance contracts.
6. To act as coordinator between the computer service in the project, Ministry of Trade and Industry and; and the Ministry's branches.
7. To assist with system testing and parallel running, assisting with the production of test data where required, and to help with the results of the testing phase.
8. Responsible for implementation phase, for installation of the system at the Ministry, day to day running, control of updates to control tables, electronic payments of fees, and documentation, integration and statistical files etc...

**Qualification**

- Graduation from a recognized post-secondary institute with a degree or diploma in one of the following areas or equivalent experience:
1. Programming
  2. System analysis and design
  3. Applied operational programming
  4. Computer science
  5. A good working knowledge of operating system including DOS and AIX UNIX
  6. At least three years experience in the C language and/or Database systems (RDBMS)

**III. Post Title: Bilingual Secretary /Administrative Assistant SC-5 (three posts)**

**Responsibilities**

1. Maintain all project files and records.
2. Typing all types of correspondence (Arabic & English) and reports.
3. Takes minutes of the meeting and distribution.
4. Assist in the procurement of goods and services for the project as required and in accordance with the project work plan.
5. Maintain update project inventory records.
6. Prepare quarterly financial reports, and maintain updated expenditure control and managing the financial bookkeeping and filing.
7. Organize meetings for the project management and participate in organizing in-country workshop and other related training activities.
8. Perform other tasks related to the project assignment by project management.

**Qualification**

1. Knowledge of UNDP rules and procedures in Administration and personnel matters.
2. Ability to use word-processing software in Arabic and English.
3. A good knowledge of English is essential and shorthand skills desirable.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

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The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 22nd October 2005



Can one man handle two women?

# Polygamy

By HAKIM ALMASMARI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
Hakim\_Almasmari@hotmail.com

Since ancient times, people have been indulging in polygamy. It's more commonly known as "Multi-wives marriage". As early as the 2nd century, Arabs and Jews had hundreds of wives. Some of God's prophets practiced polygamy including Dawood, Yacoub, Soloman, and Mohammed (Peace be upon them all). However, since the beginning of time, no society has ever put restrictions for multiple marriages, until Islam put its borders to the maximum of four wives. Even during the prophet hood of Jesus and Moses (Peace be upon them), polygamy was widely practiced by the Jews and neither restrictions nor conditions were set to limit ones greed. What many people don't understand is why Islam has made polygamy lawful? Not many know that polygamy was widely practiced among many Christians around the world as recently as the 17th century, and was accepted completely by the Christian Church. Christians of Latter Day Saint even practiced polygamy in the heart of the United States as late as the 1900's!

Unfortunately, early Christians had an awkward mentality towards women, as they believed that women were "full of sin" and in no way equal to man, while Islam made women equal with men in almost every aspect of life. In Islam a woman is pictured as a precious jewel, which cannot be touched only by the one whom is chosen to be her husband. On the other hand, in many western countries, when problems erupt between married couples, the husband simply decides to cheat on his wife with either a friend or even a prostitute, indulging in unlawful actions, while women stay sincere to their husbands unknowing what is happening behind the scenes.

Wars continuously cause the number of women to greatly exceed the number of men, due to the high number of casualties. In these situations, women are left without husbands or financial support for



their families, forcing them to resort to prostitution or prohibited relationships with other men, resulting in children who do not know their father, while having the women bear the outcome in all situations. When women are dealt like sexual instruments, which are only valuable until sexual passion is taken, what royalty and respect could women have. The main priority in marriage is having a relationship filled with love, respect, and happiness, while creating a society where the needs of both man and woman are well taken care of. Children will be raised between the hands of their parents and enjoy a life of love and dignity, rather than spend most of their childhood in an orphanage or a foster home.

The present western society allows unlimited free sex between adults, causing the horrifying problem of fatherless children being raised by unmarried teenage women. This is not what love is about. Islam advises people to marry and furthermore develop a genuine family structure. It also understands the requirements and necessities of a society and in certain issues allows polygamy when it could be a solution to the many problems, which nowadays seem inescapable. Last year in a survey held between married couples in the United States, it revealed that thirty-five percent of married couples admitted cheating on their partner on numerous occasions. It appears that American men are getting their sexual

desire in some way or another, while on the other hand getting away with not having to bear with the outcome of these short relationships, like pregnancy and the numerous diseases that could follow. For this, Islam allows multiple marriages, limiting the number to four wives, but surely does not require or recommend polygamy. I think the American law protects men, allowing them to play around with other women. Even in situations when women have abortion, they are still the ones who suffer from the different side effects, diseases, and excessive pain, while men continue to enjoy life free of worries. Multiple marriage is really opposed by the majority of men in the United States since it would force them to bare responsibilities of sex with other women as well as protect and support the women who fall prey in their sexual hunt.

Islam has even given women special rights concerning polygamy marriage, as they could include to the marriage contact their disapproval of having the husband do such an action.

In conclusion, Islam does not encourage polygamy, but rather keeps it as a solution for the many problems we face in everyday life, thus giving permission but in the same time discouraging it. "You will never be able to deal justly with wives how much you desire to do so. But if you have more than one wife do not turn altogether away from one, leaving her in suspense" Quran 4: 129.

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Al-Qabaita Cooperation Chairtable Society, Hodeida Branch

# Activities and functions, goals and ambitions

By JAMAL ABDULLAH NASHER

**D**uring the holy month of Ramadan, numerous charitable societies pursue a variety of activities to contribute to alleviating the burdens of livings upon citizens. These societies, including Al-Qabaita Cooperation Chairtable Society- Hodeida Branch, which proved to be a successful example in the distribution of charities, do other activities in favor of citizens.

Al-Qabaita Cooperation Chairtable Society- Hodeida Branch could contribute in an effective and touchable way to maturing public awareness about the importance of the charitable work and the implementation of successful social and charitable projects although the society's management suffers want of training and financial support.

The society's workers' love to pursue the charitable work, confidence and reliability of its workers, relying on the foundational and democratic style in management and giving more priority to projects that directly address the needs of citizens are among the reasons behind the society's successful achievements.

Those who knew about the society's activities would undoubtedly have a good impression about such an establishment that could overcome any difficulties facing it and achieve a



variety of successful works although it suffers from a lack of finance.

Supported by philanthropists, the society adopted the project of orphan care that covered 24 handicapped kids and established a charitable building for locals in al-Qabaita District. The third floor of the three-storeyed building was allocated a hostel for university students. Contained in the building, there is the project of Ramadan Free Clinic that offers medical services for 1250 people, as well as the foodstuff project

that distributes wheat, flour, rice, oil and sugar to 112 families. There is also the Ramadan feast project in the society's building, and beneficiaries from the project number between 60-90 per day during the holy month of Ramadan.

Covered by the society's activities is the schoolbag project which extends benefits to 140 male and female students, the cloth project which distributed suits and different kinds of dresses to 8672 people during the years 22- 23- 24- 1425 in the

Hegira Calendar, with a total cost of 5.3 million Yemeni rials and the project of date distribution during the holy month of Ramadan.

Despite the fact the society has so far scored successful accomplishments, there are some obstacles and difficulties, such as the lack of financial support, that encounter its ambitions.

Ambitions of the society have no limit but they go beyond the scope of the charitable work and alleviating the suffering of people.

The society has the ambition of conducting studies and creating quick solutions for any issues, as well as implementing many service and developmental projects that have a direct relation with the lives of citizens. In coordination with charitable people, the society provides care for a large number of orphans and homeless children.

It extends assistance for youth who are unable to pay the cost of marriage and the talented students who face financial difficulties that hinder their progress. One of its important achievements is the establishment of a training center for orphans and talented students.

## Half the World

By Nisha



# Women and the Media

**A**cross the world, media has been male dominated. Even in the developed countries and countries with relatively lesser gender disparity in public sphere media policies and institutions are mostly in the hands of men – that means it is men who decide how women are going to be presented through the media. Since men lead media houses, they tend to hire men and when they do hire women they are generally allotted responsibilities related to subjects such as health, culture, beauty, make-up, fashion, family, cooking, and the like. Subjects like politics, economy, business, crime, etc are generally allocated to men. This lopsided hiring and allocation of responsibilities reinforces the traditional gender relations and division of labour. The reinforcement in turn helps continuation of stereotypical presentation of women and marginalization of the issues affecting women. Presence and visibility of women in important positions in the media, therefore, is significant for development of women in the society. Poor number of women in the media also makes the women who are in the media more vulnerable to attacks and exploitation.

It is, therefore, important that women's participation in media is analyzed in terms of the impact of poor representation of women on women's development in the society. Media is an important means by which women can participate in public debates, get people to hear their views, gain support for their concerns and make decisions about how they want themselves to be portrayed. Equally significant is to find out levels at which women work in the media and the implications of those findings on their ability to make a change in the hiring policies and practices, issues to be covered or given importance and the nature of representation of women.

In Yemen, there are limited numbers of women in the media. Very few of those who are in the media are far from senior or decision-making positions. Women are not seen capable of covering 'hard news'. That means the number of women hired by the media is linked to the size of space and air/broadcast time currently allotted to 'soft news' like health, culture, beauty, makeup, fashion, family, cooking. Since women's literacy in Yemen is very low and traditionally women do not read newspapers, they are not considered significant readers by the print media. Consequently, coverage of women's issue other than those mentioned so far is not seen as important and profitable or worth higher investment. The unwillingness to expand the coverage of women's issues presents another challenge to women who want to work in the media. Even the few women who are in responsible position in the media are forced to operate in the traditional system out of fear that a major departure from the tradition may bring economic losses which would jeopardize their position and the positions of their media houses. But it is important to note that these women do try in whatever way possible to improve the coverage of women's issues and to widen the scope of issues which are associated with women. For example, the series 'Half the World' which includes articles on issues affecting women was started by the first woman editor of Yemen Times who wanted part of the newspaper space to be used for improving the understanding of issues that affect women. Another issue which needs to be noted is that along with numerical

under-representation of women in the media that affects their capacity to make a change, the near isolation of media women further weakens their negotiation power. Thankfully, in Yemen, there is a recent and growing move among media women to link with the women's organizations and forming their own networks.

One of the major factors behind poor presence and participation of women in the media and media's decision-making structures is the continuation of the tendency among men to see women as subordinate to them. Such attitudes are manifest in the media being predominantly led by men and women being viewed as a section of society which can move up and down economically but their socio-cultural status in the society remains low and static. These biases cause gender-based discriminations against women and reinforce stereotypical attitudes, result in harassment at workplace, inequities in remuneration and retirement age, unfair treatment in assignments and promotions, no provision to accommodate women's family responsibilities, and lack of support mechanisms for women journalists to take up challenging assignments. Such biases also ensure that training in journalism does not train students or apprentices to apply a gender perspective while covering issues. It also works against any consideration being given to challenging gender biased attitudes at the work place.

Another factor that is responsible for exclusion of substantial number of women from the media is women's lack of access to education and restrictions on mobility and for those women who do not face these two problems there are issues like absence of institutions that could help them gain requisite qualifications, poor or lack of access to new technologies. This is especially true of interior areas within governorates and rural areas. Since training women in unconventional vocations is not really on the agenda of either public or private sector there is little commitment to address barriers that prevent women from accessing new technologies and to take the training programmes to women.

One of the ways that would help in turning around the situation is filling the policy gap that does not address poor presence of women in the media, and sexist and stereotyped coverage, representation and portrayal of women by the media. Existing media codes and guidelines are mainly framed around questions of relationship between the state and the media. It is more about control and regulation of media as a potential threat to the ruling power rather than recognising the media as a tool of social transformation. As mentioned earlier, there have been some efforts to maintain self-enforced concern for gender issues by individual media houses but there are no common and standard mechanisms to regulate media content at large. The government takes little responsibility for regulation of media to prevent gender stereotyping and there is a lack of legal framework to promote gender equal practices in the media houses. Another step which must go alongside is that the society, especially media houses and the decision-makers in the government are educated about the need and rationale behind increasing women's participation and decision-making in the media. Otherwise, like any other effort to improve women's condition in Yemen, this demand may also get interpreted as women's desire to dominate and control or an attempt to attack culture.

# Dubai International take over Aden Port

ADEN Oct. 8 - An executive in the Free Zone expects that the final pass of Aden port to Dubai International will be during this October. A Yemeni Organization in London has at the same time re-appealed to the World Bank to make it stop the Yemeni government's negotiations with the company.

Dr. Mohamed Al-Widhn, deputy of the General Authority for the Free Zones, told 'Shora net' that negotiations are continuing with Dubai International Company, which

according to the agreement will be responsible for operating the container port in Aden.

Dr. Al-Wadhn said 'the pass of the port will be in next January as planned.'

Yemeni Human Rights Watch in Britain has requested the World Bank 'to exert pressure to stop the negotiations' with the company, as the World Bank is an international organization that supervises the Yemeni reform program.

In a letter to the Deputy Manager

of The World Bank, Michael Cline, Yemeni Human Rights Watch alleged that the negotiations between the Yemeni government and the company are suspicious, and that the organization possesses documents that prove both this and discrepancies in interests between Dubai port and Aden port.

Dr. Al-Wadhn from the Aden Free Zone said 'Our files are open for any internal or external bodies'.

Parliamentary sources are skeptic of the Dubai Company's intentions of developing Aden Port, because it will happen on the expense of other ports, especially the Dubai Free Zone. The two ports are supposed to be rivals.

MP Al-Wajeeh accused the government of ignoring the vital economical general welfare. He added that he is skeptical because of personal interests that took place behind closed doors, pointing out that the economic faults of the government have increased.

Dubai International and local investors have won a 35 years bid of operating Aden Container port for \$85.5 million in rent, in addition to \$400 million for technical and construction appliances.

Dubai International owns 51% of the shares of Aden Company, while other local investors own 49%. On top of these local investors is the Saudi businessman Ahmed Abdullah Bog Shan, who is of Yemeni origin. Yemeni Human Rights Watch in Britain accuses government officials of plotting to knock down the bid on Dubai International, in spite of the fact that a Kuwaiti bid was \$4924 million.

Lufti Shatara from the organization said that they will hand over their documents to the World Bank, confirming that their documents will be enough to cancel the agreement. Lufti Shatara confirmed the fact that deal between ministers in the government and the Dubai International and its partner

Bogshan, was a prior agreement.

Reliable sources confirmed that the Ministers of Finance, Planning and Development and Telecommunication led the negotiations with the company, which is headed by PM Abulqadir Ba-jamal.

Dr. Al-Wadhn from the Aden Free zone said that there were no objections from any of the companies engaged in the bid, following the winning of Dubai International. He said that the World Bank participated through a financial representative, adding that the World Bank is aware of the transparency of the bid and their documents.

Britain based Yemeni Human Rights Watch is doubtful that the company can and will live up to their commitment of receiving 700 thousand containers in its first year and 900 thousands in the second year. The organization assesses that the eminent maximum capacity of the port will not exceed 500 thousand. The 700 thousand capacity needs extra equipments that could not be available within two months.

Dubai International now runs the ports of Jabal Ali, Djibouti Islamic Jeddah and in near future also Aden port. This will undermine any future competitive power for Aden port. An expert study from the World Bank confirmed that the development of Aden and Salaleh ports endanger the future development of Dubai Free Zone.

The government terminated the contract of Singapore Yemen Vest (and paid it a compensation of \$200 million), after ten years of the contract, whose viciousness parliamentarians and economists warned about ten years ago.

Local sources in Aden report that the ex-Singapore manager of Yemen Vest became manager for the Free Zone for \$100 thousand a month, as the assets of the company became a Free Zone property.

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Words of Wisdom



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

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



OUR OPINION

Current Yemeni economy overview

Yemen Economic Update is a quarterly report published by the World Bank discussing economic and policy developments in Yemen quarterly. The update also discusses the World Bank's projects in Yemen as well as new legislation, publications, data, conferences or donor activities taking place in Yemen. It is a good reference in evaluating the economic and development progress in Yemen, especially from a donor point of view. The latest Update of Spring 2005 highlighted the fact that Yemen's macroeconomic outcomes show increasing fragility, deterioration in the policy and institutional environment and continued delay in implementing reform proposals in the 2005 budget raises concern.

The report identified the weaknesses in the Yemeni economy through the decelerating GDP growth, widening primary non-oil fiscal deficit, persisting double-digit inflation and the rapidly dwindling of the current account surpluses.

In the context of increasing fragility of macroeconomic outcomes, Yemen's overall institutional and policy environment has slightly deteriorated in 2004 according to the World Bank. Policy and institutional environment in all the four clusters - economic management, structural policies, social inclusion and equity, and public sector management - witnessed some deterioration. The weakness in economic management is seen mainly in limited use of monetary policy to contain inflation and insufficient efforts to rein in fiscal deficit. In the structural area, though Yemen's trade policy is not restrictive, underdeveloped financial system and stifling business regulatory environment are the problem areas. In the social inclusion and equity cluster, Yemen's weak record in promoting gender equality, and unaddressed agenda of reforms in the health sector weigh down on ratings. Finally, in the public sector management and institutions cluster, stalled and slow reforms of budgetary and financial management and the need to improve transparency, accountability and integrity call for lowered rating.

The alarming point raised in the report was that even if reforms in budget 2005 are implemented, the challenge of long-term growth will remain. Through the fiscal reforms in budget proposal for 2005 are badly needed, these will not be enough to face up to the medium-term challenges of growth. The looming crises of decline in oil production is a very big challenge facing the Yemeni economy. By most counts, according to the report, removing petroleum subsidies and introducing general sales tax would yet leave a large fiscal and BOP gap un-bridged. This would call for more determined efforts to identify and sequence reforms in the areas of governance and investment climate to reap the potential for growth on sectors such as fisheries, tourism and possibly gas exports.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf  
Editor-in-Chief



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

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:  
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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The indispensable UN

By JOSEPH STIGLITZ

The United Nations' sixtieth anniversary summit in September reflected its strengths and importance in the many areas in which the international community must work together. Unfortunately, the summit also exposed the UN's weaknesses and limitations.

Founded at the end of World War II to prevent another major disaster of that kind, the UN has now vastly expanded its mandate beyond peacekeeping, as important as that is. For instance, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), adopted at the UN Millennium summit five years ago, proclaimed the international community's resolve to reduce poverty in all of its manifestations and set concrete goals to be achieved by 2015.

Reaching political consensus on such complex issues is never easy, given the diversity of interests that must be addressed. Success requires diplomacy and patience, and the UN's latest summit continued the march forward in the creation of a community of nations responsible for the well being of all.

To be sure, the attempt by America's new UN ambassador, John Bolton, to introduce hundreds of last-minute changes to the summit's concluding declaration doomed the agreement - perhaps deliberately - to being less comprehensive and forceful than had been hoped. Indeed, Bolton even wanted to eliminate any reference to the MDG.

Nevertheless, even the United States had to give way in the end to this moral imperative. The summit's declaration also enunciated, in refined diplomatic language, new rights and obligations concerning international intervention in a country's internal matters, as in Darfur. We are, it seems, at last becoming a world in which each of us is our brother's keeper.

Some have suggested that the Iraq war proved the UN's irrelevance. On the contrary, I believe that the Iraq

debacle underscores the value of the UN, and the need to strengthen it further. Let's not forget that, within the limits of its powers, the UN worked. It was asked to judge whether there was an imminent threat to world peace requiring pre-emptive military action. After reviewing the evidence, it concluded that the case for going to war had not been made, while the risk of turmoil - about which most experts in the region warned - almost certainly weighed on the deliberations.

Since then, evidence has mounted not only that there were no weapons of mass destruction, but that the American and British governments provided deceptive, distorted, and misleading information. Similarly, the evidence is overwhelming that there was little if any link between Iraq and Al-Qaeda - at least before the war.

In other words, deliberative democracy - perhaps our most important safeguard against headstrong and reckless action - worked at the UN, but not in the US. Unfortunately, the UN could not prevent the US and other countries from taking actions that almost surely contravene international law.

The story since then is well known. When weapons of mass destruction were not found, the US and its small (and dwindling) "coalition of the willing" conjured up a new rationale - the struggle for democracy. But if that were the objective, clearly a long list of countries should have been drawn up, and it is hardly certain that Iraq would have come out on top. Replacing repressive dictatorships would, in fact, represent a vast expansion of the UN's mandate, one that I suspect the US would not support.

More to the point, it did not bode well for a supposedly democratizing project to reject democratic processes at the UN. The US had made it clear that it would abide by only one outcome at the UN - a principle under which no democratic body can operate, for to insist that a decision must accord with the wishes of one member is dictatorship. Subsequent events have shown how dif-

ficult it is - even for the strongest country in the world - to impose a stable democratic regime.

Iraq thus showed both the strength and the limitations of the UN. Inevitably, its major source of strength is moral suasion. Even most Americans were reluctant to enter Iraq without the UN's blessing. The democratic deliberative process worked, and it yielded the right answer. This should enhance confidence in the UN.

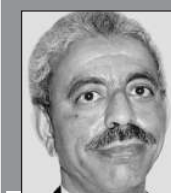
But the UN needs to be strengthened, by, for example, funding a permanent peacekeeping force. Too often, UN peacekeeping missions require passing the hat among the advanced industrial countries, giving them virtual veto power over when, where, and how the UN acts.

At the same time, a strengthened economic and social security council would enable the UN to shape more effectively debates about reforming the global economic and financial system. Today, by contrast, such debates are too often centered at the IMF, where the financial interests of the advanced industrial countries predominate.

These reforms will eventually come. Globalization has meant closer international integration, and that in turn has meant a greater need for collective action. The UN is the international institution created for that purpose, and as the world changes, the UN must change with it. But meaningful reform will almost surely have to await an American administration that is committed to global democracy in deed as well as rhetoric.

Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, is Professor of Economics at Columbia University and was Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to President Clinton and Chief Economist and Senior Vice President at the World Bank. His most recent book is *The Roaring Nineties: A New History of the World's Most Prosperous Decade*.

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COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The Truth Gets a Deserved Recognition

Congratulations Mr. El-Baradei

The Nobel Prize Committee was right in announcing that the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize should go to one of the most importantly international agencies for the promotion of peace and the elimination of the use of weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, its accompanying recognition of the head of this agency, Mohammed El-Baradei, the stalwart upholder of the truth and his firm commitment to objectivity, rational judgment and his fair appraisal of the countless charges and countercharges amidst an international atmosphere of misguided belligerency is worthy of praise as well. Needless to say, the General Manager of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), one of the many specialized agencies of the United Nations, is indeed managing one of the toughest international portfolios. The sensitive matter of nuclear proliferation, with all its complex technical and diplomatic intricacies is simply not a very easy chore for any man (or woman) to tackle. With a world now under the mercy of a single Superpower that possesses the biggest arsenal of destructive ordnance and run by an Administration that has its own ominous outlooks of the present world and the world to come, Mr. El-Baradei is not in any enviable position, especially as a Moslem Arab. In the context of the latter, this affiliation is subject to excruciating pressure from his own people, as well as the United States and Israel and to a lesser extent the other members of the "Western Alliance".

One of the most important factors going for Mr. El-Baradei was his relentless insistence not to fall for the pre Iraq invasion deception by the United States on the alleged eminent threat that Iraq posed as a possessor, or would be possessor of WMD, that his professional assessment could not lead to any affirmation of such innuendos. In short, there was no need for any drastic violent action to bring Iraq to heel and all the fictitious intelligence packages drawn up by the Administration of George W. Bush to seek international legitimacy and favor for its intended submission to the ill advice of its mentors in the International Zionist Establishment, were nowhere to be seen on the ground, or the drawing boards of the Iraqi regime. The result was an American Administration that lied to the entire world and which refused to take note of the observations of experts mandated by the international community to come out with an honest appraisal of the real risks posed by Iraq, if any. For Mr. El-Baradei it seemed a tough choice to make: succumb to the make believe realities that power wielders, with bad intents, insist on showing down the throat of all of humanity or else face the possibility of loosing favor with a decisive voice in most of the agencies that are supposed to regulate the behavior of nations. The IAEA General Manager wisely stuck to his conscience first, and second to upholding his professional integrity. Like his counterpart in the non-nuclear WMD search in Iraq, Mr. Blitz, he decided to speak his mind after having scrupulously searched the field for hard facts and evidence, which would give the entire world the truth about Iraq's WMD standing: There were no grounds for any acts of belligerency against Iraq and it would have been wiser to save Iraq from the ugly bloody mess that we are now seeing on a daily basis. The obvious displeasure of the position of the United Nations teams (IAEA and UNSCOM) was bound to bring trouble to Mr. El-Baradei, as he was facing initial US opposition to his continuing management of the IAEA. But, even with such delicate factors going against him, Mr. El-Baradei continues to defiantly insist that war drums should be put away when seeking to achieve a stop to the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and Iran is no exception to this wise attitude. But, apparently the United States is inclined to beat its war drums on anyone that is especially disliked by Israel, even if it means shifting the orientations of the Global War on Terror to accommodate this attitude of ongoing hostility that is nurtured by Israel and her influential lobby in the United States. Still, because of the strength of the truth and the excellent team work inspired by El-Baradei's leadership of the IAEA, the efforts of the United States to seek a finale to El-Baradei's tenure as head of the IAEA was reluctantly abandoned, as there was no anybody found ready to succumb to superpower hegemony and to turn the important work of the IAEA into a superficial abstract routine of deceptive intelligence photos and make shift eyewitness accounts that have no sound backing on the ground.

The Nobel Committee insisted that the decision to give the award to El-Baradei and his professional team of some 2000 dedicated and demonstratively objective and diligent monitors of nuclear proliferation had nothing to do with the stand of El-Baradei vis a vis the United States both on Iraq and on Iran. The Committee stated that its decision was purely based on an assessment of merits and a firm belief that the IAEA should continue following the same methodic and objective appraisal of the nuclear positions in the world. The work of the IAEA must continue along the same professional foundations and the IAEA should never regard itself as a tool for international engineering of any kind, even if pushed for by the Global Superpower. That was the inherent statement of the Nobel Prize Committee. The world has not lost sanity and continues to believe that nations must pursue peaceful means to achieving the world peace that will help nations mobilize their resources for the betterment of their people's lives. Belligerence only breeds belligerence and contempt for those who pursue their own ambitious agendas under misleading pretenses that seek to misrepresent facts so they can pursue their own non-peaceful mischievous quests. Even superpowers are not immune to being told that they have to be on the level with the rest of humanity. They should also give the institutions that the international community has mandated to keep the behavior of nations under watch a chance to exercise that mandate without pressure and hindrance. In addition, the IAEA should work towards finding ways to bring under some regulation those countries that have yet to relinquish the destructive powers that often give the basis for their chauvinistic drives. After all it is senseless to make noise about a country that has yet to possess any destructive nuclear capability, while Israel already possesses a real threatening arsenal of nuclear weapons and does not even recognize the IAEA or the importance of its work. This is the obvious hypocrisy that one sees in US policy in the region, as it succumbs to the policies dictated by Israel vis a vis Iran (and Syria and others), while it refuses to even suggest that Israel is the last one to be trusted with nuclear capability as its whole mischievous existence is based on the elimination of an entire indigenous population.



# Burma's drug lord generals

By JON UNGPHAKORN

The news blackout imposed by Burma's military junta on its decision to forego its turn as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year shows that it has received a severe blow to its prestige. Indeed, the decision was far from voluntary. Junta leader Senior General Than Shwe "lost face" and promptly disappeared from public view so completely that some Burmese thought he had died.

The protagonists that pressured the regime into relinquishing the ASEAN chair were not the usual Western human rights campaigners, but Burma's closest ASEAN neighbors. This must have made the retreat doubly painful for the generals, as ASEAN was previously one of the junta's strongest shields against international pressure.

For ASEAN, the episode was a lesson in assertiveness. It showed that persistent pressure works better than the "constructive engagement" that it had pursued, to no avail, for the eight years since Burma joined the organization.

This shift has been led by an embryonic grouping of elected regional parliamentarians known as the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Democracy in Myanmar (AIPMC), of which I am a member. Established last November to spur progress on democratization in Burma, parliamentarians from

Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Cambodia took the unprecedented step of crossing national and party lines to review critically ASEAN policy on Burma, seek the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, and disqualify Burma from chairing.

Now, we will move for the suspension of Burma's membership of ASEAN unless Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners are released and clear progress towards democracy is made through negotiations involving the Aung's National League for Democracy and representatives of the various ethnic groups.

As elected legislators in ASEAN's established and budding democracies, the members of AIPMC feel that our voices have merit and legitimacy. We know that Burma's political destiny is inextricably linked to that of our own countries.

When Burma joined ASEAN in 1997, there were only 210,000 Burmese refugees and asylum seekers throughout the region. Now, nearly one million people have fled Burma's political and economic chaos for neighboring countries, and another million people remain internally displaced. Our youth are at an all-time high risk of drug addiction from the massive flow of narcotics, particularly amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS), from Burma, while the generals there maintain congenial ties with notorious drug lords.

In mid-September, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime admitted that Burma and China were the world's top

producers of ATS. Amphetamine drugs produced in eastern Burma seem to be transported with such ease that significant quantities have been found in northeast India, on Burma's western border. That, together with the heroin that is trafficked from Burma to India, China, Thailand, and other countries in the region, poses a serious threat to our political and economic security.

It is both tragic and inevitable that the areas of India and China bordering Burma now suffer from those countries' highest concentration of drug addiction and HIV infection. My own country, Thailand, receives up to 900 million amphetamine pills from Burma every year, and about a third of our regular

drug users are below the age of 16. If this is the impact on Thailand, what about the young people and children of Burma, who have been restricted from access to education, information, and health care?

It is scandalous that drug lords enjoy more freedom to operate than aid agencies, while basic access to food, education, and health care suffers many restrictions, with up to 70% of Burma's children are chronically malnourished in some border areas.

Indeed, in August, World Food Program Executive Director James Morris revealed that the WFP had delivered only 430 tons of the 5,500 tons of rice earmarked for vulnerable people in Burma's northern Arakan State because of restrictions imposed by the regime. Two weeks later, the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS,

Tuberculosis, and Malaria pulled its funding for programs in Burma, citing government restrictions that had created "an impossibly difficult environment."

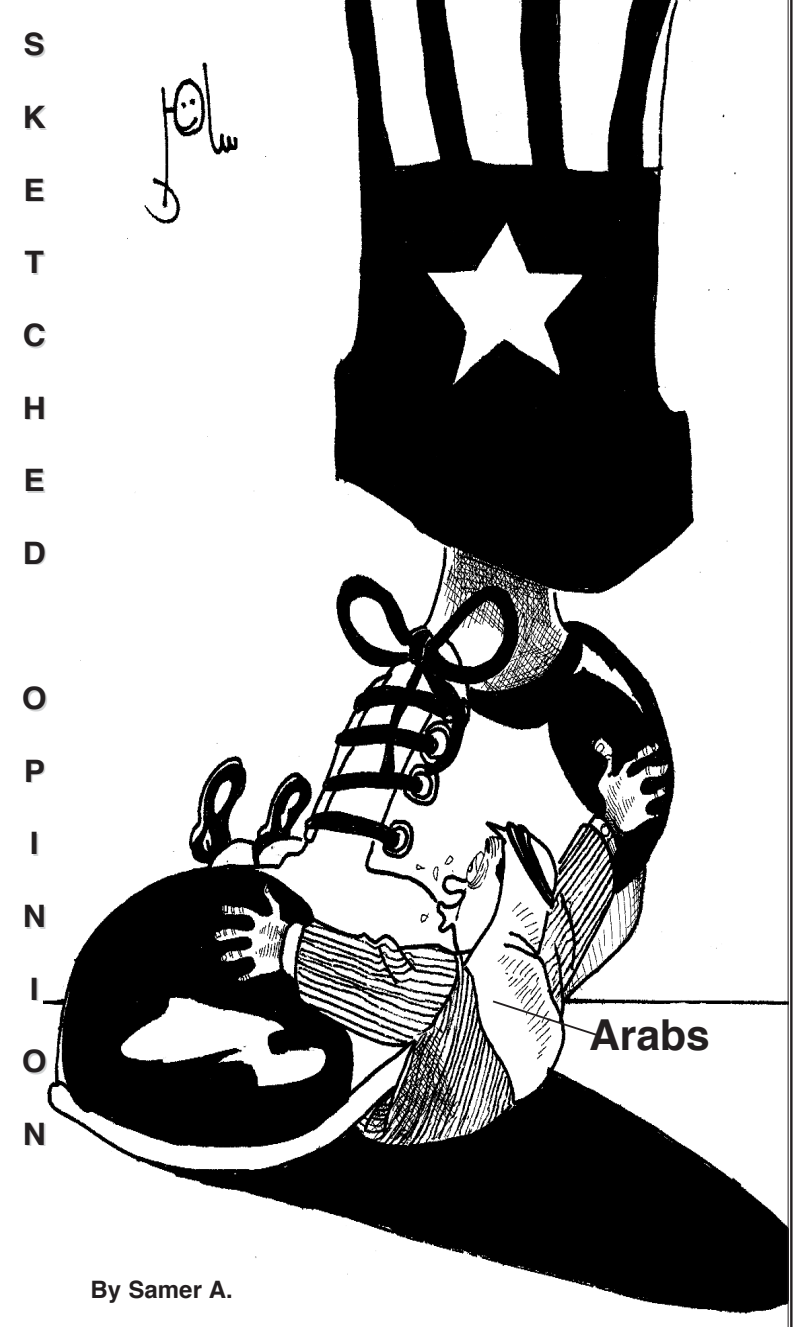
Preventing aid from reaching those in need is bad enough. But Burma's regime actually perpetuates conditions that sustain and worsen the HIV/AIDS epidemic by restricting access to counseling, medication, and other support services. In order for HIV/AIDS programs to be effective and sustainable, affected communities must have the freedom to organize and empower themselves. Only then can they be assured access to the resources essential for treatment options.

Aung San Suu Kyi's eloquent plea, "Please use your liberty to promote ours," has special resonance for us in AIPMC, who enjoy the benefits of representative democracy.

This is why we feel obligated to call on the highest levels of the international community - including the UN Security Council - to address the question of Burma, for we must show that we are serious about peace, democracy, and human rights. The courageous people of Burma, like people everywhere around the world, deserve what far too many of us take for granted.

*Jon Ungphakorn is an elected member of the Thai Senate and committee member of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Caucus on Democracy in Myanmar.*

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By Samer A.

## Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

### Free Zone: Effective action

By YUMNA AL-ADEMI (LONDON ONT. - CANADA)

Writing this I have a hundred and one thoughts struggling to acquire my undivided attention. The proliferating election-depression syndrome, the death of prominent Arab leaders, the beatings committed under the flag of Islam and liberation, the massacres in the name of freedom and anti-terrorism, the chaotic nature of Arab Muslims... ok I'm out of breath! Submerged in the swamp of writer's block, suddenly, in a dark cold corner of my intricate brain I finally feel the information flow.

There are many people with a purpose, but few are able to organize themselves to a common goal and make a difference without stepping on others to achieve their mission. Today, our world shares a global culture that promotes violence as a solution to all our problems, whether in reality or even in surreal world that feeds our extreme libidos. Anyone check out Halo 2 lately? Is violence the only means for opposing violence and injustice? Can we possibly use our limitations to oppose violent and oppressive factions in our society? In order to assess the injustices in our world today, it is essential to analyze the underlying systems involved and look at how these systems integrate with each other to strengthen the cause of injustice. I found out about such a system a few days ago when I attended a session about the School of the Americas (SOA), also known as the School of the Assassins.

The School of the Americas was founded in 1946 in Panama. Thirty years later it shifted base to Fort Benning, Georgia after the resistance of Panamanian President, Jorge Illueca, who dubbed the base as the "biggest base for destabilization in Latin America". Their curriculum is simple: train people to kill. Their mission is to protect "the supply of strategic natural resources and access to the markets". In other words, create a new breed of humans that are modelled to kill and destroy anyone and anything that can be detrimental to the cause of U.S. and Latin American corporations, which is maximizing profit. Accordingly one in every three trained in the SOA is from Latin America who serves as a security guard for the eco-

nomic and political systems in their respective countries.

Employment is almost guaranteed for these graduates whose resumes will prompt a reaction. Some of the highlights of their resumes include: Dictatorship positions in Latin American countries such as Manuel Noriega and Hugo Suarez; certificates in human rights violations and massacres; the acknowledgement of the UN Truth Commission Report on EL Salvador in 1993, which declared that two thirds of those responsible for the most horrific atrocities are graduates of SOA, for instance the El Mozote Massacre.

The brutality of these soldiers and their outbursts in Latin America are not far from those committed in other parts of the world to which the Arab heart clings. While millions can share the cause of the Arab world, there has yet to come an Arab organization capable of efficiently opposing injustice. For decades Palestine has been in the same static stage. For decades oppressive regimes were exchanged with equally oppressive regimes. For decades the systems functioning in the Middle East have been based on values devoid from humanity and Islam, such as lies, bribery and treachery. For decades the situation has been the same regardless of the technological advances, which are not accompanied by the critical progress of humanity. How does the SOA relate to the Arab world? To answer that question, let us look at the organization opposing the SOA.

Margaret Mead engraved into the stone of history a beautiful quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world - Indeed it's the only thing that ever has". The awareness of a priest was all that was needed to give birth to a movement that has engaged in one of the largest civil disobedience acts after the Vietnam War. SOA Watch begun in 1990 with a focused mission: "to stand in solidarity with the people of Latin America, to close the SOA/WHINSEC and to change oppressive U.S. foreign policy that the SOA represents." They implement their mission through one firm rule: any form of opposition must be non-violent. Over the past 14 years, the SOA's consistency and persistence has been able to exert influence on the SOA as well as the government. In 1996, the Pentagon was forced to release training manuals used at the SOA that advocated the use of torture,

execution and extortion. This shed light on the curriculum of the average SOA soldier. For instance, in one course doctors instructed soldiers on the most efficient places of torture in the human body in order to retrieve desired information. In December 2000, Congress authorized the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) to replace SOA in order to diffuse public criticism and disassociate the school from its bloody reputation. In addition, efforts by congress members to pass bills that propose the permanent closure of SOA continue till this day.

At what cost was SOAW able to mark significant achievements? Over the years, reports from SOAW indicate over 170 peaceful protestors who served a startling 78 years in prison due to their protest and civil disobedience acts, which involve crossing the fence of the SOA only to be greeted with handcuffs. Every year protesters gather from all across North America to protest the SOA, last year over 10 000 people gathered for this unified cause.

Let us roll back to the Arab cause. Hundreds of thousands and even millions participate in scattered rallies to oppose injustice by Americans and Israelis and rarely, Arab leaders, in the Arab world, but to think of any achievements, other than the perfection of posters for rallies, might require me a few hours. Generally speaking, Arab rallies are intended to let out steam. The recipe is to scream, demand, scream again, and when it's time to take action, retreat. These passive activists, if you may, yell at the outcome of an act, the image representing the atrocity, without attacking the structure of the underlying system causing injustice. Should we be surprised that the recent Arab history highlights decades of nothingness? Not at all.

The SOAW is truly a leader in organization, focus, and consistency. The SOAW holds the magic words to achieving justice. Perhaps these are the voices we should be joining to express our global concerns for humanity and social justice. Want to find out more about the SOAW? Join them in their protest against the SOA this year from November 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is definitely a cause worthwhile; after all it was no other but George W. Bush who announced, "Every known terrorist training camp must be shut down." <http://www.soaw.org/new/>

### Mr. West

FUAD NOMAN  
FN\_001@YAHOO.COM

When I lie on the left  
I don't feel that I am quite in rest  
when I lie on the right  
I feel that I am in a severe fight  
When I lie on the middle way,  
I am eager to hug my inspiration's light  
Because I forget to see the sunset  
That is why I am always fed up  
and upset?  
Mr. West, listen to my simple words

In common sense  
As much as I love, as much as I hate  
As much as I am so sad, as much as I am so glad

Would you like to ask once more?  
How silly your Why is ?

Are not you feeling shameful of your tricks?

God is not a great lie!

And the Motherland is not a merchandise to sell and buy  
Mr. West, What is the rest!

To reoccupy  
Not only me , but also the butterflies can defend and resist

Think three times before you leap!!!  
The Ocean of East is so big and deep

In the first step,  
the boat of your thought crashed into a solid rock  
You are still in the circle of shock  
So, you pay the cost

Whereas, you show off that you are not lost

Before the end  
Excuse me Mr. West  
Just I wonder, "Your slogan is Human Rights"  
Anyhow,  
Have you seen who has stolen my history's wealth ?  
Or  
Who has tried to suffocate my breath?

## Whispers

By Fahmia AL-Fatih

### Ramadan in London

Ramadan is just one out of 12 months in the year. However, it is considered the only unique month which we wait for and make special preparations for every year. Ramadan, the holy month, comes every year with its special and unique blessed nights and spiritual atmosphere.

It comes and brings many beautiful meanings for all, even children. I still laugh as I remember when I was child and I saw people prepare and talk about Ramadan saying 'Ramadan is coming', I thought that Ramadan was so important that all people cared and prepared to receive it. Then I grew up and learned more about Ramada, and I loved it even more. Now, many of our children frequently think the same and ask questions about what Ramadan is.

So, every year despite of being in the kitchen for long, tiring hours to prepare Ramadan dishes, I really enjoy Ramadan and I feel its days pass away quickly.

However, this year is completely different and I am sure that I will never forget it. This year I am in London and not in Yemen and it is the first time I will spend Ramadan far away from home.

This year, I hardly noticed the coming of the Ramadan. I did not see the people share the happiness of Ramadan's coming with me, nor did I see people preparing for Ramadan. I was not overwhelmed with the expressions of 'Ramadan Kareem' and 'Ramadan Mubarak' from the people around.

The most important thing is that I miss Yemen and its people with whom I used to spend the most

beautiful nights. I miss my family, with whom I used to break my fast and sit together enjoying the special and pretty nights of the Ramadan.

I feel that the Ramadan days here are as any normal days. I cannot hear the voice of the mosques rising together in harmonious, religious tone any more.

Actually I, like other Muslim students who are far from their homes, try to make and create our own Ramadan days. But our attempts dramatically fail.

Some Muslim students try to come together and have al-fatoor and try to invent Ramadan nights and Ramadan dishes. It is really funny and pathetic when we wander in the English supermarkets to look for special ingredients for making special fatoon.

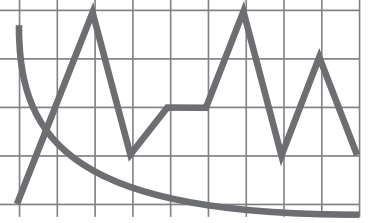
However, we end up eating some rice, pasta and market-made food. We sit around the table with sighs remembering the nights of Ramadan in our homes and how the people spend them. And al-Shahoor is not better than Al-Fatoor and it may be worse. Sometimes we catch al-Shahoor and eat some biscuits and snacks and sometimes we do not.

Maybe I got rid of the burden of cooking for long hours in the kitchen (I hope that my family does not read these lines), but now I truly do not mind sitting in the kitchen and cook many dishes. I really miss my favourite dishes, al-Shafoot and Sanbossa and other home-made food.

All I can say here, Ramadan Kareem to all people in Yemen and all over the Arab and Islamic world and I wish that they enjoy this holy month and its spiritual atmosphere. And I have another wish, but it is between Allah and me. Ramadan Kareem!



# YT Business



## Exhibition merchants to YT, Sales tax escalates prices, exhaust the poor pockets

MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**T**radesmen of consumer goods exhibitions and showrooms in the capital Sana'a attribute the rise in foodstuffs prices in Ramadan to the general tax on sales and its impact on prices of imported goods. They consider the law despite that it included exemptions but it has imposed high taxes on merchants and that pushed them to regain them from the consumer.

In the month of Ramadan the fasting people's appetite increases for foodstuffs and therefore there are many groups of commercial exhibitions announcing discounts on the value of their exhibits but some are mere imaginary. He merchants say the fasting people in Ramada increase their demand for foodstuffs and every year Ramadan foodstuffs exhibitions witness increasing demand but this year the situation appeared difficult because of the economic crisis and delay in paying the increase in salaries. The merchants hold comparison with previous years in buying required food stuffs in the month of Ramadan. Markets are witnessing crowds of purchasers, some of them are well-to-do and can buy what they want but others suffice themselves to buying small quantities of spices and deserts just because of their financial incapability to buy all what they desire. Moreover prices of some goods have risen noticeably for reasons ascribed to rise in customs and increase in the general tax on sales and consequently the merchants resorted to add the added

value to the prices of consumer goods.

Although commercial exhibitions are preceded with large-scale promotional advertisements including a talk on huge sales on prices but the time the consumer visits them he would be surprised and shocked about the contradiction between advertisements and tangible rise in prices of goods. In this case the consumer would be bewildered and confused between buying and leaving to other markets where he would face rather the same situation.

Visitors to commercial exhibitions say this year's prices are very high and they could not buy but few simple things such as spices and custards and delayed purchasing other foodstuffs until receiving their salaries and the increment on which they attach hope to solve some of their problems. People who are not government employees also say the situation is difficult and complicated. They don't pin hope on income increase but they are victims of general taxes on sales, repeated price and economic doses. Visitors to the commercial exhibitions we have interviewed confirm that the declared discounts are unreal and they are just false propaganda. Some goods prices are the same in other markets. They stress that commercial exhibitions this year are different than those in previous years regarding the rarity absence of many required goods for this month in addition to rise and fluctuation of prices in the pavilions and that leads to the consumer to be a victim to that false propaganda.

Those in charge of exhibitions pavilions admit that the rush this year by buyers is low compared to past years. In

their view the cause is the big rise in prices and that the difference in prices between their goods and those in the market is simple and not exceeding one-hundred riyals. They blame the rise in prices on the manufacturing companies that did not reduce the product price even very little to enable them reduce their prices. Nevertheless, despite the reduced price of some goods the buyer still complains their high price. Commercial exhibitions men claim they sell their products at wholesale prices and those prices the citizen could not get at ordinary markets. On the other hand owner of a pavilion selling dates says there is big demand for buying all kinds of dates but the difference is that people this year do not buy big quantities rather than buying in kilos. He adds that dates prices are a bit higher than last year. Owner of another pavilion for selling dates says the rise in prices of dates is attributed to monopoly of big merchants who supplied little quantities of the goods to the markets in order to sell with the price they want. Owner of a pavilion for selling spices and nuts describes buyers demand as good but not the same as last year and the prices are reasonable, especially for those imported directly by merchants. As for prices of canned foods he says they are expensive because the manufacturing companies have not made any reduction on prices. Buying various kinds imported goods is slower this year compared to previous years because of their high prices compared to local products and that also attributed to the general tax on sales that pushed up the prices and emptied the consumers' wallets.

## Yemen foreign debt, \$5.69 billion

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**S**pecialized economic sources have said that correct estimates of Yemen's foreign debts are known in addition to non-confidence in official statements.

At a time a government report has disclosed that the volume of Yemen's foreign debts amounted to five billion and 69 million dollars until the end of last June, economic sources explained that those figures were being heard about for two and three years and had not changed while we are continuously informed of loans and debts approved by parliament and government.

According to a recent report issued by the ministry of finance and approved by the cabinet in its weekly meeting, the volume of foreign debts is within the safe boundaries.

The report indicated also that the total value of loans Yemen has obtained has amounted to \$9 billion and 815 million, eight billion and eighty millions have been used. The total installments, paid with their interests amounted to three billion dollars and 385 millions. The government report has confirmed that the value of used loans amounts to one billion dollars and 753 millions. The report affirmed also that volume of the existing asset of indebtedness has not exceeded a proportion of 0.7%, which is a rate within the safe limits and attributed that by saying

that most of loans offered to Yemen are of easy conditions and payable in long periods.

On their part, the specialized economic sources view that statements of foreign debts differ at more than one side at the parliament, the finance ministry, public administration of loans and the central bank. Each of those sides brings about a figure different than

the other.

Mr. Abdulrahman al-Samawi, mayor of the central bank has earlier stressed that Yemen was considered among the less indebted countries in the Middle East and it was the best in the policy of exchange rate price, pointing out at the same time to the proportion of foreign indebtedness that amounts to 47% as an important achievement of the bank.

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**14**  
**OCTOBER**

**CANADIAN nexen**

السيد / ديفيد ميتشل - الرئيس و المدير العام  
والإدارة العليا و كافة موظفي وشركاء شركة كندية نكسن بتروليم شرق الحجر المحدودة قطاع ٥١ بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ  
علي عبد الله صالح  
رئيس الجمهورية حفلة الله  
والى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعون لثورة ١٤ من أكتوبر المجيدة ممتنين للقيادة السياسية وللشعب اليمني المزيد من التقدم و الإزدهار

Mr. David Mitchell - President & General Manager  
The management team and all staff and Partners of Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr Ltd.  
Block ( 51 )  
Present their heartiest congratulations to  
Mr. E. Ali Abdullah Saleh  
President of the Republic of Yemen  
and the Yemeni people,  
on the occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of the 14 October Revolution wishing the Yemeni leadership many more achievements, Progress and Prosperity.



Reflections on Ramadan

# Everyone must be in unity against terror

The world has been living side by side with terror for hundreds of years. Even though actions may differ from country to country, all terrorist organizations aim at defenseless civilians and send their messages by way of these people. In the terrorist attack in Oklahoma in the USA 167 people were savagely slaughtered, 19 of them children. A fanatical Jew who opened a hail of fire on Muslims praying in a mosque in Palestine caused the deaths of 29 people. Thousands of people have lost their lives in attacks against Muslims in India over the years. Terrorist attacks both great and small have for years been perpetrated in France, Spain, the Philippines, Japan and Ireland.

One could go on. However, the entire world came face to face with terror in 2001. In the wake of the attacks against two major cities in the USA which led to the deaths and injuries of thousands of people, the concept of "terrorism" began to be debated once again. That was because that attack had been carried out at an unexpected time, against a country regarded as the world's only superpower, and in a totally unforeseen manner. The attack created an air of fear and panic all over the world, especially in America.

More than two years have since passed, during which time the USA has embarked on a major fight against terror. Many countries have lined up alongside America in this struggle, and lent their support to it. The series of bombings in Istanbul, just when it was thought that the forces of terror had been brought under control, again reminded people of terrorism's dark face: first synagogues, then the British Consulate, then the HSBC General Directorate building ...

The Saturday prayer, which had been performed for centuries, was interrupted by the bombs exploded on November 15th. Twenty-four people were killed in the explosions at the Neva Shalom synagogue at Beyoglu Kuledibi and the Beth Israel synagogue at Sisli, and 300 were injured. Dozens of more people lost their lives in the explosions at the British Consulate and the HSBC building, and hundreds were injured. Images similar to those which followed the September 11 attacks began appearing on our television screens. Ruined buildings, people fleeing in panic, burned out busses, corpses lying in the streets ...

The point we wish to emphasize in this article is the Islamic perspective on terror attacks and the killing of the innocent. All forms of terrorist attack are roundly condemned in Islam. According to the Qur'an, it is a great sin to kill an innocent person, and anyone who does so will suffer great torment in the Hereafter:

... If someone kills another person—unless it is in retaliation for someone else or for causing corruption in the earth—it is as if he had murdered all mankind. And if anyone gives life to another person, it is as if he had given life to all mankind. Our Messengers came to them with Clear Signs, but even after that, many of them committed outrages in the earth. (Qur'an, 5:32)

This verse equals the killing of one



By HARUN YAHYA  
www.harunyahya.com

innocent to slaughtering all of humanity! Another verse expresses the importance that the faithful attach to life:

Those who do not appeal to any other deity besides God [alone]; nor kill any soul whom God has forbidden [them to] except with the right to do so; nor fornicate. Anyone who does so will incur a penalty. (Qur'an, 25:68)

In yet another verse, God issues the following commandment:

Say: "Come, and I will recite to you what your Lord has forbidden for you"; that you do not associate anything with Him; that you are good to your parents; that you do not kill your children because of poverty—We will provide for you and them; that you do not approach indecency—outward or inward; that you do not kill any person God has made inviolate—except with the right to do so. That is what He instructs you to do, so that hopefully, you will use your intellect. (Qur'an, 6:151)

Any Muslim who believes in God with a sincere heart, who scrupulously abides by His verses and fears suffering in the Hereafter, will avoid harming even one other person. He knows that the Lord of Infinite Justice will suitably reward him for all his deeds. In one of the hadiths, our Prophet (may God bless him and grant him peace) listed the kinds of peo-



ple who are not pleasing to God:

"Those who act cruelly and justly in the sacred lands, those who yearn for the ways of the ignorant, and those who wrongly shed human blood." (Sahih Bukhari Hadith)

Another element we wish to concentrate on is the attack on devout Turkish Jews worshipping in their synagogues. Churches, synagogues and mosques are houses for the worship of God. It is a terrible crime in the sight of God to slaughter innocent people as they worship in their churches, synagogues or mosques. These are houses where the name of God is remembered, praised and recited. In the Qur'an, God reveals that:

... God guides to His Light whoever He wills and God makes metaphors for mankind and God has knowledge of all things. In houses which God has permitted to be built and in which His name is remembered, there are men who proclaim His glory morning and evening. (Qur'an, 24:35-36)

The people who go to those places are devout, prayerful people. All houses where the name of God is remembered are sacred in the eyes of Islam. Visitors to these houses may be Jews, Christians or Muslims. The important thing is that each one is a devout believer in God. A Muslim must respect and protect the holy places where the People of the Book worship God, and protect them. For Muslims, these places are precious because in these places, people, whether Jews or Christians, remember God. In the Qur'an, the places of worship of the People of the Book, ie. monasteries, churches and synagogues, are mentioned as places of worship protected by God.

... [I]f God had not driven some people back by means of others, monasteries, churches, synagogues and mosques, where God's name is mentioned much, would have been pulled down and destroyed. God will certainly help those who help Him—God is All-Strong, Almighty. (Qur'an, 22:40)

As a manifestation of his loyalty to God's commands, the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was most careful not to destroy the holy places of the People of the Book. Such destruction means, in the first place, opposing God's commands. This aside, it means preventing people who have faith in God worshipping Him. Indeed, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) promised the Christians, who were the other party to a peace agreement he made, that their churches would not be destroyed and that they would never be harmed. The tax (Jizya) agreements he made with Christians also guaranteed the safety of churches.

The first agreement made after the death of the Prophet (pbuh) that guaranteed the protection of the temples was a tax agreement Khalid bin al-Waleed signed with the leader of the city of Anat. Ibn Ishaq stated that those agreements made by Khalid bin al-Waleed were also approved by Abu Bakr and the three caliphs following him.<sup>1</sup> This aside, Abu Bakr offered the same guarantees that had been offered to the people of Najran by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

The Islamic societies that abided by Islamic morality after the death of the Prophet (pbuh) also paid special attention to this issue. Muslim leaders who adhered to the Qur'an and the Sunnah (the sayings and doings of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)) respected the places of worship of non-Muslims in conquered countries and showed great tolerance to the clergy.

www.islamdenouncesterrorism.com

To purchase the works of Harun Yahya, please visit: www.bookglobal.net

<sup>1</sup> Levent Ozturk, *Asr-i Saadetten Hacli Seferlerine Kadar Islam Toplumunda H\_ristiyanlar* (Christians in the Islamic Society From the Blessed Period to the Crusades), Iz Yayincilik, Istanbul, 1998, p. 111.



# Ramadan Kareem

## Humans or angels

Turning into angels in Ramadan, our everyday life has become quite easy and worth living.



By MOHAMMED AL-HAKIMI  
hujary@yahoo.com  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Some human devils, however, remain ugly and discourteous. In fact, they do not try to make use of the priceless blessings. Further, they enjoy what they have chosen for themselves, whatsoever!

**Lovelier and more sublime:**

How even more gentle my boss has become! How all these people have become even more lovelier! The landlord, the grocer, my colleagues, my aunt, my neighbors, Yemen Times journalists and editors, our neighborhood's lunatic who used to shout - arguing with people in positions of responsibility when it happen that they pass by and with the common people, giving his own opinions about local and international issues- all the night, the lady who used to drop litter in front of my apartment and many others.

**Dead and paralyzed streets:**

The other day, I went surveying the main street at mid-day in my city. I was actually depressed to find that almost the whole street was dead. No single pharmacy or bookshop was open. Nothing, nothing. Even the crazy and mad people who used to roam and pace the streets were absent.

Non has instructed those people to

ordered some prisoners whose sentences are about to finish in months or a few years to be released.

**Solemnity and prayers:**

In Ramadan, all people pray and perform more prayers than in other months. Within a given family, one can easily realize the change. Most, if not all, of the family members do the prayers now and do other optional preferable prayers like al-Taraweeh and Tahajud. Women go to mosques to perform al-Taraweeh prayers and keep reciting the holy Quraan at home. Further, they often opt for watching Islamic channels on TV instead of other sorts of satellite stuff. Little children are encouraged to regularly perform prayers and learn more about their religion, Islam.

Women also prefer to avoid makeup during the day and start wearing clothes that make them appear holier, and more decent and solemn. In the rural areas, women prefer to stay up at night and perform al-Taraweeh. Because TV sets are not very common there, they sit and listen to radios. Most of them wear white scarves and special attires.

You really believe now in God since you actually feel the blessings of Allah in this holy month. Devils are chained; blessings are descending from Heavens; people have changed into innocent angels. The whole surroundings are vibrating and charged with the grandeur of Ramadan and its special flavor.

sleep and fast in such a way or to sustain life as such.

**The Grand Angel:**

Recently, President Saleh has issued amnesty decree pertaining to those who had differences and disputes with the government and with the country as a whole. Salam and gratitude go to him for such a great gesture which is customary and characteristic of him.

**More gratitude:**

Mr. President, in addition to the above mentioned example, has forgiven some of those in prisons who unintentionally committed murder and have to pay blood money to the families of the murdered. He also

## RAMADAN KAREEM

رمضان كريم

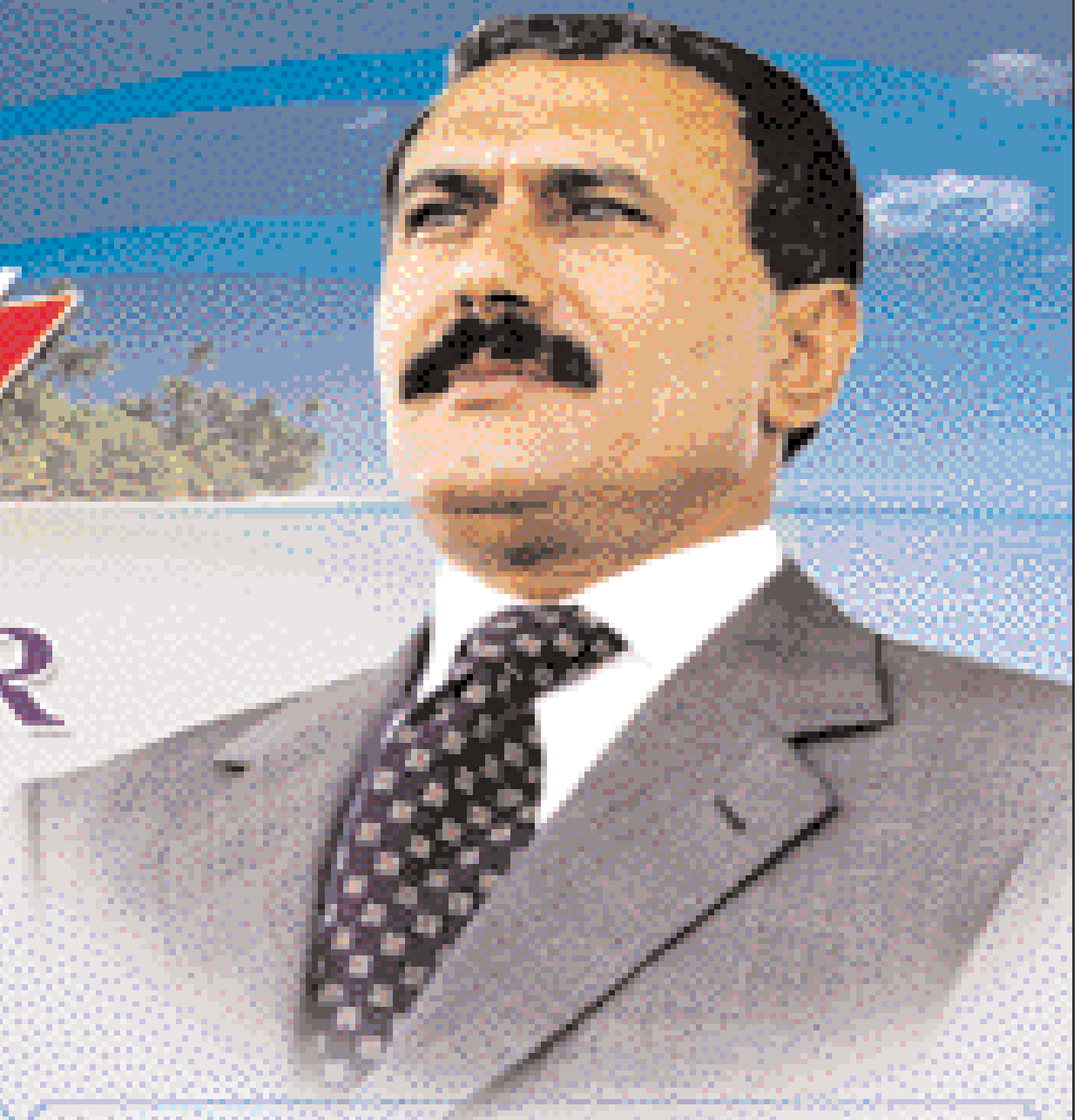
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14

OCTOBER



Mr. Alistair John Mooney,  
President and General Manager,

Mr. Ali Sohaiki,  
Executive Director,

The Management Team, all staff of  
**Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen**  
and its Masila Block (14) Partners  
Present their congratulations and  
sincere wishes to

**H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh**

President of the Republic of Yemen

On the occasion of 42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of  
14<sup>th</sup> October Revolution

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**كنيديان نكسن بتروليم يمن**

كافة وشركائها في قطاع المسيلة (14)  
يتقدمون بخالص وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات  
القلبية إلى فضيلة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

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بمناسبة الذكرى الثانية والأربعين  
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Ramadan Kareem





# Weary Angels edge White Sox in ALCS opener

CHICAGO (Reuters) - Garret Anderson belted a solo home run in the second inning to set a road-weary Los Angeles Angels on their way to a 3-2 victory over the Chicago White Sox in the American League Championship Series opener on Tuesday.

Overcoming a hectic cross-country schedule that meant the Angels were forced to play three games in three time zones on consecutive days, the win gave the AL West champions a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Anderson's blast staked the Angels to an early 1-0 lead, before shortstop Orlando Cabrera and designated hitter Vladimir Guerrero drove in a pair of runs in the third off starter Jose Contreras to build a three-run cushion.

The extra runs were needed as the White Sox — who have not won a World Series since 1917 — made it close on a homer by third-baseman Joe Crede in the third, and catcher A.J. Pierzynski drove in another run in the fourth.

"This game, with its twists and turns, could have gone either way for the whole nine innings, but fortunately we got an early lead and held on," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said.

Angels starter Paul Byrd cruised through six-plus innings to pick up the win, allowing the two runs on just five hits — and more importantly, giving a tired Angels bullpen a much-needed



Chicago White Sox shortstop Tadahito Iguchi (top) of Japan goes high as Los Angeles Angels baserunner Chone Figgins slides safely into second with a steal in the eighth inning during Game 1 of the American League Championship Series in Chicago Oct. 11.

Contreras, who was Chicago's best pitcher in the second half of the season, pitched well for 8 1/3 innings but was forced to take the loss after giving up all three runs on seven hits. He struck out four, without issuing a walk.

Francisco Rodriguez pitched a perfect ninth to earn the save.

The White Sox offense that pounded out 14 runs in a Game One rout of the defending World Series champion Boston Red Sox last week on the way to a series sweep, managed just seven hits and stranded six runners on base.

### Punishing schedule

The Angels arrived at their hotel in Chicago at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesday, after playing a night game in New York on Sunday and then flying cross-country for a late-afternoon game in California on Monday.

However, White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said players traveled extensively during the 162-game regular season and was under no illusion that the Angels would come out tired.

"It was to our advantage, all the travel-

ing stuff, but they showed us and they showed everybody that it's not the truth," Guillen said.

"I think the truth is they travel a lot, every flight they make it four hours, five hours, and I think they get used to it and they showed it today," he said.

The Angels had asked Major League Baseball to postpone Tuesday's game because a rain-out in New York on Saturday had forced the tough travel schedule, but the league refused.

"Should the game have been pushed back? Absolutely. But that's not our call," Scioscia said.

"We're going to play by whatever schedule is handed down to us, and that's just the luck of the draw."

The Angels are also facing another dilemma, a thin pitching staff after Colon was made unavailable for this series because of his shoulder injury.

The White Sox look to lefty Mark Buehrle to start Game Two on Wednesday against Jarrod Washburn, who is fighting a throat infection that forced him to miss a start against the Yankees.

The Angels starter said he felt fine, but Scioscia said Kevin Gregg would pitch if Washburn was unfit to play.

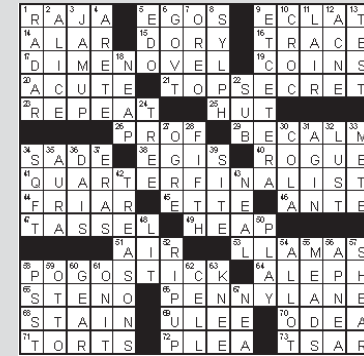
The White Sox have failed to reach the World Series since 1959 and their sweep of the Red Sox marked their first post-season series win since the 1917 championship season.

## Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

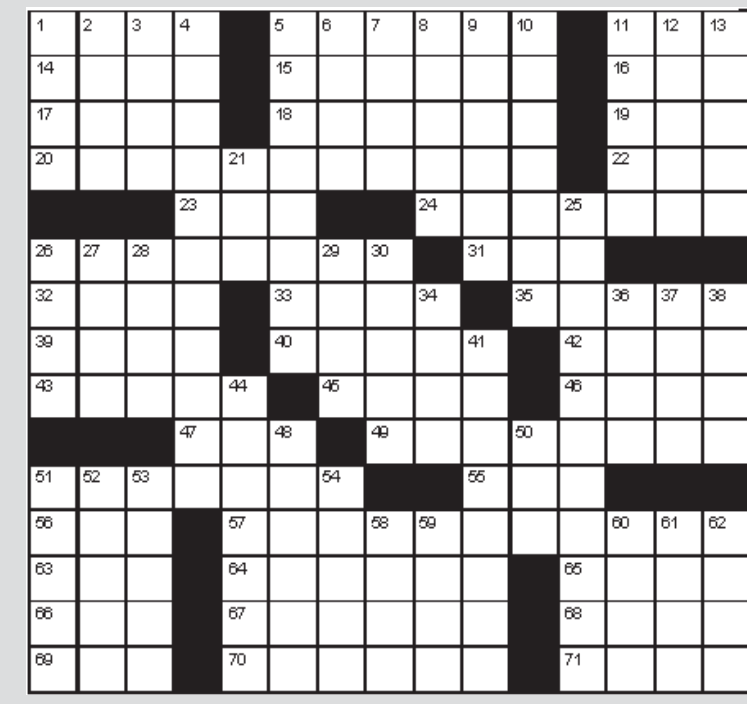
- |                                     |                                 |                                |                             |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                       | 24 Hardly a martinet            | blades                         | classic film                |
| 1 Norwegian ruler                   | 26 Odin's hangout               | 51 Lay waste to                | 11 3 on a par 5             |
| 5 Flotilla                          | 31 Morse code sound             | 55 Threw one's hat in the ring | 12 Recurrently              |
| 11 Fast no longer                   | 32 Way into a mine              | 56 Start of a drum sound       | 13 Provoke                  |
| 14 Decant                           | 33 Many millennia               | 57 Salad toppings for Homer?   | 21 Rosemary's creator       |
| 15 Tom Canty, in a book             | 35 Belyaches                    | 63 "___ matter of fact ..."    | 25 Desserts in Siena?       |
| 16 It may be concealed cosmetically | 39 Plane or rail variety        | 64 Practical joker, e.g.       | 26 Improvised accompaniment |
| 17 Came apart at the seams?         | 40 Ancient deprived city        | 65 Farewell, Italian-style     | 28 Type opener              |
| 18 King in Egyptian mythology       | 42 Sudden transition            | 66 Debussy's "La               | 29 British bathrooms        |
| 19 Piece of cheesecake?             | 43 Muscle that flexes the trunk | 67 Too firm, perhaps           | 30 Much of Chile            |
| 20 Spicy side dish                  | 45 Colon variety                | 68 Bride of Lohengrin          | 34 Unspecified              |
| 22 It may be glossed over           | 46 One of a British group       | 69 Word in a Maugham title     | 36 Silence between notes    |
| 23 PC display unit                  | 47 Pt. of SPCA                  | 70 "Praying" insect family     | 37 Opposite of flushed      |
|                                     | 49 Like handsaw                 | 71 Make an effort to find      | 38 Tempted a traffic cop    |

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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### "INTERNATIONAL CUISINE" by Elizabeth C. Gorski



# Reed's late field goal gives Steelers victory in San Diego

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Jeff Reed kicked a 40-yard field goal with six seconds on the clock to give the Pittsburgh Steelers a 24-22 road victory over the San Diego Chargers at the Qualcomm Stadium on Monday.

Trailing 22-21 with 4:42 to play, the Steelers engineered a 40-yard drive despite an injury to quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to set up Reed's game-winning field goal.

Reed has now hit 24 straight field goals from inside the 50-yard line, the longest active streak in the NFL.

Pittsburgh improved to 3-1 with the win, but Roethlisberger left the game during the final drive after being hit on the knee by the helmet of San Diego rookie lineman Luis Castillo.

He walked slowly off the field but was clearly limping and a further evaluation was scheduled for Tuesday.

The Steelers star QB was then driven off the field on a cart after the game.

Running back Jerome Bettis scored a touchdown for the Steelers and rushed for 54 yards in his first game of the season, including two key carries in San Diego territory when reserve QB Charlie Batch had to replace Roethlisberger late in the game-winning drive.



San Diego Chargers running back Darren Sproles (43) is brought down on the Chargers 29-yard drive by Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback Ricardo Colclough (21) during the punt return in the first quarter at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, Oct. 10.

"I feel fresh, I feel great and officially, I am back," Bettis said after the game.

After a scoreless first quarter, Roethlisberger scored on a seven-yard run and Bettis on a one-yard run to give the Steelers a 14-0 lead.

The Chargers got on the scoreboard just before the first half ended on an 11-yard TD pass from Drew Brees to Antonio Gates, making it 14-7 at the intermission.

Nate Kaeding kicked two field goals

in the third and another in the fourth to give the Chargers (2-3) their first lead of the game, 16-14.

However, a 16-yard pass from Roethlisberger to Heath Miller put the Steelers ahead again.

A two-yard touchdown run by LaDainian Tomlinson with 4:42 left made it 22-21 San Diego, but a failed two-point conversion attempt turned out to be a key moment, as Reed's field goal was then enough to win the game.

Roethlisberger went 17-for-26 for 225 yards, hitting Hines Ward six times for 83 yards. Batch did not attempt a pass in his short time in the game.

Brees went 20-for-35 for 219 yards for the Chargers (2-3). Tomlinson had 62 yards on 18 carries rushing and also caught seven passes for 68 yards.

# O'Neill's first goal gives Leafs win over Flyers

TORONTO (Reuters) - Jeff O'Neill scored the game-winning goal at 7:34 of the third period to lead the Toronto Maple Leafs to a first win of the season, a 4-2 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers at the Air Canada Center on Tuesday.

O'Neill had missed the Leafs previous two games with a shoulder injury, but returned with a goal and an assist as Toronto improved to 1-1-2, one night after losing in a shootout to the Senators in Ottawa.

Mikael Tellqvist got a rare start in goal for the Maple Leafs and was sharp, stopping 31 shots as the Flyers (1-2-0) out-shot the Leafs 33-22.

Darcy Tucker opened the scoring for the Leafs at 7:38 of the first period, but Mike Knuble tied the game 10 minutes later, leaving the score tied 1-1 after 20 minutes.

Kyle Wellwood put Toronto ahead at 4:16 of the second period, but Simon Gagne again tied the game with 2:02 left in the second period.

O'Neill then fired the winner, a one-timer on the powerplay past Flyers goalie Robert Esche, for his

first goal since signing as a Leaf in the summer after a trade from Carolina.

A native of Ontario, O'Neill wanted to play closer to home after his younger brother Donny was killed in a car crash in the summer.

"I knew that when I got my first one it was for him," said O'Neill, who pointed to the sky in tribute to his brother after the goal.

### "It was pretty emotional."

Eric Lindros finished the scoring with his second goal of the season at 13:09 of the third period.

Esche was pulled for an extra attacker with 1:18 left, but the Flyers could not get any closer.

In Montreal, Daniel Alfredsson scored two goals as the Ottawa Senators beat the Canadiens 4-2 in a battle of previously unbeaten teams.

Zdeno Chara and Antoine Vermette also scored for Ottawa. Ray Emery made 27 saves.

Saku Koivu and Steve Begin scored for Montreal, while Jose Theodore made 28 saves.

In St Louis, Patrick Lalime made 32 saves as the Blues beat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-1.

Dean McCammond, Jay McClement, Scott Young and Dallas Drake scored for the Blues.

Tyler Arnason scored for the Blackhawks. Nikolai Khabibulin made 19 saves.

In Dallas, Mike Modano had a goal and assist as the Stars beat the Phoenix Coyotes 3-2.

Antti Miettinen and Jussi Jokinen scored for the Stars. Marty Turco made 23 saves.

Denis Gauthier and Paul Mara scored for the Coyotes. David Leneveu made 20 saves.

In Los Angeles, Jason Labarbera made 23 saves as the Kings got by the Edmonton Oilers 3-1.

Joe Corvo, Dustin Brown and Eric Belanger scored the goals for the Kings (3-1-0), who handed the Oilers their first loss of the season after three straight wins.

Marc-Andre Bergeron scored the lone Edmonton goal and Ty Conklin made 32 saves.

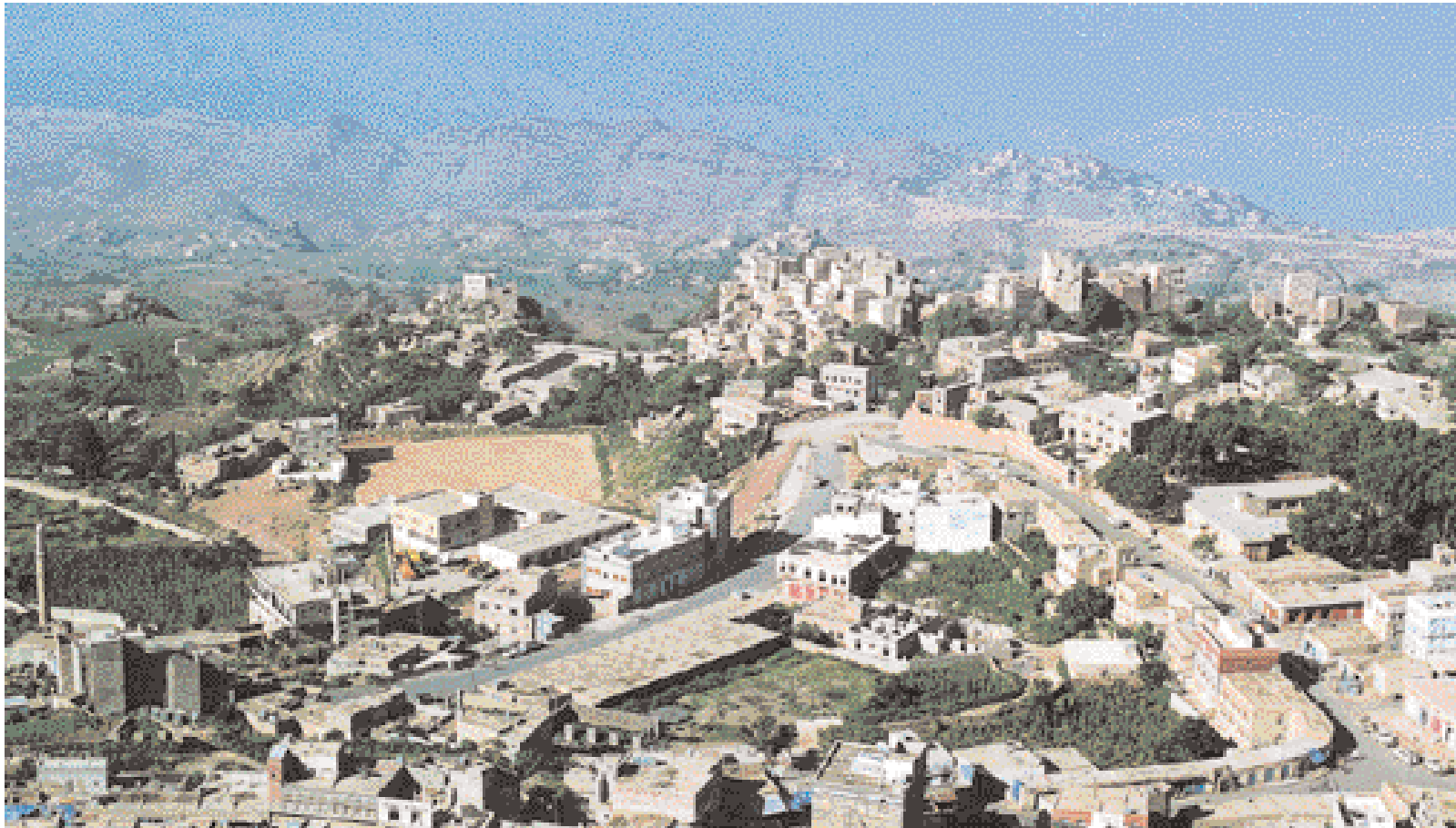




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## Amran: Governorate of agriculture and antiquities



COMPILED BY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
AND ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI  
FOR YEMEN TIMES

**A**mran Governorate consists of many historic and archaeological cities and sites among of which are:

### Amran City

It is one of the important cities situated on the historical trading route known as As'ad road. The city overlooks the vast farming area of Amran known as Qa'a Al-Boun, and is 50 km to the north of Sana'a near to the asphalt road leading to Saadah, at the crossroads leading to Hajjah in the northwest.

Amran's old city was encircled by a clay rampart, most of which still exist together with the old eastern gates. The features of the old market are still visible. There are many stone inscriptions at the entrance of the city and on the facades of some houses, suggesting that Amran was one of the important sites in Yemen's ancient history.

Amran is not only known for its distinctive architectural style, but also for the variety of crops, which are grown there. The city is considered to be one of the centers of traditional crafts, particularly leather works. In Amran, Friday is the weekly market day where these crafts can be viewed.

### Shaharah

Shaharah lies to the northwest of Sana'a. At the gateway of Shaharah, the visitor can easily understand how important it has been as a war-fortified position. It was constructed on two separate mountains. There is also an old school teaching various subjects of Arabic language and religion.

It is one of the main famous citadels of Yemen throughout history. It still has got an atmosphere of invincibility and is swarming with inhabitants. It is connected with the Al-Ahnoom range of mountains. This fort has got a historical and archaeological standing. The first to adopt Shaharah as a fort is the famous Hymiarite king Abu Karab As'ad Al-Kamil.

From this fort, he was a candidate for rule at the onset of the 5th century AD. In recent history, the Imama Al-Mansour Al-Kassim Bin Mohammed took the citadel of Shaharah as his citadel in the war against the Ottomans during their first rule of Yemen from 1538 AD to 1635 AD. This happened because of the important strategic location of the citadel on Shaharah Mountain, its affluence of water and the natural fortification that made it unconquerable from all directions. The citadel is divided into two sections, Shaharah Al-Ameer and Shaharah Al-feeth. Each of them is at the top of a mountain with a steep 200 meter deep gap between them, and connecting the two parts is the Shaharah Bridge. The more than 300 year old bridge is three meters wide and 32 meters long, and built entirely out of stone. It shows how skillful and courageous the engineers were in connecting the two mountains at high altitude. They did it to make movement and communication easier during the siege.

Today, Shaharah fort is considered to be one of the most important tourist

attractions in Yemen due to its linkage with historical town of Shaharah and its many surrounding sights. Shaharah is considered a genius example of architecture that is heavily dependent on stone structure.

### Raيدا

Raيدا is situated 22 km to the north of Amran on the Amran-Saadah road and is the ancient town close to where the Tulfum Castle existed, as is pointed out by the renowned Yemeni historian, Al-Hamdani. It was said that Raيدا is the area, which is mentioned in verses of the Holy Qur'an as "the Hanging Castles". There are no surviving historical hallmarks in the city and one can only see scattered stones that give reference to a long-gone era. Yet, the archaeological site of Na'et is near to Raيدا. A weekly market is held in Raيدا every Tuesday, with another held 2 km away to the east at Bait Harash.

### Na'et Area

Na'et is situated 25 km to the east of Raيدا across an unpaved path. It is an important archaeological site standing on top of Jabal Thaneen, historically known as Na'et. It is one of the components of Sam'ai historical triangle site, together with Shibam Aqyan and Shibam Al-Gharass. The triangle flourished during the decline of the Sheba dynasty in Marib, before the capital of ancient Yemen was moved from Marib to Dhafoar Al-Molk "Yareem".

Many historical castles and water reservoirs were said to have existed in Na'et but nothing seems to have survived. Many antiquities from the area were moved to Sana'a.

Polygonal pillars, some of which are 5-6 m high, are from the Dome of Imam Yahya south of Dar Al-Saadah, which are in use in the National Archaeological Museum, while others have been installed by the gates of Dar Al-Hoom, presently called Al-Wahda school.

### Dhofar Dhibain

Dhofar Dhibain is located approximately 30 km to the north east of Raيدا across an unpaved path. It got its name because of the Dhofar archaeological fort, which stands to the northeast of Dhibain. The fort has many ancient remains and Islamic monuments, such as forts, castles and reservoirs, in addition to one of the most important monuments, the mosque.

The mosque and minaret of Imam Abdullah bin Hamza was built as a school at the onset of the 13th century AD, and houses bin Hamza's tomb. Dhofar Dhibain's mosque is considered one of the most significant historical mosques in Yemen because of its architectural beauty and the decorations on the walls and pillars. Particularly the decorations of the cylindrical shaped minaret which features symbols in the shape of snakes facing each other, which is an unfamiliar and rare depiction in Yemen's decorative style and could be found in the Seljuk decorative styles of the 13th century.

### Khamer

Khamer lies 22 km to the north of Raيدا along the Saadah road and is an important archaeological site. Khamer is considered to be the original place of the Yemeni king As'ad Al-Kamel, the most

famous of the Hymiarite kings. Many great cultural traditions have been attributed to him.

Houses in this area are beautiful, high-rise structures built in stone. A weekly market is held in this area every Sunday.

### Hooth

Hooth is located 124 km from Sana'a, mid-way between Sana'a and Saadah. From there the unpaved road branches out to Shaharah, across Al-Qabea'y.

Hooth is one of the localities, which was developed as a religious, intellectual school and is considered to be the largest secondary city between Amran and Saadah. Nashwan Bin Sa'eed Al-Hymiari, the famous Yemeni scholar, lived here, and a weekly market is held every Friday.

Hooth has many famous mountains. The Rameedh Mountain overlooks Hooth Mountain and is located to its southeast. The Dhi Khairan Mountain is located to the north of Hooth and is dividing Soufian, Udhur and Osaimat, while the Red Mountain overlooks Al-Jawf to the north. Then there are the Al-Amashiyah Mountains, which are situated in the Sofian region. The most famous of these is the cracked mountain which consists of two pyramidal mountains north of Al-Aasshiyah.

### Huqat Hamdan

Huqat Hamdan is situated in Hamdan area, 20 km north of the capital. It can be reached from the Sana'a-Amran Road, after which you go west across Al-Haawri village and immediately before Al-Jahiliya village, you turn left to Hugat Hamdan.

The site of the village is historically important, as it contains of relics of a temple and old inscriptions which can be seen on the houses, dating back to the 3rd Century BC. In 1931, excavations by a German expedition, led to findings of ancient treasures and masterpieces, many of which are now on display at the National Archaeological Museum in Sana'a.

### Thula

Thula lies 40 km to the west of the capital, Sana'a. It used to be a fortress town of the imams in the 16th century, and is situated 2800 meters above sea level. The town is an archetype of the Yemeni stone architecture which gives it an extraordinary appearance, and Thula is the only Yemeni city encircled by a wall of stone.

Thula is only 2 km from the Shibam Kawkaban, and tours to Thula are quite common because of the incredible architecture.

### Maswar Mountain Range

Maswar Mountain range lies in an east-west direction with many fertile wadis cultivated with coffee trees, and villages built on the mountaintops. Maswar Mountain is considered one of the archaeological fortified mountains, with springs run down the sides of it. The high point is quite wide with a few villages built on it. The peak has three entrances and at the very top of it stands Hosn Al-Montaab. Maswar Mountain is considered one of the highest peaks in Amran governorate, 3000 m above sea level.

Amran Governorate has many famous mountains. Among them are the Yazeed and Ashmoor Mountains. They are a



## NOKIA 6630

نوكيا 6630

- سرعة التحميل: 60 ميجابايت
- الكاميرا: 3.2 ميجابايت
- ذاكرة داخلية: 128 ميجابايت
- شاشة: 262K
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