

# YEVENTIMES



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# Turkish PM: No objection to cooperation with Israel

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Oct. 26- Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey has left Sana'a last Wednesday night after a two-day official visit to Yemen. In conclusion of his visit, the Turkish official held a press conference at the Sana'a International Airport in which he highlighted what has been agreed upon by Yemen and

At the press conference, Mr. Erdogan pointed out the discussions focused on the bilateral relations between the two Muslim countries and the regional issues of joint concern, such as the developments in Iraq and the Middle East, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the developments in Cyprus Island. Viewpoints on such issues appeared to be similar.

The Turkish Prime Minister described his meeting with President Ali Abdullah as a fruitful as he listened to what is related to the enhancement of economic, trade, political and cultural cooperation.

In conclusion of the Yemeni-Turkish official discussions, Prime Minister



Erdogan said the visit and results of the discussions were all fruitful and positive in terms of consolidating bilateral cooperation in the economic and investment areas.

He pointed out the agreements signed by both sides, concentrating on tax duality ban, environment protection cooperation and the cooperation in the field of oil and gas, will help expand the scope of joint interests between the two brotherly countries. He demonstrated the enthusiasm of Turkey and Yemen to nations and work on improving the mechanism of Islamic Conference Organization to have an integral role in serving Muslim nations.

"The visit was a chance for assessing the economic, trade and political ties between the two countries, and we felt the Yemeni political will to continue developing cooperation in different areas," Erdogan said; "During the visit we discussed economic and trade matters, as well as the volume of trade exchange confirming that such activate solidarity between the Muslim exchange should not reflect facilities and energies in both countries."

The Yemeni and Turkish prime ministers signaled out at the press conference that discussions between the two sides laid more emphasis on supporting the Islamic work through the Islamic Conference Organization and on cooperation for fighting terrorism.

The two sides strongly rejected associating terrorism with Muslims and expressed their hopes for success of the Islamic Conference on terror issues due to be held in Saudi Arabia.

At the conference, Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal said: "the visit of Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan was characterized by extensive presence by Turkish businesspersons who met their Yemeni counterparts and discussed the investment opportunities and facilities related to air and sea transportation.

Senior Yemeni officials, among them Abdulqader Bajammal, PM, Ahmad Sufan Deputy PM and Minister of International Cooperation, Dr. Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Head of the Honor Mission, other ministers and MPs, the Turkish Embassy staff and the

Turkish community members in Yemen all paid farewell to Mr. Erdogan at the Sana'a International Airport.

Press sources, including al-Shura Net, gave more preponderance that normalization with Israel is beyond the frequent visits of the Jordanian King and Turkish Prime Minister to Yemen and their joint discussions with President Saleh who is due to receive Parviz Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Observers hold the view that Yemen is likely to enter the process of normalization with Israel in response to external pressures and escapism from internal privileges, according to frequent international reports, which revealed domestic persistent demands for political reforms and eradication of corruption in the country.

The visit due to be paid by President Saleh to the U.S. on Nov. 9, observers believe, may include a discussion of the normalization with Israel.

At the press conference, concluding his visit to Sana'a, Erdogan confirmed there was no objection to the political, economic, trade and military cooperation with Israel.

It is known that Turkey is an Asian country with a European color and its close ties with Israel is governed by joint interests that make it play the role of intermediary to pave the way for normalizing with Israel.

# The future of this country in stake

By Hakim Almasmari YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh is scheduled to make his muchanticipated visit to the United States Next Month for a round up meeting with President Bush and other highranking U.S. officials. Sources at the White House mentioned that the two presidents are to discuss bilateral and regional issues as well as further initiatives for cooperation between the two countries. The Yemeni Foreign Minister mentioned that President Saleh would review the international and regional issues and clarify the Yemeni standing on these issues; pointing out that Yemen would continue to be an active partner in the international

campaign against terrorism. Many local NGOs feel that this visit will play a crucial role in deciding the future of this troubled nation, President Saleh is hoping to gain the much needed financial support to improve the country's sinking economy. There are many questions around the real purpose of the visit, since it takes place only

days before the ruling party announces its new presidential candidate to run in the upcoming presidential elections.

President Saleh shocked the nation by announcing that he would not run in the next presidential elections. "Its time for the younger generation to stand and guide this nation to a better future", quoting President Saleh, many analysts have serious doubts concerning the president's promise, fearing that this is nothing but propaganda to help the ruling party achieve a hidden agenda.

Issues of importance to the U.S government, which will be focused on include reforms, Yemen's efforts in fighting terrorism, human rights and freedoms, smuggling of weapons to neighboring countries, including Somalia, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan.

The dilemma around this trip is its timing in such a crucial time period in Yemen's political history; does it suggest that the direct interference of the United States in the upcoming Yemeni elections or if the economic and political prosperity of this country is at the hands of the United States, only time will tell.

### President Saleh visit to the USA

# A New milestone in the bilateral relations

BY YASSER AL-MAYASY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Saleh will be shortly visiting the United States of America, a visit thought to be a turning point in the bilateral relations of the two countries, as Yemen considers the visit a successful milestone in the country's foreign policy. Political observers believe that there would be three topics in the agenda. The first one will be economic and financial cooperation; fighting terrorism will also be tackled, and the third topic will be a discussion of Yemeni commitments towards human rights and freedom of the press with special considerations to the recent Journalist abuses.

Yemen expects this visit to yield an increase in the financial aid allocated to Yemen because of the partnership of Yemen with the Americans in fighting terrorism. Yemen demands more military support in order to protect its long coasts



to curb smuggling. It is also expected that Yemen will ask specific technical assistance for the protection of the Yemeni coastline. Yemen's efforts in freezing the balances of those who were listed by UN as terror financers will also be within the agenda. Observers think that the president's mission will not be an easy one; however the success of the Yemeni government will be a great boost to the Yemeni role in the war on terrorism.

#### **History of Yemeni - American relations**

The Yemeni American relations were established during the 2nd world war period. Its formal start was said to be in 1945. Diplomatic representation began with sending a special diplomatic mission, developing further into a full fledged embassy. Financial aid to Yemen also started at this time.

The American Yemeni relations were affected by the post Second World War influences. The political balance between the capitalist USA led camp and the socialist camp led by the Soviet Union also had its impact on these relations. The Northern part of Yemen used to have strong cooperative relations with USA. The rivalry between the major powers had its impacts on the Yemeni American relations which led to the direct American aid to Yemen, to stop the spread of the Communist influence in the area, which had already sustained good influence in

the southern parts of Yemen. **FAGOR** شركة زيين للتجارة والص **Zubayen Trading & Industry Company** Sana'a (441575/571) Fax: 441579, E-mail: zubayen1@y.net.ye.

Aden (205060/1/2) Fax: 205063, E-mail: zubayenA@y.net.ye

Yemeni-American ties were realized by military and financial support to attract Yemen to the USA camp against the Soviet Union, in the eighties the Yemeni USA relations used to be through the intermediacy of Saudi Arabia. The direct diplomatic relations were in 1945, when the American extraordinary commissioner in Saudi Arabia Colonel William Eddy, led a diplomatic mission to Yemen and held diplomatic talks with Imam Yahia. An agreement of friendship, trade and freedom of navigation was signed. Yemen received political support in return in which USA also recognized Yemen as a free state in March 1946. USA sent a nonresidential ambassador in 1946 and Yemen sent its first diplomatic mission to Washington in July 1951, after the first residential American mission to Taiz in 16.09.1959, introducing American aid to Yemen. These constituted a radio transmitter and a loan of one million dollars to buy sundry American goods. A number of visits were exchanged between the two sides. Further development was achieved when the American companies were granted rights for petroleum discovery in the Red Sea coasts, particularly in Salif

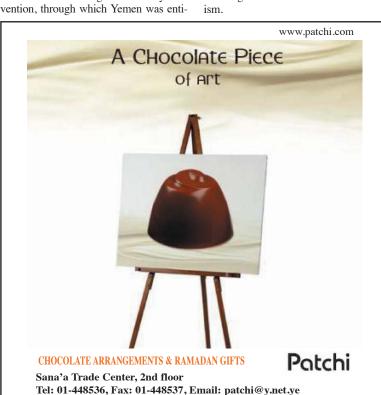
Following the 1962 revolution, America supported Yemen and recognized the revolutionary government which ousted The Imam. In the late sixties, more aid was given to Yemen. They were in the sectors of water, agriculture, tools, training and experience. USAID and private American institutions were involved in furnishing these aids. Military aids to Yemen started in 1976. when the two sides signed a military contled to arms deal of a \$138 millions. The American aid increased during the confrontations between the two Yemeni sides, where the Americans feared the Russian domination over the northern part of Yemen. Relations were strengthened when President Saleh took charge. The relations were boosted by the first visit of an American president to Yemen. President Bush senior visited Yemen when he was the vice president of president Regan. President Saleh was also the first Yemeni president to visit America in

with USA following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990. The democratic rule, economic reform and free financial policy bolstered The Yemeni policy. Immense political and economic support to Yemen was introduced during the nineties, despite the great changes in the A turning point in these relations followed the 9/11 attacks, which had a direct

Yemen established stronger relations

effect on the bilateral relations, and the regional ones. Yemen was affected by terror prior to 9/11. Terror fighting became the axil of the Yemeni American relations. The climax of these relations came as joint Yemeni American operations were carried against those who attacked USS Cole in Aden in 2000. A major operation was also carried by an American plane which destroyed the car of Al-Harithi, a leading terrorist figure.

America in return furnished support for the Yemeni security to face the terror operations and arrest terrorist groups. However the support is still not enough in covering the Yemeni needs to face terror-







Suzuki Yemen (Member of Bamarouf Group) سيوزوكي اليمن - عضو مجموعة بامعروف Head Quarter: Al-Mimlah Road, Sheikh Othman Aden; Tel: 346000, Fax: 340049

# Training of Trainers program in Journalism

Media Yemen Development Program collaborating with the MCTQI in order to develop a training program for journalism trainers which will run from December 2005 to May 2006. The program includes three courses each of 5 days duration (6-8 hours per day). The courses will be run by qualified European trainers.

Invited participants are to be trained to participate as trainers and co-trainers in Journalistic skills for journalists organized by MCTQI. The first course will be run by trainers from Free Voice (Netherlands) and will be held during the period 17-21 December 2005 at the MCTQI premises. Journalists who fit the following criteria are encouraged to apply for that course:

1- Participants should be working journalists with a minimum of five year experience and are 30 years of age or older.

2- Participants are committed to be available and actively participating in the Training of training programs as well as other training activities organized by MCTQI.

3- Participant should express their willingness to function as a trainer in their own media organizations and in the framework of MCTQI by signing a Declaration of Commitment. This declaration will have to be endorsed and stamped by their respective media organizations; however individual signatures of free lance journalists and correspondents of Arab and foreign media will be sufficient.

4- The deadline for accepting applications for this program is November 15th. Only short listed candidates will be called for interviews.

For more information and the application form, interested applicants should contact the MCTQI at 480172. Or visit the MCTQI office at the Sana'a radio station location, 26 September Street. You may also contact MCTQI Aden branch at

### Nejrin: Embargo on Cuba is the longest in human history

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Oct. 26- HE The Cuban Ambassador to Yemen, Piem Venipo Nejrin, held last Wednesday a press conference on the 40th anniversary of the economic embargo imposed on his country by the U.S.

The Cuban Ambassador said: "the economic, trade and financial embargo imposed on Cuba by the U.S. is the longest and most severe in the history of humanity. It is part of the U.S. aggressive policy and animosity toward the Cuban people and the main objective of it is to destroy the Cuban Revolution and make the Cubans suffer from starvation and famine.'

"This embargo constitutes a primary component in the policy of terrorizing the state and causing harm to its population without a distinction between ages and genders," he added. "This policy was applied by ten U.S. administrations as an act of annihilation, according to the second article of Geneva Convention on Protection of Annihilation Crime and its Sanction, which was signed on Dec. 9-1948. The U.S. behavior forms a crime against the international law."



Mr. Nejrin pointed out: "over 70% of the Cuban population were born and have been living under the embargo due to their insistence on defending their right for the determination of fate, as well as their insistence on achieving independence and social equity."

According to preliminary reports, the loss caused by the embargo since it was imposed exceeded US \$ 82 billion, with an annual average of \$1.8 billion, the Cuban diplomat added. "The total amount does include more than 54 billion dollars that were attributed to direct damages on economic and social targets in Cuba as a result of destruction and terror operations, which have been fomented, organized and funded by the U.S., the estimated loss of last year alone exceeded 2.7 billion dollars.

In conclusion of the conference, the Cuban Ambassador set the demands of his country toped by urging the UN General Assembly to stop the embargo policy and the endorsement of thirteen of its decisions, concerning the backing of 169 UN member states.

Cuba renews its confirmation that such a U.S. conduct toward the international resolutions means an underestimation of the role of the UN, plurality and the international law.

#### 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:

In his visit to America, do you think that president Saleh will ask the American authorities to release Goantanamu detainees, Al-Moyad, Zaid and Alheelah?

No I don't know

#### Last edition's question:

Economic experts claimed that corrupt officials embezzled \$5 million of th epublic money between 2000-2005. Do you think this is Yes

I don't know

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

# Ramadan spirit celebrated by the Turkish International School



School International organized iftar for Turkish nationals on Friday the 21st of October. Most of the Turkish community residing in Yemen were invited to the iftar Among which was his Excellency Turel Ozkarol Ambassador of Turky to Yemen and his wife along with the Chairman of TIS Mr. Faruk Yanik, TIS senior section Principal Mr.Fettullah Karakoc, Director General of Seren Company Mr.Aladdin Ekrekli, the owner of Nur Ak Construction company Mr.Nurettin Asan, and Mr. Walid Al-Saqqaf, exeditor of Yemen Times, and a number of Turks who work in a variety of Turkish and multinational companies in Sana'a.

Turkish food was prepared and served by the staff of TIS, The atmosphere was exceptional during the iftar, After which the Turkish Ambassador, the Chairman of TIS Mr.Faruk Yanik, TIS Principal Mr. Fettullah Karakoc gave speeches, they stressed on dialogue and mutual understanding among communities. Then a multi media program was presented about the International Turkish Language Competition which was held in Ankara, Turkey earlier this year, in which Yemen won the 4th place in the competition with the song "Yemen Turkusu". It was very emotional while watching the song in Turkish being sang by the Yemeni students.

Apart from this the teachers, students and parents of TIS gathered aid for over 1000 poor families. TIS organized a charity and food package delivery program this year (2005 Ramadan) for the people in need. The campaign reached more than 1000, determined in advance, needy families. For the families indicated by the Aid Campaign Committee, an arranged food package was distributed by the school staff and the students. The aid package contained the following items: 5 kgs of rice, 5 kgs of sugar, 5 kgs of flour, 4 Liters of cooking oil, 2 kgs of dates, 12 cans of beans and, 1 box of chocolate.

Prominent parents contributed generously towards this noble cause. Mr. Ali al Yamani contributed 1050 packages of chocolate and biscuits produced by the Turkish company SARAY.

The management of RAHA Taxis sponsored the delivery of the packages to the needy people's houses. The packages were delivered to different



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- 4- He should be a resident of Taiz

Interested applicants should send copies of their particulars and CV to P.O. box 6330 or fax No 04-218113.

An application request should be enclosed with the particulars together with a clear telephone number for communication. Interview date will be determined within a week from the reception of particulars.

Hayy Kulliyetettayaran Assuwayna needy families and to the poor students ,Shahra Taiz Hayy Annur, Shahra at government schools the packages are Ishriyn and Hayy Bilal among other delivered under the supervision of the General Directorate of Education of Students and teachers delivered the Mintikah Vahde.

### JOB VACANCY

The Civil Society Organizations' Thematic Working Group (CSOs' TWG) is a national network of CSOs working in the context of implementation and monitoring of national development strategies and plans especially those focusing on poverty reduction. The CSOs' TWG comprises 21 member organizations from different governorates and intends to promote effective partnership between CSOs and the government to fulfill the rights and priorities of the poor.

#### **<u>Title:</u>** Executive Manager

#### **Qualification and experience:**

- University degree in social science or other related field.
- Extensive working experience with NGOs and familiarity with the opportunities and challenges of CSOs in Yemen.
- Familiarity with poverty and development issues.
- Familiarity with gender issues.

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- Coordination capacity.
- Willing to work with diverse organizations and promote capacity of the different CSOs groups.
- Flexible and open minded, with the ability to accommodate different perspectives and viewpoints.
- Result and task oriented
- Good interpersonal skills, ability to work independently and in a
- Excellent communication, writing, negotiation, and advocacy
- Fluency in Arabic and English

To apply, please send your CV, relevant testimonies and a letter of application to: Chairperson, CSOs' TWG at the below fax and / or email. Applications could also be delivered by hand to the office of the CSOs' TWG at the Statistical Training Centre at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation or to the Executive Office of the Yemeni Women Union behind the Central Bank of Yemen. The deadline for application is 19 November 2005.

> Fax: 01-253010 Email: mugeeb@gmail.com

# **IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE**

Sony Computer Entertainment Europe Announces Recall of Certain AC Adaptors sold with the slimline PlayStation 2

Sony Computer Entertainment Europe (SCEE) has identified a possible safety concern with certain AC Adaptor units supplied with the new slimline PlayStatione2.

Certain AC Adaptors, identified as manufactured between August 2004 and December 2004, and supplied with the black slimine PlayStation 2 models SCPH70002, 70003 and 70004 may overheat and cause an injury hazard to consumers. It is likely that some of these units may have been on sale after this date. No other PlayStation 2 units are affected.

Burope, Middle East, Africa and Australasia.

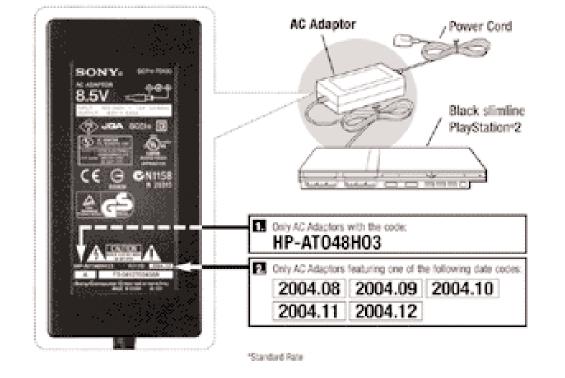
Consumers who identify their AC Adaptor from the diagram below as one of those affected, should arrange for a replacement by visiting:

#### www.ps2ac.com

Consumers can also contact the dedicated recall Helpline on 01 500 972\*. A new AC Adaptor will be provided free of charge. Please denot take your AC Adaptor book to the place of purchase.

As a precautionary measure, and until a replacement is provided, SOEE advises consumers owning one of the AC Adaptors affected by this Notice to unplug the PhyStation 2 from the mains power supply and discontinue use until a replacement AC Adaptor is provided.

We would like to applopise for any inconvenience caused.



# Ramadhan in the U.K.: Islam in the heart of Europe

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

mentioning Ramadhan, most attention is focused on Muslims of the Middle East or Southeast Asia. What is forgotten is how the millions of Muslims in the western world spend this holy month of Ramadhan. Here, we will put the light on Britain and the beauty of Islam during this precious month.

#### **Brief history of Muslims in Britain**

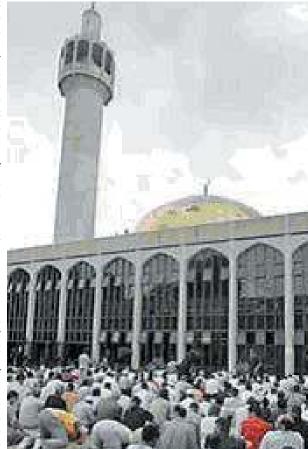
The major Muslim migration to Britain began from the mid-nineteenth century. Yemeni's were the first group of migrants who arrived in the ports of Cardiff, Liverpool, and London. At the beginning of the migration a language barrier existed and was a serious issue that Yemeni's faced. Therefore many misunderstandings between Yemeni and British citizens existed. Nowadays Muslims from over 75 countries live in Britain, most of which are from the subcontinent of India and Pakistan. Many places in Britain are also loaded with the presence of Muslims from Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and many other countries. The Muslim population is estimated to reach over 5 million in the present day. Cities with the biggest Muslim population are London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Sheffield, Manchester, and Bradford.

The fast growth of Muslims in Britain has created a greater chance for British people to learn more about Islam. In the early days of migration, Muslims had to call foreign Imams (Muslim scholars) to run local mosques, and teach their children basic Islamic education. These days native Muslims are replacing many foreign Imams for this post.

#### **During the day in Ramadhan**

To many Muslims in Britain,

Ramadhan is not a difficult issue to cope with. Days are much shorter then that of the Middle East, and fits perfectly with everyday life. Fajr prayer is usually held at 5:30am which is a good time for many in Britain to have breakfast, while Iftaar (fast breaking) time is sometimes around 4:00pm in the afternoon, which is also a good lunch time. The pressures of Ramadhan, is less felt then that of other countries. But the negative aspect to this issue is that many people are forced to have iftaar at work while not having the opportunity to have it with friends or family at home. Unfortunately, the only available time to have iftaar with family is on weekends or holidays. "You could never find time to enjoy iftaar family during Ramadhan. We are always busy and work in this part of the world is much more different back home", said Aman Qureshy, an Afghan Muslim residing in London. "This is probably the only negative





aspect of Ramadhan in Britain".

at work during Ramadhan, they could at least enjoy the beautiful reciatation of the Quran on Ramadhan". It is a special radio station, which offers a 24-hour service, giving lessons on Tafseer of the Ouran, Hadith, Ouranic recitation and many lectures during the length of the day. Many people have embraced Islam in Britain due to the listening of this radio station. It is seen as a door for people in Britain to get a better look at Islam and what it really stands for.

given during the afternoon

who want to learn more about Arabic, classes are also available. Many mosques open their doors to Non-Muslims who would like to learn more about the beauty of Islam from within, and the love and brotherhood it calls for. Many British citizens embrace Islam during this great month of Ramadhan, for they see the reality of Islam and what it teaches. An estimated 16% of Muslims in Britain are English (native Britain's).

Most of Britain's Arabs live around Edgware Road, in the heart of London. This street is filled with Arab culture as many Arab restaurants and cafes are available. Most shops on this street are open 24hrs a day. When walking on this Arab culture rich street of London, you will feel that you are spending Ramadhan in a Middle Eastern country and not in Europe.

Another interesting issue is weekend camp. Families often attend these camps, as it is a chance for Muslim families to get together and learn more about Islam, while in the same time many games and activities are available for all age groups to have fun and enjoy. These camps usually occur on the weekends during the month of Ramadhan. The site for the camp is usually rented by a Muslim organization. The main priority for such camps are to get the people more active in practicing Islam, especially when living in a more open society like the one in Britain. " Its very fun to enter these camps. We meet many new faces and build better relationships with Muslim families, while in the same time our children learn more about Islam and the beauty that Ramadhan holds within it", said Ahmed Al-Saa'edi, an Egyptian engineer living in Britain. "Many non Muslims also attend these camps to learn more about Islam and Muslims", he added.

#### Dishes from around the world Before the call of Athaan, many peo-

ple pass different varieties of food and dishes to neighbors and friends, Muslim or non-Muslim. Every house will definitely have something that was given by a friend. In the mosque free dates, snacks, fruits, and drinks are offered to everyone, while free meals are also given after the prayer to those who are students or not married, the mosque is home for all during the blessed month of Ramadhan, especially for those who have no family to cherish the month of Ramadhan with. In the

For those at home or even

#### Learning more about Islam during Ramadhan

People from all age groups flock local mosques to learn more about Islam. Special classes for Quranic recitation are available in almost every mosque. Lessons in Figh (Islamic Jurisprudence) are also period of the day. For those

#### Arab tradition on Edgware Road

#### Ramadhan activities

English speaking scholars and lecturers from Asian and Arab countries are usually called to Britain as guest speakers in the holy month of Ramadhan. Their speeches are focused on the importance of Ramadhan and the necessity of brotherhood through all Muslims not looking at race or nationality. Special lessons on how to utilize it shows love, kindness and a giving Ramadhan to the best of ones ability heart. are also given.





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London Mosque during Maghrib time, food from around the world is available for all people. It is usually a great opportunity for Muslims to get to know more of each other, while in the same time building a strong bond with Muslims in the society. This in return builds a good character in the people as

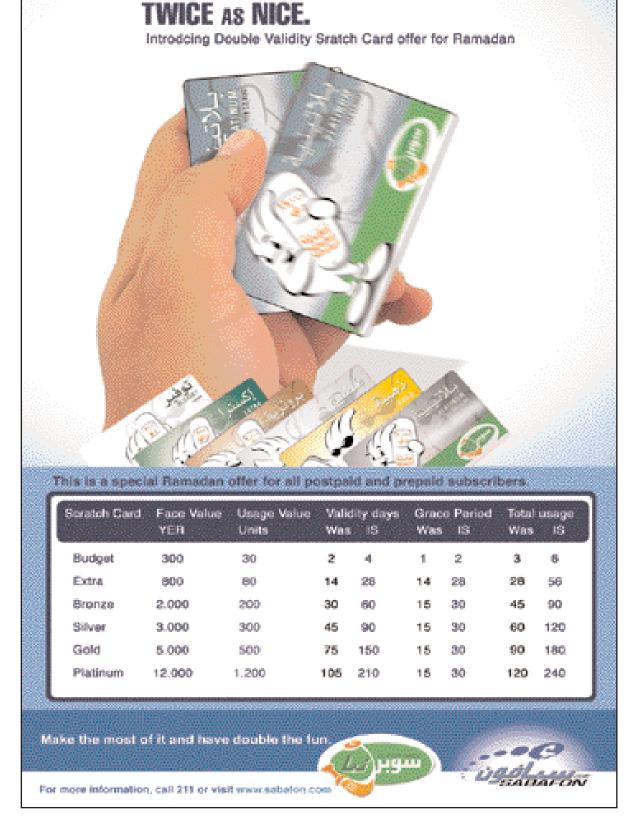
#### Life after Ramadhan

Everything changes; life returns to normal. Many Islamic Centers decrease their religious activities, which not only attracted Muslims, but Non-Muslims as well. Muslims in Britain must continue to spread the beauty of Islam throughout the length of the year. In return, giving Islam an opportunity to continue its spread from the heart of

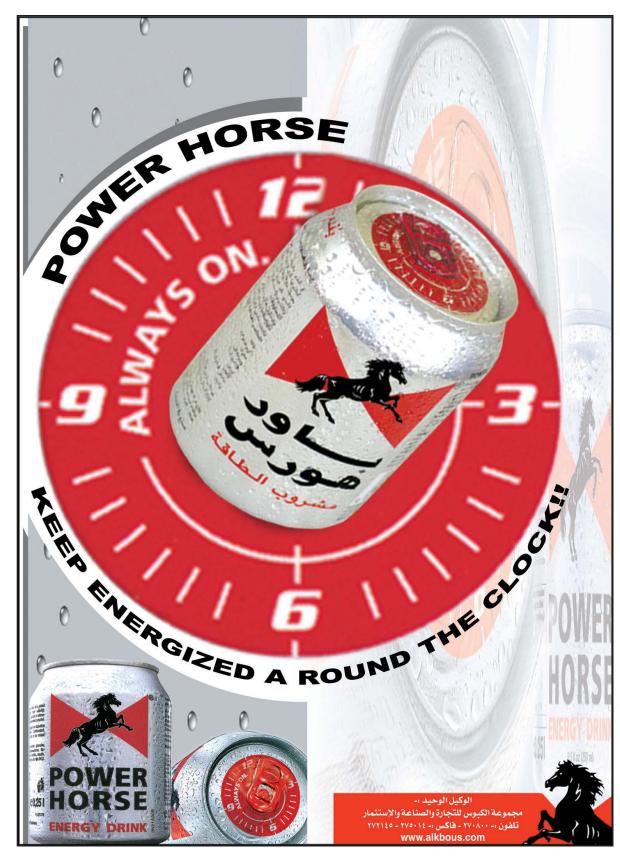
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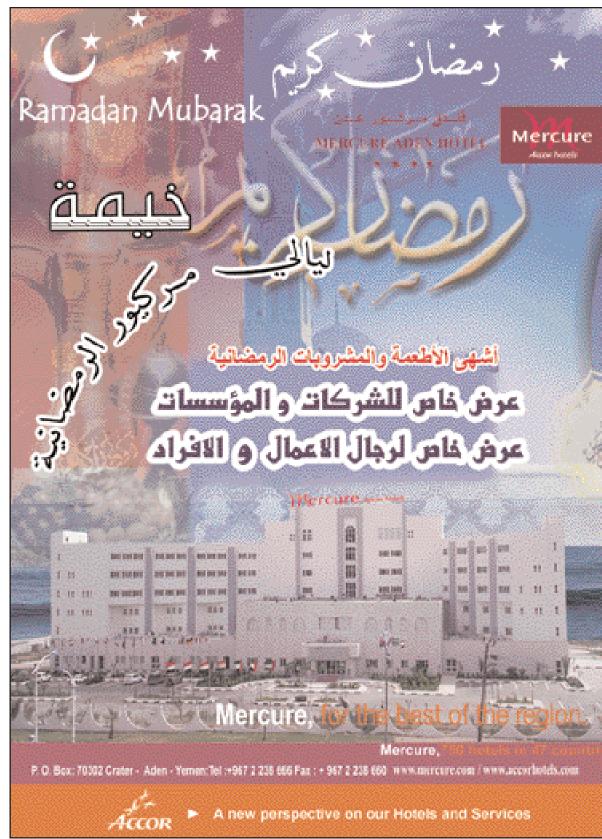
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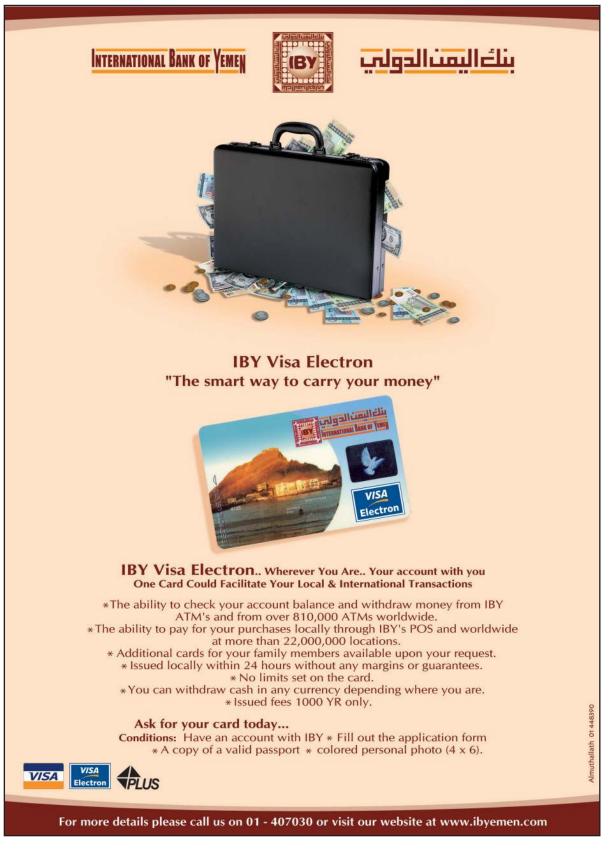


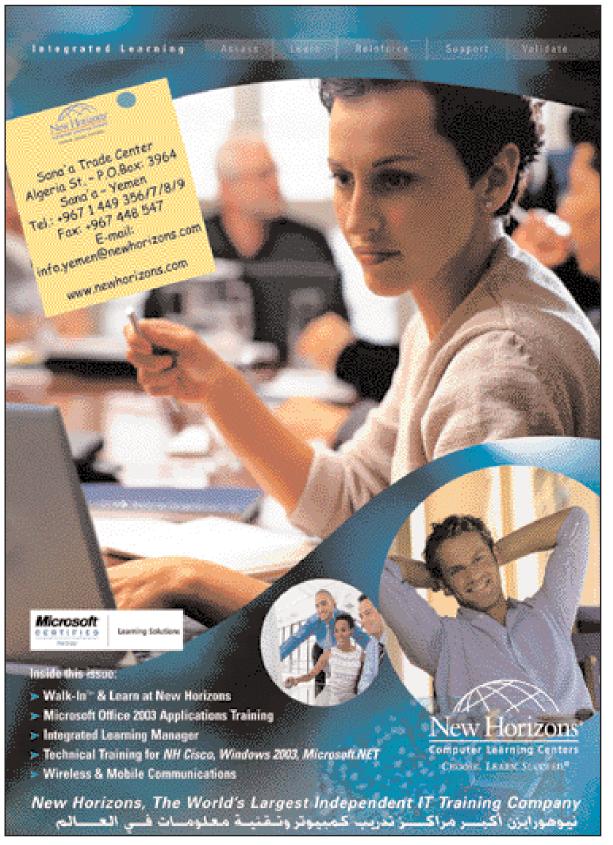




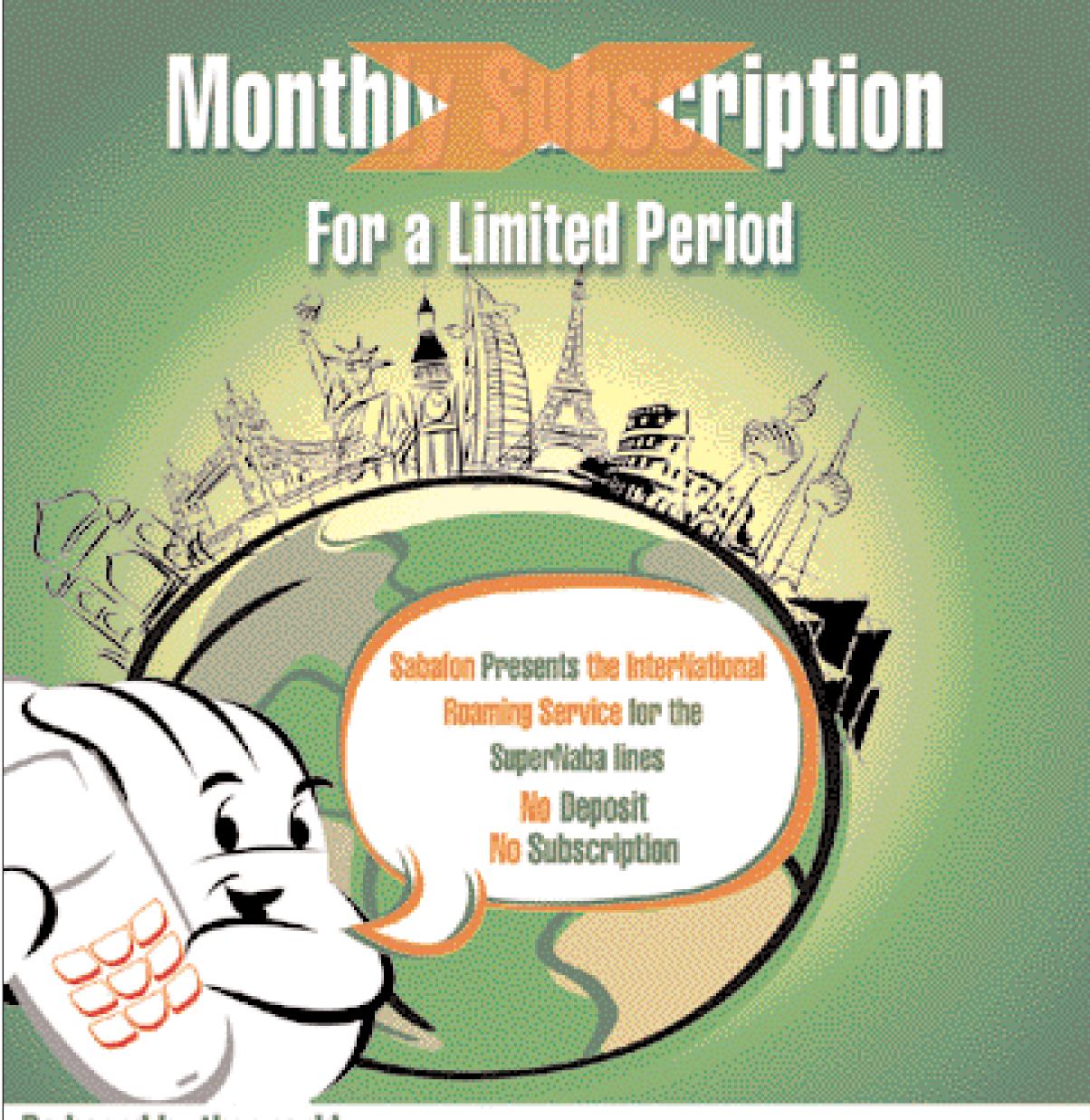








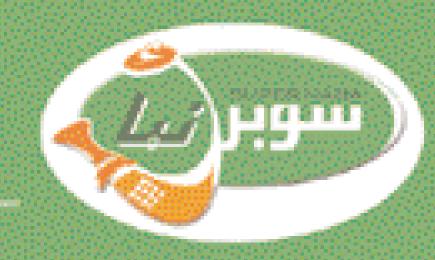




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#### Words of Wisdom



Parents and family elders are not providing good role models, either. Many adults spend their time chewing qat and watching satellite TV programs that represent the lowest common denominator, the children's recreational needs are mostly neglected, leaving them to wander off into the streets and mix with bad company.

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



### OUR OPINION

# Civil society organizations

ince the early nineties, the civil society movement or so is termed has seen a significant rise in both number and activities. Today, there are more than 4700 civil society organizations of different specialties registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs. This is a huge number considering the short history of such a movement and low capacity of this country, apparently, almost half of these organizations are active while less than 10% of them have an actual impact on the society.

Unfortunately, many of these organizations have been used as means for attracting donor support for personal gain and not for the community interest. During my work as an activist I have come across numerous local organizations and have realized that their actual connection with and hence representation of the communities is non-existent. Many civil societies speak on behalf of the people and play the guardian role only as an attempt to attract donor support, without excreting the least of an effort to take part in the development of the society of live up to their themes and their claims.

The right to represent the people is not gained on the bases of how many times the community or word charity is mentioned in the organization's title or mission statement. It is rather an award given by the people to the civil society organization after over years of hard work in community service.

A True civil society movement is a prime contributor in development process; in Theory, civil society organizations have the authority to question the government and its accountability to the people. Any organization has the right to even take the government to the court of law and question its policies in order to protect the people's interest and the common good. Without the credibility granted by the people the civil society organization is nothing more than a private business founded on unethical grounds.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf Editor-in-Chief



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

Head office: Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661 Fax: +967 (1) 268-276 P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a



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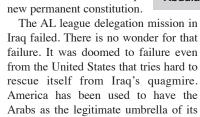
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# Arab League task failed

he Arab League delegation (AL) chaired by Ahmed Bin Hilli returned from its visit to Iraq, which came as a preparation for the AL Secretary-General Amr Mousa's scheduled visit to Iraq. Mousa's visit was after the referendum on Iraq's new permanent constitution.



strategy in the region.

The Iraqi non-legitimate government had quickly refused the task the delegation went to Iraq with and that stand was not a surprise. It was skeptical that the initiative was an attempt to derive concessions in favor of the Sunnis and to win an amendment of the articles in the constitution in a way conciliatory with what the Sunnis wanted. Therefore, the government of prime minister al-Jaafari as an attempt to get rid of demonstrating any concessions for the Sunnis.

It appeared that the AL effort was not desirable and therefore many were on



By Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarb

the lookout and so there was a comprehensive tepidity stance the Arab League delegation was received with. The Iraqi government refused the call for holding a nation al reconciliation conference under auspices of the Arab organization. It is as if telling the Arab League to keep away

from the issue and not to interfere in something not of its concern. Moreover, the president Talabani himself swiftly asked the delegation to show respect to Iraq's sovereignty as if he found out in the Arab League initiative something forming a flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

The Arab League action has come late and it has untimely presented its initiative. As if someone would say where the Arab league was when Iraq was destroyed and plundered, all its energies squandered and corruption spread in it since is occupation on 20 March 2003 up until now. The someone as if wondering about the Arab League stand towards the what has been happening of killing of hundreds of thousands of the innocent and America's military campaigns on Iraqi cities, its bombardment of hospitals, schools and mosques. Where was

the Arab League with regard to crimes of torture befalling Iraqi prisoners in Abu Ghraib prison. Only at this time the Arab League acted under permission from Bush in rescue of himself from claws of severe defeat that befell him and could not but hide behind an external party that may bring about a result.

The Arab League initiative failed

because there could not be a combination between alliance with the occupation and those confronting the occupation. It has failed because it wanted to kill the resistance and besiege it. It has failed because it has come as an attempt to put pressure on the Sunnis for softening their stand towards the referendum that partitions Iraq and torpedoes its Arab affiliation and also failed because it has intended to achieve the reconciliation before removal of the occupation. The logic says that occupation must be ended first and all other steps would fol-The occupation itself has destroyed, killed, stabilized the spirit of sectarianism and ignited the state of dissention and with it came the security instability and chaos. Thus there was no hope for any reconciliation to survive unless occupation is ended. For all that it seems that the Arab League movement has come as an attempt to present a life

# Islam and Respect of Humanity (1/2)

By Dr. Manea H. Al-hazmi

espect of mankind is an order from Allah-the Most Gracious the Most Merciful, who breathed into human a sort of his own spirit and honored him more than any other creature. [And we have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what we have created, with (definite) preference]. (Qur'an 17:70). Allah created mankind in upright and balanced in form and nature; he created men and women with minds and taught them that which they knew not [We have certainly created man in the best of stature] (Qur'an 95:4). Allah preferred mankind because he created them for a noble goal that is to live in harmony worshipping him; The most preferred people by Allah are the worshipers [O mankind, indeed we have created you from male and female and made you people and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed Allah is Knowing and Acquainted] (Qur'an 49:13). The best righteous people are the Messengers and Prophets because they were the finest worshipers, Allah honored them and chose them to convey His Scriptures to mankind. [Indeed, Allah chose Adam and Noah and the family of Abraham and the family of

Imran over the worlds] (Qur'an 3:33).

Therefore, the Messengers and

Prophets were the most respected people by their nations. In General, respect of human in Islam is well stressed in Qura'n and Sunnah (the traditions of Prophet Muhammad).

#### Respect of Human Life

Human life is respected and protected even Prior to Islam; Arabian tribes used to practice female infanticide because they considered daughters a potential source of shame. Qur'an considered this as a criminal act. [And when the female (infant) buried alive-is questioned, for what crime she was killed] (81:8-9). [When news is brought to one of them of the birth of a female child, his face darkens and he is filled with inward grief. With shame does he hide himself from his people because of the bad news he has had! Shall he retain her on contempt or bury her in the dust? Ah! What an evil they decide on?] (16:59).

Human blood cannot be spilled without legal reason. Whoever saved a soul it would be as he saved all mankind and whoever killed a soul without a legal reason through the authority of justice it would be as he killed the whole mankind. Almighty Allah states in Qur'an [...Whoso slays a soul not to retaliate for a soul slain, nor for corruption done in the land, should be as if he had slain mankind altogether and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind]. (5:32). The Prophet Muhammad PBUH said to Muslims while they were gathered in Makkah during pilgrimage [Your blood, your property and your honor

are sacred to you all like the sacredness of this day (the day of sacrifice in pilgrimage) of yours, in this city (Makkah) of yours and in this month (Dhul-Hijjah) of yours] (Narrated by Bukhari and Muslim). A Muslim remains capable of acting upon the religion and deserves the mercy of Allah as long as he does not kill an innocent person. Prophet Muhammad PBUH said: [A believer continues to guard his Faith so long as he does not shed blood unjustly]. (Narrated by Bukhari).

### Respect of Human Honor and Property

Honor and property of Muslims and Non-Muslims are respected and protected alike in Islam. Respecting honor and property of human beings is an act of righteous and good behavior that deserves reward from Allah. The Prophet Muhammad PBUH said [Do not be envious of one another, do not inflate prices by overbidding against one another, do not hate one another; do not harbor malice against one another; and do not enter into commercial transaction when others entered into that (transaction); but be you, O slaves of Allah, as brothers. A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim; he neither oppresses him nor does he look down upon him, nor does he humiliate him. Piety is here (and he pointed to his chest three times). It is enough evil for a Muslim to hold his brother Muslims in contempt. All things of a Muslim are inviolable fro his brother-in-faith: his blood, his property and his honor] (Narrated by Muslim).



### COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

The Turkish PM and the Old City of Sana'a

# The humanitarian touch was very evident

he visit of His Excellency Prime Minister Recep Tayyib Erdogan of Sister Country Turkey to Yemen was highlighted not by the greeting and farewell ceremonies, or the official talks behind open or closed doors or by the splendid meals Mr. Erdogan was graciously hosted to. For the residents of the Old City of Sana'a, the major event of the Turkish PM's 24 hours visit was his tour of the Old City of Sana'a. The tour was moved ahead of schedule at the request of the visiting Prime Minister to the evening of the 26th of October rather than the morning of the 27th of October, as originally scheduled. This was to make it easier for the guests to meet the tight schedule of meetings that was set for the latter day and to enable Mr. Erdogan to spend more time in the Old City than had been originally scheduled. Furthermore, it was indeed more sensible for the tour of the city to be conducted in the Evening, when the Old Souk of the City was humming at its height of activities and crowded with the people of the Old City and the surrounding countryside buying their traditional Eid Al-Fitr clothing and sweets. In addition the tour took place after having broken the fast already for the day, so the guest of the City and his companions can harness the energy needed for the intended long tour Mr. Erdogan had planned to take in the city.

Mr. Erdogan savored the Old City in every way he could taking the maximum tour that anyone can make in the space of four or five hours, all on foot and all without the least fear or hang-up about converging with the general crowd in the Old Souk and the surrounding streets of the Old City. The people of the Old City were finally given a flair of a leading visiting dignitary milling about the streets of Sana'a in their midst and this is a sight they haven't seen from their own leaders in quite some time. They have been used to so much fuss about security in the past whenever a leading official – local or foreign – took a tour of their traditional narrow and winding lanes. For sure, this created a lasting impression on the people of Sana'a. On the other hand Mr. Erdogan was adamant to go out of his way and meet and talk to the people (he spoke fluent Arabic) as he fast paced around the Old Souk area and made sure that he got more than just a simple tour of the architectural landmarks of Ottoman splendor that Sana'a abounds with, including the impressive Citadel, the magnificent Bakiriyah Mosque, the Al-Zumur Neighborhood, the Military Barracks of South Sana'a, etc. His mingling and talking with the general population of the Souk area included a visit to a house randomly chosen by the Turkish MP and congenially talking to its residents, going into some of the typically small retail outlets that sold traditional Ramadhan sweets and making sure to pass around samplings to all his entourage and Yemeni accompaniments. Mr. Erdogan also displayed a keen sense of deciphering information from the people he met and it is for certain, that he must have felt the expressions of neglect conveyed by some of the residents, especially among the poor and the handicapped. In a moving scene, the observer was bound not to overlook, the humanitarian concerns and warmth of the Turkish PM were evident, when he went straight to a handicapped paralyzed beggar in one of the streets and talked at length with him asking about the background of his affliction and what has been done by the Government or the society to aid him. He apparently saw a possibility of having the cause of his handicap remedied and ordered that the person be sent to Turkey at his (or the Turkish Government's expense). He had hoped to take him along with him, but unfortunately our authorities couldn't get their act together to prepare the formal papers for his travel to Turkey. There were other fine and human moments that the people of Sana'a will remember for a long time to come and indeed Mr. Erdogan truly reflected the strong feeling of attachment to the Yemeni people, who once were under the Ottoman Sultan's or Caliph's banner, for a significant period in their modern history. Perhaps Mr. Erdogan remembered well that the Yemenis, despite their strong resistance to Turkish occupation, were not foolish enough to side with the Western Allies during World War I, despite the latters' strong and tempting offers and promises of grandeur, which some of the other Arab leaders at the time were offered by the Allies, but which never saw the light of day. The Yemenis at the time could not find prudent logic in siding with non-Moslems against Moslem brothers. The people of Old Sana'a were glad to see that the Turkish people were blessed with such fine displays of warmth in leadership and Mr. Erdogan will leave them with their prayers extended from the bottom of their heart on this blessed Month of Ramadhan. The Yemeni people will certainly wish him (and invite him to) many happy returns (to his other hometown, Sana'a of



# China's aborted openness

By Li Xiaorong

hina's state-run Xinhua news agency recently reported on a government investigation into a string of forced sterilizations and abortions in the village of Linyi, Shandong province. The speed of the investigation – said to have begun days after the kidnapping of Chen Guangcheng, a blind activist who had been a public advocate for the victims – and the candor of the report created the impression of greater government responsiveness and bolder official media. Is this impression right?

The story in Linyi is the kind of news that propaganda officials usually bury in the Communist Party's secret files. According to reports, local authorities in Linyi, seeking to avoid exceeding birth quotas under China's °∞one-child°± policy, forced several women to undergo abortions and forcibly sterilized many couples with more than one child. Villagers who hid to avoid the campaign reportedly saw their family members jailed. Some in Linyi alleged degrading treatment, torture, and extortion.

Why investigate and report this scandal? The Xinhua reports, I believe, are best read as damage control.

China is trying to secure funding from the United Nations to improve reproductive health – an effort that has been set back by reports of forced abortion. Central authorities did not investigate the Linyi abuses until news of the harassment of Chen Guangcheng – and his abduction with the help of Beijing police – spread into international media

Chen had reported the abuses to officials and asked a non-governmental organization, the Citizens' Rights Defense Group, to investigate. The group went to Linyi in May. A month later, the network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders reported the group's findings and demanded the intervention of the central government's Family Planning Commission (FPC).

As a volunteer for the network, I was in touch with Chen and followed events closely. In July, having failed to elicit any government response, Chen began seeking legal aid from prominent lawyers

to prepare lawsuits on behalf of the victims, causing alarm among local officials. Pursued by police, Chen went into hiding. My °∞personal safety was threatened, °± he wrote on August 30 in the last email I received from him.

Following strenuous international protests over Chen's kidnapping, the FPC decided to investigate. Xinhua announced that local officials responsible for the violence might be prosecuted. Central authorities seemed to sense an immediate need to quell criticism of its controversial population-control efforts. And Xinhua wasted no time in claiming that the abuses were limited to a few towns.

However, central government authorities have done little to halt intimidation of Linyi's villagers. Chen was released from detention but remains under house arrest and was dragged back to the police station on September 2 for unknown reasons.

Police refuse to return Chen's personal computer and cell phone. The village, too, is mysteriously without phone service. Meanwhile, through arrests, threats, and bribery, authorities are forcing villagers to withdraw accounts of abuse and back out of their lawsuits, warning of the dire consequences of cooperating with Chen and the lawyers.

The FPC declines to intervene, citing lack of law-enforcement powers. On October 10, the villagers' lawyers were told that the court hearing scheduled that day was canceled. On their way back to Beijing, thugs reportedly assaulted the lawyers.

Viewed in this context, the belief that the government's approach to Linyi reflects a new responsiveness to human-rights abuses seems naïve. If the government were truly becoming more responsive, why have we not seen similar responses to other disputes over the theft of farmland, compromised investors' rights, or high-level corruption?

In all these cases, authorities have responded with repression, including the hiring of plain-clothes militias to kidnap or beat up people who attempt to publicize problems. China's belated bouts of openness about the rural spread of AIDS and the SARS epidemic clearly indicate that the central government regards transparency solely as a matter of

expediency

Others argue that China's government is simply losing its grip over local authorities. This prospect is hardly encouraging. If abuses and repression in the provinces continue no matter how attentive the central government, or how assertive the press might have become, what then?

More likely, however, the central authorities are following a policy that most Chinese know well: neijin waisong, or °controlled inside, relaxed outside.°± Applied here, the policy means consolidating power at home while disarming critics abroad.

I believe that the government's loss of control in the provinces has been stagemanaged. Chaos provides a cover for crackdowns. It is too convenient when unidentified strongmen beat and harass activists who question Party rule, and it is too easy for officials to blame an out-of-control °∞criminal society°± when international media start asking questions.

Suspiciously targeted °ocriminal°± assaults have, indeed, occurred in places other than Linyi. Thugs thrashed civil rights activist Lu Banglie in the Guangdong town of Taishi in early October. Six villagers in the Hebei village of Dingzhou, protesting government seizure of their land, died after bloody clashes with a gang of toughs in July. The list goes on.

State media recently started releasing year-end °∞mass incident°± statistics. Last year, the government said, there were 74,000 such incidents. Observers marvel that China's leaders admit to such a staggering number of protests. But here, again, the government is hiding in plain sight. State-run media organs have been forced to admit that these protests test the Party's will to maintain power. They neglect to tell the real story of how the Party exercises that will, trusting that the admission itself will satisfy us. We should not be so quick to play along.

Li Xiaorong is a human rights researcher who specializes in reproductive rights and gender issues in developing nations. She taught philosophy at People's University in Beijing.

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# YT Business

# Government tightens grip on NGOs

MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

recent field study has indicated that the circle of poverty in the Yemeni society is taking an expanding direction at a time the government has greatly tightened its measures against 1480 civil society and establishment under pretext of their violation of the law of private societies. In reality the reason is related to their activities ranging between the government accusation to them of violating the law and their seeking for

# 93 investment projects licensed

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The State Authority for Investment has granted licenses to 93 investment projects in the period of July-September 2005 at a cost of YR 13 billion, 643 million and 216 thousand.

Statistical bulletin issued by the Authority's Studies and Research Department mentioned that the projects were distributed, in accordance with economic sectors, to industrial and agricultural projects, besides services and tourist ones. Thus the number of industrial projects in the main center and the governorates of Taiz, Hadramout, Aden and Hudeida amounted to 45 projects. Hence the number of projects registered at the Authority since its establishment in 1992 has reached at 5531 projects at a total cost of YR one billion, 838 million and 622 thousand and job opportunities realized amounted to 169.355 thousand.

obtaining local and external grants to be offered to the poor and using them in civil society activities that need financial supports encounter peoples' sufferings resulting from the policies of economic doses that have been exhausting the Yemenis' potentials since March 1995.

Social Affairs and Labour undersecretary Ali Saleh Abdullah has lately announced that the ministry is in the process of omitting about one thousand civil society organizations out of their total number of 5200 organizations registered with the ministry and those organist ions would be suspended from practicing their work. The ministry's undersecretary called on the organizations to submit statements explaining sources of their funding and the sides beneficiary of their activities.

Many of private organizations have expressed surprise and astonishment regarding the government endeavour to cause damage to the NGOs, despite that Yemen, as the case with Turkey and Italy, is authorized, according to meet-

ings of the world summit of the 8-group countries to work for development of non-governmental organizations activities, enhancement of dialogue among them and work on offering care for them and to practice their activities in a democratic manner.

Officials of those organizations have said the law does not authorize the ministry to delete violating societies without consulting the judiciary, as stipulated in rules of procedure of the law of and establishments. societies Meanwhile, a field study mentioned that cases of poverty are expanding in number despite the Yemeni efforts exerted for fighting it. Local markets are crowded with huge numbers of variety of goods in a manner attracting the attention, but majority of the people is unable to buy. The study said some of the goods have labels mentioning "Made especially for Yemen", which according to opinion of the many that those goods had been made under the minimum amount of quality requirements, if there would be such quality, and needed a great care in transportation, display and storing. Certainly, a great number of those goods, now in the markets, are smuggled, imitated or cheated and expired.

The study deemed that poverty curbs the purchasing power of the consumer, forcing them to buy goods of cheap prices and thus they become exposed to dangerous diseases. Lacking of due awareness, the citizen is tempted by the sight of those goods and therefore he pays for their price and sometimes he is pushed by curiosity to try them.

Sources at the consumer protection organization say the state is no longer interested or care about the citizen's health and for this reason it is absent from what is going on inside markets. The merchants, as a result of that, are feeling free in the supply of their goods as long as the concerned parties are careless and look for violators to blackmail them for sums of money.

Sources at the ministry of industry and trade have admitted the existence of much quantity of cheated goods entering the markets through two ways; the major official inlets or smuggled across borders. For the first type, he state authority for specifications and standardization has called for examin-

ing them and as for the second type the responsibility is on the shoulder of many authorities, mainly the coast guard and other security and customs depositments.



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### Yemeni charitable societies activities in Ramadan

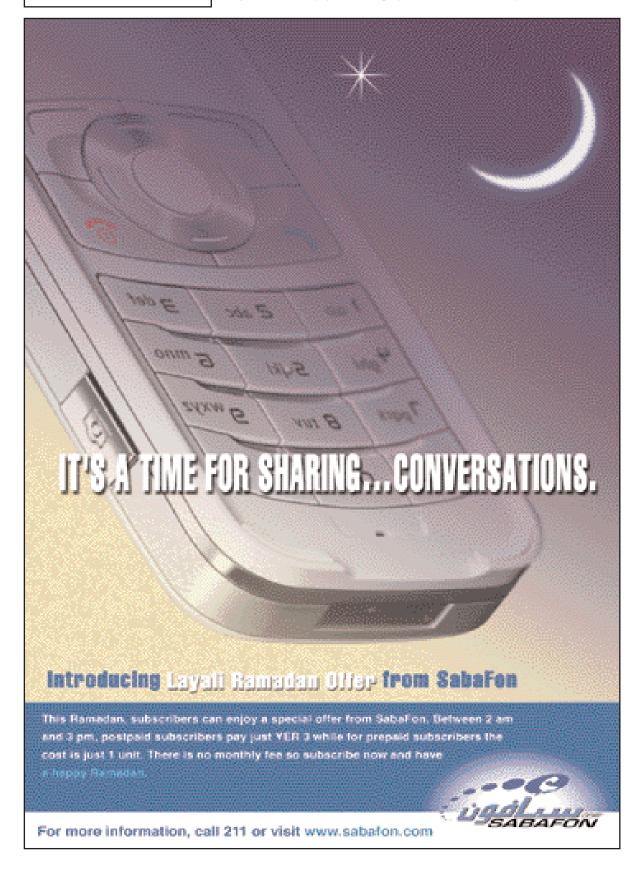
MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

number of Yemeni charitable societies, mainly the societies of Al-Saleh, Al-Islah, the People's Society in Hadramout, Al-Hikamah al-Yamania charitable society in Taiz and its branches in governorates have been carrying out their Ramadan charitable activities and projects.

Among those activities Al-Hikmah Society is carrying out its 16th general program consequently and in this regard the society gives Iftar project for the fasting offering 87160 food meals for the fasting Iftar, offering 14987 food help to poor families including rice, wheat flour, sugar, cooking oil, dates as well as distribution of Eid clothes to more than three thousand orphans and needy persons.

There is also an implementation of a joint project sponsored by the General Federation of Yemeni Women and al-Saleh Establishment for Social Development including distribution of Ramadan aid in all Yemeni governorates according to accounts containing names of the needy families, taking into account families of martyrs, the widows and the most needy women for such Ramadan help.

Al-Saleh establishment also carries out program of Ramadan assistance consisting of food stuffs for the needy. Mr. Ismael al-Wadeie, director of the sector of programs and projects in the establishment said the establishment's assistance programs aimed at offering aid to more than 300 thousand families in all Yemeni governorates. The assistance is distributed to those who really are in need and that is in coordination with the local councils in the districts and centers depending on statements of the social security departments.





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Attendees were given the opportunity to see current and emerging technologies from Canon's medical, semiconductor and broadcast industries and learn how the company is partnering with a wide range of industries to deliver state-of-the-art solutions in these areas.

#### Canon imagePRESS for Professional Print

Canon launched a new digital colour printing technology brand - Canon imagePRESS to the European market at Canon EXPO 2005. digital colour requirements of the commercial high-end, high-quality colour digital press Canon's highly successful CLC range of products. The brand underlines Canon's 'complete solutions' approach to the professional printing industry in Europe, and will be used on Canon's new, revolutionary colour printing

gy, nanotechnology and life sciences.

imagePRESS has been developed to meet the print, graphic arts and corporate markets. The introduction of the imagePRESS brand signals Canon's highly anticipated entrance into the market and is a complementary offering to digital press technologies, shown for the first time in Europe at Expo 2005.

#### **High Definition Capture and Display** Canon also introduced the company's first

High Definition (HD) Camcorder for electronic news gathering, sports and episodic television, as well as documentary and feature film making applications at Canon EXPO 2005 in Paris. The three CCD XL H1 High Definition camcorders deliver crisp high-definition video at 1080i resolution and feature selectable frame rates of 60i, 30 Frame and 24 Frame. and can switch back to SD resolution if need-

#### **Environmental Activities**

In addition to presenting Canon's future environmental solutions, Canon EXPO 2005 also showcased current environmental conservation initiatives which underpin Canon's commitment to achieving a sustainable harmony between the environment and the company's corporate activities. Technologies that dramatically reduce the energy required to power office and consumer products will be on display alongside details of Canon's resource conservation initiatives and systematic approach to chemical substance control in its manufacturing process and finished prod-



Canon's first High Definition (HD) camcorder for broadcast is displayed in Paris.

## The man who made it happen

Keynote Address by President and Chief Executive of the Canon Group, Mr Fujio Mitarai at Canon EXPO 2005 in Paris

During his keynote address given earlier today at the opening of the exhibition, Canon Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Fujio Mitarai, announced Canon's plans to extend the company's current leadership position beyond the camera and office solutions sectors by investing in new businesses and applications for its innovative core technologies in areas such as medical technology, commercial printing and displays.

Mr Mitarai, who is named as the Financial Times' 10th most respected business leader, provided insight into the multi-national organisation's next fiveyear management initiative - Canon's Phase III of Excellent Global Corporation Plan. This phase of the Plan, which will commence in 2006 and run through into 2010, includes acquisitions and strategic alliance partnerships.

Canon has already demonstrated this strategic direction with the announcement of the acquisition of two Japan-based subsidiaries of NEC, NEC Machinery and Anelva, and strategic alliances with Toshiba and Microsoft. The acquisition of NEC Machinery and Anelva was designed to strengthen



equipment and high-precision manufacturing. The strategic alliances will target joint development with Toshiba of flat panel or Surfaceconduction Electron-emitter Display (SED) technology, and colour management systems with Microsoft.

Mr Hajime Tsuruoka, CEO and President of Canon Europe, said: "Canon is already recognised as a technology leader in the fields of cameras, printers and copying machine solutions. Our imaging technologies reach above and beyond these core technology areas. Canon EXPO 2005 in Paris will present visitors with an opportunity to experience our entire portfolio of ground-breaking technologies and gain a better understanding of every area of our world-class imaging solutions business."

### CBS - Canon's business solutions are defining the present and shaping the future

Canon expands into digital colour press solutions with new image PRESS brand

Canon today announced it has furthered its solutions portfolio for the commercial print, graphic arts, print for pay and creative sectors, as well as the corporate reprographic department (CRD) market. Further to consultation with customers, Canon has invested in new solutions, partnerships and services to aid business success, ensuring efficiency, productivity and quality are opti-

As part of its overall professional print strategy, Canon Europe has been developing pan -European partnerships with a range of solutions providers including NexPress, Objectif Lune, EFI, and Pelagon. Partnerships with these organisations mean on's customers will be able to be fit from complete workflow solutions that increase productivity, reduce lead times and maximise return on investment. Canon also continues to develop its existing range of solutions, such as the colour management portfolio, through the relationship with GretagMacbeth and its workflow partnership with NT-ware.

#### **Canon Business Solutions**

Canon believes that identifying a problem is not enough for its customers. Offering solutions they may not even have considered is what makes the difference. Canon's customer propositions include solutions for both office and professional print environments. Canon's ongoing services mean that it takes

care of its customers' business requirements from consultation, right through to installation and training.

Workflow solutions enable print businesses to manage print jobs more effectively, as well as allowing printers to create new services designed to give the customer more choice. They also provide the tools needed to deliver high-quality, printed documents quickly and easily, helping printers to grow their business in today's competitive envi-

Building on its overall customer focused

solution approach; Canon has designed its customer-dedicated services to support the specific needs of the professional print market. Providing bespoke professional support and guidance, the service offers printers information and strategic advice on how to realise their business goals. In addition, Canon offers high standards of installation, training and maintenance services structured to support maximum uptime and quality, enabling print businesses to remain prof-

Per Klavsen, European Professional Solutions Marketing Director, comments, "Canon's substantial investment in the professional print arena demonstrates our ambicompetitive market. With our partnerships we aim to develop ways in which our customers can create new services and increase profitability. At Canon, the customer comes first and we will continue to investigate future partnerships to ensure that our customer's business needs are always met."

#### **Canon Consumer Imaging**

Canon, a leader in photographic and imaging technology, today announces the forthcoming release of three new powerful workhorses for the home and small office: the colour laser multifunctional LaserBase MF8180c, and the Laser Shot LBP5000 and LBP3300 printers. With networking as standard in the MF8180c and optional in the

LBP5000 and LBP3300, the devices can efficiently generate rapid prints, making them ideal for the diverse office. The LBP5000 will go on sale in February 2006 and the other models will be available in March.

### Canon European First

LaserBase MF8180c is Canon's first desktop colour laser All-In-One for the European market. This colour printer



and copier also boasts quality colour scanning at 1200 dpi and includes a fax with a Super G3 Fax modem, making it an ideal unit for the diverse and busy office. With network capability as standard, multiple users can connect to the device. The MF8180c prints at speeds of 4ppm for colour, and 19ppm for black and white.

This release meets the demands of the rapidly growing laser multifunctional market: the first half of this year showed 38% growth in the overall laser MFD market compared to last year, while the colour laser MFD segment showed a dramatic 573% growth.

#### Rapid Professionalism

quality professional results, the LBP5000 generates both colour and black and white prints at 8ppm. The combination of On Demand fixing, which guarantees virtually no warm up time, and Canon's Advanced Printing System technology means rapid first print times. Prints are printed at 9600 x 600 dpi equivalent with Automatic Image Refinement (AIR). The LBP5200 is equipped with a USB 2.0 Hi-Speed interface for rapid data transfer and supports optional networking for easy connection to the busy

#### Reliability, speed and power

The LBP3300 operates with speed and efficiency to generate quality 2400 x 600 dpi equivalent prints with Automatic Image Refinement (AIR) at 21ppm. As with the LBP5000, the printer uses On Demand fixing for minimal warm up time and rapid generation of the first print. Duplex printing is standard on this laser printer, and networking is optional. The All-In-One cartridge ensures that when toner is replaced, the printer's essential parts are also replaced, minimising maintenance and keeping each print looking

#### Solutions for office environments Canon's forward thinking imaging solu-

tions put the company at the core of the customer's businesses. All businesses have to capture, manage and distrib-

ute documents. Canon can offer end-to-end solutions that will increase productivity and efficiency, as well as saving costs. Whether the need is for a document management system or a print strategy Canon helps introducing the benefits of colour imaging to the organisations which can rely on the high quality, reliable office products, softwares and services offered by Canon.

### Canon Philosophy, Brand and Success

At the heart of Canon business is a philosophy called Kyosei which is a Japanese word meaning "living and working together for the common good"

Kyosei is embraced by all Canon people at all levels of the business. It is the backbone of Canon's values and the way Canon people are treated and Canon business is conducted.

Canon is synonymous with creative design, ease of use and leading edge technologies. These qualities are summed up by the simplicity of You Can, which features in all aspects of sales and marketing across the region.

You can is the brand platform designed to support the essence of the Canon brand. It embodies all that is good about the products and services. It is designed to inspire and encourage Canon's customers to explore their creativity and be empowered by Canon's technologies. Launched in 2002, it was central to the first ever pan-European advertising programme. Since then it has become an integral part of Canon's advertising, brochure and package design and sponsership activity.

Canon's name is derived from an early camera named 'Kwanon', after the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy. In 1956 Kenji Ito designed the Canon logo in a simple elegant form that is recognised today.

World Class Business & Global Leadership Canon has received many accolades for its world-class management and business operations. President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Fujio Mitarai, is listed as the 10th most respected business leader in the Financial Times' ranking of the world's most respected companies and managers. And, for the last two years, Canon has moved up the ranks of the "All Star" list of the Fortune "World's Most Admired Companies", from No. 34 in 2004 to its current position at No. 30 in 2005.

Canon is also listed in Business Week's Information Technology Top 100 ranking at Week's Best Global Brands, with a brand value of ¤7.4-billion in 2005 - a 12 percent increase on 2004's ¤6.6-billion.

World Class Research & Development

Canon's products are built around patented core technologies that are developed inhouse. The company has registered more than 17,000 patents in the US since 1995 - second only to

This year Canon will spend about 8% of global sales on research and development to reinforce its R&D capabilities and create new businesses based on its existing technologies.

Canon already successfully manufactures input devices for still images through its extensive range of world-class cameras and scanners and output devices in the form of copying machines and printers. For moving images, Canon produces input devices in the form of video camcorders and is targeting a move into output devices for moving images through new display devices.

#### Innovative Display Technologies

One of Canon's new business areas, being fuelled by R&D and the rise of broadband networking, is display technologies. Canon will offer three types of display for moving images SED (surface-conduction electron-emitter

display) TV panels, rear projection displays for entertainment and industrial applications and organic electro-luminescence (OLEDs) for use in Canon's existing products. The SED TV panels are a new kind of flat

screen television for home use developed in partnership with Toshiba, due to launch in 2006. SED offers better image quality than LCD (liquid crystal display) and plasma technology and uses only one-third the power of plasma and 30% less power than LCD. It also realises faster video-response performance than LCD's making it ideal for display of

### you can Canon

moving images

#### Prototype-less Design Enhances R&D

Canon is also working to enhance the R&D process through the development of 'prototype-less' design. This is an area in which the company has invested heavily to develop analysis and simulation technology that creates virtual prototypes rather than real ones delivering significant cost savings and reduced time to market for products.

#### World Class Financials

Record sales and net income growth for five consecutive years have ensured that Canon retains its position as leader in the Western European digital camera market and stays ahead of the competition. The company's operating profit for the first half of 2005

Consolidated net sales for the group in 2004 were approximately ¥3,467.9-billion, which represents a year-on-year increase of 8.4% over 2003 results.

For 2005, Canon projects that its net income will grow by 6.9% to ¥367-billion on sales of ¥3,680-billion – up by 6.1% on 2004.

## Canon Yemen

"We believe that we have a responsibility to promote high level technology so as to assist the enhancement of the Yemeni society in order to give Yemen the chance to go in line with world technologies.' Khaled Abdulwahid GM of

#### Canon Agent in Yemen.

Abdul wahed m noman & sons ltd. Embracing trade name " the popular stores" agents of canon products, is one of the steadfast trading corporation which was established by el-haj abdul wahed mohamed noman in tawahi, aden at the beginning of 1958. It is a closed and limited sharreholding corporation conducting import and marketing of canon japanese famous products in the republic of yemen.

It started its activities in 1958, and this makes it of the oldest Canon partners in the region, and is still adhering to the same mode of action which includes the marketing of different products of canon comprising office equipment and machines relating to information technology and office automation. The items particularly include:

1- photocopiers: black & white and

colour bubble jet & laser. Analogue & digital copiers of different sizes and different speed starting from 5 copies per minute to 85 copies per minute.

2- facsimiles: laser, bubble jet& multifunctional (fax, copier, computer, printer, pc fax, scanner & telephone) machines using plain paper or thermal, paper.

3- computer printers: monochorome and colour, bubble jet or laser printers compatible with windows, mackintosh and windows nt.

4- multifunctional document management system: one machine can work as copier, printer, fax, & scanner with network connection capability.

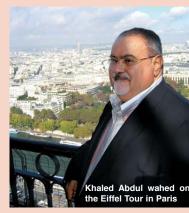
5- electronic typewriters: arabic/eng-

6- electronic calculators: intelligent organizers, alarm clock calculators, office printing calculators, desktop display calculators. Personal calculators, scientific statistical calculators.

7- photo and video products: slr cameras advanced photo system cameras, compact cameras, camcorders & digital cameras.

8- micro printers.

9- colour image scanners.



10- digital document recorders.

In addition to the main activity of the corporation in the field of import and marketing of canon products, the corporation is owning several real estate properties and has other real estate and investment activities, the most important of which is contributing as share holders in a number of industrial corporations also invests in buying real estate properties, and arranges there rental. The corporation also owns a lot of properties in aden, taiz and Sana'a.

#### **Reflections of Ramadan**

# The fine tuning in the universe

Who created the seven heavens in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the All-Merciful. Look again-do you see any gaps? Then look again and again. Your sight will return to you dazzled and exhausted! (Qur'an, 67:3-4)

He to Whom the kingdom of the heavens and the Earth belongs. He does not have a son and He has no partner in the Kingdom, He created everything and determined it most exactly. (Qur'an,

Materialist philosophy emerged with the claim that all the systems in nature and the universe were like machines that functioned on their own, that the flawless order and balance within them were the work of chance. However, today, the false nature of materialism and of Darwinism, its so-called scientific foundation, has been scientifically demonstrated. (See Harun Yahya, *The Evolution Deceit*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed., Taha Publishers, 2004 and Darwinism Refuted, Goodword Books, 2003.)

The scientific discoveries of the 20th century that followed swiftly, one after the other, in the fields of astrophysics and biology have proved that life and the universe were createdDiscoveries have revealed that there is a great creation and fine-tuning in the material world and this has categorically demonstrated the groundless nature of the claims of materialism

Considering the conditions necessary for life, we see that only the Earth meets these innumerable conditions taking place simultaneously and unceasingly all around us. There are some hundred billion galaxies, each with-on average-a hundred billion stars. In all the galaxies, there are perhaps as many planets as stars. In the face of such overpowering numbers, one can better comprehend the significance of the formation of such an exceptional environment on the Earth

From the force of the Big Bang explosion to the physical values of atoms, from the levels of the four basic forces to the chemical processes in the stars, from the type of light emitted by the Sun to the level of viscosity of water, from the distance of the Moon to the Earth to the level of gases in the atmosphere, from the Earth's distance from the Sun to its angle of tilt to its orbit, and from the speed at which the Earth revolves around its own axis to the functions of the oceans and mountains on the Earth: every single detail is ideally suited to our lives. Today, the world of science describes these features by means of the concepts of the "Anthropic Principle" and "Fine-Tuning." These concepts summarise the way that the universe is not an aimless. uncontrolled, chance collection of matter but that it has a purpose directed towards human life and has been created with the greatest precision.

Attention is drawn in the above verses to the measure and harmony in Allah's creation. The word "tagdeeran," meaning "to design, measure, create by measuring," is employed in Qur'anic verses such as Surat al-Furqan 2. The word "tibaqan," meaning "in harmony," is used in Surat al-Mulk 3 and Surah Nuh 15. Furthermore, Allah also reveals in Surat al-Mulk with

the word "tafawutin." meaning "disagreement, violation, non-conformity, disorder, opposite," that those who seek disharmony

The term "fine-tuning," which began to be used towards the end of the 20th century, represents this truth revealed in the verses. Over the last quarter-century or so, a great many scientists, intellectuals and writers have shown that the universe is not a collection of coincidences. On the contrary, it has an extraordinary order ideally suited to human life in its every detail. (See Harun Yahya, The Creation of the Universe, Al-Attique Publishers, November 2002 and A Chain of Miracles, Global Publishing, May 2004.) Many features in the universe clearly show that the universe has been specially created to support life. The physicist Dr. Karl Giberson expresses

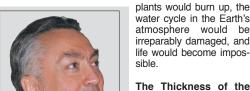
In the 1960s, some physicists observed that our universe appears to have been fine-tuned for the existence of human life.<sup>2</sup> The British astrophysicist Professor George F. Ellis refers to this fine-tuning in

these terms: Amazing fine tuning occurs in the laws that make this [complexity] possible. Realization of the complexity of what is accomplished makes it very difficult not to use the word "miraculous" without taking a stand as to the ontological status of the

- If gravity were stronger, excessive ammonia and methane would collect in the Earth's atmosphere, which would have a most damaging effect on life.
- If it were weaker, the Earth's atmosphere would lose excessive quantities of water, making life impossible

#### The Earth's Distance from the Sun:

- If this were any greater, the planet would grow very cold, the water cycle in the atmosphere would be affected, and the planet would enter an ice-age.
- If the Earth were any closer to the Sun,



By Harun Yahya www.harunyahya.com

atmosphere would be irreparably damaged, and life would become impos-

#### The Thickness of the Earth's Crust:

If the crust were any thicker, then an excessive amount of oxygen would be transferred to it from the atmosphere. If it were any thinner, the resulting

amount of volcanic activity would make life impossible.

#### The Speed at which the Earth Revolves: If this were any slower, the temperature

difference between day and night would grow enormously.

#### If it were any faster, then atmospheric winds would reach enormous speeds, and cyclones and storms would make

#### The Earth's Magnetic Field:

- If this were any more powerful, very strong electromagnetic storms would
- If it were any weaker, then the Earth would lose its protection against the harmful particles given off by the Sun and known as solar winds. Both situations would make life impossible.

#### The Albedo Effect (Ratio between the amount of light the Earth reflects and the amount of light that is absorbed): If this were any greater, an ice-age would

rapidly result If it were any less, the greenhouse effect would lead to excessive warming. The Earth would first be flooded with the melting of the glaciers, and would then

#### The Proportion of Oxygen and Nitrogen in the Atmosphere:

- If this were any greater, vital functions would be adversely accelerated.
- If it were any less, vital functions would

#### adversely slow down.

#### The Proportion of Carbon Dioxide and Water in the Atmosphere:

- If this were any greater, the atmosphere would overheat.
- If it were any less, the temperature of the atmosphere would fall.

#### The Thickness of the Ozone Layer:

- If this were any greater, the Earth's temperature would fall enormously.
- If it were any less, the Earth would over-

#### heat and be defenceless against the harmful ultraviolet rays emitted by the

- Seismic Activity (Earthquakes):
   If this were any greater, there would be constant upheaval for living things.
- If it were any less, the nutrients at the sea bottom would fail to spread into the water. This would have a damaging effect on life in the seas and oceans and all living things on Earth.

#### The Earth's Angle of Tilt:

The Earth has a 23 degree angle of inclination to its orbit. It is this inclination that gives rise to the seasons. If this angle were any greater or any less than it is now, the temperature difference between the seasons would reach extreme dimensions, with unbearably hot summers and bitterly cold winters.

#### The Size of the Sun:

A smaller star than the Sun would mean the Earth would freeze and a larger star would lead to its burning up.

#### The Attraction between the Earth and the Moon:

- If this were any greater, the powerful attraction of the Moon would have extremely serious effects on atmospheric conditions, the speed at which the Earth revolves around its own axis and on the ocean tides.
- If it were any less, this would lead to extreme climate changes

These are just a few of the exceedingly sensitive balances which are essential for life on Earth to have emerged and to survive. Yet even these are sufficient to definitively reveal that the Earth and the universe could not have come into being as the result of a number of consecutive coincidences. The concepts of "fine-tuning" and the "anthropic principle" that began to be employed in the 20th century are further evidence of Allah's creation. The harmony and proportion therein were described with magnificent accuracy fourteen centuries ago in the Qur'an

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

- 1 Carl Sagan, Cosmos (Avenel, NJ: Wings
- Books: April 1983), 5-7. 2 Karl Giberson, "The Anthropic Principle," Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies 9
- 3 George F. Ellis, "The Anthropic Principle: Laws and Environments," The Anthropic Principle, F. Bertola and U. Curi (New York: Cambridge University Press: 1993), 30.

# Ramadan Kareem

### Blessed Ramadan: The night worth a thousand years of worship

By Mohammed

For the Yemen Times

al-Hakimi

forming prayers at the mosque, two people were arguing about the Night of Power (Lailat al-Qadr). Here are some excerpts of the controversy:

Ali: It was 2:00 a.m. when the Night of Power visited me.

Fahd: What were you doing?

Ali: I was talking to my wife about what descend from Heavens during the holy month of Ramadan.

Fahd: What was it like? Ali: We were about to sleep when a pleasant light sparkled all around my house. I asked my wife not to be scared. The whole incident took just two minutes. I pray to Allah to bless me and all

Fahd: That must have been the lights of car coming back from Taiz (He teases his friend).

#### **Relevant superstitions:**

our Ummah.

Some Muslims believe that they get blessed by Allah so much that they actually watch the Night of Power. They believe that it comes in the form of a green light or holy signs descending from Heavens. They also believe that when some Muslim witnesses such an apparition, he will ever be blessed, rich, happy, high-brow and lucky.

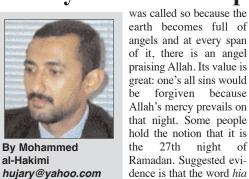
Many tales are narrated in our environment especially in remote Yemeni villages.

Fasting was prescribed to Muslims in the first year of Hejra in the month of Ramadan in which the Holy Quraan was revealed. It was sent down on the Night of Power and this indicated that The Night of Power occurs in Ramadan.

#### What is it like?

The Night of Power is a blessed night on which worshipping equals a thousand months – that is approximately 83 years.

Al-Qadr is Arabic for honor and of great importance and status. Some say it



(Arabic for it, referring to

the night) mentioned in Surat al-Qadr in the Quraan is ordered 27th among the thirty (one-month days) words of the same Surah.

Although it is one of Ramadan's nights, nobody knows for sure which one it is exactly. It is a matter of speculation.

Since Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) used to seclude himself in the mosque during the last ten days of Ramadan, Muslims do the same. Such seclusion consists in a stay in the mosque and never going out of it during the ten days or so except for very urgent matters. One must not go home until the seclusion period he specified for himself is over so that he may come across the holy Night

#### What else?

If it is the holy night, some religious men believe the sun in the morning of the day is warm and the evening is cold; dogs don't bark and the sky is clear and bright, etc.

#### Is that true?

Most religious scholars say that all the abovementioned signs of the Night of Power are not true. Whatever the case may be, people should not care about the signs . they should care more about how to worship Allah to the utmost during the nights and invoke His help and provi-

May Allah bless all of us and many happy returns to all of our readers. Thanks for pursuing my serial articles highlighting Ramadan in our country and bye for now.



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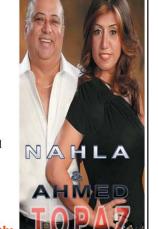
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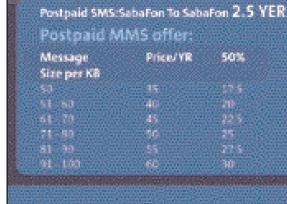
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#### LAHAJ: A History filled with Arabian jasn es fragrance

Compiled by Yasser AL-Mayasi Yemen Times Staff Eshraq AL-Bodigi

ahaj governorate is located at the southwest region of the Republic of Yemen, at latitude of 14.12 north, and a longitude of 46.43 east. Lahaj is surrounded\_by Aden governorate from the south. Taiz and AL-Dhala'e governorates from the north, Abyan governorat from the east, Taiz and the Red sea from the west, AL-Beidha governorate from the northeast,

and Aden Gulf from the southwest.

The landscape of Lahaj varies from high mountains reaching 2500 meters above sea level as a part of AS-Sarat mountainous range, to fertile valleys, such as Wadi Tuban, which is one of the most fertile valleys in Yemen, and to plain areas stretching as far as the fishing ports at Ra's Omayrah. Al-A'ra and Sugia, which is located to the east of Bab Al-Mandeb

The center of Lahaj governorate is Al-Houta city, which used to be the capital of Abadel Sultanate. It is considered one of the important historical Yemeni cities; it is 30 km to the north of Aden, located in a





fertile valley historically known as Wadi

Tuban with a semi-tropical climate. Vast orchards grow various kinds of fruit such as lemon, banana, and mango as well as fiber cotton arrays orchards scented with the lovely scents of blossoms and flowers. Such orchards are frequented as parks by the natives of Lahaj and Aden. Sultan Abadel Palace is considered the most prominent architectural landmark of Houta city.

Al-Houta city's fame draws not only from its green orchards but also from the importance of its poetry and poets or songwriters. Since many ancient periods. Al-Houta was known as a homeland of the poetry, poets, and singing. Lahaj is also famous for musical tradition, which constitutes a distinct artistic style known as Lahaji Lyrical style.

Al-Qumandan (a famous songwriter) music festival is held once every three years. There are many archaeological and tourist sites in Lahaj. Among them are ancient settlement recently discovered at "Wahat" area Lahaj Valley.

#### Archaeological and Tourist Sites in Lahaj:

Beside all previous features. Lahai is distinguished by its unique archeological landmarks, which has special attractive tourism features. Lahai is an area that gathered between the beauty and secrets of nature and archeological landmarks.

This is a mostly mountainous area famous for growing Yafie coffee, which is among the best coffee in Yemen. The houses in Yafie villages are built with stone, which are lofty. The area is well known for a classical style of singing called "Yafie lyrical style". At the center of Yafie, Al-Nour Mosque still stands which built by Imam Ahmed Bin Al-Hasan Bin Al-Qasim in the 17th century AD.

#### **Radfan Mountains:**

A highly defensible mountain range, they gained renown as a starting point and stronghold for the resistance movement against the British colonization in the mid 20th century, a museum in the area is dedicated to the previous resistance periods.

#### · Telie Mountain:

It is deemed as the only landmark in the province, which dates back to the old stony period of the Arabia peninsula. From a distance of four hundred kilo meters and on the hilltop, there are a number of ancient stony tools and handmade hacks,

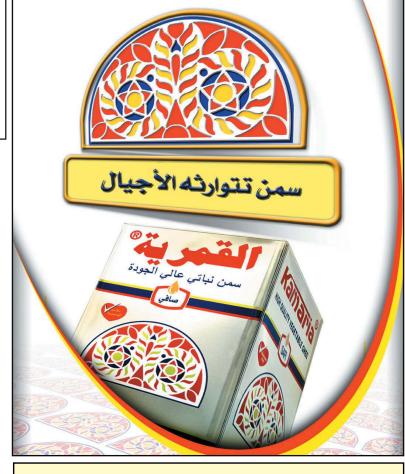
which spread over the hill and made since 200-500 thousands years.

#### Darr AL\_Araays:

This residence is very old and dates bake to the mid first century B.C.; it is built of large stones, which has long diameter more than two meters and height of two meters too. Darr AL-Araays is from the Shebaen civilization and deemed one of the more old archeological landmarks in Yemen. There is another palace from the Shabaen period too in Al-Anadd zone.

#### Naob AL\_Qeilie:

This is another kind of archeological landmarks, which consists a group of small forts in Yafie. It stands up over the mountain chain and extends through one to another fort until reaches the north areas that are near Yafie. This type of forts used for protection and sending messages from zone to zone, the system dates back approximately the 16th centu-





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- Heavy, light industrial plants. Power and desalination plants.
- Fuel and water storage tanks.
- Oil fields ancillary installations.
- Air purification for industry Marine docks, harbours, deep sea berths & refinery terminals.
- Offshore structures and underwater works. Pipelines construction and maintenance.
- Prefabricated accommodation & office facilities. Sewage treatment plants & collection networks.
- Airports, roads, highways, bridges & fly-overs. High quality buildings & sports complexes.
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Tel: (967-1) 441638 Fax: (967-1) 441630 E-Mail: cccyemen@y.net.ye Tel: (967-2) 377328 Fax: (967-2) 377716 E-Mail: cccaden@y.net.ye



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P.O.Box: 284 - Sana'a - Republic of Yemer Tel.: (967-1) 445362/3/4 Fax: (967-1) 445365







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