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## PGC leaders insist on Saleh's candidacy

When president Saleh declared not running for elections the political parties were puzzled as whom the next president would be. Regaining their composure, the current ruling party (PGC) decided to urge Saleh to change his mind. Today starts the PGC annual conference in which this issue among others will be discussed.

By: Hassan al-Zaidi

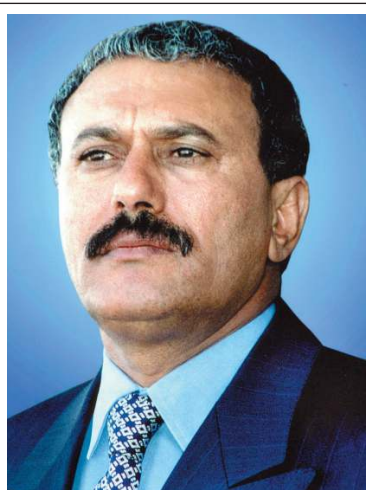
SANA'A, Dec. 10—People's General Congress (PGC) leaders demand that President Ali Abdullah Saleh be the PGC's candidate for Yemen's presidential elections scheduled for September 2006, as the ruling party's seventh conference draws nearer.

The PGC is due to start functions of its seventh conference next Thursday in the city of Aden after it has finished all the arrangements of the conference, sources

in the PGC General Secretariat said to the Yemen Times on Saturday.

Around five thousand party leaders and members from constituencies, districts and governorates are due to take part in the conference. These personalities were nominated last month after the PGC made a radical change in its internal system, 65% of its leaders are new faces and 15% is the percentage of women's participation in the party's seventh conference.

Continued on page 3



President Saleh



Dr. Abdulkarim al-Eriani,  
PGC Secretary General

## Police officer murders citizen



Angry bus drivers gather around the victim.

YT PHOTO

By: Nadia al-Sakkaf

SANA'A—Dec. 9 - Tens of bus drivers and angry citizens blocked a road adjacent to the presidency palace to the 45 meters road in Sana'a early last Friday. They demanded the punishment of the police officer who shot dead their colleague around 11 AM that morning.

Eyewitnesses said the minibus driver had committed a traffic violation and refused to acknowledge the police car patrolling at that location near al-Asbahi zone. The police car raced after the public bus driver and forced him to pull over. After a heated argument the public bus driver was shot dead. Soon enough, the street was crowded with people from the neighborhood as well as other bus drivers who objected in solidarity with their deceased colleague. "How insignificant his life was to the police officer is what outrages us. This is a country where a traffic violation has the capital punishment" Mohammed, one of the lobbying bus drivers told the Yemen Times.

Continued on page 3

## Newspapers closed and journalist fired

Media remains an issue of conflict in Yemen as the government closes down two newspapers last week. The newspapers have been accused of badmouthing prominent personalities. Simultaneously a well known journalist has lost his job because of his role in press freedom.

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam  
& Hamkim Almasmari

SANA'A, Dec.10—The Capital Western Court issued a verdict under which the Al-Usbou private newspaper is shut down for three months. Al-Usbou's chief-editor Mr. Jamal al-Udaini was fined a sum of 30 thousand

Yemeni Riyals on the same bases. The newspaper was convicted for charges of badmouthing against the General Manager of the Education Office in the capital and was obliged to publish an apology in the State-run al-Thawrah Newspaper addressed to the Education Office.

Continued on page 3

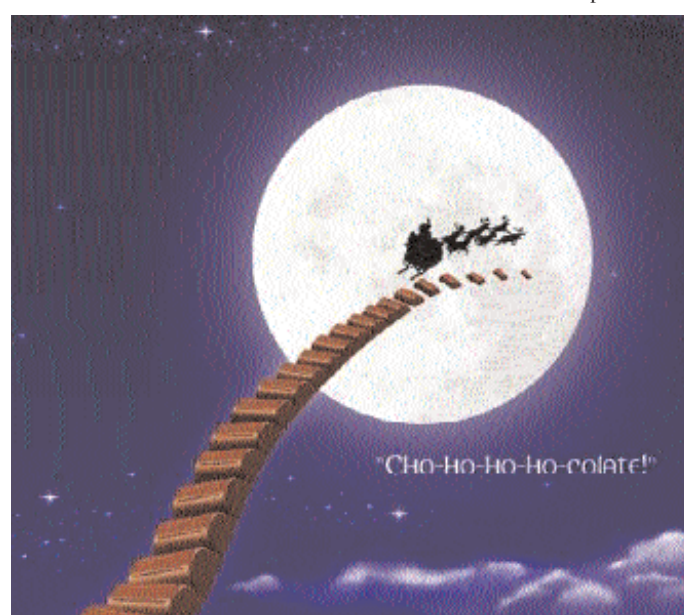
Ministry of Petroleum,  
Minerals and petroleum Discovery Authority

Extension of receiving  
companies' bids for the  
third international  
competition will last for  
extra (40) days

See page 2

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## Religious Dialogue Committee in question

SANA'A – Dec. 9 - The committee, headed by judge Hamoud Al-Hitar, has been purportedly failed in achieving its mission. There has been complaints by security officers demanding the breaking off the committee especially after the recent suicide attack by Yemenis in Iraq. The three Yemenis were a part of the group whom Judge al-Hitar had a dialogue with last year and declared it successful. Many of the supposedly persuaded fundamentalists have returned to working along al-Qaida in Iraq and other countries.

It is estimated that around 500 elements went to Iraq and many are residing in Yemen forming groups.

According to the London-based al-Quds Al-Arabi daily security forces have demanded the dissolving of the committee. Judge al-Hitar who is currently visiting the United States of America has been promoted as a moderate religious scholar and is advocating for the Yemeni government's efforts in fighting terrorism. On various occasions the Committee declared that it had succeeded in persuading the "misled" people into the right track



and were, therefore, released after pledging conformity to the law and order.

The Dialogue Committee was established through a presidential decree and is composed of only three scholars headed by Judge Hamod Al-Hitar. Many other religious scholars declined joining the committee in fear that their dialogue with the fundamentalist would backlash and their lives would be targeted by the latest.

## Eight Yemeni mothers die every day

SANA'A - Dec. 11- The maternity mortality rate among Yemeni women is 366 women in every 100 thousand live births. Dr. Hamoud Hanafi, Manager of Catalyst Project during a media conference organized by the Ministry of Public Health and Population, released this information in a medical study. He added that Yemen is facing drastic health problems and serious measures are needed to overcome this matter.

The media release was in preparation for the Motherhood Conference starting today. Mothers suffer not only of delivery risks due to bad health circumstances but also from high after delivery complications. Both mothers and infants are subjected to high risk of infections, under nutrition and even death.

Dr. Arwa Alrbea, deputy health minister confirmed the need for cooperation between the different sectors to enhance health conditions in Yemen. "We need to reduce mortality rates among both mothers and newly born infants," She said. The rate of death of newly born infants is 37.7 % of each 1000 live births. This is equal to 40 %

of the breastfeeding infants.

Eighteen percent of maternity death cases take place during pregnancy, while 10 % take place during pregnancy. However, the highest rate occurs during the post delivery period reaching as high as 72 %.

The study also indicated that 30 % of miscarriages in Yemen are caused because of the aggravation of other diseases such as malaria and anemia. Mother's age also contributes to the problem, as the mortality rate of infants amounts to 35 % if their mothers are below 20 years of age. It could reach more than 40% when there is a short span between consequent pregnancies.

While this is the case in general, the maternal mortality ratio is 570 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births and infant mortality is 84 infant deaths for each 1,000 live births in rural areas.

The study mentions that the 70 % of the infant mortality could be avoided if a balance was created between the mother's and infant's health, especially through adequate family planning and reproductive health care.

## Criminals behind the beheaded bodies' confess

SANA'A – Dec. 11 – A case of three headless bodies that shook Sana'a is finally referred to prosecution. The three Palestinians suspected of the murder finally confessed their crimes. The murders that took place in the middle of last November included a Palestinian citizen, his wife and her friend. During investigations the criminals explained how they hosted the three victims in their house, and then beat them to death, using sharp tools. They then beheaded them and threw

their limbs in different parts of Sana'a streets.

Reasons for this hideous crime are still unknown although the investigations suspect that it was a personal grudge.

A special source in the specialized penal prosecution told Yemen Times that they received the case on the 7th of December. The investigations will be completed within the few next days, and then it will be handed over to the specialized penal court.

## PEPA's 3rd International bids round extended

40 Days extension period is granted for the competitive companies to apply for 3rd International Bids Round.

The petroleum exploration & production authority cooperated with the 3rd International Bid Committee for exploration Oil & Gas headed by Eng.:- Nabil AL- Gawsi, the Authority - Committee chairman still receiving the applications of many Global International Oil Companies which intend to have the priority for exploring Oil & Gas in the 14th Blocks that is going to be declared recently through the Authority Electronic web page and other several International Arabic news.

Eng. Nabil Al - Gawsi declared the foremost results of these applied com-

petitive companies which intend to enter the Bid and their perfect results particularly about the unexpected number which exceeded more than 18 Global & International Oil Company .

In this issue due to the over Received applications by these Competitive Companies which conceded many occasions such as the two eids holiday & the new years ceremony, the 3rd international Bid Committee headed by Eng. Nabil Al - Gawsi & under the approval of the Minister of Mineral & Oil Dr. Rashid Baraba'a have granted on extension period until the 14th of February 2006 in order to enable a multi number of Global & International Companies to use the chance to apply for this Bid.

## Smoking banned in respect for tourists' wishes

SANA'A- Dec.11- As part of its procedures aimed at promoting tourism and tourist services, the Yemeni government banned smoking in vehicles that transport tourists to different parts of Yemen. It also order the count of cars utilized in the transportation of tourists and the provision of tourist police that help upgrade dealing with foreign tourists in the country.

The procedures taken by the Tourist Promotion Board in its Saturday's meeting aim to raise the quality of services for tourists entering Yemen. Among these procedures is counting cars working in the field of tourist services and selecting the new models, Taha al-Mahbashi, General Manager of the Tourist Promotion Board said in a statement to the Yemen Times.

The Tourist Promotion Board also ordered the removal of stickers and vision-blurring glasses to enable tourists to enjoy the natural scenes



Tourists in old city of Sana'a

and observe different places that offer tourist services such as hotels and

restaurants.

These procedures are taken for the

### 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:

An official in the bankrupted Watani Bank had recently announced that the government and some corrupt lobbies are behind its bankruptcy. do you think that this is true?  
Yes  
No  
I don't know

#### Last edition's question:

Ms. Sumayah Ali Raja would run for the next presidential elections in Yemen. Do you think that people will take her seriously?

- No way, considering the attitude of Yemenis 50%
- Why not, she might be better than men 50%

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

sake of providing safe climates and conditions for tourists to reside where they like.

## Traffic Campaign: Cash or Clash

The number of cars that have been caught by security authorities since the beginning of their campaign on the 22nd of last month has reached 3000 so far. This is a result of one week's campaign in Sana'a only.

SANA'A, Dec. 10—In a release to Yemen Times, a traffic official said that, most of the seized cars have no customs documents. Most of the seized cars, which are without licenses, belong to influential people. They are Sheikhs, state officials and a few merchants who have relations with the influential people in Yemen. As for the seized cars, which have licenses, and a paid customs, they were found to have no traffic licenses. Most of their ownership papers are expired and not renewed. Their ownership transfer papers are also not renewed and also incomplete. In spite of the confrontations of the unlicensed cars' owners with the military police forces, especially those that have military plates, the security men managed to seize about 1700 cars. They returned the plates to the traffic or maintenance unit in the Ministry of Defense.

The campaign disclosed the recklessness of the Yemeni people in dealing with their car documents. They don't even care to renew them or pay the fines for traffic violations.

Although the campaign did not take long, it became a source of nuisance to some car owners. It became a source of extortion. It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Interior has issued a permission to succor police and the military police to stop cars and ask the drivers for their documents. This was due to

some experiences in the past where traffic police were attacked by drivers. A car owner told Yemen Times that even if one is carrying his papers, some soldiers tend to find any excuses to make you pay illegal payments so that they let you go. If one does not pay, he will be disrupted or held without good reasons. However things were different with other traffic men. In a release to a traffic police, he said that some of the traffic police were beaten by some car owners. This especially happened from influential people. The security source told Yemen Time that some of them kidnapped the traffic men who tried to take them to police stations. They threatened to beat them if he did not get out of their cars. Some were compelled to go down especially after they were taken to side streets, where there are no succor cars.

The campaign that was carried out by the security authorities, were in coordination with the customs authority. The customs authority wanted to issue licenses to as many car licenses as possible. It had made a new customs Tariff, which settled the car tax at 5 %, for the cars whose manufacture did not exceed 7 years. For the cars which do not exceed 7, plus the manufacture year, the rate is 10 %.

The law stated that starting from this month; the rate will be 10 % plus



the fines and the other customs fees. The security sources inclined to reveal the number of the stolen cars that were seized. A great number of stolen cars is expected to be revealed; especially that owners of suspected cars avoid making licenses for their cars.

A source told Yemen times that due to the lack of lists of car engines in the license issuing centers, it is easy for those who stole cars to have licenses. Mohamed Abdulkhalik, head of car licensing in Hodiedah, said in a release to Yemen Times that, they caught 10 stolen cars. The cars were reported by the Interpol to be stolen from neighboring countries. Dr. Ali Alzabidi said in a

statement to Yemen Times that 769 million and 352 thousands were received by the state treasury, due to the campaign. He said that 43.302 cars were licensed since the beginning of the campaign on the 16th of last August, until the 17th of last month.

A source in the traffic said that the total car plates that were issued reached 35 thousand. Their income was about 148 millions, until the end of last month. The increase in number of unlicensed cars to 43.302 reflects the power of the influential in tax and customs evasion. This cost the national economy a great loss. If this is the case with the cars, how would it be with the other areas?

## International conference on Hydrolic human and institutional capacity building

Organized by UNESCO's Regional Office for Science and Technology, and Ministry of Water and Environment in Yemen the III International Conference on Wadi Hydrology is expected to discuss many issues that are relative to Wadis (valleys), floods and its impacts on pure watercourses.

SANA'A – Dec. 10 - The Third International Conference on Wadi Hydrology starts today in Sana'a. The conference will focus on case studies from participating countries and practical experiences of participants in dealing with wadi systems. In particular, papers which report on planning and management lessons will be given priority, such as applications of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), best practices for rainfall harvesting, groundwater degradation, and models for joint management of internationally shared water resources.

Engineer Yaih Aliriyani, Ministry

of Water and Environment explained the term "wadi Hydrology" means the integral management of water sources in valleys. He added that the conference is good chance for Yemen to get other experiences in this regard, since Yemen have many basins that includes tens of valleys. He added that

This conference is co-sponsored by UNESCO-IHP Program, the Arab league Educational Science and Cultural Organization(ALECSO), the Arab Center for the studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands(ACSAD), Islamic Educational, scientific and cultural Organization(IESCO), World Islamic Call Society, the Arab academy of science, the national commission of IHP in Yemen, the ministry of agriculture and irrigation, and university of Sana'a.

#### Wadies and challenges in Arab Countries

According to the documents of Wadi Hydrology Network, Arab

region are facing several water problems due to both climatic conditions and socio-economic factors. The greatest part of Arab region extends across semi-arid, arid and hyper arid zones. The semi-arid belts have been particularly affected by cycles of dryness and desertification in the past decades. The Arab regions are also characterized by a fast increasing population, which has resulted in a sharp decline of the per capita availability of water, from about 2200 m3/c/y to less than 1000 m3/c/y within the past 25 years.

Therefore, many countries have adopted policies for the sustainable management, development and efficient utilization of their water resources. However, due to increasing water shortage associated with increasing water demand, many countries have recognized the urgent need to secure and utilize new supplies of water in order to sustain a minimum resource base. However in

many countries, the only optimal solution for addressing water shortage problems is to develop and get benefits of the renewable sources of water in their wadis.

Despite of the important role of wadis as a vital source of water in many Arab countries, destructive flash floods that are occurring in wadis are considered a huge threat to its communities.

The UNESCO's Regional Office in Cairo with cooperation of many involved organizations such as (ACSAD) created a Wadi Hydrology Network which aims mainly to enhance the knowledge and understanding on wadi systems, develop the human and institutional capacities needed for the sustainable management of basins and wadis.

In this regards, UNESCO and its partners organized three international conferences of wadis hydrology. The first was in Egypt in 2000, the second in Jordan in 2003 and the third is now held in Yemen.



# Powerful quake hits Yemen banking sector

SANA'A, Dec. 10—Yemeni economists have described the Central bank of Yemen (CBY) measures of taking control of the Watani Bank for Trade & Investment after the latter's declaration of its bankruptcy as belated. They have blamed the CBY for not taking due measures against the Watani Bank at earlier time. The y maintained that weakness of the CBY monitoring progress of monetary process in the country as one of the causes behind the Watani Bank collapse. The CBY could have restrained that big collapse which was a surprise for all observers in banking field.

Those economists mentioned that the Central Bank had diagnosed in its 2001 annual report problems and violations committed by the Watani Bank. Among violations stipulated in the CBY report were that the Bank was not preserving liquid assets, bought shares in projects more and larger than defined rates, as well as buying some plots of land, buildings and equipment. The Watani bank had exceeded its powers by granting credit facilities to indebted clients although they had not repaid their debts. The Bank had also violated provisions of article 13 of the law No. 38 through not keeping liquid monetary assets.

The aforementioned CBY report affirmed that the Watani Bank violated instructions of the Central Bank regarding accounts of government institutions by opening current accounts in favor of some parties that are prohibited to open their accounts but with the Central Bank. Those violations, as stipulated in the central Bank report, required and deserved stricter and more serious measures.

The Central Bank of Yemen had on Thursday published an announcement declaring its taking control of the Watani Bank for Trade and Investment. The announcement mentioned, "In view of the inability of the Watani Bank for Trade and Investment to meet its financial obligations, the Central Bank of Yemen has decided to take control of the aforementioned bank as from 0800 am on Wednesday 7 December 2005 and as such the powers of the Board of Directors and executive management of the bank have been terminated and vested into a Central Bank of Yemen Committee charged with the matter. The Central Bank of Yemen reassures all parties concerned that it constantly supervises and inspects the banking sector to ensure its solvency and soundness."

On the other hand, officials from the Watani Bank, declined to disclose their identities, confirmed that the cause of the bank's collapse were the huge loans it had granted to hundreds of contractors. Those contractors were unable to repay their debts, ascribing that to delay in receiving their payables on government institutions to which they had implemented projects.

Reliable banking sources have confirmed that the persons who had obtained big lending facilities were in fact from among influential personalities. Figures show that some of them received loans and facilities amounting more than one billion Yemeni riyals. This indicates that the bank was not pursuing the scientific approach in its work.

Those officials said the bank management could not be held responsible for that alone. They said the government's wrong policies and procrastinations have a share in the responsibility that caused



Watani Bank building in Sana'a

the situation of the bank to lead to this tragic result.

To stress their opinion, those officials mentioned that several commercial banks were eventually queuing towards a similar destiny of the Watani Bank. They added that there was a beginning of a sort of crisis facing those banks but they managed to deal with it without making the clients be aware of it. In the case of the Watani Bank, the clients have largely contributed to inflame the crisis when they rushed to withdraw their money from the bank immediately after their knowledge about shortages in the bank's liquidity.

The Watani Bank for Trade and Investment has recently signed an agreement the financial establishment OITC to enter as a strategic partner of the bank in an effort to be able to abide by instruction of the Central Bank of Yemen's decision No. 123 for the year 2004. The decision stipulated that Yemeni commercial banks should raise their capitals to YR 6 billion by the year 2009. The Watani Bank confirmed that the agreement was intended to attract international investors possessing financial and technical capability to effectively contribute to economic and development field.

The incident of the Watani Bank collapse would inevitably be a subject of study and consideration to be benefited from by all. It is particularly so as there are indicators of other banks collapse. Yemeni commercial banks should learn this lesson to improve their performance. In addition, the Central Bank of Yemen should improve its monitoring and control in conformity with the law in order to create secure and more stable climates. What happened to the Watani Bank did not affect it alone. It has rather shook all banks credibility among the public especially the clients.

The Watani bank for Trade and Investment was established in 1998 with a capital of YR 500 million and by the end of December 2004, it was raised to YR one billion and 747 million. It used to offer all its banking services by using modern means and equipment. It banking activity was confined to the capital Sana'a and only two branches in Hudeida

## Continued from page 1

Participants in the conference are to elect a party president, vice president, secretary general and monitoring staff, while the party permanent committee will elect the assistant secretary-generals and the party public committee members.

Although the party secretary-general confirmed that the seventh conference is not an election conference, he said when the elections draw nearer they will decide on their presidential candidate. These facts may put an end to a controversy on the nomination of President Ali Abdullah Saleh as the PGC candidate for the coming presidential elections.

No hint to President's Saleh nomination was included in the conference's agenda, but the current situation indicates adherence of PGC representatives to Saleh's candidacy. They urged him to come back on his decision not take part in 2006 presidential elections.

Ali Abdullah Saleh, PGC President has recently returned from the Islamic

## PGC leaders insist on Saleh's candidacy

Summit held in Mecca to supervise the ongoing election maneuverings in the party's seventh conference in Aden.

The PGC's conference is being planned amid sharp controversy and exchanged accusations between the ruling party and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMPs). The situation is growing critical following the JMPs' declaration of their project for political reforms insisting on a parliamentary regime to replace the current republican regime. The JMPs also demanded that powers of President Saleh be restricted.

Dr. Abdulkarim al-Eriani, PGC Secretary General and Political Advisor to President Saleh, described the JMP's project on reforms as merely a coupe attempt against the political regime in the country. The project he said aims to end Saleh's rule and that the JMPs relate what concerns the country to the deposition of a particular person.

Dr. al-Eriani emphasized that the PGC's seventh general conference is

due to approve the vision of reforms that will be included on the party's political agenda for the six years to come.

Sources, who requested to be anonymous, told the Yemen Times that the PGC leaders will write a testimony to urge President Saleh to run for president again. They said the testimony will not allow Saleh to quit, but some sources confirmed that Saleh expects to be supported by his party and the opposition parties like what happened in the last presidential elections.

In spite of declarations by prominent Yemeni figures abroad to stand in the coming presidential elections, which requires a recommendation of current MPs, the majority of whom are affiliated to the ruling party, Dr. Yasin Sa'eed Numan confirmed that there is no exchange of roles between these personalities and the JMPs.

He said the JMPs have not yet unanimously agreed on a candidate for Yemen's presidential elections scheduled for next September, and this may

requires dialogues between these parties to reach a joint viewpoint or to seek a suitable alternative.

Dr. Numan denied the accusations directed at the opposition by PGC leaders, pointing out that the JMPs' project does not target the President as alleged by the ruling party media and that their project supporting the parliamentary regime aims to rescue the State from the circle of conflict.

Dr. Yasin Numan warned of risks associated with the allocation of small enterprises to areas constituting no harm to the authorities, indicating that JMPs' project goes in favor of Yemen, but was not welcomed by the authorities who accuse the JMPs of treason.

Observers expect the controversy between the opposition parties and the ruling party over the JMP's project to get sharper, particularly after the Supreme Council for Joint Meeting Parties approved the project last week, published and distributed it to the public.

## Police officer murdering citizen

Another eyewitness from the neighborhood said that the incident took place in the morning and that an officer with two soldiers in another police car intervened and tried to resolve the situation with a relative of the deceased and some of the angry crowd. Khairaldin Mohammed another witness was there during this negotiation. He said the police officer was a first lieutenant called Mohammed Yafouz as his name badge read. He also said that after a short while the road was unblocked and the crowd dispersed. "It seems they have settled the issue but I don't know on which grounds" he added.

Yemen Times called the traffic police department and they said that since it is a murder case it is not within their jurisdiction. The Ministry of interior refused to comment on the issue when Yemen Times contacted them about the murder case. This particular story is yet to unfold. Nevertheless it is not the only one of its kind. There had been several incidents in

the past that included shooting, such as the Jaki case in 1992, when a police officer called Al-Jaki shot down a traffic officer because of some dispute. One of the most prominent incidents was the one including a drastic exchange of fire between men of Shiekh Al-Ahmar's tribe and guards of the British Embassy in Hadda Road a few years ago. The shooting started because of an argument on parking slots and ended up with three guards dead.

Yemen is known to be one of the countries where arms are spread among citizens. Statistics indicate a rate of 3 weapons per person. Tribes pride themselves for possessing heavy arms and machinery including bazookas and tanks. In spite of this the crime rate is relatively low and incidents such as the latest murder on Friday are irregular. For more information on security incidents in Yemen refer to the website: [www.al-bab.com/yemen/data/incident94.htm](http://www.al-bab.com/yemen/data/incident94.htm)



The road was blocked by buses for more than 5 hours Friday morning.

YT PHOTO

## Newspapers closed and journalists fired

Mr. Jamal al-Udaini in a press statement expressed his shock with the verdict stating that it was a direct violation to press freedom and human right to expression.

The court also issued another verdict against Al-Rasd weekly newspaper. Al-Rasd is to cease working for one month while its chief editor Mr. Abdulwadoud Al-Matari was sentenced to two months in prison. The paper and its editor were accused of insulting Mr. Mohamed Abdu Sa'eed, a Member of Parliament and head of the well-known Hayel Sa'eed business group.

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Abdulwadoud Al-Matari, Editor-in-Chief of al-Rasd commented on the verdict: "The government should not claim to promote journalism especially that their financial support for independent newspapers does not exceed 300\$ per year. I was hoping the paper is suspended for a year or two so that we are saved the financial burden and professional responsibility. Then I

would dedicate my time to a more worthwhile profession in literature."

Concerning the insulted MP Mr. Mohamed Abdu, Al-Matari said: "we highly respect him and if we were harsh on him in our newspaper then it was because we wanted to criticize him for some inadequacies, particularly for matters related to Al-A'arooq Road that was not paved yet. This road falls within our constituency No. 42, where he is the local representative and I guess now we will have to depend on ourselves in paving the remaining 4 kilometers. We never meant to insult him and we apologize if he felt upset about it."

On his behalf, Mohamed Abdu Sa'eed Ana'am said: "I forgive al-Rasd paper and its chief editor and I will back Al-Matari and help him. What I really want for the Yemeni media is to have constructive journalism is " the MP added.

Consequently, earlier this week, Mr. Hafez Bukhari was fired from his job as



Manager of Saudi owned Okaz Newspaper branch in Yemen. The letter from Okaz to Mr. Bukhari said that it was in the general interest of the newspaper to fire him. On contacting Okaz Newspaper for their comments concerning this issue, the administration said it was a direct order from the chief editor. In his turn Okaz Newspaper editor in chief did not comment.

A number of Yemeni journalists feel that political pressure was exerted on Okaz Newspaper to fire Hafez Bukhari. They feel that this was a way to get back at the active journalist for having a positive role defending press freedom and media rights in Yemen. In a statement to the Yemen Times Mr.

Bukhari said: "I prefer not to comment on this decision and it will definitely not have an influence in my active role in defending press freedom".

As of last year Hafez Bukhari has been working as an advisory board member of a project called Dissent and Reforms in the Middle East. This project is adopted by American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and is considered a threat to some of the current regimes, because it calls for political reforms. Two weeks ago Mr. Bukhari resigned from the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate where he was the Secretariat General. He said then that the reason for his resignation was the harsh and unjust procedures the government was doing in order to passing the Press Law.

## Teenage girl rescued from severe torture

AL-MAHWEET, Dec. 10—A 13-year-old orphan girl was rescued after severely tortured in al-Rajm District, the governorate of al-Mahweet. The teenage was tortured by one of her merciless guardian last Wednesday.

Shafiq al-Muntaser received psychological and corporal torture to be then rushed away to al-Jumhuri Hospital in al-Mahweet. The victim is now suffering from fractures on one of her legs and painful burns on her body.

A security source in al-Mahweet revealed that one of Shafiq's relatives was arrested after the he confessed to locals in the district that he tortured the girl child and confined her with chains in an agricultural farm. The perpetrator forced her to sleep on the cattle dung, burned plastic and poured it on her body.

The girl's guardian who is also a relative tortured the girl for allegedly stealing Qat leaves from his farm as she was on watch of the farm. It is not known whether the girl will be sent back to her guardian after being released from the hospital or not. Yet the locals and neighbors showed signs of support and sympathy to the girl.

Medical personnel of al-Jumhuri Hospital stated that it would take a long period of time for the girl to cure mentally and physically. Eyewitnesses who visited the girl said that Shafiq's case has become a widely spread street rumor. "Shafiq, whose both parents passed away, has never known that she would receive such harsh treatment after their death.



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# The linguistic essence of all words

By: Yemen Times Staff

Every language in the world starts with a few words and gradually builds up the vocabulary to thousands of words. Sometimes original words become obsolete and new words are added to the language. Words in any language are categorised into different groups such as nouns, adjectives, verbs, and adverbs... etc. Mr. Abdulkhaliq Obad is a language researcher from Ba'adan in Yemen. He had done many researches about language and structure. Recently he has explored the similarities between the origins of words and how meaning is reflected through the similarities of word structure. Examples of this are revenge and avenge, turn and return...etc. These words have similar meaning as well as are derived from the same structural source linguistically. Abdulkhaliq Obad explained that such research helps translators and academics in their interpretation work.

Recently Mr. Obad has come up with a new challenging idea. Through his research he had discovered that the noun is the origin of all word groups. "I started wondering about this when I reflected on a verse in the Quran, Surat al-Baqara, that says ("And He - God - has taught Adam all nouns ..."). I was intrigued that how come God said he taught Adam nouns and not verbs or adjectives...etc", said Abdulkhaliq Obad explaining his new research. As it is known, Adam was the first human being and the first who spoke a language. Hence, Abdulkhaliq sees that nouns are the basis of the rest of the word groups. As an illustration of this the adjective "short" could mean:

1. Short = nearer "As a result of its formation meaning with "cut" short-cut"
2. Short = imperfect "as a result of its formation meaning with either "electric" or "coming" electric-short, short coming"
3. Short = brief "As a result of its affixation meaning of the verbs "shorten" = brief, abbreviate"
4. Short = lack "As a result of its affixation meaning of the noun "shortage"

According to him, in any given sentence one can recognize the meaning of the adjective or verb by their colocation with the noun.



Abdulkhaliq Obad

#### Other examples:

Heavy rain = abundant  
The boy runs = go rapidly  
Heavy meal = doughy  
The car runs = operate, function  
Heavy blow = fierce  
The clock runs = revolve  
Heavy sea = rough  
The nose runs = covered with a flow  
Heavy thunder = loud  
Heavy taxes = oppressive

As the word "verb" implies that it is a derived word from the world "adverb", So we can recognize the meaning of the verb through the adverb or adverbial phrase.

#### Examples :

The journey will occupy three days .  
"take"

Iraq occupied Kuwait . "colonized" ,  
settled"

Also the adverb can replace the verb  
E.g - he will be back ten minutes.

"return"  
He certainly will come . "promised"

Also the adverb can take the adjectives on a journey through their family tree, for instance the word "very" can take the adjective "difficult, easy" through their family ladder activity.

*difficult, rough, complicated, complex, challenging, daunting, awkward, impossible*

*easy, simple, straight, forward, user*

*friendly, plain, simplified*

Abdulkhaliq Obad argues that although a language starts with only a few nouns, it grows through its lexemes either by borrowing or through affixation. The purpose of his research is to generate a rhetorical mode in certain context of situation with similar relation of the interchangeable word and language function.

It is noteworthy that the two following structures have the same language function, which is comparison :

- A. Action speaks louder than words  
B. Pen is mightier than sword

So we can say:

- A- Action is mightier than words  
B- Pen is mightier than sword  
C- Writer is mightier than warrior  
D- Policy is mightier than force  
E- Tongue is mightier than money

Note that B, C are similar in meaning this called "metonymy" which means the name of an attribute is used for that of the thing meant.

E.g. Crown "for king" Pen "for writer"  
Sword "for warrior"

He also feels that his research would help in generating new idiomatic expressions.

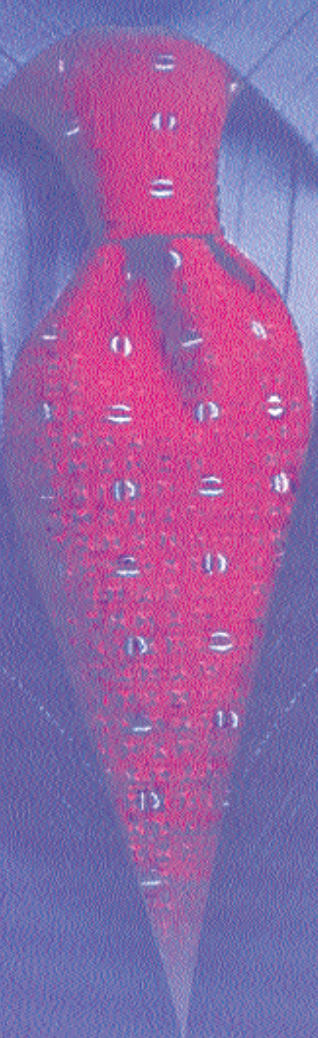
e.g.

- He has a good ear for music  
He has a good eye for colors  
He has a good nose for accents  
He has a good tongue for speech

Finally, he aims with his research to bridge the cultural boundary gap of any source language and target language. As he discovered that many proverbs used in one language are present in a very similar form in the other cultures. For examples: The American saying: "Like taking candy from baby" is very much like the Arabic one saying: "like taking a bone from a dog".


"Personally I feel there is great benefit if this idea was expanded further, especially to help translators in their work. For instance, suppose that you have gotten acquainted with the idiom "Al-Qaid AL-A'ala lil Quat AL-Musallahah" which is Commander in chief. This structure will smooth the way for them to be in tune with other idioms of different structure of the Arabic idioms but with similar language function." Mr. Obad concluded.

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## US condemns attacks on Iraqi election officials

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - The U.S. ambassador to Iraq condemned attacks against election workers and said violence must not be allowed to hurt the ballot in five days time.

"We denounce the recent killing of campaign workers in Mosul, Basra, Baghdad, and elsewhere, as well as the attacks in Najaf and Dohuk," Zalmay Khalilzad said in a statement released in Baghdad late on Friday.

"These actions are assaults on democracy and attempts to deny Iraqis the freedom to vote their conscience," he said.

Violence has mounted ahead of the December 15 ballot, when Iraqis will choose their first full-term, four-year government since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

The election has fanned sectarian tensions as Sunni Arabs and foreign fighters lead an insurgency against the Shi'ite and Kurdish-led interim government.

United Nations special representative to Iraq Ashraf Qazi met Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani, the country's most revered Shi'ite cleric, in Najaf on Friday and the two jointly appealed for a peaceful vote.

"They agreed that all Iraqis must treat



**Iraqis hang election posters in the city of Najaf on Dec. 10. The U.S. ambassador to Iraq condemned attacks against election workers and said violence must not be allowed to hurt the ballot in five days time. REUTERS**

each other as equals and resolve differences through peaceful measures," the United Nations mission in Iraq said in a statement released on Saturday.

Clerics used Friday prayers to urge worshippers to vote as the best way to end the U.S.-led occupation and Khalilzad said the insurgents had more to gain by joining the election process than fighting against it.

"In the end, we hope and believe their actions will backfire. Iraqi citizens will stand up to those who would intimidate them and vote for those who can bring them a better future," he said.

Iraq's January election, which chose an interim government and was the first democratic vote the country had seen in 50 years, were declared free and fair.

Khalilzad said efforts to cheat this time around would fail, but acknowledged that some parties would try anyway.

"Some even think they can bribe citizens to change their votes. Bribes and attacks should not impact the elections, whether or not damage is done or money is pocketed. The ballots are confidential and every vote is secret," he said.

## Israeli navy kills Palestinian off Gaza: medics

GAZA (Reuters) - An Israeli naval patrol killed at least one Palestinian man off the shore of Gaza on Saturday, Palestinian medical officials and the Israeli army said.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said a naval patrol boat spotted two men swimming from Egypt toward Gaza before dawn and that each had a sack of equipment tethered to their leg. The boat opened fire on them after they ignored calls to stop.

Palestinian medics said the body of 37-year-old Nazer Farahat was retrieved from the water by local fishermen who were continuing to look for a second man. In a similar incident last Saturday,



**A Palestinian security man patrols near the area where an Israeli naval killed a man in the shore of southern Gaza strip Dec. 10. REUTERS**

an Israeli naval patrol shot dead a 22-year-old Palestinian man whom Palestinians said was on a fishing trip. An Israeli military source said the boat had entered prohibited waters, ignored warning shots and orders to stop and fired on the Israeli vessel which shot back.

Israel's navy has largely blockaded Gaza's coast during much of a five-year-old Palestinian uprising, forcing

Palestinian boats to stay close to shore.

Israel says it is a security measure to prevent weapons smuggling by sea and attacks on Israelis. Palestinians say it is collective punishment that has crippled Gaza's fishing industry.

Most of the restrictions have remained in place despite Israel's pullout from Gaza after 38 years of military rule in September.

## UN wants to question more Syrians in Hariri probe

BEIRUT (Reuters) - A UN inquiry into the murder of Lebanese former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri will summon more Syrian witnesses in the next few days, its chief investigator Detlev Mehlis was quoted on Saturday as saying.

In an interview published in Lebanon's al-Mustaqbal newspaper, which was owned by the murdered ex-premier, Mehlis said he would ask Syria in the next few days if UN investigators could question new Syrian witnesses in Vienna, but did not identify them.

International investigators questioned five Syrian officials in the Austrian capital this week in connection with the February 14 truck bomb that killed Hariri and 22 other people in Beirut.

Neither Syria nor the United Nations has identified the five but diplomatic sources say they included senior Syrian security officials,

including Lieutenant-General Rustom Ghazali, Syria's former intelligence chief in Lebanon, and his aide Jamae Jamae.

Mehlis said the Vienna interviews had been more fruitful than a series of earlier interrogation sessions in Damascus.

"The questioning was extensive and we received interesting information," the Arabic-language daily quoted him as saying.

The German prosecutor did not say whether he would ask Damascus to detain any Syrian officials as a result of the questioning, which Damascus agreed to in November in the hope of averting a showdown with the UN Security Council.

In an interim report in October, Mehlis implicated senior Syrian security officials and their Lebanese allies in the murder and requested more co-operation from Damascus.

Syria has strongly denied any role

in the murder but the report prompted a unanimous Security Council resolution threatening Damascus with unspecified action if it failed to cooperate with the investigation.

### "No cause for concern"

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem said on Saturday Damascus had co-operated fully with the inquiry, deflecting any punitive action by the Security Council.

"There is no cause for concern and no justification for the Security Council to take any measure against Syria, unless some want to punish us for co-operating in good will with the international investigation," he told an economists' conference.

Moualem did not comment on the German prosecutor's wish to question more Syrian officials.

Mehlis told the Arabic newspaper al-Hayat in comments published on Saturday that he would ask a Syrian

witness who withdrew his testimony to clarify his statement to investigators.

Hosam Taher Hosam accused Lebanese officials on Syrian state television last month of threats, bribery and torture to induce him to testify falsely against Syria, saying the inquiry's initial findings rested largely on his lies.

Al-Hayat quoted Mehlis as saying Hosam's accusations did not undermine the inquiry because "other witnesses confirmed his statement and we still hold the information and it is naive to believe that any part of the report was based on his testimony".

Mehlis, who is due to present his findings to the UN Security Council on Tuesday, left Lebanon on Saturday.

Lebanon has asked the United Nations to extend the inquiry for a further six months but Mehlis is stepping down when its initial six-month mandate expires this month.

## Abbas tells Palestinians to keep truce

GAZA (Reuters) - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told militant factions on Saturday to continue abiding by a 9-month-old truce with Israel and said armed displays must stop immediately.

Speaking at the cornerstone laying of a new court building in Gaza, Abbas said militants' actions in Gaza and the West Bank were harming the Palestinian people.

"Security must prevail in this land and all armed displays must end. Those who are still doing them are working against their people," he said in a speech.

In the latest outbreak of violence on Saturday, an Israeli naval patrol killed a Palestinian man in waters off Gaza. An army spokeswoman said he was shot after refusing calls to surrender. She said he was trying to smuggle arms from Egypt.

Earlier this week, an Islamic Jihad suicide bomber killed five Israelis in the coastal town of Netanya. Israeli airstrikes against militants in Gaza

then killed three Palestinians.

"We have agreed one truce, therefore, we should continue with it until security prevails in order that citizens will not feel threatened by (Israeli) planes and tanks," Abbas said.

A Hamas spokesman said on Friday that the truce with Israel was still in effect, after an earlier statement by a leader of the Islamic militant group indicated it had been called off.

"Hamas confirms that calm is still on, as of this moment, and this is a national consensus," said Mushir al-Masri, spokesman for Hamas in Gaza. "This is the official and final Hamas decision and position."

### "Resistance attacks"

A Hamas statement on Saturday repeated its stance that abiding by the truce would not bar the group, sworn to Israel's destruction, from carrying out what it called "resistance attacks" against Israel.

The truce was agreed in February by Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon as part of efforts to stem fighting that erupted in 2000 and smooth Israel's pullback from the Gaza Strip.

Abbas coaxed Hamas and other factions behind a Palestinian revolt into honoring the cease-fire until the end of 2005, when Palestinian parliamentary elections are due to be held.

The relative quiet has been marred by intermittent violence.

Israel has continued army sweeps of the West Bank, saying it is acting in self-defense and has to deal with militants.

Hamas and other factions call such

measures a violation of the accord and have carried out attacks, albeit on a smaller scale than before.

Israel completed its withdrawal from Gaza in September, after 38 years of occupation, raising international hopes of a breakthrough in implementing a U.S.-led peace "road map".

But the sides appear to be on a collision course once more, with Israel expanding Jewish settlements on occupied West Bank land and the Palestinian Authority refusing to disarm militants -- both violations of the road map's requirements.

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## N.Korea says US envoy remark damages nuclear talks

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea strongly criticized the U.S. envoy to Seoul on Saturday for describing the communist state as a "criminal regime", saying his remark was a declaration of war that had killed the spirit of nuclear arms talks.

Alexander Vershbow, the U.S. ambassador to South Korea, said at a forum on Wednesday Pyongyang was engaged in the sale of weapons and illicit narcotics and Washington would not lift sanctions against it as long as those activities continue.

"This is a criminal regime," he said.

The North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, which handles relations with the South, dug deep for rhetoric to respond.

"What he uttered is an intolerable provocation and insult to the political system in the DPRK and its dignity and a very serious development that

fundamentally overturned the spirit of the joint statement adopted at the fourth round of the six-party talks," a spokesman for the committee said.

The North's official KCNA news agency published his response, which referred to the six-party talks on halting Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programs. DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

"Successive U.S. ambassadors in Seoul have never made such virulent outcries as those let loose by the new U.S. ambassador," the committee said. "The DPRK will regard his utterance as a sort of provocative declaration of a war against the whole Korean nation and will mercilessly retaliate against it."

Washington has said it suspects North Korea of being involved in counterfeiting, money laundering and the drug trade, which it says have helped Pyongyang fund its nuclear

weapons programs.

North Korea demanded on Tuesday Washington end a financial crackdown, saying it made it impossible to resume the six-party talks, which also involve South Korea, China, Russia and Japan.

South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said on Wednesday Seoul was working to resume the talks in mid-January and urged the North and the United States to resolve the dispute over financial sanctions bilaterally.

Ban's response to Vershbow's remark was widely seen in South Korea as a rebuke. Ban said those involved in the talks needed the wisdom to exercise restraint in their expressions.

The North Korean committee spokesman said South Koreans should force Vershbow to stand at a central traffic intersection in Seoul, "punish him in the name of the nation and immediately expel him from their land".

## Croat war crimes suspect Gotovina leaves Spain

MADRID (Reuters) - Croatian General Ante Gotovina, one of the three most wanted suspects from the Balkan wars of the 1990s, left Spain on his way to The Hague war crimes tribunal on Saturday, an airport official said.

Gotovina was arrested in Spain's Canary Islands on Wednesday. He is charged with responsibility for the murders of at least 150 Serbs by troops under his command in the aftermath of the 1995 "Operation Storm", when Croatian forces retook parts of the country from Serb rebels.

An airport official at Getafe military base confirmed by telephone just after 0800 GMT that the plane had taken off.

The general was heavily guarded as he boarded the military plane, state radio reported.

Gotovina had traveled through Asia, Latin America and Europe before Spanish police tracked him down in the Playa de las Americas resort in Tenerife in the Canary Islands.

He spent 2 nights in a Madrid jail after Spain's High Court ordered his transfer to the U.N. court, set up to try

war crimes committed as Yugoslavia fell apart in the 1990s.

Gotovina, 50, is the last wanted war crimes suspect from Croatia and his arrest is expected to ease Zagreb's path to joining the European Union, which was long skeptical over how hard Zagreb was trying to hunt a man many Croats consider a national hero.

The arrest is a major boost for the U.N. court and brought calls for more efforts to catch its most wanted fugitives, Bosnian Serb wartime leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic.

## Germany summons Iran envoy over Holocaust remarks

BERLIN (Reuters) - The German Foreign Ministry said on Friday it had summoned Iran's ambassador to protest against suggestions by Iran's president that the Holocaust might not have happened and that Israel should be moved to Europe.

Ministry spokesman Martin Jaeger said at a government news conference the decision to deliver a formal protest to Iran's envoy in Berlin was meant to show that Berlin was taking the president's comments very seriously.

"We have summoned the Iranian ambassador," Jaeger told reporters. "When one summons an ambassador, then you signal the start of something in diplomacy, that there are grounds for serious discussion."

The remarks by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, at a news conference in the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca, follow his call in October for Israel to be "wiped off the map", which sparked widespread international condemnation.

Six million Jews were killed in the Nazi Holocaust. Regarding this, Ahmadinejad was quoted by the official Iranian news agency IRNA as saying on Thursday:

"Although we don't accept this claim, if we suppose it is true, our question for the Europeans is: is the killing of innocent Jewish people by Hitler the reason for their support to the occupiers of Jerusalem?" he said.

"If the Europeans are honest they should give some of their provinces in Europe — like in Germany, Austria or other countries — to the Zionists and the Zionists can establish their state in Europe. You offer part of Europe and we will support it."

### Sanctions

German Jewish leaders called for political sanctions against the Islamic republic over Ahmadinejad's remarks. Holocaust denial is a crime



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (L) kisses the "black stone" at Kaabah while Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (R) waits for his turn in Mecca Dec. 8. REUTERS

in Germany.

Paul Spiegel, head of the Jewish Council, told ARD television: "I telephoned the Chancellor (Angela Merkel) and made clear that the time for verbal comment is over. There now has to be action. The comments of this man, first a few weeks ago and again yesterday, are the worst I have heard...from a statesman since Adolf Hitler."

In another statement, he said Ahmadinejad had shown that he was not only a Holocaust-denier but a rabble-rouser.

"Political instruments ranging from political and economic sanctions to

expulsion from the United Nations must finally be seriously looked at and used," he added.

Michel Friedman, chairman of the German chapter of the international Jewish organization Keren Hayesod, said Germany should begin by severing diplomatic ties with Tehran.

"A few weeks ago he said Israel should be destroyed. Now he denies and relativises the Holocaust. This can no longer be tolerated diplomatically. I call on the government ... to sever diplomatic ties with Iran," Friedman told N24 news television.

Germany is the biggest exporter to Iran.

## Bangladesh seizes explosives, detains militants

DHAKA (Reuters) - Police in Bangladesh hunting for Islamist suicide bombers have seized explosives and detained 30 militants, a home ministry official said on Saturday.

"Some 22 kg (48 lb.) of explosives including gunpowder, gel, iron chips and other bomb making materials were recovered from a hideout in northern Tangail late on Friday," the official said.

Police raided the hideout, on a remote fish farm in Tangail, 100 km (62 miles) northwest of the capital Dhaka, after a tip-off.

Three militants were detained during the raid on the hideout and 27 others were picked up from different spots, where a number of live bombs were also recovered over the last 24 hours.

Most of the detainees are believed to be militants of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, one of the three banned groups, blamed for waves of bomb attacks across the country since August.

Police have intensified their hunt for bombers after two bombs exploded on a crowded street in the northern town of Netrokona on Thursday, killing eight



Bangladeshis take part in a multi-faith prayer session for peace in Dhaka Dec. 10. Police in Bangladesh hunting for Islamist suicide bombers have seized explosives and detained 30 militants, a home ministry official said on Saturday. REUTERS

people including a suicide bomber and wounding 50.

Police have detained nearly 70 suspected militants following the latest bomb attack which took the number of people killed by suspected suicide bombers to 28 in three weeks, including judges, lawyers and policemen. At least 150 people have been wounded.

Bangladesh is the world's third-most-populous Muslim country after Indonesia and Pakistan.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar said last month that Islamists had formed a 2,000-strong suicide squad to press home their demands for a sharia-based Islamic state.



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## ElBaradei and IAEA receive Nobel prize

OSLO (Reuters) - The International Atomic Energy Agency and its chief Mohamed ElBaradei received the Nobel Peace Prize on Saturday for their work to prevent the spread of nuclear arms and promote the safe use of atomic power.

ElBaradei and the chairman of the Board of Governors of the IAEA, Yukiya Amano, received gold medals and Nobel diplomas at a ceremony at Oslo City Hall to applause from about 1,000 guests.

They will share 10 million Swedish crowns which accompanies the award established by Swedish philanthropist Alfred Nobel.



The 2005 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates were received in the Royal palace in Oslo Dec. 10. before to the award ceremony. (L to R) Norway's Queen Sonja, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the IAEA Yukiya Amano, Norway's King Harald, Director General of the IAEA Mohamed ElBaradei and Norway's Crown Prince Haakon. REUTERS



## Words of Wisdom



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

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,  
(1951 - 1999)  
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OPINIONValue of  
human life

A driver of a public transport bus was shot dead last Friday because of a traffic violation and ignoring the traffic officer. Eyewitnesses said that a patrolling police car chased after the bus driver, asked him to pull over and shot him dead after a heated argument. This is not the only time something like this happens in Yemen. Sometimes it is armed citizens killing police officers and sometimes it is the other way round. On several occasions such as the "Jaki case" in 1992 an army officer shot down a traffic policeman after a similar argument. The bottom line is that killing has become so easy in Yemen because of the wide spread of weapons in absence of law enforcement. Corruption and the degrading of respect to human life and moral values have lead to sad experiences. Incidents show that if the murderer has some influential person to back him up then no penalty is enforced, except for an amount of money paid to the family of the deceased just to finish off the issue. "Take it or leave it", the murderer would say, and grudgingly the victimized family would yield and drop the case, if at all there was one.

As such, Yemen is not a dangerous place to live in. Especially for foreigners and submissive Yemenis. A peaceful person who is not inclined to arguing and causing trouble could live easily without having a single encounter with the police or the bullies of the area. However the price a person would have to pay in order to live a peaceful life in Yemen is his dignity. If you want to live a serene life in Yemen, don't talk about your right to enjoy a decent neighborhood. Or if a government employee, don't claim your right in getting your full salary at the end of the month. Convince yourself that it is ok to turn a deaf ear on someone who has taken your parking slot, your seat in the bus, your turn in the queue... etc. Don't argue when you realize that your colleague doesn't even come to work and he is nominated the best employee of the month. Don't be upset when you ask your child how school was and realize that the teacher has not been coming for the last two months and that all the kids do is mess around and fight.

Above all, when an armed person – with authority or without – looks at you in the eyes and says you are wrong, whatever you do don't argue... just say yes.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf  
Editor-in-Chief



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by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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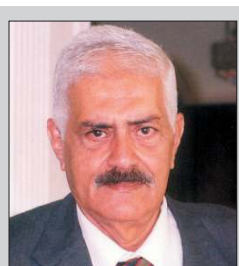
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To live, humans need  
more than human rights

Despite the great significance of political and civil life for the life of peoples, humans do not live solely on human rights and peoples would not achieve advancement only by the political and civil rights.

The United Nations General Assembly has defined the human rights status that constitutes the major link of the free and dignified life for the human, through two international conventions:

They are first the international convention on civil and political rights that includes the right to practice, activity and democratic life. The right to freedom, the right to life, the right to security and stability, the right to employment, the right of opinion and the right of woman to participate in the political and public life. It also stipulated the right of the society to take decisions and participate in what is related to their life and future through free and decent elections of local councils, the parliament, the Shoura (Consultancy) council and presidential elections. The international convention also stipulated the right of forming political parties,



By: Prof. Dr.  
Abdulaziz al-Tarbi

health, employment, promotion and equality, food and liberation from hunger, physical and mental health and the rest during jobs requiring much physical effort.

It is noted that in the Arab world reality, including Yemen, the political parties and organizations devote the greater space of interest and activity to the political and civil rights, neglecting, however, economic rights and their relationship with the people.

The government has to employ its capabilities and efforts and decision in tackling this problem. It has to consider the acquired rights as a legal right to the citizens and should provide necessary services and improve them, although they might not be realized in full. Among the services the government has to adopt offering are improve-

trade unions and civil society organizations.

The second international convention is that on economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to work, suitable lodging, wages compatible with the job and cover needs of the family, free education, free medication, the child's right to food and

ment of education, medication, public services and improvement of cultural and social infrastructure, particularly if that is accompanied by serious monitoring by the political parties and organizations of civil society, in addition to the parliament and local councils.

Corruption is the first major cause of poverty, therefore to end poverty there must be a severe encounter of corruption. Fighting corruption could be only by discerning governance. Big bribe, small bribe, small corruption and big corruption, are all included in the concept of corruption. It is inevitable to have resources and political will to confront corruption. The question is can we render those ideas and slogans to titles for the upcoming local councils elections? It is particularly so when we consider that experts opinion in this regard is that most of the Arab states have their own monitoring apparatuses but are government-run and provide protection to corruption and corruptors. Therefore it is imperative that those organizations are to be entirely independent. When would we comprehend that corruption is not a natural disaster but rather an organized process?

Dr. Abdulaziz al-Tarbi is a professor in political science and economics

The Security intelligence  
conduct in a month time (Part 1)

By: Abdurrahim Mohsin

The Yemeni security-intelligence system, which is financially, technically and spiritually supported by the democratic and liberal countries vowed to make writers, politicians and opposition journalists live in permanent and severe winter within a framework of an agenda characterized by nervousness and oppressive violence. These are malpractices of allegiant oppression apparatuses filled with hatred to freedoms and rights.

This intelligence system expanded the scope of its activities to the administrative systems and the governmental facilities including education offices in districts, in addition to the establishment of a new intelligence apparatuses that operate beyond the legislative monitoring and legal accountability. Consequently this system tends to work on the basis of a legitimacy of violence and terrorism against the community.

This system reflected its agenda in the real-life situation through the publicly practiced barbaric conduct by its affiliated newspapers, its forces or by faxed or mobile phone letter (the electronic violence).

This system exploits the absence of a reform project that targets Yemen and the lack of a serious international monitoring by the organizations that fight the political totalitarian regime.

This system spoiled the peaceful demonstrations in July 2005 and practiced willful killing, massive arrests and torture of detainees, contravening the constitution and the law. It attacked the rights and freedoms of parties, political organizations, syndicates and civil community organizations including universities.

In countries controlled by totalitarianism in its different forms and shapes, coupled with political and ideological viewpoints, the security intelligence apparatuses cannot express themselves without organized sessions of terrorism against people who oppose it. In Yemen, this system recorded a standard score of barbaric conducts against peaceful writers, journalists and politicians, among them were:

## Wahib Al-Nusari:

Wahib is a talented journalist who went to Al-Sab'een Square to cover a peaceful protest by a number of angry people. He was led by beasts from the special military intelligence (a new security system affiliated to special forces and republican guards) to a prison located under Al-ab'een platform building in the Capital. In this place, he was subjected to torture and psychological pressure and badmouthing.

Al-Nusari could not escape the torture of its beasts until a large number of writers and journalists, who have been acquainted with what happened to him, showed their firm solidarity. It was also in this terrible place where journalists Mohamed al-Ghubari (during the 1998 demonstrations)

and Marwan al-Khalid (in 2005) were thrown with some of their colleagues. Al-Khalid explained before a number of writers and journalists the behavior of people in control of this jail.

## Television Journalists

Najib Al-Shara'abi, Correspondent of Al-Ekhbaria T.V. and Mojib Suaileh, photographer of Al-Arabyia went in a professional mission to take photos of the protest staged by the Textile Factory employees in the capital. As the pair started their task, they were captured by a big military force, beaten and threatened of severe punishments.

The humiliation of people during the daytime and the practice of violence against them by the security intelligence apparatuses have become permissible under the umbrella of totalitarianism. If the rope remains left on the boat and people ignore their freedom and rights that have to be defended by all means available, the situation will grow from bad to worse.

In the next article, we will see how the security-intelligence system in Yemen dealt with its "enemies" the journalists Mohamed Qahtan and Nabil Subei.

The author is a well known Yemeni journalist and opposition activist. Established the anti-regime movement called "Irhalo" means get out. He was a former media person of the presidency office until he was dismissed recently and harassed because of his opposing attitude and writings.

## Letters to the Editor

Iran and the  
world's politics

The remarks made by the Iranian President, Mr Mahmoud Ahmadienjad, terming Israel as a 'tumour' to be relocated to Europe triggered the outcry of European leaders. Coincidentally, the blasphemous cartoon published by the Denmark newspaper, Jyllands-Posten, also witnessed violent reaction from the concerned quarters.

While going through a write-up on the cartoon published by Kuwait Times, I noted closely the remarks made by Carsten Juste, chief editor of the paper, justifying it as based on the freedom of speech. If the author of Satanic Verses, Salman Rushdie, could write something that hurt the feelings of Muslim Ummah and taken them as a part of freedom of speech, then whatever the Iranian President may have asserted be taken as a part of the freedom of speech. He just said that rather than doing something practically. Here such a war

of speeches reminds me of a third law of motion postulated by Newton, "Every action and reaction are always equal to each other but in opposite direction."

By the way, the points enlisted by the president are not so wrong and false but carrying some water when he questioned, "Where do those who rule in Palestine as occupiers come from? Where were they born? Where did their fathers live? They have no roots in Palestine but they have taken the fate of Palestine in their hands. Is it not a right to national self-determination, one of the principles of the United Nations charter? Why do they deprive Palestinians of this right?"

There is no denying the fact that not furnishing the right of an independent state to Palestinians has been a core issue in the region. Much efforts were made in the past to resolve the issue once for all, but all proven fruitless due to lack of sincerity.

One thing is clear that what the Holy Quran predicted 1400 hundred years ago is being proved and authenticated by the science now. Therefore, let's not forget the teachings of Islam, the Holy Book and Allah's Messenger, Muhammad [PBHU]. I happened to read a book titled 'Maot ka manzar' [A scene of death], the author of the book quoted certain predictions made by the Holy Prophet Muhammad [PBHU] about the commencement of Doom's Day. One of them I noted was about the period of time [day, ie, yesterday and tomorrow]. So according to the saying of Muhammad [PBHU], each tomorrow holds a lot of troubles, miseries and grievances for a common man even though we, irrespective of our religious affiliations, are of the view that we have been stepping forward towards progress, prosperity and happiness. Yes, apparently we have made a great deal of progress and prosperity but let's not forget that

internally we are hollow like a trunk by having lost lots of a good number of values and norms, such as, humanity, peace of mind and heart, trust, honesty, respect, honour, true love etc that we used to enjoy in our past days. Is it not that?

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## Thank you YT

I would like to take this unique opportunity to cordially congratulate you and your staff for the superb performance professionally executed by your esteemed [Yemen Times] I am a Yemeni presently and for the last 30 yrs. residing in [Saudi Arabia]. Your service has reduced the gravity of homesickness. Well done. Keep the spirit up and may Allah bless you all.

Ahmed Nahdi  
babanahdi@hotmail.com

Thank you Ahmed for your kind letter... we hope to always be at your service

—Editor

COMMON  
SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The Islamic  
Conference  
in Mecca

Many people may have been surprised by the statements of the Iranian President Ahmadienjad made at the Summit Conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held in Mecca last week, but are those statements really a shocker as they are made out to be. The fact of the matter is that what Ahmadienjad was reminding most of the Moslem leaders of the world is what they have all forgotten that the world is now really facing a dogmatic conflict of sorts and it is imperative that they are responsible to their constituencies for upholding the dogmatic convictions of their people. There is no escape from the realization that indeed the Bush Administration has chosen to put the world in such a state of confrontation by invoking a messianic role he has set out for himself under a so called evangelical persuasion. Therefore, why should Moslems of the world live under false pretensions that they are not also the objective of such a messianic mission as can be seen by the obvious efforts to place all things Islamic in a basket of evil and as demonstrated by the unfailing support that Mr. Bush and his neo-con establishment give to Israel, without regards to the real essentials for peace in the area: a recognition that all religions have a stake in what happens in the Holy Land and a recognition that the Palestinians still remain ongoing victims of a dogmatic chauvinistic movement that has displaced them from their homeland and placed them in one giant prison in what remains of Palestine still under their feet.

An Israeli spokesman rightly said that what Ahmadienjad said is what is felt by most Moslems of the world and although not in exactly the same way, most Moslems of the world see that a big injustice has been allowed to occur in the Holy Land and to this day there is no hope of redress for the unfortunate victims of this injustice. This is not to state that the Moslems of the world are ready to pick up whatever weapons they have and head for the Holy Land to relieve their brothers. I think what the Iranian President was pointing out that if it is all right for Israel and her Western friends to claim allegiance to dogmatic creed, then the Moslems of the world have even stronger basis for upholding their convictions and their claims to the Holy Land. The Iranian President was clearly following the trends of the times, with Zionist rightists having their right of way in Israel and the building of the Jewish settlements continuing at full speed, not to mention the damned apartheid wall. What he was saying is we have our beliefs too and we should be ready to uphold them because this is what the Moslems of the World really want. We should not wait to let some fly by night terrorist organizations take the "banner of Jihad", and distort all other facets of Islam, but approach the problem in an organized institutional manner using all the resources available to the Moslem World to ensure that justice is done wherever Moslems are the victims of a clear injustice.

On the statements about the Holocaust, it is not the first time such statements have been made, with respect to the exaggerated numbers, but in fact many western academicians and students have concluded that the number of victims of the Holocaust was indeed significantly less than the 6 million claimed. Whatever the case, should the people of Palestine pay the price of the crimes of Adolph Hitler? This is what the Iranian President is rightfully asking: Do two wrongs make a right?

The time is moving in favor of greater world tension as dogmatism begins to take over reason and pragmatism and this was more the fault of western ideologists like George W. Bush and the neo-con establishment that considers itself in a messianic mission to bring the Jews together in the Holy Land and eventually annihilate them to fulfill the destiny of the Will of God on Earth. Well, if that is the case then what Ahmadienjad might have said at the OIC Conference was more merciful for the Jews, then Evangelical proposals for Doomsday, which seems to be not much different than what Nazi anti-Jewish hatred invoked. He rightfully suggested that those who persecuted the Jews should pay the price and not the Palestinians. Indeed, they have been paying the price, although not in real estate, but in the large sums of compensation paid out to Israel and the Jews, most of which went into the building of the injustice meted out to the Palestinians. Even now, if the Germans wanted to make a contribution to any Palestinian philanthropy or the Palestinian authority, before they can do it they would have to pay ten times as much to Israel before that.

There is no telling now, where the situation in the Middle East is heading, with the Israelis further away from adhering to any efforts for peace than they have ever been and with Uncle Sam giving them the red light to do whatever they like.

What the Iranian President told the Moslem heads of state is that they should not expect any justice for their Palestinian brothers from anyone without demanding it and using all the power they have at their disposal to get it. Yes they are jolting words indeed, but perhaps Moslem leaders needed someone to jolt them as to the realities of this world and that they need not be necessarily the underdog all the time. The Moslem leaders in Mecca knew full well what Ahmadienjad was saying and whether they saw such statements as reflective of their own feelings or not, they certainly are not far from the feelings of well over 1 billion souls in this planet.

Perhaps, such jolting statements will remind the Israelis that it is better to opt for a peaceful way out of the problem before the whole world becomes enmeshed in a dogmatic conflict that will not be pleasant for anyone, most especially the Israelis, who know full well that their whole existence is not exactly based on orthodox grounds for statehood, especially when the price of such statehood was the misery and displacement of an entire indigenous population.



# Yemen Press Review

Review by: Mohammed Khidhr



As-Sahwa weekly,  
8 Dec.2005.

## Main headlines

- JMP & independent parliamentary blocs deemed it national wealth squander, Ruling party bloc supports additional corruption of YR451 billion
- In a press conference, Khalid Mishal: We reject Palestinian fratricide, aim at pure democracy
- During meeting Musharaf, Speaker Sheikh al-Ahmar calls on Pakistan to adhere to its nuclear program, Islamic identity and non-normalization
- JMP Higher Council studies political and media movement of the comprehensive reform initiative
- Parliamentarians refuse the President's message on canceling their privileges
- Director of Ibb security refuses prosecution directives
- Hudeidah electricity employees put red badges in prelude to strike
- Taiz Orphan Festival concluded

Columnist Abdulmalik al-Shaibani says in an article there is no doubt that freedom with all of its aspects is a legitimate right guaranteed by heavenly laws and international conventions and agreements. It has become a question taken for granted and a matter recognized by all, even despotic regimes though they do that theoretically.

Media instruments are considered among the most important forums for the realization of freedom and its establishment. How can the human practice his right to freedom of expression without media instruments that are the tools of expression and communicating the idea and the opinion? Moreover, the media play a big role in the positive change and this in particular makes them very much needed in the present age. It is not easy to put together the authority recognition of freedom with its entire syllabus pointed to above while it is monopolizing the biggest audio and visual media forums that have the greatest influence on the public opinion, in addition to many newspapers. All the media instruments must be possessed by the people of Yemen because all of them have been established with their efforts and money.

In addition to that, the writer says the authority enchains and represses freedom of available media of the opposition in manner preventing them from performing their job. The authority also works on narrowing the democratic margin and pursues and punishes newspapers and journalists who do not follow its orbit. Above all that the authority confronts any press law that may be issued.



Attariq weekly, 6  
Dec. 2005.

## Main headlines

- Ex-Yemeni president Ali Nasser Mohammed supports the JMP initiative, deeming it suitable ground for national dialogue
- Yemen and Pakistan signed a number of agreements
- Trial of defendants accused of Sana'a blasts continues
- Three persons killed in tribal clashes in Abyan
- Surplus labor in Aden demand increase in their salaries

On the strategy of salaries and wages the writer Arif al-Dhirgham says the strategy that has been implemented recently in the state institutions has basically come for raising the standard of living of the Yemeni citizen and to fight poverty. Its aim is also to bridge the gap between high prices that covered everything and the citizen's ability to get suitable wages to face the high prices. The writer says that what has happened in practice came contrary to what the state was hoping from raising of wages and salaries of its employees. In comparison between the strategy's wages and the employees' former salaries some of them were surprised that their salaries in the payrolls had dropped in thousands of riyals. Despite of that drop the new salary of the employee was subjected to income tax and deductions of the social security as a later pension salary.

The writer claims there must be some failure in that strategy or in its application in a way it seems to be concentrating the phenomenon of poverty and not to fight it. The writer maintains that there must be a treatment for this failure so that the concerned sides in the government would correct it and to give assurance to the employee and worker that there were some kind of unintentional mistakes.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the  
Nasserite  
Unionist  
Organization  
(NUO), 6  
Dec.2005.

## Main headlines

- Parliament approves additional appropriation for plundering more than YR451 billion
- Sana'a hosts Al-Quds 4th conference
- Political reforms immunize Yemen against external pressures
- NUO MP describes the additional appropriation as rooting of corruption

- An eight-month program for training female journalists at the Female Media Forum
- Arab Journalists Union calls for boycotting meeting of the International Union of Journalists in Beirut

Columnist Ahmed Said discusses the initiative launched by parties of the JMP for the comprehensive political and national reform saying it represents an ideological activity and political movement none can deny or ignore. To affirm his opinion he cites the ferocious media attack on it. He says the value of the initiative can be understood through reactions and that have raised its importance and asset. This means that now the ball is at the court of the General People's Congress. It cannot deny or ignore and it has two options only, either the rejection or engagement in discussion and dialogue with the opposition parties that launched the initiative. In both cases the GPC bears the responsibility of its stand.

The writer believes that the initiative has dealt with very important issues and prescribed remedies for disorders in the state structure from which the ruling party and opposition have complained. Leadership of the ruling party should not evade from dialogue about it because wasting time is against the homeland interest.

The writer adds it is a sound stance for the GPC to give the initiative a space in the agenda of the party's 7th conference to be held in the mid of this month so that to reflect its attitude towards it. The ruling party is the one that gains more of the initiative's fruits as much as its stance was positive and bears its losses if it could not comprehend others' stands and in this case it would convey the concept of comprehensive reform to a more developed stand and a deeper demand.



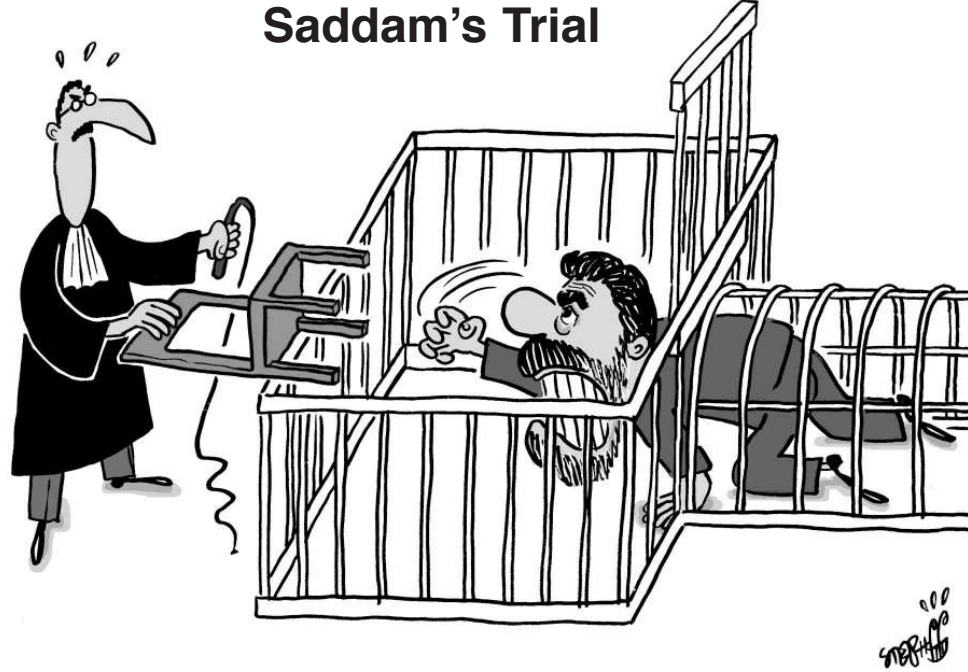
Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the  
General People's  
Congress (GPC),  
5 Dec.2005.

## Main headlines

- The GPC secretary-general Dr Abdulkarim al-Eryany: everything on the table of dialogue, ready for a dialogue with the JMP
- The Yemen-Pakistan summit, Economic partnership, activation of Islamic action and fighting terror
- Al-Eryany: GPG's more distinguished and effective performance after its 7th conference
- PM Bajammal: Dialogue between the government and the opposition remains standing and required
- Shoura Council discusses the press draft law, Al- Lawzi: We seek for expanding the freedoms of press

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## Saddam's Trial



- Sana'a declaration for the Arab woman rights, Empowerment of the woman to gain her rights and improve her situations

Columnist Dr. Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says it seems the present American administration would not leave the White House but after it would have violated all the principles upon which the American state was established. If previous American administrations had committed many crimes against some peoples such as the Vietnamese people, the present administration seeks to commit more crimes against the entire world under the influence of color blindness with which it could not distinguish between friendly and hostile country. This stupid behavior doubles the state of panic all over the world towards a super power the majority of humankind was looking at it as a power helps establishment of stability and extinguish fires of wars happening here and there.

If the United States has been for long time introducing itself as sponsor of democracy, freedom of expression and human rights, then why and how does this administration forget all that history and does not hesitate in preparation for shelling a satellite TV channel which tries in the first place to its audience an opinion and an opposite opinion in an impartial way? The news about the plan of bombing this channel put the world before a difficult question. What remains of the principles of the American people that have not been violated?



Al-Wasat weekly,  
7 Dec.2005.

## Main headlines

- The President did not discuss the issue of al-Zandani with President Bush, American demands of reform electoral program for GPC
- The constitutional committee recommends refusal of the president's objection against some articles
- Al-Hakimi's electoral platform

defuse it. The challenge, then, lies in avoiding a confrontation that Chávez clearly wants. Unfortunately, George W. Bush's administration has not proved particularly adept at conflict prevention.

The hemisphere's other nations have a direct stake in attempting to preempt a fight that would force them to take sides and might threaten their economic and national-security interests. Although many of Chávez's positions have found support in certain Latin American nations, the division that he and Castro's Cuba have created in Latin America – between left and right, free-traders and “Bolivarians,” and pro- and anti- Americans – is mainly artificial and certainly not impossible to overcome.

To be sure, many Latin American leaders have tried to assuage and control Chávez, and they have all failed. But the cost of not trying again could be extremely high. The last time revolutionary leaders confronted the US head-on, in Central America during the 1980's, everyone lost. A new split up and down the hemisphere, engineered by a leader awash in oil money, would prove far more disastrous.

*Jorge Castañeda is a former Foreign Minister of Mexico.*

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## Do we need the OIC or Arab League?

The Mekka summit of the members states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) concluded last Thursday as usual with a final statement calling for the support of Palestinians, Iraq, Afghanistan and some other Muslim states plagued with poverty and other miseries. The summit talked about terrorism and the dangers of associating it with Islam as a religion, denouncing the terrorist activities carried out by al-Qaeda and its affiliate groups or members.

This is fine that these regimes denounce terrorism. They claimed that poverty and lack of international justice, the latter reckoned by our president Ali Abdullah Saleh. But, the Muslim leaders have not talked about the absence of reform, justice, democracy and freedom in their countries as a real cause behind terrorism. Why it is only the absence of international justice that brought about violence and terrorism and forget about the fact that the oppression and corruption of these tyrannical regimes against their people produced terrorism and a culture of hatred?

Why do these regimes always try to look for a reason for our failure and problems? I guess that you people agree with me that it is these regimes that is behind almost all problems we are going through including these terrorists who have been born, brought up and supported by these regimes which now, under the pressure of the US, are trying to break away with them.

These regimes have committed to fighting against terrorism. But, part of combating terrorism is looking into the reasons standing behind like absence of democracy and freedom in these countries. The question of reform of the Middle East countries in particular, now a global concern, has not been discussed at all by this emergency summit

ed with schizophrenia when they deem as traitor anyone meets the Americans or representatives of the west and their civil organizations at a time they pant after creating a relation or gaining a certificate of good behavior.

It is no longer possible to prevent meting of ideas or impose quarantine on human relations in order not to grow as long as they are in the open. It is now the duty of the Arab ruling regimes to be the leader of change. Then they would not find an opponent from outside their countries and would not fear from anger of people suffering from hunger and poverty to shake their seats. Until that happens and when we hear that the leaders have returned what they have stolen from the state treasury and stripped their sons and relatives of their military ranks and civil position, except for those who attained them by their efficiency and effort, we would keep turning deaf ears to what those leaders say. We would instead remain eager and dreaming of the change that opens horizons of the future for a better life full of justice and freedom.




## SILVER LINING

By: Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi  
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# The Chávez challenge

By: Jorge Casteneda

Venezuela's recent legislative elections confirmed trends that have repeatedly brought the country into the headlines in recent years. President Hugo Chávez showed once again that he enjoys broad support among the nation's poor and desperate, and that he is miles ahead of his opposition in terms of political skill, cunning, and ruthlessness. Yet at the same time voter turnout is declining with each passing election under Chávez, and the questionable fairness of the electoral process has grown increasingly apparent.

To be sure, the opposition's withdrawal from the election just days before the vote was, as Chávez claimed, more a symptom of its own weakness than of problems with the electoral process. And, just as surely, that very weakness is a function of the gradual stifling of many features of Venezuela's traditional democratic order.

Even so, the opposition's mistakes have been massive, ranging from support for the failed coup against the democratically elected Chávez in April 2002 to the failed strike at PEDESA, Venezuela's national oil company, in early 2003. Nothing is more lethal in politics than failure in direct confrontation.

In such circumstances, Chávez can afford to be bold, despite his policies' failure to benefit his core constituency: the more than 50% of Venezuelans who live in destitution and despair. Poverty has grown since Chávez took office in 1998; government finances and the trade balance are more dependent on oil revenues than before, and, aside from Cuban literacy programs and neighborhood “barefoot doctor” services, the overall welfare of the poor remains the same, if not worse.

Major changes are unlikely in the foreseeable future. Chávez will be able to modify the Constitution largely as he pleases, and pack both the justice system and the electoral authority with his placemen. He will continue to dole out oil-based subsidies in the well-worn Venezuelan tradition of Marcos Pérez Jiménez and Carlos Andrés Pérez. As a result, Chávez will be re-elected late next year, and he may well remain in power until the end of the next decade.

Yet, if this is what the Venezuelan people want, then so be it. It is, after all, their business who governs them, and how, as long as human rights are not systematically violated, democratic institutions are not indefinitely suspended, and standard norms of international conduct are respected.

Judged by the last standard, at least, Chávez may have crossed the line. For years, he has been accused of taking

over where Fidel Castro left off: supporting the rhetoric of radicalism and anti-imperialism, if not revolution, throughout Latin America. It could now be time for other Latin American nations and the international community to take such charges more seriously.

Chávez is giving away oil to Caribbean island nations and Cuba, and buying off Argentine debt to help President Nestor Kirchner's political fortunes. In Mar del Plata, Argentina, last month, he openly participated in a rally against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), in the company of, among others, Evo Morales, the coca-leaf growers' leader from Bolivia who might well become that country's next president.

Similarly, Chávez is clearly supporting Daniel Ortega, the perennial Sandinista presidential candidate in Nicaragua, and Shafick Handal, the equally perennial FMLN candidate in El Salvador. His former ambassador to Mexico participated openly and vociferously in campaign events for Mexico City Mayor Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador's presidential campaign.

There seems to be a common thread to most of Chávez's foreign policy: to provoke a major confrontation with the United States. The danger, of course, is that if and when confrontation comes – over Bolivia, the FTAA, human rights, or press freedoms – it will be too late to



# Parliament urges government to limit expenses

**F**inancial Affairs Committee at the parliament mentioned in its report on draft law on opening an additional appropriation of the state budget of fiscal year 2005 that there were already excesses in expenses for subsidizing oil products. The excesses were more than YR 138 billion until last July than what was estimated for it in the state budget. The report also expected that the excess would by the end of this year to amount to YR 237 billion. That had made the government allocate 53% of expenses of the YR 451 billion additional appropriation for subsidizing oil products. The report, which was discussed by parliament, had stressed the importance of implementing developmental projects on scientific planning basis and within priorities of public spending. They should be

within the commitments to laws and legislations concerning execution of developmental projects. The report considered exaggeration in calculating the price a barrel of oil, sold to refineries, as higher than the price of crude oil exported abroad, as one of the reasons leading to inflation in expenses of oil products subsidiary.

The committee's report demanded reform and development of the system of financial legislations in order to stop government violations in implementation of projects whose costs are included in state budgets. The report has accused the government of including obligations in the additional appropriation, mentioning that they could have been postponed to the budget of 2006 with the aim of benefiting from the increase achieved in the revenues of the budget of 2005 and to alleviate burdens on 2006 budget. The report



contained a demand for holding accountable those who helped selling of 60% of the share of a Yemeni company's share in the oil sector 53, given that the said company is still under establishment. That has resulted in compensations sustained by the state treasury, accusing the government of paying YR3.8 billion as a settlement in order to abolish the contract of selling the share of that Yemeni company, still under establishment. Report of the financial committee has also demanded allotment of YR 3 billion for the ministry of electricity to be spent on implementing necessary power project in the countryside.

The government had last September submitted request for additional appropriation of YR 451 billion, YR23 billion of which for facing costs of implementing the national strategy of wages and salaries.

## Businessmen underestimate effect of conferences

By: Mahyoub al-Kamali

**C**hairman of the union of chambers of commerce and industry Mohammed Abdeh Saeed Anam has said the large number of symposiums, conferences and seminars has in practice proved, as do not yield practical results on the ground. Mr Saeed, who is also a member of parliament, has told journalists that symposiums and conferences are something good but regretfully they

come out with recommendations that are not put into effect. He has also criticized the government's dealing with decisions it has taken, mentioning that it has at an earlier time decided to reduce them in order to save spending.

In his address to the forum on mechanisms of funding exports and securing investment in Yemen concluded in Sana'a last week, Mr Saeed called on participants to condense recommendations in one and to work on carrying it out instead of the big number of

recommendations that could not be implemented. He considered the forum as an opportunity for investors and businessmen to organize themselves through supporting the Arab Establishment for Guaranteeing Investment, affirming as the process of exportation as the major pillar for the development of any country.

On his part the minister of Trade and Industry Khalid Rajih al-Sheikh addressed the forum and called on officials in the Arab countries who are specialized in this field as well as the private sector to work for Arab

economic integration and upgrade the level of inter-Arab trade. He described it as not exceeding 10% of the total Arab trade with the world. Minister al-Sheikh has also called on Arab capitalists to invest in Yemen, affirming that the law grants them all the rights guaranteed for their Yemeni counterparts. The minister has also said the European Union has granted Yemen a privilege of allowing it to export everything to the European markets, except weapons without customs taxes provided that there is commitment to European

specifications. The minister deemed that a channel for Arab investors to enter the European markets through production in Yemen. The minister mentioned there was a complaint aroused by investors regarding rise in costs and complication of measures, expressing the government willingness to discuss those points.

At the time the minister urged Yemeni businessmen to discuss the topics on the forum's agenda and benefit from them, some businessmen belittled the avail of holding those conferences and their effect on the

practical side.

General Manager of the Saudi exports program Saleh al-Augi had also complained of the difficulty of obtaining information from Yemeni banking establishments and businessmen. Mr al-Augi said there is a good activity in Yemen particularly in the retail sale sector but "we face a problem with regard to gathering information." The volume of trade exchange between Yemen and Saudi Arabia has amounted to \$700 million in which the Saudi balance gained the bigger share.

## The soft underbelly of China's growth

By: Zhang Jun

**C**hina's explosive economic growth hinges on the rest of the world, radically changing the global production chain and challenging the global trading system. If China maintains its growth momentum over the next two decades, the global system will face huge challenges. Indeed, the question is not so much whether the global system will endure the imbalances spawned by China, but how severe those imbalances will prove to be.

Much of the concern over the past few years has centered on America's yawning current account and fiscal deficits, and its effort to get China to let the yuan float more freely against the dollar. China, by contrast, sees its growth as tied to a stable currency, and may not want to introduce a more flexible exchange-rate regime, even after the 2.1% revaluation in July, pending alleviation of structural problems for which it is extremely difficult to set a timetable.

In fact, even as China's economy has boomed over the past decade, structural adjustment in its domestic sectors slowed, mainly owing to political constraints. The banking system remains unhealthy and fragile; capital markets are dying.

The private sector's growth is hemmed in by its inability to invest in economic sectors that the government still monopolizes. Mounting regional disparities, as well as the widening urban-rural divide, impede household consumption growth, increasing the economy's dependence on exports and foreign investment.

For years, as optimists see it, China has been the world's cheap assembly shop for shoes, clothing, and microwave ovens. Now, it is laying the

groundwork to become a global power in more sophisticated, technology-intensive industries. Billions of dollars are flowing into auto, steel, chemical, and high-tech electronics plants, setting the stage for China to be a major exporter of high-end products.

While this argument suggests that the global trading system must make more room for a rising China (and India), it overlooks the need to address the enormous structural problems in China's domestic sectors if export-led growth is to become sustainable. For these sectors, rapid investment-driven growth in the past decade has produced a mountain of excess capacity, reflected in stagnant prices and the banking sector's soaring volume of bad loans, as price wars squeeze profitability and stimulate real-estate speculation.

Postponing structural reforms eventually constrains any economy's performance, as we saw in Japan in the 1980's and 1990's. China has similar problems, with the investment-growth nexus threatening macroeconomic stability – witness the overheating that occurred in 2003 and 2004.

Indeed, China faces tremendous challenges in maintaining macroeconomic stability under conditions of export-led growth, with huge repercussions for the rest of the world. Given China's size and its rising share in the global market, macroeconomic instability there fuels volatility in global prices for basic commodities and raw materials.

But the political reality is that China's government favors rapid growth in the short run over the structural reforms needed to sustain long-term economic performance. Fiscal consolidation and the abrupt closure and restructuring of inefficient banks and state enterprises would, after all, constitute a powerful brake on short-term growth, threatening social peace and political stability.

This may explain the growing efforts of Chinese businesses in recent years to go global themselves. Globalization is increasingly viewed as an alternative to domestic structural complexity.

This strategy will exact a heavy price, just as it did in Japan twenty years ago. The main lesson of Japan's approach is that launching an aggressive buying spree overseas merely upsets established international balances of interests – thus generating greater tensions with the rest of the world – while hiding the seriousness of structural problems at home.

China has much to gain by avoiding such a strategy. Focusing squarely on structural reforms would allay some of the fears that China's rise has inspired in the rest of the world, while winning praise from the international business community. Rather than scaring global corporations and their home states, China would retain strong political support abroad – and the financing that it needs for its continued development.

In economic terms, China has no choice: it must remove the structural obstacles that stand in the way of rapid growth over the next decade or two. Above all, truly secure and sustainable economic development requires that it build a large consumer base at home.

Of course, the global imbalances associated with China's economic rise can take longer to adjust than they otherwise would, simply because the US welcomes it as being in America's own interest. But China's long-term interest, and that of the world, requires that it get serious about domestic structural reform.

*Zhang Jun is Director, China Center for Economic Studies, Fudan University, Shanghai.*

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### Yemen International Telecommunications Co. [TeleYemen] Vacant Announcement

Yemen International Telecommunications Co. [TeleYemen], would like to call qualified candidates to apply for the following vacant posts within its office in Sana'a.

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##### Duties and responsibilities :

- Assist in developing, implementing and managing new marketing strategies.
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- Manage to facilitate the appropriate research and intelligence for the development of marketing plan and new offers and communication campaign.
- Analyzing statistical information, propose new ideas and recommend solution.
- Identify and selecting promotional and advertising options.
- Rest duties are contained in the Job Description.

##### Qualifications & Experience :

1. Must Hold a Degree in Marketing or Business Administration.
2. Minimum of 2 years experience in Marketing and related fields.
3. Candidate should be creative, analyze data.
4. Computer literate and proficient with MS Office Applications.
5. Fluent communication in both oral and written Arabic and English.
6. String knowledge of existing and emerging technology.

#### 2. Web Master

##### Duties and responsibilities :

- 1- Develop & Maintain Interactive, attractive & informative TeleYemen web sites.
- 2- Collect data from concerned departments to update web pages
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- 4- Change TeleYemen web pages Interface periodically.
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Interested candidates may submit their application letter with detailed Curriculum Vitae only to the following address no later than 26.12.2005. Candidates shall specify the post they are applying for. Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered.

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**Email: mhr@teleyemen.com.ye**



# Melancholy-inspired Al-Maqaleh celebrated

Prof. Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh was celebrated on Thursday Dec 8, 2005, to mark the publication of his poetic anthology. The ceremony was marked on a Thursday morning's function at the Sana'a-based Culture House. The event, attended by a host of Yemeni writers, poets, pressmen and officials, was intended to celebrate the latest issue of "Book in Newspaper" which is dedicated solely to the anthology from al-Maqaleh's poetic works. "Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's cultural gateway," said Khaled Al-Rowaishan, minister of culture. "He is Sana'a's brilliance and poetic luminosity and has engraved his name in Yemenis' minds and hearts."

Two young poets recited excerpts from Al-Maqaleh's poetry. Renown Fuad Al-Mahnabi and Sa'eed al-Shadadi alternately pleased the audience with selected poems from Dr. Al-Maqaleh's collection of verse to the accompaniment of enchanting music played by Abdul-Basit Al-Harithi and Abdulaziz Mukrid.

The ceremony was attended by the minister of culture and tourism and the Editor-in-Chief of Al-Thawra Daily newspaper Ali Najee Al-Ra'wi. The latter presented the memorial of "A

Book in Newspaper" to the poet along with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of his contribution to Yemen's literary life and his bringing it from the restricted local sphere to the realm of spacious internationalism.

All Yemenis are unanimous regarding the priceless contribution of Al-Maqaleh. He is held in respect both by his peers and the members of the succeeding generation.

In a preface to one of his collections, Al-Maqaleh is remembered to have said that he is "inspired by melancholy". He is not just a writer, thinker, critic or poet, but he is also a revolutionist who felt sad over the atrocities of the ousted Imamate monarchy.

"I wrote a number of revolutionary poems. I was appalled to find my friends get away from me", he said in the preface. "Even the closest people to me, I saw them brandish their sharp daggers in my face. I saw them prepare a grave to bury me in expatriation". He furnishes the reason that they were afraid of the revolution, which would, when passing, pass over their heads. He continues saying that "Finally, I tried to desert speech. I traveled into silence...[but] silence serpents eat into my tongue and the eye almost could not see and I



Dr. Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh

returned to speech" about melancholy for it was his "teacher willy-nilly".

In this issue of "Book in Newspaper," the poems include "Invocations," "Light Mirrors," and "My Homeland". The book contains paintings by Tunisian artist Ahmed Al-Hajri in harmony with the poetic subject. Al-Maqaleh is a prolific writer who authored literary books such as "Yemen Folk Poetry", "Voices from the Modern Time," "The

Crisis of the New Poem," and "Poets from Yemen", in addition to a several poetry collections such as "Marib Speaks", "A Message to Saif bin Thi Yazan" and "The Return of Wadhah al-Yemen". He contributed to the establishment of Sana'a University and was its rector for a long period before he moved to be the director of the Yemen Center for Research and Studies.

It is noteworthy that "A Book in Newspaper" project got started late 90s. It is a monthly publication featuring a selected portion of a particular Arab writer, both ancient and contemporary. The late Zaid Muttee Dammaj, Yemen's foremost novelist, was the first Yemeni writer to contribute in this project. His well-known novel "The hostage" was published in "A Book in Newspaper" in 1998. To this project do many Arab dailies subscribe such as Al-Thawra in Yemen. Whenever the monthly book is ready, it is printed and attached to each daily for free. The project covers different genres such as poetry, story, novel, etc. So far, creative works of many Arab men and women of letters have found their way to publication under this project from across the Arab World. The project is sponsored by the UNESCO and the MPI Foundation.

## Yemeni film snatches grand prize at Cairo Festival

The Yemeni film "A New Day in Old Sana'a" won the first prize, worth 100 thousand Egyptian pounds, at the Cairo Film Festival on Thursday, Dec 8, 2005. The festival that ended on Friday Dec 9, 2005, included films from different countries around the world such as China – guest of honor-, Greece and France. The film was screened three times at "Grand Hayat Hotel" in the Egyptian city of Cairo. The organizing committee selected the Yemeni film from a collection of 150 movies from all around the world to participate in the formal competition of the festival along with other 14 films, two of them are Arab-made.

"A New Day in Old Sana'a" was co-produced by the Yemen Media Center in Sana'a and London-based Felix Films. It marks Yemenis' ability and creativity in the film industry and the

possibility of getting a thriving filmmaking sector. The film was directed by Yemeni international filmmaker Badr Al-Hirsi and involved some 20 cinematography experts and technicians as well as 70 actors working over 60 days. The 90-minute film is set in the alleys of the magical old city of Sana'a. Produced late 2003 and early 2004, the Yemen's film follows the lives of a number of persons during a day that soon becomes a local legend. The region waits keenly for the wedding of the year, not knowing the inner psychic disturbance of the groom who realizes that the woman he loves is not the wealthy girl he is to marry today but actually a low-class orphaned lass. Passions such as love and envy interplay leading to changes in the lives of the people concerned. Finally, the groom has gets compelled to choose between marriage and tradition

on one hand or love and whatever it entails on the other.

Depicting aspects that are diametrically opposed to what most outsiders think of Yemen, the film provides a true and honest portrait of life in Yemen. It is interesting to know that the leading actor Nabil Saber of Old Sana'a, and his co-star actress Julia Towns of London found real-life romance and exchanged wedding vows last year in London, after which they eventually married. Earlier, Bader Al-Hirsi categorized his film to be some sort of a "romantic drama, showing a severe conflict between modern values and old, [but] is respectful of the strong morals of Yemen's Islamic society."

Before this event, this film was selected to participate at France-based Cannes Film Festival in 2004. The Film was accepted as part of the Cannes Film Festival during May 11-

22, 2005. Although the film did not compete for the Palm d'Or (Golden Palm), because of its unfinished status caused by insufficient funding, it was introduced as part of the Marche du Filme (Film Market). It is worth noting that it was the first Yemeni film ever featured at Cannes. The film was also promoted at the 2005 European Film Festival that started on Dec 4, 2005, in the city of Aden along side with many other European films.

The film is planned to be screened at Dubai International Film Festival this month and at Muscat Film Festival this January. It is also expected to be featured at some 80 film festivals across Europe, America and Asia over the next years. The film was produced as part of the celebratory functions of the Sana'a as the Arab Culture Capital for 2004. It is noteworthy that the total cost of "A New Day in Old Sana'a" was to the tune of \$750 thousand.

### Short Story

# The Fly

Written By: Hamdan Zaid Dammag  
Translated By: Mona Al-Alami\*

Thousands of difficult moments had passed without mercy. He had spent the entire morning searching the truth but, in vain. He knew completely that he wouldn't be able to escape to the outside, where there was a world full of light and freedom; a world he could see clearly from behind that damned invisible barrier. He grew helplessly sick of the sudden pangs of fear which struck him every time he hit the "invisible" barrier. That barrier remained a mystery, not only to him but to the entire fly population. He had once heard about it from one of his friends, but he never imagined it to be that mysterious and daunting.

His flying became confined to a small space so that he no longer circled freely in the air as he used to. He was unable to fly, "like a contemptible louse", he thought to himself ashamedly, as he stuck his bruised face against the closed window of the bedroom in house number 32 in the old *Itha'ah* neighbourhood.

"What a disaster! Do I have to die the way the cockroaches die?" asked the anxious voice within him. He had cried endlessly since morning. He could not remember how he fell in that "trap", all he recalled was that he was just happily musing in the air after a hearty meal from the neighbour's kitchen when ...

"You shouldn't have closed your eyes

when flying you ..." He angrily told himself as his steamy tears trickled down his face mixing with the filthy sweat of his body, which he used to customarily cleanse with his quick, sharp gestures.

His memory took him a few days back, when he was still young, to the moment when he had witnessed the death of a cockroach. "It was a horrid scene", the memory of which shook him fiercely and remained vivid in his mind throughout his short life. That scene instilled more fear into him than that of being swallowed by a frog... He had just come back from a morning meal with his comrades when he heard faint whines which made him shudder, nearly losing balance.

The giant cockroach was lying on his back with his spiked limbs swaying in the air with a disgusting agility. As he lay on his back, crying out for help, the place became filled with the smell of death. It wasn't long before the first of the ants could be seen from a distance.

"No, I can't die like that," he shook



his head as he tried to shut the horrible thoughts away. He rather preferred to die a "natural death", like his tribe's chief who had just died five hours ago after long life, choking on his final meal. How he would have liked to die in a mass slaughter together with his fellow flies, suffocating on poisonous gas, rather than to die alone and on his back, like a cockroach!

After resting awhile, he was able to clear off the remaining sweat on his wings. He resumed his work, once again meticulously searching the vastness of the window, for an opening through which he could escape. Whilst he was lost at work, great ideas began to caress his small mind. Feelings of hope and desire began to emerge from within him. "Yes, everything would soon be over," he reassured himself as his wings fluttered against the solid window pane, producing a hollow noise.

Unable to withstand the pain and exhaustion, he lost balance and his frail body fell to the pit of the window pane. Despite his exhaustion, images of a

bright future still flowed in his mind. No, he wouldn't give up, he can't give up. He would fly again, he would be free to embrace the endless skies. When he's free again, he would start a brand new life. He would no longer linger in the airs of this depressing house, but he would visit all the garbage sights in the city and see new things he had never seen before. Of course he would take extra care not to be entrapped by the invisible barriers and surely he wouldn't die on his back, like the cockroaches, but he would die the way the chief of his tribe had died, choking on his final meal. Who knows? Maybe one day he would become a chief himself. In fact "I will become a chief" he thought to himself and... and...

Whilst he was drowning in his wishful thoughts, he felt sleep taking over his entire body and before blissfully closing his posterior eyes, a thick hand had landed on him. He could feel through the darkness strong fingers closing on him, tightening their grip on his body, before they crushed him, and all his great thoughts.

Everything faded away rapidly from around him, the skies, the light, the freedom and his friends. He realised that it was the end but he was still happy. A content smile spread on his weary face as he silently remembered, in that instant, that he would not die the way the cockroaches die.

\* Mona Al-Alami, a linguistics specialist currently working in the field of translation in UAE.

## Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah

# The Holy Quran: Text Translation and Commentary (2-2)

Author: Abdullah Yusuf Ali  
Language: Arabic & English  
Publisher: Amana Corporation, Brentwood Maryland  
Year Published: First Edition – 1934;  
Edition Under Review: 1989.  
Number of Pages: 1754 pages

That the Qur'an came down in the Arabic language is indeed part of the insurance that the Holy Book of Islam shall remain uncorrupted for all time to come. For one thing the Arabic language is possessive of a great structural arrangement that makes it difficult to introduce any modifications in the language without making sure that such modifications fall into the overall structural framework that Arabic words and phrases must fall into.

The Arabic language is a language in which the subject verb and object can all be made into one word, such as *anulzimokomooha*; i.e. Do we compel you to do it. Yes that one word entails all those separate word and make a complete sentence. While this assures the longevity of the Arabic tongue and the permanency of the Holy Qur'an as it was revealed to the Prophet Mohammed and quickly put together by his early followers, it nevertheless makes it quite an enormous task for the translator to convey the meaning of the Qur'anic text with the same vivacity and strength as it relates in the Arabic text.

Undoubtedly many translations have been made of the Qur'an into English, some by Moslems and some by non-Moslems, but none have ever even come close to possessing the same power as the original Arabic text.

One of the most famous such translations is the translation under review here and it is undoubtedly one of the best translations. For one thing it attempts to detail all the aspects concerning a certain Chapter or verse, so that the reader becomes familiar with the revelation as it came down, the reasons behind it and the story or meaning the text conveys.

It also highlights the relationship the Qur'an has with the other Divine Revelations that preceded it namely, the Torah and the Old and New Testaments, where such relationship should be noted. In other words, the Qur'an is the climax of all Divine Revelations, which came to confirm the previous ones and corrects the areas where deviations have been entered by men.

In essence, the Qur'an as the translator rightly suggests in several areas of his translation, brings all the past missions of the Prophets from Adam to Mohammed into one universal message: Belief in the unity of God and his mastery of all fate and events in the universe, from the Creation of the Universe to the End of Time, which is something only He has determined its timing and its circumstance.

The Translation is simply put in front of the original Arabic text so as to keep the translation in

accordance with the way the Qur'an is read by the Arabic readers. In addition the author includes several bits of information in front of each Surah or part of the Qur'an that gives the reader some insight into the preconditions that led to the revelation of the Surah and the circumstances in the Prophet Mohammed's life that surround the revelations.

It also tries to do away with some of the misconceptions or misunderstandings that some orientalists have conveyed as to the real meanings portrayed in the text. Furthermore, on some aspects of scientific knowledge, the author also reveals how the Qur'an still manages to remain coherent with modern scientific discoveries and is not subject to superstition or illogical explanations of some of the forces of nature.

The author also includes several Commentaries inlaid between various texts, in which the author divulges of his own feelings and spiritual bliss as he tries to make the text a living euphoric expression of delight in sensing the Power of the Lord, in his mastery of the Universe, or in the little events that we go through in our lives, which may seem so trivial but nevertheless remind us that the Lord Al-Mighty is with us in every way.

In essence, I feel these Commentaries could have been the subject of another publication by the author as they tend to deviate from a continuous flow in the reading of the Qur'an and they are on the whole subjective.

But they do reveal the sincerity and genuine intents of the author to try to convey the meaning of the Qur'an, as it would be understood or taken by the devout Moslem reader.

On another note the use of the similar pronouns as used in the English translations of the Old and New Testament (thou, thee, etc.) I believe is unnecessary, as the translation is a modern one relatively speaking and most people in modern times tend to shy away from such usage of pronouns.

Of course there would have to be a device or mechanism introduced to show how the singular you and plural you are used in the Qur'an, as they are different in Arabic, but not in English. Perhaps a subscript like p can be attached to the plural youP and other methods can be made to make some of the Arabic language peculiarities can be shown.

But without a doubt the work of Abdullah Yusuf Ali, with its thousands of footnotes remains a classic translation of the Holy Qur'an that is worthy of use by laymen and scholars who wish to get into a full understanding of Islam and its main reference source for legislation and comprehension of the meaning of faith as devout Moslems are expected to grasp.

**Correction:** In the last Literary Corner, reference was made to a three letter word *Iqra*. Actually it is a four letter word in Arabic as well. But its root stems from the word *qara*, which in Arabic is three letters.



## A photograph showing a dense tropical forest. In the foreground, there is a sandy area, possibly a beach or a clearing. The forest is composed of numerous palm trees and other lush green plants, creating a thick canopy. The lighting suggests a bright, sunny day.

**By: Saeed Al-Batati**

What those two farmers have said

In retrospect, when the epidemic was first noticed in Hudramout, it was the focus speech of the local radios,

Following the outbreak of the disease, the Prime Minister formed a committee to assess the rate of the Dubas. The committee came out with many conclusions about the reasons behind the outbreak of Dubas. The committee blamed the government for

Hudramout University, office of the  
ministry of agriculture and agricultural

Prof. Bamashous added that 4 millions Riyals are needed to cover the committee activities and we are waiting for the prime minister's response. Dr. Mohammed Hubishan, agricultural expert, pointed out that the disease swept 80% of Date palm trees and the 20% of the areas in Hudramot are susceptible to the disease. Dr. Hubishan dismissed the idea of the aerial spray by saying: "The aerial applications are more costly than those

An annual festival is organized in different areas in Hudramout aimed at raising the awareness among people about the importance of palm trees as a national treasure. Millions of YR is spent to cover the activities of the festival. The officials ask farmers to plant date palm trees and they will receive incentives in return.



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ELT Panorama

The art of reviewing a book: Some useful tips (PART2)

In the first part of this article, I offered four principles a reviewer needs to observe while reviewing a book. I had almost promised, that I would be back with some suggestions for teaching as well as practicing the art of reviewing a book.

Let me briefly recall the four principles that we discussed last time:

- a. Appreciate the Work
- b. Be Objective
- c. Highlight the strengths without underplaying weakness, and
- d. Do not be an examiner.

It is worthwhile to remember these principles always.

What should the learners do?

Let us now get to the pedagogic part. In today's world of Communicative Language Teaching, the learner is more important than the teacher. So let us begin with the learner and see what he/she should do in order to review a book.

Reviewing demands a high level of comprehension. Therefore the first and foremost requisite to write a good review is to read the book thoroughly. Read the book perhaps twice or three times and make sure you have a proper understanding of the book.

While reading a book, you should go through all parts of the book. A book has the following parts:

- Title page – gives the name of the book, author, and publisher
- Press line – gives the details of publisher's address, year of publication, and ISBN Number (International Standard Book Number)\*
- Contents page – tells us what the book includes (number of chapters; stories; topics etc.)
- Introduction – gives us the author's point of view, purpose for writing the book, what is the major theme, how it is dealt with, how to use the book etc.
- Foreword – is generally written by a well known scholar in the field or a well wisher of the author or the author himself/herself
- This is followed by the actual book. (THE MAIN BODY)
- Index – gives a list of important concepts and ideas used in the book, and also of the names of people referred to and where to find information about these ideas, concepts, and people in the main body of the book.
- Bibliography – Gives a list of books the author has referred to.

Besides these, the book has a page for acknowledgement and a blurb. An acknowledgement is space for the author to thank people and organizations who have helped him/her in writing the book. Blurb is opinions about the book offered by different people, and this is generally printed on the back cover of the book. It may also give details about the author and other works of the author. Some books have a jacket (which can be removed) the blurb is given on the inner flap as well. It is necessary for you to read all these parts while reviewing a book, for each part has a function to play and your review needs to be holistic. But a word of caution, please do not choose a shortcut by lifting sentences from the introduction and blurb and pass it off as your review. This is not appreciated.

Parts of a Review

Having read every part, this is how you can organize your review in six parts. I have offered only a few details, and your teacher will give you more information on each one of these.

a. Title of the book.

This should include as many details as possible. Name of the book, name of the author, place of publication, publisher, year of publication, number of pages, ISBN number and the price. Here is an example to make the point clear:

The Lexical Approach – The State of ELT and a Way Forward, Michael Lewis, London, Thomson Heinle: 2002



Dr S Mohanraj  
Faculty of Education  
Taiz University, Taiz

(pp viii + 196) ISBN 0 906717 99 x [price not stated]

The title of the book is always written in italics or underlined. Please look at the punctuation marks used, these are very essential to follow. This is because of a convention (method) followed internationally.

Information on this is given in style manuals. Two well known style manuals available for our use are MLA Style sheet (American) and the Cambridge Style Manual (British). You could use either, but do not mix the conventions.

While giving the number of pages in the book, the convention uses two different types of numbers: small Roman and Arabic. Small Roman numbers refer to the pages where introduction, preface and acknowledgements are written. These are some times not considered as part of the main book and hence numbered differently. Nevertheless, they are important and we need to indicate them while reviewing a book.

b. Relevance

State why you are reviewing the book. In this section you can state your reasons for choosing a particular book for reviewing. Normally the books under review are contemporary publications. But as students, you may choose any book you like, as you are practicing the art of reviewing. What could be the reasons for reviewing a book? Let us look at some possible reasons:

- the book may be a very new one (you could be one of the first readers)
- the book could have created a history or a controversy (e.g. Lawrence's Lady Chatterley's Lover)
- you might have liked the book very much
- it could be the author's first book
- you may like the author
- the book may give some new information hitherto unknown (The Lexical Approach)
- or a book may be reviewed for no obvious reason.

Look at the following paragraph which tells you why someone has reviewed The Lexical Approach.

In the last few years serious-minded applied linguists and practitioners have started expressing doubts about the success of CLT. Keith Johnson, one of the pioneers to advocate CLT, in an article in ELTJ (April 2003) has expressed his apprehensions about its usefulness today. Stephen Krashen in his address at the TESOL Convention at Minneapolis (2001) has suggested the need for an alternative approach. The book under review offers a new approach – which to a certain extent seems to be in response to Krashen's suggestion. (Mohanraj S 2004)

The reviewer has chosen to review The Lexical Approach because it is a new approach and seems to be the need of the day. Each of us may have different reason, but state clearly why you are reviewing a particular book. This makes the purpose or objective very clear. Remember one cannot write without a purpose.

c. Information about the Author

This is an optional part. Not all of us know the author personally. We can get some information from the blurb. But that may not be adequate. Information about the author becomes essential when we review certain books only. e.g. A book on Methods of Teaching written by a practicing teacher of English. On the other hand, if this book were to be written by a medical practitioner, then talking about the author may seem really necessary. The information about the author may help us to substantiate certain points we would like to make, or to show how the author has brought his experience to bear upon what he/she says. Let us not elaborate on this too much.

d. Summary of the Book

This is necessary to show that you have read and understood the book.

Give the summary briefly, perhaps an outline or listing of the major events or concepts mentioned in the book. Besides proving that you have read the book, it is a reader friendly approach to reviewing. Your reader, who may not be familiar with the book, should be prompted to read the book by reading your review. The reader should also be able to understand the points you make about the book, for which the summary becomes useful. If it is a novel, you could give the summary. With other books, mention the number of chapters, how the chapters are organized, how they have a proper linking and development; if it is a collection of stories, how many stories are included, are they from the same author or is it a collection, how they are organized, according to themes, authors, regions, cultures etc. Providing a good summary or an introduction makes your review highly readable.

e. Your Opinion

State clearly why you liked the book. Did you like the book totally or in parts? Which parts of the book appealed to you and why? If there are some parts of the book you did not like, mention clearly why you did not like these parts. (Generally, we tend to dislike things we don't understand.) Before you express your opinion either way, be sure you have understood what you are saying. And be objective in stating your reasons. Avoid reasons too personal. (e.g. the author is a good friend of yours etc.)

f. Conclusion

Conclude your review by saying whether you enjoyed reading the book. Perhaps you could add a sentence to suggest for who this book would be useful and whether you would like to recommend it. Here is an example:

The book is a good source of theory, a guide to syllabus design, a source book of materials (with its exercises and ample illustrations), and also a training manual. The book thus serves as a good input on a course in teacher education. (Mohanraj S 2004)

These are some of the essential tasks you should do while writing a review. It would not be out of place to suggest here that writing can be learnt only by writing, and similarly you can learn to review a book by reviewing. So why don't you get set and start. Begin with a small book you really like – perhaps a novel or a play that you have read as part of your course either in level II or level III.

\* Note:

ISBN means International Standard Book Number. This is a ten digit product number which is specific to a particular title, edition and publication. Searching by ISBN makes it easy to find the exact book you need. ISBN is printed above the bar code on the back cover or on the title page.

Bibliography:

Mohanraj S (2004), 'Book Review: The Lexical Approach' in Journal of English and Foreign Languages, Number 33, June 2004, Hyderabad, CIEFL (pp. 117-122), India.

Teaching English pronunciation: past and present (PART 1)

In the context of the first language of a speech community, the primary attention is paid to the analysis of its grammar and vocabulary by the linguists of that speech community. Since the first language is effectively used for oral communication inside the given speech community, speakers and linguists alike normally do not consciously think and/or analyze the different aspects of pronunciation in the first language. At least, this used to be the scenario at the early stages of language analysis. For this reason, grammar and vocabulary of most languages are much better understood and described than the features of their pronunciation. For English, the choices were the same. Analysis was directed toward a discussion of its grammar and vocabulary with scant attention, if ever, paid to any examination of the aspects of its pronunciation.

Observation turned towards English pronunciation features when people of other speech communities started learning the language either for specific purposes (English as a foreign language: EFL) or for most purposes of everyday communication (English as a second language: ESL).

Approaches to pronunciation teaching

Two general approaches to teaching English pronunciation have since then emerged: i. The older intuitive-imitative approach, and ii. The later analytic-psycho-linguistic approach. By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the first approach was already the trend. The input for pronunciation practice was derived from teacher's/textbook writer's perception of the sound system of the language. Pronunciation teaching was also heavily dependent on the orthographic system of English. The success of the learners depended on their accuracy in imitation and reproduction of the target system. The approach relied resolutely on listening for which good human models and electronic media (records, tape recorders, language labs, audio-video cassettes, and CDs) prevailed as the requirements. For an intuitive-imitative approach in ESL teaching being used in classrooms even now, the same methodology and apparatus are still in application.

An analytic psycho-linguistic approach on the other hand uses tools

such as a phonetic alphabet, articulatory description, contrastive and comparative information regarding the first language of the learner and ESL, and communication skills to supplement the listening, imitation and reproduction method of the first approach. Consequently, the ambit of the second approach has been more comprehensive and broad-based. By being so broad-based, the approach also retains the scope for widening its reach further.

For the two approaches, a number of pedagogic methods have been developed by ELT practitioners.

The earliest of such methods which espoused the principles of the intuitive-imitative approach was the *Direct Method* (late 1800-early 1900). This method utilizes listening-imitation-practice-production to teach English pronunciation. A good model, either a teacher or recorded material, provides the listening input. Learners use the input for repeated practice, and to finally produce the correct target output. This instructional method draws from the observation and analysis of language learning by very young children in their first language situation.

Major offshoots of this method are Asher's (1977) *Total Physical Response* (TPR), and Krashen and Terrel's (1983) *Natural Approach*. These and other such approaches propose a kind of *incubation period* for the learner when the learner is allowed to listen to the target language without any pressure to perform through speaking. This period allows the learner time to internalize the phonology and the sound system of the target language through unlimited listening as happens in the MT learning context. The internalization of the phonology and the sound system of ESL are expected to happen as the learner uses her schema to comprehend the language input. Only when the learner is ready for speech production, the articulation process gets initiated by her. The *Natural Approach* accepts errors in pronunciation as part of the learning process and expects the errors to vanish when the learner gains adequate

proficiency in the target language.

The earliest *linguistic* assistance to the teaching of pronunciation came forth in the 1890s as part of the *Reform Movement* in language teaching. This movement was spearheaded by phoneticians such as Henry Sweet, Wilhelm Viëtor and Paul Passy who joined together to form the International

Phonetic Association and developed the concept of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) for the languages of the world. The scientific study, analysis and description of the sound system of human languages done by Sweet's group formed the basis of phonetics. Through such studies, the IPA system claimed autonomy for itself which enabled the pronunciation system to become free of the orthography. The IPA symbols are accurate, one to one representations of the sounds of any language.

These early phoneticians also established the primacy of the oral form of language. Being language teachers themselves, they incorporated the findings of phonetics into oral language teaching methodology.

A direct offshoot of the *Reform Movement* was *Audiolingualism* in the USA and the *Oral Approach* in Britain during the 1940s and 1950s. These approaches also made use of the findings of structural linguistics of that time, particularly, the inferences from contrastive analysis. Based on these inferences, teaching pronunciation of discrete items in an explicit manner became infinitely important in ESL classrooms. The sponsors of *Audiolingualism* and *Oral Approach* proposed that knowledge of phonetics should be a primary requirement for the teachers of pronunciation. The concept of the phoneme, and the use of 'minimal pairs' in listening practice and oral drills played important roles in pronunciation teaching. The focus of pronunciation teaching was habit formation through model input, imitation and repeated practice. At the heart of this approach, the learners were expected to achieve native-like pronunciation.



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ELT Tips

How to argue a case

It may be just a debate or a group discussion or a moot court or even a tribunal case. In any case, the ability to argue out a case is a manipulative art which we all can foster in ourselves if we bear in mind the following points:

Know the strongest arguments of your opponent

By imaginatively anticipating the other party's strongest possible case with keenness and foresight, you can prepare your strategy to counter and possibly demolish the same.

Get to grips with your facts

Your stronghold are your concrete facts. Your arguments are going to be based on these facts. So present them in a clear, logical and consistent order.

Distinguish facts from interpretation, opinion, or hearsay. Beware of the assumptions the other party may make out of these.

Know pertinent examples or leading cases

Relevant examples in support of the point you are making and those that you don't make your argument sound, reasonable, acceptable and convincing. Correspondingly, a well-argued case with adequate and appropriate exemplification makes the opponent's argument appear weaker and less tenable.

Marshal your arguments

However well prepared you may be, unless your presentation is impressive,



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu  
University of Science  
and Technology,  
Sana'a

it may have little impact. So take care to cogently order your arguments and marshal your linguistic resources to present them appealingly so as to catch the audience's imagination.

Don't take your audience for a ride

Don't overestimate yourself nor underestimate the audience or the arbitrator. Cultivate a genial yet forceful personality as well as a charming style to win the applause of the audience.

### WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions – vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

**CLUES**

Abdomen	Earwig	Huge	Monarch	Song
Adaptation	Excavate	Hums	Moth	Specimen
Antenna	Eyes	Infestation	Mouth	Still
Ants	Field	Insects	Near	Sting
Arachnid	Fleas	Labium	Nectar	Striped
Bees	Flower	Larva	Nest	Tail
Bites	Flying	Laying	Parasite	Tarantula
Body	Food	Leaf	Pedicle	Thorax
Brown	Forest	Legs	Pest	Tick
Butterfly	Formica	Length	Poison	Tiny
Cell	Fruit	Lice	Pupa	Tree
Chew	Garden	Live	Scarabs	Tropical
Cocoon	Gland	Lots	Shape	Ugly
Cold	Grant	Maggot	Shell	Vein
Common	Grass	Mantis	Show	Wasp
Crawl	Group	Membrane	Slugs	Wing
Cycle	Head	Metamorphose	Small	Wood
Digs	Hide	Midges	Smell	
Dust	Hole	Millions	Soil	

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N	I	T	C	D	N	O	T	I	U	R	F	T	H	U	O	O	T	E	O
W	H	T	A	I	L	G	M	P	L	G	S	O	N	G	O	U	I	Y	L
O	A	E	N	M	N	R	T	M	S	L	R	C	O	L	D	P	B	E	M
R	H	R	D	A	O	F	A	H	O	A	E	L	A	Y	I	N	G	I	R
B	U	F	O	F	M	R	E	P	X	N	W	C	O	B	O	S	D	F	S
D	M	L	O	L	D	M	P	S	U	D	I	L	Y	I	D	G	U	L	H
I	S	Y	W	R	U	N	L	H	T	P	A	E	T	C	E	O	N	O	A
N	S	A	F	I	E	L	D	I	O	A	N	A	W	S	L	O	M	W	P
H	R	T	B	D	I	S	C	R	G	S	T	F	T	E	S	E	S	E	E
C	P	A	R	T	U	K	T	I	G	P	E	I	M	I	H	C	N	R	N
A	L	A	S	I	G	S	W	R	A	E	N	O	O	C	O	C	O	S	A
R	G	E	R	S	P	R	T	D	M	G	N	P	N	N	W	H	I	M	R
A	N	L	T	A	A	E	A	E	O	T	A	R	A	N	T	U	L	A	B
S	D	C	W	E	S	L	D	N	U	S	E	N	R	V	T	G	L	L	M
L	Y	I	F	L	Y	I	N	G	T	E	L	I	C	E	R	E	I	L	E
U	N	D	G	F	H	O	T	I	H	P	O	E	H	A	E	A	M	I	M
G	I	E	O	S	O	S	M	E	L	L	H	V	S	H	E	L	L	V	N
S	T	P	S	B	A	R	A	C	S	I	N	S	E	C	T	S	E	E	B

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Mercury



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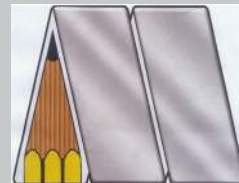
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