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*While authorities use traditional tools in rescue operations*

# Rockslide death toll nears 100

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Jan. 1 — Rescue and search teams have been working on removing giant rocks and pulling out corpses covered by rubble in the slide-affected village of Al-Dhafir since Thursday morning.

The death toll claimed by the avalanche that hit some of Al-Dhafir village houses, reached 57, twenty-nine of whom are females and 28 males. Eight people out of around 98 victims beneath rubble were pulled out alive on the first day of search, according to official scores.

Thursday, 29th of December 2005 rockslides caused an avalanche that destroyed more than 23 houses of Al-Dhafir village in Bani Matar District, 42 km west of Sana'a. Sixteen of the destroyed houses were inhabited at the time of the disaster.

According to the rescue teams, who could not remove the huge rocks that fell onto houses, the rubble-removing operations done by heavy machinery are bound to last for more ten days. Rescue teams use simple and traditional tools for the removal of huge rocks that fell onto houses; some of these rocks weigh over 1000 tons.

Search and rescue operations were being hampered by a lack of tools to break the huge rocks lying on crushed houses, in addition to the difficult terrain of the area, said police officials at the scene.

More than 50 military and civil ambulances have been transporting the injured to hospitals in the gov-



Rubble-removing operations done by heavy machinery.

YT photos by Mohammed bin Sallam

ernorate of Sana'a. Rescue services are intensifying their efforts to save those who are still alive.

On his visit to the village to review the current situation and organize rescue and relief efforts, Yemeni Vice President Abdurabbo Mansour Hadi also headed a meeting including Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Sana'a Governor. The meeting formed a committee to supervise these tasks, including rock breaking and removal. Senior officials received directives to provide rescue assistance, and support was provided to those affected, particularly with shelter for homeless families.

In a statement to the media, Abdulwahid Al-Bukhaiti Governor of Sana'a said it is impossible to find more people alive under rubble. "Hope for finding alive people with the passage of time is weak due to the heavy rocks that hit the village."

For his part, Sana'a Police Chief said that among the recovered corpses, 16 belong to the same family formed of 21 members who were dwelling in house composed of 8 floors. One of the family members survived the catastrophe since he was on watch of his Qat farm, which is not far away from the village.

**Tourist kidnapping in Yemen:**

## Three of the five kidnapped Italians released

MARIB, Jan. 1 — As if in response to the president's warning to fight kidnapping of foreigners in the country, Al-Zaidi tribes from Marib kidnapped five Italians around seven PM last night. The five Italian tourists were three women and two men. Just a couple of hours after the kidnapping the tribal people released the women tourists and withheld the two Italian men in abduction. The kidnapping took place just hours after the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh pledged to fight foreign hostage taking in his tribal nation and ordered security forces to arrest the Germans' kidnappers.

The Italians, were seized in the northern province of Ma'rib, in Sirwah approximately 170km east of the capital, Sana'a.

Security officials said that they have not known the identities or any other details on the kidnapped tourists. The kidnappers who belonged to the al-Zaydi tribe wanted the government to release eight tribal members detained in connection with disputes with another tribe, police and tribal officials said.



Mud houses near the catastrophe site were also affected.

YT photos by Mohammed bin Sallam

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## With a YR 127 billion deficit looming Parliament approves 2006 State general budget

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Dec. 31 — Parliament approved on Wednesday the State general budget for fiscal year 2006, supported by votes of 153 MPs affiliating with the General People's Congress (GPC), while opposition and independent MPs strongly objected to it.

Opposition and independent MPs opposed the 2006 budget due to government failure to eradicate corruption and its pursuit of failing economic policies negatively impacting the population.

According to opposition, government's current policies lack transparency, reliability and accuracy, particularly in data concerning oil-related revenues.

Opposition MPs released a statement accusing government of playing with public spending and recording large sums of money, included in 2006 budget items, amounting to 320 billion Yemeni Riyals that went to the unknown. The statement also blamed government for the spread of corruption, lack of human development and

failure to improve citizens' living standards.

Opposition charged government with including unreal and misleading scores, without transparency, in the general budget, saying government never committed itself to implementing Parliament's recommendations upon approving the 2005 general budget.

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## Chrobog: I will visit Yemen again

Not disheartened by the ordeal, after his release, the former German minister, who had been kidnapped in Shabwa, said that he would visit Yemen again.

ADEN, Dec. 1st — New Year's gift presented to the German family kidnapped in Shabowa on Wednesday was their freedom. Former German minister and retired diplomat Mr. Jürgen Chrobog, his wife, Magda, and their three children were released on Saturday and are now staying at the Sheraton Hotel in Aden. After having an exciting holiday the German family flew back home yesterday.

"We were treated well by the tribesmen, and we are fine" Ms. Magda Chrobog expressed in more than one occasion since their release. Mr. Chrobog even declared that he is considering coming back to Yemen again and that he is grateful for the concern the Yemeni and German authorities have given his case.



Mr and Ms Chrobog at the Munich Economic Summit 2005

Continued on page 3

## Reflection on 2005 and challenges ahead Yemen: On the road to future

By: Irena Knecht

*There is not easy walk to freedom anywhere and many of us will have to pass through the valley of the shadow of death again and again before we reach the mountains of our desires.*  
Nelson Mandela

This is a time to take a fleeting moment and reflect on what has happened to the world in 2005, and imagine how things are going to develop in 2006 and beyond. Here is summary of the main issues likely to challenge in the years ahead.

The regular appearance of China, India and OPEC in headlines all year emphasize the shift in economic power from North America and Europe to the Middle East and Asia. The challenge for Yemen, in particular, is to stand on its own two feet in the global economy and ensure that Yemenis will share in the benefits of the shift away from the developed world. In addition we can also expect geographic shifts in military power. Although it affects all of us, governance does not feature as much in the debate as it should.

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## Government employee threatens to go on hunger strike

Mr. Abdul-Wadood Sharaf Al-Zubairy, general manager of Department of Studies and Research, announced he would start the 2006 new year with a hunger strike if he did not regain his "stolen" rights and his demands were not fulfilled. He also announced he would stop working as from the beginning of 2006. In his statement, Al-Zubairy explains that he has been deprived from his job rights in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. He appealed to the President Saleh, newspapers, international organizations, and human rights organizations to look into his case and express their solidarity with him. To Yemen Times knowledge, Mr. Al-Zubairy's demands were not even remotely fulfilled until date.

Mr. Al-Zubairy has been discarded from work since the cancellation of General Department of Studies and Research. This Department was affiliated to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, but it was canceled in 2002.

Mr. Al-Zubairy explains that he has been deprived from his work since April 2005, and now his job is just to attend during working hours, doing nothing. He adds that he has not been given financial rights and spare time dues. Mr. Al-Zubairy explains that he is a member of the Technical Committee for the 3rd Five Year Plan, but his boss has treated him with extortion. He says the Ministry first official

has not looked into his recurrent complaints.

Mr. Al-Zubairy continued his complaint stating that employees are not protected from the oppression of directors and high-ranking officials in the Ministry, which has become "a special realm for the first official and his close followers. He says some unqualified officials run the Ministry, while those who are qualified and skilled have been buried by the malice and stupidity of the Ministry officials. He affirms, "Public money has been plundered and spent wrongfully, because there is no law to stop corrupt officials".

Moreover, Mr. Al-Zubairy states that the recent strategy for salaries does not give priority to qualifications and experience. High-ranking posts are only given to the relatives of officials although their qualifications do not meet the conditions of those important posts. Mr. Al-Zubairy demands compensation for all his deprived rights, and to get back his post at the Ministry.

Mr. Al-Zubairy adds that corrupt officials who exploit government employees should stand trial.

Mr. Abdul-Wadood Sharaf Al-Zubairy joined the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in March 1981. He graduated from Sana'a University in May 1985, and got his M.A. degree in Economics from Alexandria University in 1993.

## Year 2005: One aggression per week against Yemeni journalists

SANA'A, Dec. 31—Women Journalists without Constraints Organization (WJWC) issued its first report on the freedom of press in Yemen for 2005. The WJWC described the year 2005 as "the worst year for journalists". In its report, the WJWC mentions that more than fifty cases of aggression against journalism have been observed in Yemen during 2005. The aggression cases ranged from attacking and kidnapping journalists, attacking newspapers, closing and assaulting newspapers establishments, preventing journalists from writing, and cyber piracy.

The WJWC is a non-government organization concerned with defending the freedom of press and women rights. It also works on training and qualifying female journalists in Yemen. The Women Journalists Without Constraints is the

new name of the organization that was previously named "Female Journalists without Borders". Ms. Tawakul Karman, head of WJWC, said to the Yemen Times that the name has been changed because it was impersonated and was given to an imaginary organization by the government. She added that this new name is more inclusive and it comprises the constraints and limits imposed on the Yemeni journalists and journalism.

Mr. Tawakul expressed concern and grief over the aggression against journalism. She said during the year 2005, more than fifty aggression cases were observed, that is equivalent to one case a week. She said the WJWC is not happy with this situation, and is more afraid of what year 2006 might bring. She hoped that this year would be the year of the freedom of press.

## Parliament gives Government one month to solve motorcyclists problem

SANA'A, Dec. 31 — The Parliament's Transport and Communication's Committee gave the Yemeni Government a period of one month to solve the motorcyclists issue highlighted last week. The government had issued a decree to ban motorcycles in the Capital Secretariat June last year, depriving by that more than five thousand families of their sole income. Outraged by this decree, the motorcyclists held many demonstrations in protest, which lead the authorities to taking a more lenient stand. According to the local citizens, the authorities limited the ban to only motorcycles from outside the Capital yet working in Sana'a, or those without license. Since then, the authorities have been confiscating motors from the streets increasing the number of withheld motorcycles to 1500 until date.

End of last year, a number of motorcyclists have taken their case to the parliament in request for justice. In a peculiar situation, they slaughtered an ox in front of the parliament, practicing by that a traditional way for demanding solutions. The parliament forwarded the issue to the Capital Secretariat Office and demanded commensuration for the motorcyclist whose motorcycles have been

seized, and to provide the owners with government jobs, else to request the return of the motorcycles and send their owners to operate outside Sana'a. These demands were forwarded in June, according to Abdulmalek Al-Samawi, repertuer of the Parliament's Transportation and communication committee. However, the motorcyclists rejected them all saying that these recommendations are not practical. "The compensation would not be enough, and even if they give us jobs, the salaries suggested are too minimal and of course we can not work miles away from our homes." The motorcyclists explained their rejection.

The motorcyclists wanted to express their protest against the government and continuity their tragedy. "We requested the parliament and the government more than six month, but no response" Abdullah Ahmed said, motorcyclist has lost his income source and also he lost the equipment bestows him living.

The Parliament's proposals to solve the problem are not fair according to motorcyclists' opinion. "We want a reliable source of the income, we do not fake proposals on papers" Ali Hatim a motorcyclist said.

## Human Rights to join UN in March

SANA'A, Jan. 1 — Human Rights Minister Ms. Amat Al-Aleem Alsuswa has been appointed by Kofi Aanan Secretary General of the United Nations as an assistant Manager for the UN Development Program and a Regional Manager for the Arab countries Program. After serving a little more than two and half years since June 2003, as a Human Rights Minister Ms. Amat Alsuswa has accepted the appointment and is to start her duties with the UN shortly this year to commence working with the UN in New York beginning of March. This means that Ms. Alsuswa will not be able to continue her role as Human Rights Minister until the new government is formed in September this year and obviously she will not be taking part of the new government.

Being the only female minister, speculations that there could be another female minister in the new government yet the candidates are not revealed until now. "I hope half of the new government are females, why



Ms. Amat Al-Aleem Alsuswa

not? I can only wish the new government all the best." She said to Ms. Nadia Al-Sakkaf editor in chief of the Yemen Times in a phone conversation yesterday.

On its part, the Yemeni government welcomed the UN General

Secretary's resolution for appointing as Dr. Abubakr Alqirbi, the Foreign Minister confirmed the support of several friendly and brotherly countries for the nomination of Alsuswa for this post.

Dr. Alqirbi considered this appointment as an indication for the distinctive place that Yemen occupies in the world. He confirmed the experience and ability of Alsuswa to achieve successes in managing the Arab office of The UNDP.

Ms. Amat Al-Aleem Alsuswa, a mother of two, had taken a number of posts among which is the Deputy Information Minister in 1997, a Consultant for the UNDP Office in Sana'a for Women and poverty in 1996. She became the Head of Women National Committee in 1993. Alsuswa became a member of the high committee for General consensus and population in 1992-94.

This is in addition to many posts in which she proved tremendously successful.

## Wide-range campaign against kidnapping

SANA'A, Jan. 1 — The Ministry of Culture and Tourism is set to launch an extensive anti-kidnapping campaign in all provinces of the country, announced Minister of Culture Khaled al-Rowaishan. This comes post the recent kidnapping incident, after a long kidnapping-free period. The latest incident involved five Germans in the province of Shabwa, who were released later. The campaign is aimed to raise the awareness among the locals on the detrimental effects of kidnapping on Yemen's reputation and image as well as the national economy.

Lasting for several months, the campaign will be carried out in coordination with a large number of

scholars, and intellectual, cultural and artistic personalities all over the country.

Culture and Tourism Minister said in a press statement that a wide range of means will be used to raise the social awareness on kidnapping and abduction and their potential damage on the prospects of national tourism. "Kidnapping is a repulsively disruptive act contradicting the tenets of Islam and the proverbial noble conduct of the Yemeni people" he said. The campaign, which starts this week, will include lectures, posters, sketches, monologues, songs, etc.

Recently, there has been an abduction-demonizing campaign clearly discernable in the discourse of official

media and NGOs. Al-Thawra Daily, for instance, focused on this issue, trying to further rally the public opinion against it and brand it as a crime and a gratuitous offence. "It is painful indeed that the target of kidnapping are the guests of Yemen," wrote al-Thawra Editor-in-Chief. "It is indecorous to deal with them in this disgraceful manner."

Many NGOs have also expressed their resentment to kidnapping and considered it a crime against the country and an offence against the values of the society. They agreed that this phenomenon is alien to our society and is absolutely unjustifiable.

Similarly, members of the Parliament equally condemned the kidnapping

labeling it "an act of sabotage meant to damage Yemen's image and its economic interests."

A number of kidnapping incidents took place in the past. The kidnapers usually do this in order to pressurize the government to answer their demands such as releasing their imprisoned kinsmen or providing them with services. Released unharmed, most tourists describe the hospitality of the kidnapers.

Kidnapping incidents, however, have proved to reflect themselves unpleasantly on Yemen's tourism, affecting the lives of millions of people who live directly or indirectly on tourist activity.

## A call for protecting the environment

ADEN, Dec. 31 — Recommendations of the General Authority for Environment Protection's workshop that was concluded on 28-29 December last year confirmed the need to amend the Environment law.

The recommendations included the need to activate environment protection legislations and to increase public awareness on wetlands and

immigrating species. The amendment of the environment law protection is meant to couple with the present and future requirements of the wetlands, and to start a comprehensive plan for the administration and preservation of the wet and coastal lands.

For enhancing public's awareness, the participants in the workshop called on the Information Ministry to dedicate Audiovisual and press

sources to promote awareness of environmental issue. They also ascertained that messages should be directed to decision makers, government officials, especially those of coastal governorates to encourage the creation of environment friendly societies and associations. These associations could work together with international environmental organizations on projects and

scientific surveys and using local resources and international grants or funds.

The workshop was attended by 50 participants from the coastal areas, who presented a number of papers on wetlands in Hudaidah, Aden, Socotra, Abian and Hadramout. Some working papers were about the immigrating birds that traveling from Yemen to some Asian countries seasonally.

## Sana'a Forum Summit concluded

ADEN, Dec. 29 — The fourth Sana'a Forum Summit concluded Thursday in the city of Aden in the presence of the Presidents of Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, and the Ethiopian prime minister. The leaders of Sana'a Forum confirmed their commitments to boosting security and economic cooperation among the member countries and to further fighting terrorism and providing peaceful environment in the member countries, the southern part of the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa.

The leaders also affirmed they are

resolved to "protect their boarders and regional waters from smuggling and infiltration into their regions." They will take severe procedures against piracy, and adhere to implementing the decisions of Sana'a Regional Workshop on fighting piracy.

The Sana'a Forum leaders expressed their desire to find reconciliation for the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict over borders. They also called on the Security Council to lift the armament embargo on the peacekeeping troops in Somalia so that peace would

prevail in.

It was decided that the Sana'a Forum next summit would be held in Addis Ababa in December 2006.

The fourth summit was held during 28 and 29 December in Aden city. During the summit, the leaders tackled issues related to the member countries such as security, economy, and terrorism. They also affirmed that the Sana'a Forum is open to any country that wishes to join it. They also welcomed warmly the joining of Somalia to the Forum. The leaders also viewed the report of the last

Sana'a Forum presented by president Omar Hassan Al-Basheer. They also discussed ways of enhancing joint trade among the member countries through establishing a free trade zone that would ensure safe flow of goods.

The Sana'a Forum was set up in October 2002 when Yemen, Sudan and Ethiopia held the first assembly in Sana'a. The second assembly was held in December 2003. The third assembly was held by the end of 2004 in Khartoum and Somali was unanimously accepted to join the member countries.

## Promoting media performance of the Joint Meeting Parties

SANA'A, Dec. 31 — The JMP leadership, Executive Committee and the press editors, held an enlarged meeting on 29/12/2005 on their media activities. The meeting was how to expand media reporting and coverage of their political reform project, which was presented by the JMP to Yemeni people and government.

The meeting commended on the JMP's role in adopting people's problems, yet more media exposure has to

be done in conveying the JMP's success and achievements.

Of the main obstacles in media work in Yemen, as discussed in the meeting, the monopoly of the official media channels especially radio and TV. Journalists shared their concern that this would limit their media performance and getting a versatile message across to the Yemeni public.

Moreover, the attendees in the meeting talked about the new press law

draft proposed by the government's press law, and agreed on rejecting it because it contains many restrictions on press and expression freedom. "It also oppresses journals and journalists and substantiates dictatorship," they agreed.

Of the main conclusions of the meeting was that media's role is very important in talking the people's issues and highlighting the public's concerns. And that something has to

be done in order to strengthen the JMP's information and press role to meet this objective. They suggested continuous contact between JMP leadership and the journalists, to coordinate and promote the political and journalistic activities.

The JMP Supreme Council expressed gratitude over the non-governmental media who adopted and backed their reform project and introduced it to the public.

## Relief caravan reached Al-Dafeer village

SANA'A, Dec. 31 — The Islamic Relief Organization in Sana'a sent Saturday a relief caravan to the affected families in Al-Dhafir village, Bani Matar. The caravan consists of tents, blankets, quilts, cushions, foodstuff like rice, flour, sugar, milk and oil. In a

statement to the Yemen Times, Mr. Khaled Al-Mowalad, residential representative of the organization, said the organization has allocated two million rials worth of humanitarian aid as it sent a relief caravan to Al-Dhafir village. The caravan will be distributed

among 150 affected families.

Fifty families have been affected directly by the avalanche that took place on Wednesday, while 100 families will be removing outside the village, at the recommendations of the geologists concerned to conduct a

study in the area. Moreover, the Islamic Relief Organization has provided the medical team in the village with medical equipment. Mr. Khaled Al-Mowalad said the organization is still in contact with the operation team working in Al-Dhafir village.

### 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:

After a halt down, the kidnapping series reappeared in 2005; Do you attribute this kidnappings to foreign forces or to the faulty government security dealing?

- Foreign forces
- Government faulty dealing
- I don't know

#### Last edition's question:

Do you think that the authorities will establish peaceful transfer of power in the short run?

- |            |     |
|------------|-----|
| No         | 64% |
| Yes        | 31% |
| I don't no | 5%  |

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Continued from page 1

## Parliament approves 2006 State general budget

Among those recommendations was that government should open a special account in the Central Bank of Yemen for increased oil-related revenues and such revenues be spent according to law and with a high degree of transparency. The 2006 budget, opposition leaders claim, suffers from a reduction in local authority revenues.

Despite increased revenues in past years, opposition MPs said government always insists there is an annual budget deficit and that the country's economic situation signals deterioration.

Government cannot suggest suitable solutions to the country's current economic situation nor any measures through which the national economy can revive. The economic situation has been cited by international organizations and donors who confirm that Yemen experiences rampant corruption and war of unprecedented economic and social catastrophe.

Opposition justifies rejecting the 2006 budget because it has never shown any successful indicators of the current five-year plan. Government indicators and reports reveal huge differences between the budget plan and

what actually is achieved.

A parliamentary committee previously was authorized to study the 2006 budget, and accordingly, reported numerous infringements to be rectified.

Among the infringements is that average expected development in fiscal year 2006 will not attain the goal of the five-year plan, nor comply with the targeted development average included in the national poverty alleviation strategy.

According to opposition, current development progress is far from the Yemen envisioned for 2025, indicating annual economic growth not less than nine percent and aiming to double average per capita income, pushing Yemen onto the list of countries of medium-sized human development.

The committee's remarks exposed that spending on some services like education and health is not encouraging, emphasizing that education expenditures decreased from 21.2 percent in the 2005 budget to 15.5 percent in the 2006 budget. Additionally, there is increasing deterioration of health services, as approved financial allocations will not bring improvement and health services expansion. Rural areas still

suffer deterioration in this sector.

Health services outreach does not cover 50 percent of the overall population nor 25 percent of the rural population, according to opposition leaders, and the 2006 budget does not consider rising unemployment and its inherent risks. The actual situation never saw any change with regard to improving the investment environment and boosting activities of local and foreign investments.

Government confirms some remarks concerning the 2006 budget require conducting studies to lessen additional burdens on the budget.

Government holds the view that in light of Parliament's 2005 budget recommendations, it has taken measures to enhance control of financial aspects and that ruling party MPs approved this year's budget with a number of recommendations.

Ruling party MPs recommended that government approve future budget projects in light of economic and social development programs and plans whose goals are met by such projects.

They also demanded government focus more on activating important aspects supporting the national econo-

my, such as strengthening fields of investment and foreign trade; upgrading markets and their different mechanisms; and fighting monopoly and encouraging competition, the main conditions for achieving a high and sustainable development rate. If fulfilled, these conditions will help create more job opportunities, improve citizens' living standards and eradicate poverty and infringements.

One of the recommendations accompanying budget approval is that future budgets account for unemployment and poverty indicators and procedures government can take in tackling these problems.

Total spending in the 2006 budget is 1.18 trillion Yemeni Riyals, while estimated revenue is 1.05 trillion Yemeni Riyals, predicting a budget deficit of more than 127 billion Yemeni Riyals.

Irrespective of supporters of and objectors to the 2006 budget, plenty of economic measures may lead to either success or failure.

To some extent, the budget deficit seems big and terrible, particularly as it exceeds that of 2005 and warns of more deterioration and failure for Yemen's ailing economy.

## Yemen: On the road to future

With the cold war behind, we can already see the tussle taking place between democracy and human rights on the one hand and greed, corruption and tyranny on the other with international bodies increasingly unable to act when it matters most. We can hope that the freer flow of information will prevent the situation getting worse. While there's a hum of excitement about today's convergence of technologies - mobile phones, computers, TV, radio, camera and more - the really exciting part is yet to come where applications such as banking and buying and selling of shares and goods become universal with no need for a physical stock exchange, shop or bank. An huge increase in productivity - the USA this week reported a 4.5% productivity increase for the past year - could mean that those employed produce all that is necessary. Yet at the same time, the oil industry records shortage of engineering skills and US universities point to drops in science and engineering graduates. The move of manufacturing and services of increasingly complexity to the low cost areas of the world and the migration of people with initiative to where they can make a better living for their families. The HIV/Aids continues to take its toll, specially in developing world. Those left behind are leading longer lives putting a strain on both government, pension and health care funds. While working longer might be a partial solution, the developed world, despite all its financial and intellectual resources, is battling to get to grips with this problem.

The sky-rocketing crude oil price in 2005 served as a warning that oil and gas are finite resources and will certainly run out some time in the future. Over the past 20 years, the world's proven oil reserves have increased by 56% to 1187 thousand million barrels, enough to last the world another 40 years at current production or 22 years if growth continues at the same 4.5% rate as 2004 and no more oil is found. The debate surrounds the merits of alternative energy sources. There is, however, not enough discussion about new feed stocks for the petrochemical industry. Ironically, just as carbon starts becoming too expensive to burn, the related issue of Global Warming has started moving to centre stage. Reports are aplenty of melting ice-caps and glaciers and regions which will be hotter, colder, wetter and drier. The issue is of key importance to the future of life on the continent. World governments seem at last to be taking global warming seriously. Developing nations including Yemen are expected to be hardest hit by global warming. On the medical front, there were hints of progress in finding vaccines and cures for malaria and HIV/Aids, two diseases which have a debilitating impact.

The oil price shot from a level around USD 25 (Dec 2004) a barrel to trade in a zone between USD 40 and USD 50 with experts predicting prices will stay there. Others are pointing to the rise of the Euro which, for the first time is competitor to the US Dollar as a global investment currency. These are moves over which the developing countries, including Yemen, have little control but which impact them greatly. Perhaps the most significant tilt was that away from the economies of North America and Europe to China, India and the OPEC members, who, in partnership with Brazil, Nigeria and South Africa, are starting to have a major impact in world trade and politics. In Africa, for example, the Chinese and Indian companies follow Malaysian companies in trying up mineral and energy resources in competition with the multinationals. Further Western attitudes towards Iran for having the same nuclear capability as France or Israel. The body count of invasion force soldiers killed in Iraq, while the numbers of local civilian casualties goes unaccounted. Strikes in Nigeria or Venezuela, the war in Iraq, hur-

ricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and shortage of global refining capacity. At first glance, the high oil prices were good news for the Middle East and Africa.

The Middle East, however, is not a single homogeneous country. And further, the income from oil sales does not all return to the oil producing nations, among which Yemen, while each economy does indeed pay for what is imported and consumed. A combination of tax and interests of national oil companies nets oil producing countries 40 percent of the sale price. Some oil producing government are attempting to renegotiate their contacts with the oil companies in order to get a bigger portion of the higher oil prices. While the "oil rich" will take the cash, the "poor" will be hoping more will follow the example of Venezuela in providing subsidized fuel to less fortunate neighbors. A major reason for the high oil price is the increased demand coming from the Chinese economy. Over the last few months, Chinese oil companies have been very active in bidding for oil concession in Africa, notably West Africa, Nigeria, Sudan and they are poised to be given a major stake in Zimbabwe electrical power sector. The events in the Ukraine made alter the power of the people. In the global energy and mineral scenes, the booming economies of China and India are competing more and more with the G8 countries for resources. African, Asian and Middle Eastern energy and minerals producers are already starting to capitalize on these global division. Over the last months India has announced projects to bring oil or gas from Iran via Pakistan, from Myanmar, via Bangladesh and from Russia. China is competing with Japan for deliveries from a Russian pipeline and is looking to Iran for LNG. Venezuela, a major oil source for the USA, is looking at ways to divert supplies to China and Iran. There have also been warnings that Europe is becoming too dependent on Russia for gas supplies.

One gets the impression Europe does not have a strategy for maintaining a competitive advantage in a world dominated by Middle East oil, Chinese manufacturing and Indian service centers. After completing the enlargement of the European Union on the continent and the Balkans, the natural space for continuation of this unification will be the Mediterranean region, its southern and eastern par, Northern Africa and the Middle East. The European Union continually, step by step, develops its framework of cooperation (bilateral, multilateral relations, association and cooperation agreements, dialogues, partnerships, cooperation programs, regional policies, strategies, ministerial conferences, documents). The Union, for example, plans to create the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area by the year 2010. This framework continues east, to the region of the Persian Gulf. Natural limit of this process will be the desert belt in the south (Sahara, Nafud, Dahna, Thair), somewhere interrupted by seas (Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman).

Weather inside or outside, a partnership with an potential economically united Arab world is increasingly in Europe's interest, to help Arabs to realize their economic potential. The potential for partnership lies in continuing liberalizing of their economies more and managed them more efficiently. European investors no longer seek exceptionally high profits, and fast return, but such enduring values as culture. The oil and gas industry has lost much of its political prominence. It has been eclipsed by a new e-economy and telecommunications. However, e-commerce should never remain confirmed only to network, telecommunications, computers, and the media, and or markets. But rendering it human and on con-

solidating of democratic space. It is culture that provides us with values and identity, enabling us to cope with challenges and changes in expanding relationship with an increased united Europe and a potentially economically united Arab world. It is culture that reserves the right to be different, and an instruments of opportunity and inclusions on our terms. Thus the model for a new Euro-Arab economic partnership would be one of joint marketing exploration and exploration and approach, establishing of joint transport and logistical routes, product distribution centers, etc.

### Open your eyes, it is time to fly


I understand Yemen from position of syntheses of dreams, as an oasis in the flow of world events. Similar geo-strategic position in the world to that of Yemen have Central Asia, Asia Minor, and Central Europe (Slovenia/Austria). In ancient times, the people of South Arabia were the paramount mariners in the Indian Ocean. Their function in the economy of this huge area was in some way comparable to that of the Phoenicians and Carthaginians in the Mediterranean. Yemen was itself a producer of valuable gums and aromatics, particularly frankincense and myrrh, much sought after by all the empires of the time. Yemen also had a flourishing agriculture based on sophisticated techniques of water management. This was because Yemen just catches the edge of the monsoon, giving it a higher rainfall than the rest of the Arabian Peninsula and permitting intensive agriculture and the growth of centralized states. Yemen was also a key area in the transmission of various food plants between India and Africa. From the middle of the first millennium BC, Yemenis dominated the carrying trade in the western Indian Ocean, a position it held until modern times. This kind of historical continuity is rare and is one of the most astonishing things in the history of the Indian Ocean.

Unlike a functional family, a nation is a team which symbolizes the ideal of human interdependence, and has long provided a firm foundation for society. The healthy family is a microcosm of society and the native soil in which ethical values take root and grow. Fertilize this soil, and the whole of society benefits. The power which bonds a "family" or nation together is the ancient feminine principle no longer honored in modern times - gentleness and receptivity. Relationships in all kinds of teams are improved through cultivation of this principle. The receptive force is sen-

sure as well as powerful, and it can be missed by too much talk and planning. When spring comes, does the grass "plan" to grow? This is a time to concentrate on realities rather than potential - with how to respond to a situation rather than how to direct it. To be broad and deep, receptive and spacious like the ocean. It is by recognizing and riding with the natural course of events - by hitching the wagon of development to the rising sun, as it were - that we advance our position and earn respect. The concern is that in the rush to tap Yemen's raw materials, human rights and good governance, should not be trampled underfoot. When the path of the weaker aligns with that which is strong, a dynamic balance can be strike between involvement in the outside world and nourishment in the home. Only by adapting to change can we stay in the race. Yemen is big enough to embrace all its citizens, and misses them too. Like deserts misses rain, like eye misses the light after long darkness.

This century belongs to Asia in terms of economic development and political development. The challenge for 21st century is to dismantle the "big" and develop the people: services, education, prosperity and social justice will be the issues. The self-government, both institutional and non-institutional is to fulfill its mission that is all apart from the general spirit, needs assistance. Not a command but recommendation how to think, speak and mainly to act or not. To educate ourselves to much greater extend in the use of freedom.

Innovation is the key success behind all successful firms, undertaking and countries. Being innovative means, however, more than just having good ideas. In the fast changing environment innovation is not just a matter of export profitability, it can be a matter of survival. It is innovations that will allow companies and countries to thrive and survive. In a global economy is the harvesting the power of innovations the central theme. Technology enables, but creativity, flexibility and the intelligent use of information will win the future. In an another era, a nations most valuable assets were its natural resources - coal, or amber waves of grain. But in the information economy of the 21st century, the most priceless resource is often an idea, along with the right to profit from it. When the other day, I ventured for shopping to Old city of Sanaa, awash with tourists and visitors, I could not but reflect that I am privileged to live in one of the most beautiful, fascinating and challenging city.



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## Chrobog: I will visit Yemen again

The release came as a relief after the negotiation process between the tribal people and the Yemeni authorities lead by Yemen's defence minister faltered. The five tribesmen of al-Abdullah tribe are now being interrogated by government security. Their demands to free five tribesmen jailed on criminal charges including murder are not met yet, but are being considered by the Yemeni authorities handling the issue within the next 45 days according to the agreement signed between the Yemeni authorities and the tribesmen. In case those tribal figures were not successful in their mediation for availing their demands, the court of law will be the ultimate reference, the agreement said. Residents said government forces have surrounded the area where the tribesmen live. However, no force was used in the release of the abducted people. Sources among the Abdullah tribesman said they would release the hostages only based on the promises given by the government. But they warned the government of serious consequences if it did not deliver.


Yemeni tribes throughout the country have opted to kidnapping tourists as means for exercising pressure on the government to fulfill certain requirements for the tribes. The demands range from release of imprisoned relatives to merely

enhancing the infrastructure in the tribal area such as building schools or paving roads. The recent kidnappers in Shabwa had complained about lack of cooperation from the authorities in resolving their case and releasing imprisoned tribesmen handed to the authorities temporarily to resolve a 10-year-old tribal conflict with a rival tribe.

It is worth mentioning that in 2003, Chrobog himself led a delegation that negotiated the release of 14 tourists, including nine Germans, who were kidnapped in the Sahara desert and freed six months later by their captors in Mali. His wife, Magda Gohar-Chrobog, is a translator and the daughter of an Egyptian writer, Youssef Gohar.

On a similar front, the Yemen Council of Businessmen and Investors issued a press statement in which they condemned the wave of kidnapping that has been occurring in Yemen of late. The Council called on the government to protect the investors, tourist and foreign community in Yemen in order to create a better environment in the country. The press release came as a consequence of what was published in Al-Bilad newspaper on the 24th of last month. The article included threat to abduct relatives of businessmen over a land dispute.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the project "National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)":

**Post Title: Administrative and Financial Assistant(SC-5)**

**Responsibilities**

- Screening and administering all incoming and outgoing correspondence addressed to the NCSA.
- Checking outgoing correspondence for conformity with established procedures and accuracy of statements before being signed by the NPC.
- Meeting arrangements and minute taking.
- Office administration.
- Preparing correspondence in Arabic/English related to protocol/administrative issues.
- Maintaining the filing system on general operations matters.
- Screen telephone calls, answer routine queries with discretion, route phone calls to appropriate colleagues while applying service oriented approach.
- Providing assistance to the NPC as requested.
- Preparing and maintaining NCSA document templates and forms.
- Supporting the NPC by prepare the regular financial reports for presentation to the NSC
- Ensuring financial reports are transparent, accurate and representative
- Report any unplanned or unaccounted for expenditure to both the NPC
- Taking responsibility for the veracity of the programme financial records.
- Ensuring that government and UNDP accounting procedures are followed.
- Assist National Professional with financial plans for programme activities.
- Perform other duties as deemed necessary.

**Qualification**

- University degree in accounts/finance; specialized training in accounting.
- Minimum of five years experience in finance and accounting field; full proficiency in computerized accounting systems.
- Good knowledge of internal accounting procedures and reporting systems.
- Computer skills in both Arabic and English Languages.
- Clerical and administrative experience.
- Good knowledge of Arabic and English Languages.

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

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)  
The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 11th January 2006

## الأنظمة الرقمية للكمبيوتر

### كاميرات بنكيو (BenQ) الرقمية

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شعاع للنظم والحاسبات كوتير- عدن - 02251315-02258777

Continued from page 1

# Rockslide death toll nears 100

The Geological Survey Authority (GSA) revealed in a report the rockslide of the rocky mountain looking over Al-Dhafir village, was the result of rock overhung on the top of the mountain, which were more prominent than other sedimentary rocks affected by erosion on the bottom. The GSA team's report indicated the geological nature of the area made Al-Dhafir one of the villages that are more exposed to the collapse of rocks, pointing out the area was subjected to the fall of rocks of different sizes in recent times.

The report attributed the catastrophe to a variety of factors among them the main components of sedimentary rocks in the area, which are not homogenous, water ditches causing rock fissure and the topography of the area, in addition to sandy rocks, which are easily subjected to erosion.

The rocky hill was also affected by other factors such as wind, water, tem-

perature and human factors, which led to erosion in the lower part of the mountain, leaving the upper part hanging over. The extraction of underground water in the surrounding areas is also responsible for the catastrophe. The report clarified the geological layers caused ongoing motion and slide of rocky masses in the mountain looking over the village. The rubble covered an area of over 120 square kilometer,

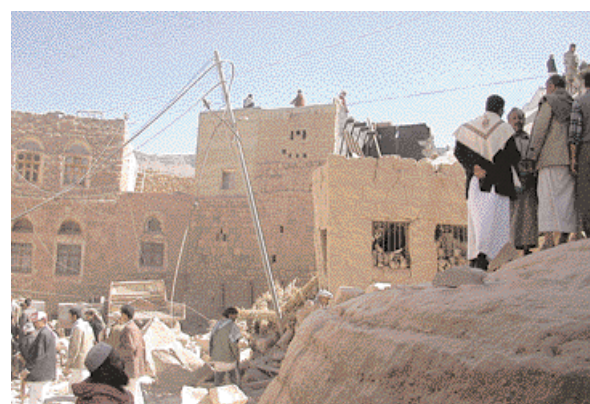
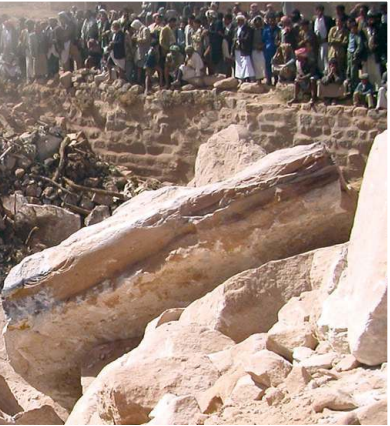


low-ups have to be implemented to examine terrain stability of areas exposed to rock collapse.

Concluding its statement, the GSA said the lack of technical experience in dealing with such conditions and suitable machineries helped raised the death toll. Operations related to rock breaking and removal has not been implemented in a good manner to save lives of people trapped beneath rubble.



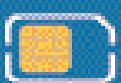
perature and human factors, which led to erosion in the lower part of the mountain, leaving the upper part hanging over. The extraction of underground water in the surrounding areas is also responsible for the catastrophe. The report clarified the geological layers caused ongoing motion and slide of rocky masses in the mountain looking over the village. The rubble covered an area of over 120 square kilometer,



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On the occasion of the New Year

# Yemen Times celebrates its special clients

“We derive our strength from your support. And together we will create success. This is why we thought of this small contribution to acknowledge your support and to tell you how much your partnership means to us.” Ms. Nadia al-Sakkaf editor in chief and publisher of the Yemen Times started her speech. The speech was addressed to more than 60 Yemeni and international businessmen on the 15th of December 2005 on the occasion of honouring Yemen Times distinguished clients. Yemen Times is Yemen’s only independent English Language newspaper. This independence is encouraged through the special partnership Yemen Times has with its clients. In appreciation for Yemen Times partners, the establishment dedicated the special event last month to thank its supporters and to reward some of its elite clients. The celebration took place at AL-Fakhir Restaurant where the invitees had lunch post the rewarding ceremony.

It was a difficult task to choose from the long list of supporters. However choice had to be made and 25 of Yemen Times most distinguished customers were selected. Mr. Khairaldin Al-Nsour Deputy Director and Mr. Rashid Ali Marketing Manager of the Yemen Times were behind this initiative. “The idea was to express our gratitude to our partners and strengthen our relations further. We have extra special relations with many of our partner such as C.C.C., Al-Muthalath Advertising Agency, Yemen International Bank, Universal Group, Hael Saeed Group, Ikhwan Thabet Group and The Commercial Center for Engines, to name a few.” Mr. Al-Nsour commented. The clients were each awarded a Swiss Watch on which the Yemen Times logo was embedded.

When receiving his gift, Mr. Hamod Al-Mutwakil general manager of Al-Muthalath Advertising Agency delivered a touching speech to the gathering. “I am genuinely touched.” He said. “It is the first time an advertising agency is rewarded. We used to feel like the heroes behind the scene, doing much of the work without being appreciated. Yemen Times broke this norm and put us directly in the limelight. I just want to say thank you for the service you provide to all the readers and advertisers and wish you all the best in life.” Mr. Al-Mutwakil said.

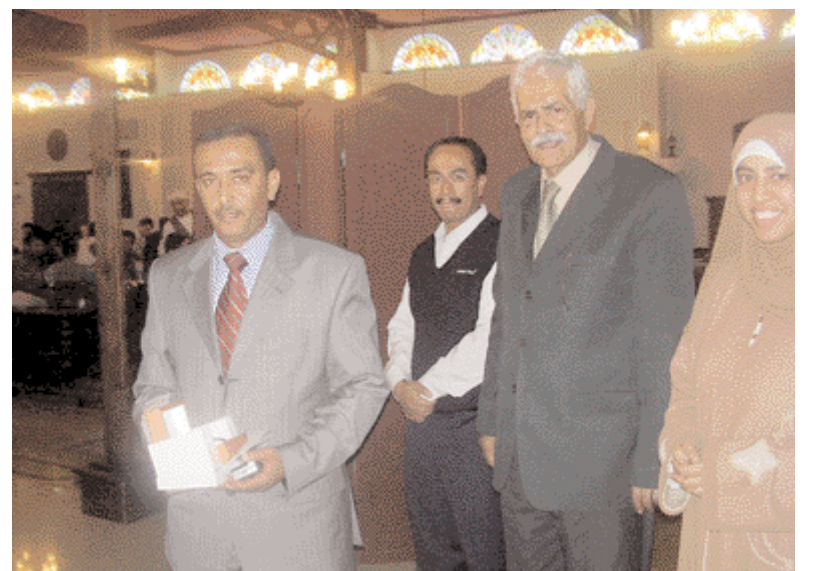
Mr. Ameen BaHumam, Car Sales Director of Natco Company expressed his best wishes to the newspaper and its entire staff. And thanked Yemen Times management for the awarding ceremony wishing Yemen Times the best in the future and New Year.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Arasi, Marketing Manager of Yemen International Bank expressed his delight at the occasion by saying: “It was a kind gesture from a prominent newspaper which is known for its excellent communication with its clients. This will enhance the relations between us and the Yemen Times and we wish the newspaper and all its staff all progress and success in the future and once again thank you for your appreciation.”

Mr. Zaher Ameen, Director of Mitsubishi Yemen conveyed his gratitude for the lunch invitation and more than that for this honouring initiative. “It doesn’t come as a surprise for us that Yemen Times comes up with such a great gesture, because this is a great establishment and has proved its place in the media scene.” He said.



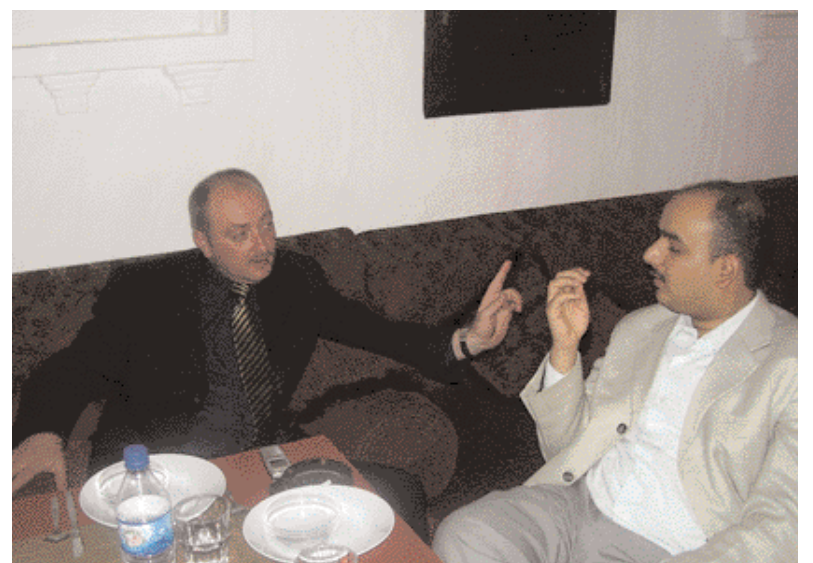
Praying for the soul of the founder late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf



Mr. Shawqi Al-Hakimi receiving his award



Part of the gathering enjoying their meal



Mr. Zaher Ameen discussing with Mr. Ali Abdurabu Adhban

Rashid Ali YT Marketing Manager commented on the event by saying: “It is the first time we have such an initiative, but the truth is that we have always thought dearly of our reliable customers. We think of them as Yemen Times family and we appreciate their standing by us, especially after the founder of the newspaper late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf passed away in June 1999.”

- List of awarded clients, in alphabetical order**
1. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb, Director of the Arab Group for Investment and Development
  2. Mr. Abdulla M. Al-Arasi, Head of Promotion/Advertising & Product Development, International Bank of Yemen
  3. Mr. A. Latif Haddad, Marketing and Advertising Manager, Thabet Bros. Group
  4. Mr. Abdulrahman AL-Maqtari, Deputy Director of AL-Tadhamun Islamic Bank
  5. Mr. Ahmed Thabet Al-Absi, General Manger of Yemen International Bank
  6. Mr. Aidaroos Bazara'a, General Manager of the Commercial Center for Engines
  7. Mr. Ameen BaHumam, Car Sales Director Natco Company
  8. Mr. Amer Al-Yedoumy, Administrator, C.C.C
  9. Mr. Noor Ashraf, General Manager of Hertz
  10. Mr. Gyeon Bliakiahis, Principal of Sana'a International School
  11. Mr. Hamod Al-Mutwakil General Manager of Al-Muthalath Advertising Agency
  12. Mr. Hani Shehadeh, General Manager of C.C.C
  13. Mr. Hassan Zawiya, General Manger of Zawiya Company for Trade
  14. Mr. Hussaien Adhban, General Manager of Adhban Establishment
  15. Dr. Mansour Al-Absi, General Manger of DHL
  16. Mr. Mazin Dawood, Director Nissan Peugeot in Yemen
  17. Mr. Moamar Al-Shaibani, Financial Manager of Hertz
  18. Mr. Nabil Al-Qawsi, Director of PEPA
  19. Mr. Shawqi Al-Hakimi, Deputy Director of Mas Advertising Agency
  20. Mr. Sheriff Thabet, Chairman of Al-Huda for Industrial Investment Company
  21. Mr. Tariq Abdulwasi, General Manager of Al-Mutahida for Insurance
  22. Ms. Um Aied Nadeem, General Manager of Hams Advertising Agency
  23. Mr. Wael Abdulrab Awhaj, Marketing Officer, Zibain for Trade
  24. Mr. Yahya Ahmed Ghamdhan, General Manger of Nokia Yemen
  25. Mr. Zaher Ameen, Director of Mitsubishi Yemen



YT guests at Al-Fakhir restaurant



Mohammed Al-Qirshi and Abdullah Al-Arasi conversing over lunch



From left: Nasr Hussain, Hani Al-Asbahi, Jamal Gawbah, Shawqi Al-Hakimi chatting over lunch



Mr. A. Latif Hadda, from Thabet Bros Group, and Mr. Qaid Al-Radfani posing for the camera



Ahmed Thabet Al-Absi with Dr. Mansour Al-Absi and Mr. Muqbil Shamsi



YT guests at Al-Fakhir restaurant

## Assad threatened Hariri: Khaddam

DUBAI (Reuters) - A former Syrian vice president launched an unprecedented attack on President Bashar al-Assad, saying he had threatened Rafik al-Hariri, the former Lebanese prime minister who was assassinated in February.

"Assad told me he had delivered some very, very harsh words to Hariri ... something like 'I will crush anyone who tries to disobey us'," Abdel-halim Khaddam said from his home in Paris.

A veteran aide to Bashar's father, the late Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, Khaddam resigned in June. He was speaking in an interview with Al Arabiya television aired on Friday.

Khaddam would not speculate on who had ordered Hariri's murder, saying "we must wait" for the final results of an investigation being carried out by the United Nations.

That investigation has implicated senior Syrian officials and Khaddam's comments are likely to intensify pressure on Damascus.

Khaddam noted: "In principle, no government body in Syria, be it a security apparatus or otherwise, can single-handedly take this decision (killing Hariri)," he said. "Bashar has said that if anybody in Syria was involved, that means I am involved."

He noted Hariri "received many threats, there were a lot of threats made in Damascus and in Lebanon".

Khaddam criticised the government for committing what he said were political blunders in Lebanon and said Syria was "going through a minefield in pitch dark" because of Assad's policies.

But he said: "It never occurred to me that Syria would kill Rafik al-Hariri, that never crossed my mind, but the atmosphere created certain beliefs among the people. But we must wait for the results of the (U.N.) investigation."

Khaddam knocked down a video claim by a Palestinian suicide bomber who said he and a militant group had killed Hariri, saying it was "stupid to blame an individual as this issue needs a lot of sophisticated technology, tonnes of explosives and planners who have a leader."



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad (Front R) and then Syrian Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam (Front L) shake hands at the ruling Baath party's 10th congress in Damascus in this June. 6. file photo. Assad and other top officials threatened former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri who was assassinated in February, Khaddam said. REUTERS

"This is a big operation with an apparatus behind it, not individuals. What apparatus, that is what the (U.N.) probe will reveal," he added.

Khaddam also blamed Lebanese President Emile Lahoud and other Lebanese officials for "inciting" Assad against Hariri, who was once a staunch ally of Damascus but who backed a 2004 U.N. resolution that called for foreign troops to quit Lebanon.

Damascus has come under fierce international pressure since Hariri's killing in Beirut on February 14. It was forced to pull its troops out of Lebanon after a 29-year military presence.

Syria has denied involvement in the truck bombing that killed Hariri and 22 others.

### Corrupt government

Khaddam, one of Syria's longest-serving officials, was seen in the 1980s as a possible successor to the late

Assad. But then he backed Bashar, who took office in 2000. When he resigned, he said he wanted to make way for new blood.

Khaddam also said Assad's government was impoverishing its people because of its resistance to political and economic reform.

"The reform process did not happen so I resigned ... once I did, I saw that that power was being held by one man and that the government institutions had become a cover for the president's orders," he said.

He said that because of the lack of reforms, corruption was now rife in the government and poverty was on the rise.

"Million of Syrians can't find food and many more are searching for food in the garbage, while wealth is

being accumulated in the hands of a few," he said.

"We can't face external pressures when the Syrian people have no freedom of expression and are not part of the political process," he added.

He said Assad had made many mistakes in his handling of Lebanon, including protecting the former Syrian intelligence chief in Beirut, Rustom Ghazali, even though he was implicated by the U.N. probe into Hariri's killing.

"Why is Rustom Ghazali being protected and we all know his vices. This is a question that the Syrians are asking," Khaddam said. "I told Bashar several times that he should remove him ... he acted like he was the absolute ruler of Lebanon."

Khaddam had been pointman on Lebanon for the late Assad, who ordered Syria's military intervention in the civil war there in 1976. Syrian forces stayed until April this year.

## Egyptian police end protest, 23 Sudanese dead

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egyptian riot police on Friday stormed a protest camp in Cairo set up by thousands of Sudanese refugees, sparking clashes that left 23 Sudanese dead, officials and witnesses said.

Witnesses said police beat the refugees with truncheons and used water cannon to drive them from the squalid camp in a small park in an affluent part of the Egyptian capital, where they had been staging a protest for three months.

About 4,000 police ringed the site, near the offices of the U.N. refugee agency, where the Sudanese were protesting what they said was poor treatment since they fled Sudan's lengthy civil war and were demanding they be sent to another country.

Some 2,000 police swept into the camp of makeshift tents housing about 3,500 men, women and children after officials failed to persuade them to board buses to move to another site.

The Interior Ministry said the Sudanese died in a stampede at the camp. It said 75 police officers were injured.

Pools of blood were visible on the pavement as men in the camp fought back with sticks and hurled bottles at the police, witnesses said.

A mortuary official said 23 people had died and the Health Ministry said 50 Sudanese were injured. The figures could not immediately be confirmed.

Egyptian television showed several injured policemen in a hospital and Reuters witnesses said there were about six unconscious Sudanese, some of them children, on the ground.

A doctor who examined a girl aged about four who was brought to him after being found unconscious said: "She's dead."

### Ending Sit-in

The U.N. High Commissioner for



Egyptian riot police arrest an injured Sudanese man in a Cairo public square Dec. 30. REUTERS

Refugees (UNHCR) called the deaths a tragedy and a UNHCR spokesman said the agency had urged Egyptian authorities to deal with the situation peacefully.

The UNHCR has said it is prepared to help Sudanese in Egypt but cannot arrange for all of them to resettle in another country because many are looking for a better life and are not refugees fleeing a conflict.

"There is no justification for such violence and loss of life," High Commissioner Antonio Guterres said in a statement.

But a Sudanese official said security forces were entitled to end the sit-in at the improvised camp.

"The Egyptian government was within its rights to re-establish its control," said Sudanese presidential adviser Mahjoub Fadl in comments carried by Egypt's official Middle East News Agency (MENA).

The protesters said they wanted the UNHCR to arrange for them to be flown out of Egypt. Many wanted to be sent to the United States or the Europe.

"Most Sudanese refugees have been subjected to violence in Egypt. We don't want to be here any more," said one Sudanese protester who gave his name as Wilson.

Hundreds of Sudanese picked up by the police were being held in two camps run by the security forces, who were checking their identities, representatives from among the protesters said.

Sudan's two-decade north-south civil war made 4 million people homeless and a separate conflict in the western Darfur region has produced a further 2 million refugees.

A January peace agreement ended the north-south civil war but many Sudanese say it is not safe to return home as the deal is fragile.

## Three British hostages freed in Gaza

GAZA (Reuters) - A 25-year-old British human rights worker and her parents were freed in the Gaza Strip on Friday by the Palestinian gunmen who kidnapped them two days earlier.

A previously unknown group calling itself Brigades of the Mujahideen-Jerusalem said it seized Kate Burton, her father Hugh and mother Helen to demand British and European pressure on Israel and freed them as a gesture of goodwill.

The Burtons passed through Gaza City briefly before being whisked away toward Israel in diplomatic cars with darkened windows.

"They are well and in good spirits. They are currently with officials from our Consulate General in Jerusalem," said a statement from the British Foreign Office.

"She was not hurt, her parents were okay and she plans to visit Gaza next week," said Adnan Hajjar, a colleague of Burton's. "Kate said she was sorry that she could not make it to the hotel to greet everybody."

In a video released to media, a masked gunman read out a message standing next to Kate Burton, who appeared with her hands behind her back.

"We have decided to pardon the three Britons as a gesture of goodwill in return for a seriousness in answering our demands," the gunman said.

Burton and her visiting parents were seized in the chaotic southern town of Rafah on the Egyptian border on Wednesday. Kidnappers, armed with automatic rifles, pulled over their car and bundled them into another vehicle that sped away.

The political demands and Islamist tone of the captors were a marked departure from previous kidnappings in the Gaza Strip, whose perpetrators tended to be seeking jobs or the release of prisoners and set free their hostages within hours.

### Concerns

The fact the kidnappers made no contact for two days had raised con-



British security personnel help British hostage Hugh Burton (C) after he was released in Gaza Dec. 31. Three British hostages released in the Gaza Strip on Friday appeared briefly before heading out of the territory. Human rights worker Kate Burton, 25, and her parents Hugh and Helen left Gaza City in a British diplomatic vehicle. REUTERS

cerns for the Britons' safety.

"We thank everyone who has worked so tirelessly toward this moment, especially Kate's colleagues and friends in Gaza, who kept all our hopes up throughout this ordeal," said a statement from the Burton family released through the Foreign Office.

The kidnappers said that they wanted British and EU pressure on Israel to end the "no-go zone" it imposed in northern Gaza this week to stop rocket fire, to free prisoners, pull back troops in the occupied West Bank and end assassinations of militant leaders.

They threatened to kidnap EU monitors of Palestinian elections due next month if the demands were not met.

Gaza has seen a rash of kidnappings since Israel quit the coastal territory in September after 38 years of occupation, a move welcomed internationally as a potential spur to peace but which left the Palestinian Authority struggling for control.

The kidnapping of the three Britons, and the international attention that it drew, came as a fresh embarrassment for President Mahmoud Abbas.

Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb

Erekat welcomed the release.

"I hope that this will be the last kidnapping on our land. It harms our interests and our cause like nothing else," he told Reuters.

A Dutchman and an Australian, teachers at a Gaza school, were briefly abducted last week by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which demanded that its leaders be released from jail.

As Burton worked for Al Mazen, a group that documents alleged Israeli abuses of Palestinian rights, her abduction sparked popular protests in Gaza.

The Burton family released a statement in London that "Kate is a warm and loving person, and has been working as a volunteer in Gaza for the past year, trying to do what she can to help the situation there."

The gunman said that the group held Britain responsible for "the tragedies of the Palestinians" since 1948, when Israel was formed from part of what had been the British mandate of Palestine. Hundreds of thousands of Arabs fled or were driven from their homes in the Arab-Israeli war at the time.

## Inspectors find Iraq jail problems

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Inspections of two Iraqi-run jails, prompted by the recent discovery of a bunker packed with mistreated prisoners, found overcrowding and signs of prisoner abuse, a senior U.S. commander said on Friday.

Iraqi and American inspectors made the new findings at a Baghdad facility on December 20 and one in Tal Afar on Wednesday, a U.S. military official said. The findings suggest broader problems at Iraqi-run detention facilities at a time when the U.S. military is taking steps toward turning over to the Iraqi government thousands of detainees held by American forces.

"While there were overcrowded conditions, there were no signs of recent abuse," Maj. Gen. William Webster, who commands a 30,000-strong force responsible for security in Baghdad, told Pentagon reporters by teleconference from Iraq.

"There were detainees who talked about having been abused before, and some of them showed signs of that," Webster added.

Webster did not describe these signs of abuse. He said a committee of Iraqi government and U.S. officials was continuing its investigation and inspections of Iraqi jails.

A raid by U.S. forces last month at a secret Baghdad bunker found 173 men and teenage boys held by the Interior Ministry, many malnourished, beaten and showing signs of torture. The Iraqi government earlier this month said 13 prisoners at another Interior Ministry prison also showed signs of abuse.

The two new inspections also were at Interior Ministry facilities, Webster said.

The U.S. military said this week it is holding 14,600 detainees in Iraq and that its facilities were at 123 percent of "optimal capacity."

Officials said there is no timetable for turning over these detention operations to the Iraqis, but it will not be done until Iraqi forces meet standards of care and custody laid out in international law and respect detainees'



A U.S. armored personnel carrier drives through the northern Iraqi town of Tal Afar, Sep. 12. Iraqi and American inspectors found overcrowding and signs of prisoner abuse at a Baghdad facility on December 20 and one in Tal Afar on Wednesday, a U.S. military official said. REUTERS

human rights.

The United States drew international condemnation last year after photos surfaced showing American forces abusing inmates at Abu Ghraib prison.

### 'Insurgency is weaker'

U.S. officials hope the December 15 parliamentary elections and the subsequent formation of a permanent Iraqi government will sap the insurgency's vigor.

"Since the elections, the Iraqi insurgency is weaker in terms of the types of attacks they're able to conduct, and the number of attacks is down since the elections," said Webster, due to return to the United States in the next month along with the 3rd Infantry Division after a yearlong stint.

Webster said the actual number of insurgent attacks has risen compared to a year ago, but the number of suc-

cessful attacks has declined to 10 percent from 25 percent to 30 percent. Webster said the rate of U.S. casualties has not declined from a year ago.

The Pentagon said there have been 2,173 U.S. military deaths since the war began in March 2003.

Webster said Iraqi security forces are in charge of 60 percent of Baghdad "with support from us."

"I think until the government is seated and secure and the Iraqi security forces are relatively disciplined and fully trained that there will still be some chaos in the city. Many elements of the insurgency will benefit or attempt to benefit from this chaos because they think they're going to get ahead by conducting it," Webster said.

Webster said U.S. forces had reduced insurgent car bombs by half while also finding half the roadside bombs planted by the rebels.

# Perspectives on Aden's private health sector

By: Nazeeh Abdullah

**T**he private sector plays an important role in our country's health service. It cures and advises a broad segment of public health.

Aden's health sector is suffering some inability in furnishing health services to residents due to the unbalanced function of health units. Many doctors quit the Ministry of Health and begin private clinics to increase their earnings because Ministry of Health salaries often are not enough.

Unorganized investment in the health sector, which aims at profit, in addition to wrong diagnoses, makes patients suffer. After getting fed up with public hospitals, patients rush to private hospitals hoping to find a glimmer of hope in curing their illnesses.

## A voice in the crowd

In Aden's Al-Mansoor District, a large crowd of aged, women and children, all from different places in the governorate, came seeking a doctor to cure their disease. They scan the doctors' signs to find the one specializing in their illness. One such sign says the doctor can cure many incurable diseases, that he is a graduate of a western university and that the best diagnosis devices are available in his clinic.

One patient from Lahj in Radfan District appeared to be in pain. "I came from Radfan in the early morning so I can register to see the doctor in the evening," he said. He suffers severe kidney pain and has seen many doctors who diagnosed him differently. Some said he has kidney stones while others said there are precipitations due to Radfan's saline water, but until now, nothing is certain. He continued, saying he lost a great amount of money seeing doctors, having laboratory examinations and buying medicines. Each doctor prescribed a bagful of drugs, but all were in vain, he noted.

When asked if he has a job, he replied, "I was a retired sergeant before unification. My salary is only 1,300YR. I have seven sons and daughters who all are unemployed. We are suffering because of treatment costs. We used to borrow, but we find none who can lend to us now."

"We demand [the state] take care of public hospitals," he said. "They should furnish doctors and drugs for patients. Public hospitals and clinics are quite neglected. Even if a patient is to have an injection, he must pay for that now in public hospitals."

## "My stomach is a pharmacy"

One woman said she became a virtual pharmacy due to the large number of medicines she used to have a child. "I saw many male and female gynecologists. Every one prescribes his own drugs. I had an operation in one of the private hospitals. Now I've ended up with a cyst in my ovaries. This disease now is spreading in Aden governorate, even among young ladies. It's due to foods sold in this country without control by the Ministry of Health. Traders sell their food, regardless of it being fresh or not."

"Health conditions in Aden are deteriorating," she continued. "When you see a doctor in a public hospital, he often advises you to see him in his private clinic. This is not for the patient's good but for his own benefit. Another thing is there are some doctors who charge fees for operating in public hospitals. This is done after making a deal with the patient, the doctor and the hospital administration."

## Public hospital shuffle

Overcrowding is not confined only to public hospitals. Private hospitals also have their share. The only difference is the public ones are crowded during the day while the private ones are crowded in the evening.

At Khor Maksar Educational Hospital in the men's internal ward, Nasser Abdul Rabo from Loder District said he suffers severe chest and heartbeat pain. He was treated in Loder Hospital and then transferred to Al-Razi General Hospital in Abian. "Then I was transferred again to the Republican Hospital in Aden," he said. "I hope I will find the right diagnosis for my case here. Today I had a number of diagnoses, including an x-ray."



Educational hospitals provide medical services to patients as well as practical studies for medical students

## "They are all butchers"

At a private hospital in Al-Mansoor District, Um Mohamed Fadhl said, "I came here to receive hypertension pills." She took a deep breath and then began telling her daughter's story. She visited all the public and private hospitals in Sana'a and Aden without finding a proper diagnosis. "They are all butchers," she said. "Every hospital sets its price. After three years touring all clinics, public and private hospitals, we decided to get a

**Patients: Bad diagnoses and quick profits increased our sicknesses.**

medical report to go abroad.

"We went to India and showed the doctors my daughter's medical reports. She was diagnosed here as having a heart problem. They re-diagnosed her there and found no heart disease. All they found were worms in her stomach. She was given medicine and now she is very well, studying pharmacology in the school of medicine."

The most rapidly spreading diseases Medical studies indicate that some diseases now are on the rise. Of those, which were not known before, are cancer, heart disease, blood strokes, kidney failure, hypertension and diabetes mellitus. These diseases are attributed to economic hardship and a poverty increase of 37 percent and the spread of poisonous insecticides illegally smuggled into the country aside legal ones. This is in addition to expired and fake medicines. The absence of the role of the inspection authority in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is to blame in this respect. Contaminated well water also is to blame, affecting rural residents and causing diseases like kidney failure. Examples of such areas are Radfan and Tor Al-Baha in Lahj Governorate and other areas in Al-Dhale.

The study also attributed these diseases to absence of health awareness, poverty and lack of service recourses in hospitals, in addition to absence of the role of public media in addressing such threats.

## Aden's private hospitals

There were no private hospitals in Aden before 1999's issuance of Law 60 aimed at organizing private medical and hygienic establishments according to modern scientific service standards. It also aimed to encourage the private sector to invest in specialized health services. The law organized supervision of private services and periodic checks on such establishments to make sure they abide by legal regulations. It also aimed at spreading private health services in urban and rural areas and making them within appropriate cost and reach of citizens. The law also sought to check unprofessional behavior that contradicts the career's ethics, as well as contribute to promoting health awareness and primary health services.

Jamal Mohamed Hassan heads Aden's Department of Private Health Establishments. When asked what his department's role is in implementing the law of private health establishments, he answered that his administration receives license applications for medical and health establishments. It then checks and approves them according to terms and procedures in 1999's Law 60. He said they make field tours of these establishments and report their views in license applications, clinical, hygienic and investment institutions. They also periodically inspect each private institution, making sure it carries out its activities according to law.

However, during these tours, they discovered some institutions not abiding by the law. A law regulating the bylaws of 1999 was issued April 2004, four years after the 1999 law. "Consequently, we made a month-long tour, resulting in closure of 143 private medical establish-

**In 15 years, five private hospitals were established in equivalence to one public hospital.**

ments not abiding by specifications," Hassan said. "We gave warnings to 172 others."

Technical institutions managers reviewed the number of private hospitals in Aden. There were five hospitals, 12 clinics, 12 medical centers, 271 medical clinics, 85 laboratories, eight x-ray centers, 27 optic centers, 220 pharmacies, 49 medicine stores and 60 medicine selling agents, totaling 749 medical establishments. Hassan added that private medical institution investment in Aden Governorate reached YR 1,466,480 billion during 1991-2004. Other investors offered YR 1,438,341 billion, but so far, no decision has been made on these applications.

## Aden's public hospitals

There are a limited number of hospitals in Aden. The Republican Educational Hospital is one of these, furnishing medical services for patients in the vicinity of Aden, as well as practical studies for Faculty of Medicine students

**Special health investments costing one and half billion YR not carried out.**

at Aden University. However, the hospital suffers a shortage in operational funding, as does Aden General Hospital and Unity Hospital (formerly Friendship), which specializes in gynecology and obstetrics. 22nd May Hospital in Al-Mansoor District is the only hospital in Aden built after unification.

Ba Suhaib Military Hospital improved its services a bit following the arrival of the Kuwaiti mission, which pays great

attention to patients. However, it cannot be compared to Sana'a Military Hospital. The biggest problem the oldest hospital in the governorate now suffers is its poor road, which is greatly destroyed and causes much suffering to patients and visitors trying to reaching the hospital.

## Pharmacies and lack of observation

A large number of private pharmacies have spread inside the hospital, at the gate and in the Aden's streets. Many do not conform to pharmaceutical specifications and those working in them are not qualified graduates. Dr. Abdulla Naser Bin Naser, director of Aden's Provision and Pharmaceutical Administration, was asked why his administration does not make field tours to check private pharmacies not abiding by legal regulations.

He answered, "According to the Ministry of Health's regulating law, observance, follow-up and provision are the duties of our administration. We issue the license of pharmacies in Aden according to Law 60 of 1999. The basic terms in these regulations stipulate that the pharmacist should be a graduate and a member of the Pharmacology syndicate. He should also be a resident in the district where the pharmacy is to be established."

He added that the law also stipulates a pharmacy's area should be 24 square meters, but some establishments are overlooked because many of Aden's buildings are very old. A pharmacy should be air conditioned, have a refrigerator and, Naser pointed out, the pharmacist should be medically fit.

A medical supply and administration section recently was established, but it cannot make surprise intensive field tours due to lack of funding and cars. Despite this, some surprise tours of pharmacies are made. Many pharmacy owners were found to hire unqualified youth and provided an immense amount of faked and expired medicines. Measures were taken against these pharmacies and some licenses canceled. They also wrote commitments not to do it again. This observation resulted in hiring many pharmacy graduates.

Concerning tackling the problem of smuggled and imitation medicines, Naser noted that smuggling is encouraged mainly by lack of a clear Ministry policy deterring the phenomenon. "When a certain medicine disappears from pharmacies, the owner makes a deal with smugglers to get it. The price will be less, but this costs the treasury a lot."

## Uniting against smuggling

Dr. Abdulgadir Al-Bakiri, General Manager of Aden's High Authority for Medicines, spoke about his agency's role, saying, "The Authority's duty is to monitor medicines that reach this country through Aden's port or the airport. We make sure they are highly competent. We also make sure medicine facto-

ries abide by international regulations in medicine manufacturing. A team from the Authority visits factories for this reason. All medicine samples are registered and then examined in laboratories. There are other factors taken into consideration, such as price and quality. After registration, follow-up of imported medicines begins. The Authority takes samples of medicines arriving at the airport or at Aden Port. These medicine samples are examined in the Authority's laboratory. Chemical and physical sections now are under construction at the Authority and will be equipped with modern devices. Another section will open called micro petrology, which will examine drug quality and make sure they are free of residuals."

Al-Bakiri said the most important achievement was inauguration of the new Authority building in 2005. The building contains the general administration in addition to a laboratory which examines more than 400 samples imported by companies and agencies. "We also examine skeptical drugs from workers in health establishments. Smuggled drugs also are examined to make sure they are good to use."

Al-Bakiri said smuggled drugs generally are unacceptable due to quality or the method used in getting them into the country. "There should be a serious effort to fight it because it affects the economy and citizens. Smuggled drugs unknowingly taken by citizens could either be ineffective or aggravate their diseases." Al-Bakiri added that smuggled drugs are a national problem requiring joint attention from all. Drug smuggling in Aden decreased 70 percent following official concern. President Saleh visited the Ministry of Health and urged all to fight this phenomenon.

Aden customs also plays an important role in catching smuggled drugs. On Dec. 12, customs agents destroyed YR 5 million worth of smuggled and imitation drugs seized May 28, 2005 on a ship arriving in Aden port from Djibouti. With the help of Coast Guards, the drugs were discovered among a shipment of fireworks and other materials.

## Invitation for Bids – IFB#32/05 for the Construction of Assadah Ar Radaee Rural Road

Republic of Yemen  
Rural Access Program  
IDA Credit No. 3514 Yem

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in *Development Business*, issue no. 626 of March 16, 2004.
  - The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of Yemen Rural Access Program and intends to apply part of the part of the proceeds of this Credit to payments under the Contract for the Construction of Assadah Ar Rada'ee. This contract will be jointly financed by the Government of Yemen.
  - The Ministry of Public Works and Highways Rural Access Project Central Management Office now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction of Assadah Al Rada'ee RR (30.8 km) in Ibb Governorate. The construction period is 17 months.
  - Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in Bidding Documents.
  - Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from:  
**The Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH)  
Rural Access Project, Central management Office (RAPCMO)  
Off 60 M Ring Road and Algiers, St., Near Sana'a Expo Center  
Phone/Fax: 00967-01-448109/104/449422  
Fax: 00967-01-448106  
E-mail: rapcmu@y.net.ye  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**
- and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM
- Qualifications requirements include:
    - Average Annual Construction Turnover of similar to the project cost
    - Substantial completion of 1 similar nature project
    - Availability of liquid assets and/or credit facilities US\$550,000.0
    - Availability of the construction equipment
 A margin of preference for eligible national contractors/joint ventures shall be applied.

- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a non refundable fee US\$150 or the equivalent in any freely convertible currency, plus the cost of courier for overseas delivery of US\$50. The method of payment will be cashier's check, or direct deposit. The Bidding Documents will be sent by courier for overseas delivery.
- Bids must be delivered to the address above at or before 11:00 AM, Feb12, 2006. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically 11:00 AM, Feb12, 2006 in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person.
- All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of US\$65,000.0 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

## Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR  
OPINIONHappy New  
Year to all!

**“Y**ou can't challenge nature, you can only come to terms with it.” This was what an old man sitting next to the remains of Dhifair village said. Sad eyes, and panicking calls characterised the catastrophe that took place on Thursday at Dhafir village in Bani Matar District, Sana'a Governorate. Landslides caused by a mountain avalanche destroyed more than 31 houses. Estimations indicate more than 50 dead, and the counter is counting. The tragedy has been exaggerated because of weak infrastructure coupled with the unprepared state of the country's emergency units. Civil defence and emergency forces rushed to the village and yet there was only little that could be done to save lives. “It is beyond our abilities, we need at least 10 days to remove the huge rocks and discover what is beneath them.” Explained one of the search and rescue officers at the site.

Earthquakes and landslides were not on the disaster's management unit's priority agenda. It was thought that Yemen was likely to have disasters relating to floods, droughts, epidemics, even man made disasters such as civil wars and tribal clashes. Yet, the Earthquake Monitoring Center in Dhamar conveyed in more than one occasion that the northern part of Yemen is sitting on a volcanic area and that it is very likely to erupt at any time. It also reported that slides, earthquakes are very likely. However, it's not until something like the Dhamar earthquake in 1981 takes place and villages are swept underground that the information sinks in. Dr. Sha'alan director of the Earthquake Monitoring Center commented to me that: “Earthquakes don't kill people, it is buildings that do.” He was talking about chaotic construction, and that many of the houses built in disaster prone areas do not withstand even the minimum standards either in location or in construction. Fifteen houses of the destroyed village were completely squashed under the rocks because they were located immediately under the broken mountain. There were 8 story mud buildings that turned into dust in a matter of seconds.

The mortality number toll increases every hour especially that the rescue authorities do not have the required manpower or technical expertise to minimize the damage. In some cases rescue authorities do not even have the required common sense to act without causing more damage. “The bulldozers were used too soon before the rescue teams could investigate underneath the big boulders for survivors, we know the authorities meant well, but it was a total mess,” the citizens complained.

With the German's kidnapped at one end of the country and the landslides at the other, the stability of the country is in question again. Yet, in spite of all what happened – and is still happening – the Yemeni people remain of the friendliest people around the world. Quotes from many tourists and foreigners who have visited this peculiar country state, in more than one way, that it is a country worth loving. For Yemen, this is an achievement on its own, and perhaps something to celebrate the New Year with, and to hope that this coming year brings prosperity, joy and especially peace to Yemen and all people around the world. Happy New Year!

Nadia Al-Sakkaf  
Editor-in-Chief



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

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## What the summit could do

**T**he Arab summit is not a magic stick and thus there must be a preparation of its resolutions beforehand. So what is wanted from the summit?

It is said it would consider and study the present situation, that is described as dangerous. Let us consider what elements are of the dangerous situation.

It is agreed that considering the aggravation of terrorist acts has the absolute priority and the growing terror is meant to be that which is connected to movements who has dedicated themselves to defend Islam, as they say. However, in the concept of Israel, and those backing it up, terror includes the Palestinian resistance and the ongoing resistance in Iraq, according to the forces allied to Israel.

Upon this understanding, the summit is required to take urgent measures and present long-term solutions enabling to stop all sorts of “terrorist campaigns”. Nevertheless, it is obvious that the remedy varies according to the nature of the acts described as terrorist, in other words the rightful and the illegal.

With regard to the Palestinian resistance, that is out of the Palestinian authority control, our states are not capable of helping to stop it without obtaining a commitment from Israel and guaranteed by states having close relations with Israel stipulating acceptance of the establishment of a Palestinian state in covering the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and its capital in the eastern part of Al-Quds (Jerusalem). Without that, the Palestinian authority would not be able to convince the Palestinian factions to stop their fighting and neither the Palestinian authority nor the Arab states could impose obedience on those factions by means of oppression, which would inevitably lead to civil war.

Is this what the Israeli government wants?

Regarding the resistance in Iraq, it is out of wisdom to stop accusing the neighbors of inflaming the fire of sedition in this country. More than 90% of resistance in Iraq is composed of Iraqi forces that are anti-occupation and



By: Prof.  
Abdulaziz al-Tarb

opposing the sectarian and ethnic rifts, which the occupation has opened the way for them. Therefore, there must be a radical reconsideration of the Iraqi situation. This could not be possible but with having the Arab League and the Organization of the Islamic Conference in finding solutions within a future perspective, restoring a united Iraq, and spare the region territorial divisions and sectarian loyalties and its being subject to foreign waging.

The terror, described as Islamic, there must be an arbitration of the reason in exploring the causes of its aggravation, regardless of encouragement it used to receive at a certain period. These Islamic “Mujahidines” currents have their power through dependence on what they receive of support or applause from Islamic circles. Since these stances remain as they are, the “Islamic terror” invests them to be active and seek protection with those supporters. There must be an endeavor to separate between the terrorists and the environment convenient for their activity. Such an end could not be attained but by getting rid of the pretexts that make them find support from large Islamic groups. The pretexts that serve this kind of terror are specifically embodied by the large-scale campaign witnessed in the European and particularly the American arena against Islam as a religion, civilization and countries and communities.

The West has to be aware of the dangers of this raging hostile climate in press and political speeches. If this continues in such a rate, it would almost lead to enkindle a war of civilizations in the world. To ward of the fall into this deep abyss it is inevitable to ponder taking wise arrangements to salvage the international peace.

This necessary change would have a strong impact if the upcoming United Nations session is devoted to consider it provided that it would be attended by heads of states and active organizations and to issue a resolute indication for stopping all that would produce accusation or enmity towards the Islamic nation.

## Lebanon: The game of death and love

**W**hen late Jamal Abdul Nasser and some of the Arabs who backed the idea and the strategy of confronting the Zionist entity the State of Israel by forming the Arab coalition countries: Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon before 1967 war, the

response of the Lebanese politicians at that time was that Lebanon is a tourist country with its own specific features and privacies. Consequently, there was no need for the establishment of a military front in this country or in its borders



By: Atif Awad

with the Zionist state, and that the protection of such borders remains the task of its forces and resistance.

The Arab leader Jamal Abdul Nasser welcomed this Lebanese desire, as he was of the opinion that Lebanon, although part of the Arab world, has a unique privacy.

Since its independence in the forties of the last century, Lebanon has been always a unique Arab country with a unique privacy in the Arab region. This led Nasser to say: “Lebanon is the lung of Arabs through which they breath.”

Because of that exceptionality, the

Reduction of foreign military presence in the Middle East, serious support for the internationally-recognized Palestinian right that would not expose Israel's security to any danger, holding an international symposium to tackle the Chechen issue, holding a conference grouping the ASEAN, the Arab League and the Islamic conference to reach a peaceful solution to the issue of Kashmir and to take necessary peaceful and security arrangements to put an end to terrorist bases in Afghanistan and Pakistan, would help achieve the change. Removal and ending those terrorist base also political and economic requirements.

On the other hand, the Islamic countries are called for modernizing their development reality economically and culturally as well as politically. The best groundwork and start for this effort was what the Tunis Arab summit had called for. This was supported by the Algiers summit focusing on civilized actions, developmental efforts and reconciliatory endeavors taking into consideration requisites of the age in organizing our society. This is to be accomplished in the manner leading to revive our society's genuineness represented in a system of values and principles on whose collection the modernity is based. In other words, reason and opinion, action and self-reliance are required. There should be the building of various types of organizations on justice, adoption of social justice among all segments and active and practical solidarity among the societies of the nation. We should follow our predecessors who built the Arab Islamic civilization with hard work and ability to derive the core from previous civilizations as well as open-mindedness towards whatever could be useful the renaissance of our society. Undoubtedly, the most important and greatest principles of our civilization are the stabilization of harmony between peoples and establishment of peace among nations for the sake of dissemination of justice, fraternity and prosperity.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science and an expert in administrative development. He is head of a number of professional associations, such as the Arab Group for Investment and Development.

## Letters to the Editor

**Killings in Radaa**  
I have a very important point to make, I don't know if its any help to the people in Radaa. I sent a letter twice to the al-quds newspaper pleading to the minister of human rights, and the minister of media. I am from Radaa, and there is a very major problem in Radaa, people are killing each other for the cause of revenge (tha'ar) maybe three people die every month. Ms. Amat Alealem Soswah came the united states to look for a person who have been stripped of his human rights, Ms. Soswah should not worry about that in the United States, and go down to Radaa and look at the problems there.

I will break the problems in Radaa for everyone.

(1) the revenge (tha'ar) where three people die in many places in Radaa for example the most of people who died are from Jaya'ah.  
(2) The education, my god that is the worst problem that is any nation faces. Education is very poor in Radaa, people cant read and write, and mostly the student in the elementary school. Kids in the 5th grade can't write a one

has his own government, where a guard has the power to jail someone or release someone. Sometimes, the guard will release a person who is in jail for a murder. Come to the big guys, where they take money left and right from people, for example if you report to the percent that someone is taken your land from you by force, you have to pay money for the officers to go out and look at the situation. Meanwhile we have in Radaa someone called Sultan Al Jayefee, who is in charge of national security, he has no right to jail anyone in the city, but he still does it, and worst he takes people's land by force. I know of one incident where he took a land from three families, and build a big house with a very big yard. There are more than that only if you go down to Radaa and see for yourself.

(3) The education, my god that is the worst problem that is any nation faces. Education is very poor in Radaa, people cant read and write, and mostly the student in the elementary school. Kids in the 5th grade can't write a one

sentence, you just imagine where is this leading us in twenty years. I would love to see any governmental officials visit Radaa and see for themselves.  
Alawi Mohamed  
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**Corruption in The Yemeni banks**  
Thank you for writing a daring article on the corruption and specially in the Watan bank. The embezzlement of yr14.8 billion is a great amount. Actually, the Central Bank of Yemen should have acted a long time ago, when the first embezzlement, started before 3 years in the Aden branch. Who knows, maybe the establishments of the bank, who raised their objection, to the president, may have their hands in this big take. If they are not allowed to travel abroad, maybe the big amount siphoned abroad can be brought back. I think the story of the BCCI is repeating its event again. The law should take firm steps since the prosecutor's office has taken the action.  
Eqbal Sayyani  
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Lebanese were the most allergic to what happens in the Arab land as Lebanon was often charred by the fire of the increasing Arab conflicts, even if such conflicts take place in countries that are geographically far away from Lebanon. Lebanon, due to its geographical situation is considered to be the source for western civilization and cultures, as well as the door that is open for the western communities into the Arab world. The Lebanese people could utilize all such cultures and their intellectual talents in favor of the Arab region.

The antagonist Arabs never left Lebanon alone. They intervened in the Lebanese internal affairs, causing the Lebanese community to lose its unity and made Lebanon a battlefield for Arabs to fight each other. They exploited Lebanon's liberty and its ethnical structure, which also has its influence on the Lebanese structure as a whole. The situation was then converted to fierce battling and civil war between its ethics.

This country (Lebanon) started since then to rebuild itself after fifteen years of bitter fighting. Moreover, it was not only Lebanon that benefited from this experience, but there were other non-Lebanese people who gained their share of the benefit.

Meanwhile, the Arab armies had become unable to drive the Israeli military equipment away, and the Lebanese could, in a wonderful and unique manner, force the Israelis, who were occupying the south of Lebanon, to leave overnight.

But, like the reflective and sensitive mirrors, the situation remained as it was in the past, Lebanon remained the unique structure and the other Arabs never wanted to lift their hands from Lebanon. Whenever the Arab citizen fears the change of force balances in the regions, he/she tends in secrecy to inflame this country with conspiracies. Undoubtedly, Lebanon is not that powerful force, nor was it a wonderful and transparent structure and liberty gate for its nation and beloved population.

O! Arabs, hostile friends, stop your being malicious to Lebanon since you can only master the inflammation of battles and conflicts in the Arab region.

Atif Awad is an Egyptian journalist and a short-story writer residing in Yemen

COMMON  
SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## 2005 in retrospect

**T**he major heartbreaking event in 2005 was the Earthquake in the Indian Subcontinent that left tens of thousands killed and hundreds of thousands, if not millions homeless. This was right after the destructive Tsunami that struck the Western Pacific-Indian Ocean circle extending from Indonesia to the African Coast. In addition there was Hurricane Katrina, which hit the Southern states of the US around the Gulf of Mexico. In the finale, one can see that God still rules supreme in this universe and no matter how much power man can muster up, without any impunity to anyone that they fall on or happen to be around where they fall, it is God's power that is truly invincible and unbeatable. It is added testimony that indeed man is no more than a feeble mortal with limited capabilities and powers. Notwithstanding all the evil that exists in the world and the inclination of evil men to seek and collect all the power they can in this world and assume the role of the domineering and overpowering lords above all other men, there is no comparison between whatever power can be gathered by men and that which can be released by the Al-Mighty, which can erupt in seconds and bring about more destruction – and death than any man could imagine ever inflicting.

This observer watched with interest the dramatic videos made by amateurs who were able to capture some of the devastation brought on by the Tsunami of late last year. Within seconds the seemingly gentle waves that the Earthquake off the Sumatra Coast produced turned major streets of nearby coastal cities into channels for the passage of mighty torrents of ocean water and all the wreckage it has carried with it as the water turned into a horrible monster that has been injected with the power that only nature can put together in split second timing. Last year's catastrophes should once again make it clear to all those who still are fooled by their arrogance and lust for power, that in this universe, there is only one real Power that prevails over all the Cosmos and can easily turn a once boisterous city like New Orleans, Louisiana or Atche, Indonesia into tragic hasbeens. It never occurred to anyone that these cities would could be wiped off the map (See the before and after satellite photos of these two cities).

But men still have their timid illusions that human power is capable of reaching supremacy in this world and thus continue to inflict suffering, pain and death to thousands and even millions of other men (and lots of women, children and old folks), most of whom seek no more than to live normal peaceful lives. How much of a sign does the arrogant have to be given to know that it is really God who will prevail and if men are not ready to live by His just dictates, then he will certainly come up with a way to render His justice as He sees fit. One could not help but wonder how foolish arrogant men are and not take heed of the Power of the Lord. It is now easy to see how it was indeed possible for the sea to split to make way for the Israelites to cross the Red Sea and let the forces of Pharaoh drown without one single survivor. One can also see that it is indeed possible that the Deluge of Noah was a reality and those who persisted in their arrogance, including Noah's defiant son, were easily brought to their end.

The Middle East in 2005 continued to be enmeshed in uncertainty as the “War on Terror” continues to be used as an excuse for turning the region towards an unpredictable course. So now, we have assassinations becoming a way of life. Prime Ministers, politicians of various levels, journalists – most of whom were actually good folk – all were targeted to drive the region into state of friction that will see no end as the various factions at play point their fingers at whoever they see as drawbacks to their own agendas for dominance. But, why should millions of people be left to uncertain fates, just so some evil monsters think they are given Divine authority to reek havoc on this planet relying on myths that have no moral substance and are contrary to all the dictates of the Lord as revealed by the long series of messengers and prophets. Surely the work of the latter could not have been in vain. When one talks and now communicate with most common folk throughout the world, one is comforted by the fact that indeed most people find sufficient grounds for abiding by the dictates of the Lord, and these people are of all different religious persuasions or political inclinations. Yes, there is really more good in people than our world would seem to show, but it is with people whose destiny is also subject to the wretchedness of the very few in this world, who insist that human destiny should be the simulated models they draw up in their computers or the econometric models that best serve the interests of those that believe that the bounties of the Earth were only endowed to them by the Creator, and thus seek to steer the world and mankind towards fulfilling their mundane ambitions. Never mind that this could be at the cost of thousands of human lives. Nor does it matter that thousands of schoolchildren everyday will be forced to live under an aura of fear of bombs falling on their head.

My suggestion for Man of the Year is divided between two personalities. The first is Ariel Sharon for “withdrawing” from Gaza only to turn it into an all out war zone by year end, where the Israeli planes, drones and other war machinery can have an open field to drop their ordnances without fear of possibly landing on any Israelis. So, the man of peace is continuing not to fool anyone but being his true self as always. Now Gaza is still making headlines everyday.

The other “candidate” are really a collection of great leaders, who have truly turned the meaning of democracy to imply, the perpetual tyranny of Arab dictatorships continued under a democratic agenda! This is notwithstanding the lesson to be learned from the demise of the Iraqi benevolent dictator Saddam Hussein, who like them still insists on being called the “President of the Republic for life, and thereafter”, just like the rest of his colleagues, who have taken democratic rule a step further as they also insist that they can have their children as heirs to the throne of the “duly elected President”. The new meaning of democracy is now “refined despotic monarchy”. Well if George Bush the Elder can do it, why can't they? From the Atlantic to the Gulf, we are really making progress aren't we?

The saying of the year goes to Bothaina Sha'aban of the Lebanese Daily Star who commented on some of Condoleezza Rice's recent lectures on terrorism and democracy by saying: “The strategy of making ‘democratic peace’ has fallen short of incorporating an essential concept: denouncing occupation. How can ‘democratic peace’ be established in the Middle East while Israel continues to occupy Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese lands?” She adds later: “The existence of a few, whose rage against oppression and humiliation has been derailed into terrorism, should not stigmatize the entire region. Alternatives can still be found. Oppression and injustice breed anger and terrorism; only a strategy that seeks justice, equality, freedom and the end of occupation can truly achieve democratic peace.”

A Happy and democratic (not Arab genre) New Year to all!



# Yemen Press Review

Review by: Mohammed Khidhr

الطريق Attariq weekly, 27 Dec.2005.

**Main headlines**

- Expected changes include governors, undersecretaries & government institutions
- Trial postponement of a Yemeni returned from Guantanamo
- Sana'a Forum for cooperation summit in Aden
- Aden journalists reject the new press draft law
- Casualties of confrontations in Saada prison increase

Columist Fadhli Ali Abdullah discusses in an article the question of judiciary independence saying corruption of judiciary means corruption of public life and loss of human rights as well as increase of injustice against the people. The existence of decent and independent judiciary means the realization of justice and equality and guarantee of human rights as thus all would be equal before the law. This creates a feeling with the ordinary citizen of the importance of affiliation to the homeland as being a citizen entertaining all rights and imposed on him the same duties.

Proceeding from this, the state is obliged to provide necessary and enough financial resources to enable the legislative power to perform its work in an impartial and decent way. Since the judiciary independence is the basis for any political reform in any state, we in Yemen are in great need to struggle for the achievement of this condition as a foundation for any reform. Therefore we call on all political, legal and judicial activities to work for the realization of this goal due to its importance and necessity. There is no reform without fair and independent and no justice without a judge deciding among people according to the law. Here is no homeland without decent and independent judiciary.

Annas weekly, 26 Dec. 2005.

**Main headlines**

- Armed clashes inside the central prison in Saada
- Traffic accidents, an undeclared

- war
- Sheikh Hussein Bin Abdullah Al-Ahmar: The GPC elections political liquidation, we may declare a new party
- Yemeni journalists refuse the new pres draft law
- Weaving and textile workers and motorcyclists gather in front of parliament building

On the JMP initiative writer Mohammed Hamoud Al-Arabi says in an article the Yemeni government often praises the Yemeni democratic experiment in the authority direct address and via the official media. However, the situation changes if someone criticizes this democracy or came up with something different than this sham democracy and then the freedom of expression and the other opinion are forgotten. At this point the government media change into armored vehicles and rockets to attack those of the other opinion.

When parties of the JMP declared their initiative for the political reform the government media declared a pitched war on that initiative as if it were a conspiracy although it is quite correct. The reaction to the initiative has disclosed falsity of the democracy the authority alleges. If the authority is democratic why does not it push aside calling names and put the initiative to the people referendum to decide? What the people would then decide would be the right.

The JMP initiative for the political reform did not ask a miracle from the government, but rather a request for correcting mistakes that represent 90% of causes of the deteriorated situation in Yemen.

Al-Wasat weekly, 28 Dec. 2005.

**Main headlines**

- Fierce battles between Al-Houthi followers and government forces
- Chairman of Rights and Freedoms Committee at the Shoura council Al-Taib: The press law is not Koran; the Shoura has not studied it yet
- Parliamentary report confirms contradiction of the 2006 budget of development plans, recommends its approval
- Fighting terror administration

entrusted with interrogation with Watani Bank board of directors

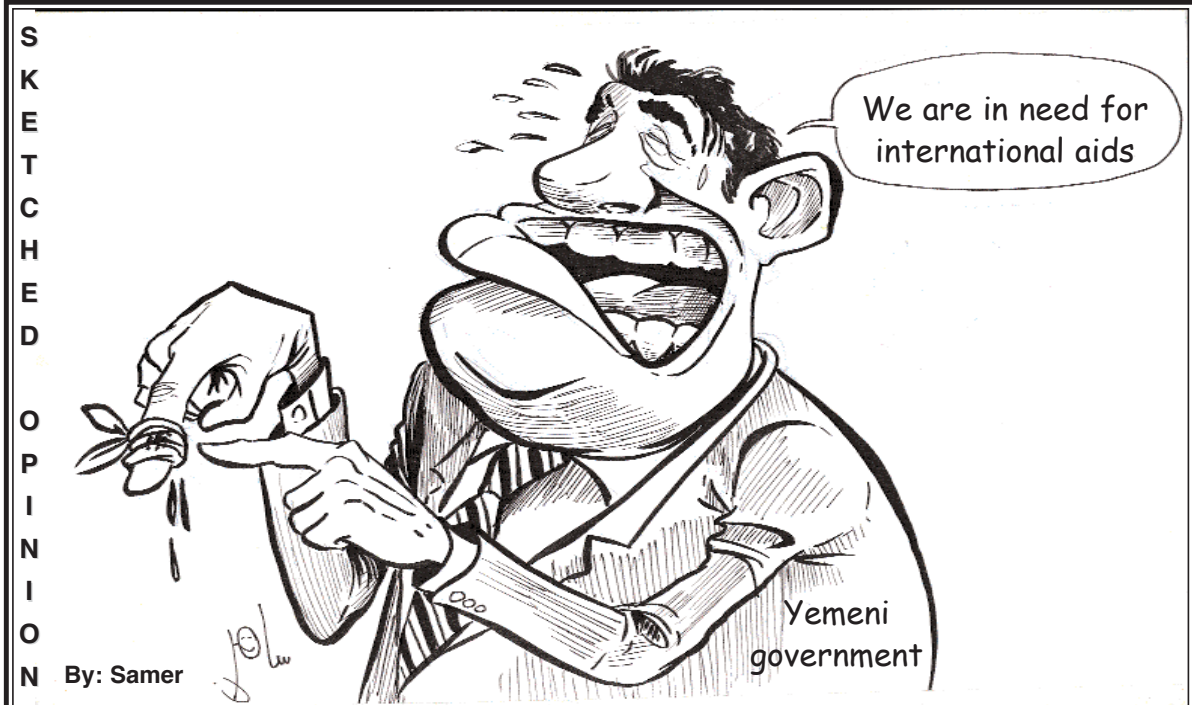
On the JMP initiative writer Ahmed Saleh Ghaleb al- Faqieh says in his article the difference between the initiative launched by the JMP and the program of the General People's Congress conference is similar to the difference between two parallel lines. The JMP initiative has pinpointed the essence of the problems from which the country is suffering, mainly the large authorities the president of the republic entertains in the absence of any accountability. It called for ending the role of the autocratic ruler and converting the political system into a parliamentary one where the executive power would be collective in the hands of the elected government formed by the party scoring the majority of the parliament seats or a coalition government of two or more parties. The initiative has also demanded independence of the judiciary, independence of significant apparatuses such as the central bank and the auditing authority.

As for the program of the GPC program and despite of its containing of a number of demands stipulated in the JMP initiative regarding the conversion of the Shoura Council into an elected one and lection of governorates governors, it was full of slogans and void of mechanisms.

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 27 Dec.2005.

**Main headlines**

- Seven prisoners killed in Saada central prison
  - World Bank: Situation in Yemen would not improve
  - Yemen refuses receiving a Saudi airplane in Aden
  - Yemeni journalists reject government-coined draft press law
  - South-West Court of Sana'a rules in favor of Al-Wahdawi newspaper
  - Budget of 2006: Squander of public property and enhancement of corruption phenomenon
- Columist Ahmed Saeed writes about the GCC summits and says there is no hope to be awaited in taking political stands serving the nation by the GCC. Since its establishment of this regional grouping in 198. It seems that the Saudi



regime hegemony remained as it is in serving policies of the United States of America in the Arab region and this constitutes the reason behind its ineffectiveness. Concerning the goals upon which the grouping was founded 25 years ago, such as security and political cooperation and economic coordination, nothing it could achieve. There is no economic partnership or coordination and no security or political cooperation or coordination. Maybe the only thing this grouping has succeeded in is preoccupying its members in the sport side after the Desert Shield has disappeared. The six states composing the GCC are in possession of lakes of oil, minerals and energy exceeding what the world possesses but nonetheless they remained in a state of industrial and economic backwardness.

It appears the future role of this Gulf grouping is confined to as what the Qatari Dr Mohammed al-Musfir has said, "The job of the GCC has now come to its end after the occupation of Iraq and it has now another task," to perform.

Al-Balagh weekly, 27 Dec.2005.

**Main headlines**

- Prisoners in Saada disclose what they were exposed to inside the central prison
- The president promises to reconsider the verdicts against Al-Dailami and Muftah
- Confrontations continued with army tanks, Army troops continue attacking the Al-Rahba-Al Salem area in Saada

World Bank director in Sana'a: The Yemeni people have increase their cry to gain their rights

Hudeidah teachers stage sit-in in protest to not receiving their salaries for November

The newspaper editor in chief writes an article saying last week the attack was renewed on Mran Mountains where followers of the scholar Badrudin Al-Houthi settle and bloodbath has begun anew, as if the two-year old bloodshed is with no value.

It was expected that the events were to stop after the end of the first confrontations in the mountains of Mran in Saada governorate. It was out of wisdom for the evens to stop there and then. Nevertheless, what happened was something different. The prisons are still crowded with Al-Houthi followers, and the father of Hussein Al-Houthi, who was living in Sana'a, has

because of politics, become a runaway in the mountains. Supporters of the Al-Houthi the son have become followers of the father. Continuation of these events would inflame fire and we have begun to hear about persons go to the mountains in defense of the scholar Al-Houthi.

It is incorrect that blood is shed for an opinion, whatever it is and there should not be fighting against Al-Houthi and his followers just because they adopt ideas different from ours. Killing should not continue for two years whatever the reasons are. Time has now come to have this war machine stopped and peace to prevail the governorate of Saada. Let the people of this governorate enjoy stability and advocate of any opinion has the right to security and stability. It is no permissible in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that lives are taken out and blood is shed just because of ideas.

**SILVER LINING**  
By: Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi  
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## Kidnapping and absence of law

The world has welcomed New Year 2006 with a lot of SMART thinking and strategic plans to avoid the mistakes and shortcomings of the past year. This happens everywhere at state and individual levels. Unfortunately in Yemen, we welcome the New Year with a heavy burden of challenges and problems we cannot overcome or avoid, even if small and easily challenged.

Last week, five Germans were kidnapped in Shabwa for the same stupid reason as previous kidnappings of Swiss and Austrian citizens - the demand to release prisoners.

Tribesmen began this practice in 1993 and after stopping for some years, the problem now is back. The most important question, which might be silly to some, is why do tribesmen kidnap foreigners?

There is no doubt that security and justice officials' indifference to tribal problems is a very important reason behind the problem. Some of these officials act in an irresponsible way towards citizens and their concerns. Take, for instance, the latest kidnapping of a German family. The kidnappers, from Al-Abdullah tribe, have a big tribal vengeance problem with the Al-Raid tribe. Security officials, including the interior minister, are fully aware of this issue, but have done nothing to sort it out and stop the bloodshed.

Previously, the political regime stooped to blackmailing tribesmen and paying them to free tourists. This encouraged some tribesmen to consider it a profitable business. Later, when the problem accelerated, a law was issued criminalizing the practice. Some kidnappers were

tried and convicted; however, the political regime, which cherishes tribal norms and does not believe itself under the rule of law, challenged the court verdict and ordered the convicts' release. This is complete lawlessness and lack of respect for the judiciary. What will be the reaction of the convicts and their tribe? Will they respect the state and its laws? Of course not, as this shows them the judiciary and its decisions are just puppets at the hands of those in charge.

I laughed when I heard the Minister of Culture say that some foreign country might be behind the kidnapping of the Germans and that the kidnappers' demand to release their jailed relatives is nonsense and unjustified. Yes, the demands are not justifiable, but claiming a conspiracy is a completely stupid excuse we are fed up hearing.

On the contrary, it is the political regime and the government which must be held accountable for this kidnapping problem's acceleration and the state of chaos and lawlessness. This regime respects and enforces laws in some regions, while putting them aside in other tribal areas. Law should be respected by all, despite their social position.

Do not believe the lie that kidnapping is a nice experience that foreigners go through and like and thus, it encourages other tourists to flow into the country. This also is stupid, as kidnapping has hit tourism and caused great loss in this sector. Yemen is full of historical sites and beautiful landscapes and therefore, can be a good tourist attraction if those in charge do something to boost it, starting with security. Don't you think so? Happy New Year to all.

# Iran's Nuclear Zealot

By: Kenneth R. Timmerman

With negotiations over Iran's nuclear program looming once again, understanding Iran's new president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is critically important. Perhaps the best place to start is the moment the world first gained a glimpse of Ahmadinejad's character and headline program.

When President Ahmadinejad addressed the United Nations in New York last September, he suddenly felt himself surrounded by light. It wasn't the stage lighting, he said. It was light from heaven. Ahmadinejad related his otherworldly experience in a videotaped meeting with a prominent Ayatollah in Tehran. A transcript of his comments and sections of the video-tape wound up on a hard-line, pro-regime website, baztab.com.

According to the transcript, Ahmadinejad said that a member of his entourage at the UN meeting first told him of the light. "When you began with the words 'In the name of God'... I saw a light coming, surrounding you and protecting you to the end [of the speech]." Ahmadinejad confirmed sensing a similar presence. "I felt it myself, too, that suddenly the atmosphere changed and for 27-28 minutes the leaders could not blink...They had their eyes and ears open for the message from the Islamic Republic," he told Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli.

Ahmadinejad's "vision" at the UN

could be dismissed as political posturing if it weren't for a string of similar statements and actions that suggest he believes that he is destined to bring about the "End Times" - the end of the world - by paving the way for the return of the Shia Muslim messiah. Given that Iran continues to pursue suspect nuclear programs, which could bring the Islamic Republic dangerously close to weapons capability, a leader with messianic visions is worrying. After all, this is the same man who recently pledged to use Iran's newfound powers to "wipe Israel off the map" and to "destroy America."

In a November 16 speech in Tehran to senior clerics who had come from all over Iran to hear him, the new president said that the main mission of his government was to "pave the path for the glorious reappearance of Imam Mahdi (May God Hasten His Reappearance)." The mystical 12<sup>th</sup> Imam of Shia Islam disappeared as a child in 941 CE, and Shia Muslims have awaited his reappearance ever since, believing that when he returns, he will reign on earth for seven years, before bringing about the Last Judgment and the end of the world.

In order to prepare for the Mahdi, Ahmadinejad said, "Iran should turn into a mighty, advanced, and model Islamic society." Iranians should "refrain from leaning toward any Western school of thought" and abstain from "luxurious lives" and other excesses.

Three months into Ahmadinejad's presidency, his views of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam are being widely discussed in Tehran.

According to one rumor, as mayor of Tehran, Ahmadinejad drew up a new city plan for the Imam's return.

In recent weeks, Ahmadinejad's aides have denied another rumor that he ordered his cabinet to write a pact of loyalty with the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam and throw it down a well near the holy city of Qom, where some believe the Imam is hiding. Those who give credence to the rumor point to an early decision of his cabinet to allocate \$17 million to renovate the Jamkaran mosque, where devotees of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam have prayed for centuries.

Similarly, reports in government media outlets in Tehran have quoted Ahmadinejad as having told regime officials that the Hidden Imam will reappear in two years. This proved too much for one Iranian legislator, Akbar Alami, who publicly questioned Ahmadinejad's judgment, saying that even Islam's holiest figures have never made such claims.

While many Shia Muslims worship the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam, a previously secret society of powerful clerics, now openly advising the new president, are transforming these messianic beliefs into government policies. Led by Ayatollah Mesbah Yazdi, who frequently appears with the Ahmadinejad, the Hojatieh society is considered by many Shia as the lunatic fringe. During the early years of the Islamic Revolution, even Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini found their beliefs too extreme and sent them scurrying underground.

As devotees of the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam, the Hojatieh believe that only great tribulation will warrant his coming. Akin in some ways to Lenin's doctrine that worsening social conditions would hasten revolution, the Hojatieh believe that only increased violence, conflict, and oppression will bring the Mahdi's return.

Since taking office last August, Ahmadinejad has installed Hojatieh devotees in his cabinet and throughout the bureaucracy. The Ministry of Information and Security (MOIS), largely sidelined by former President Mohammed Khatami, has re-emerged as a powerful repressive force, using plain-clothes agents, allied with the paramilitary Bassij and non-government vigilantes, to crack down on potential opponents of the regime.

As the world prepares to confront an Iranian regime that continues to defy the International Atomic Energy Agency on its nuclear programs, we must listen to what Iran's leaders say as we watch what they do. A religious zealot with nuclear weapons is a dangerous combination the world cannot afford to tolerate.

Kenneth R. Timmerman is Executive Director of the Foundation for Democracy in Iran, www.iran.org, and author of Countdown to Crisis: The Coming Nuclear Showdown with Iran.

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# Smuggling in Yemen

*Smuggling is a worrying phenomenon in Yemen. It includes illegal trading and smuggling of goods, expired food items and drugs, antiquities, weapons and even smuggling of human beings.*

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

The Ministry of Industry and Trade in Yemen has lately disclosed that large quantities of goods spread in markets were smuggled illegally into the country. Consequently this exposes the people to various dangers such as expired goods or those invalid for human consumption. Quality assurance officers at the Ministry Industry informed the Yemen Times that the Ministry, in cooperation with a number of concerned authorities, is currently studying a number of policies to target the problem during 2006. They revealed that 30% of the total goods available in the local market are smuggled, among which are some medicines.

The Quality officials added that the policies the Ministry intends to carry out during 2006 include the establishment of new monitoring mechanisms to supervise the countries borders across which the goods are thought to be smuggled. The policies include supervising the available goods in the local markets with the help of citizens and some merchants.

The latest information on smug-

gling activities was that border security forces on Saudi-Yemeni borders had foiled a smuggling operation of six bazooka launchers and eleven bombs. The smugglers tried to bring them into the country a few days ago. Smuggling mafias are greatly active and increasing on the Yemeni Saudi border areas, and even women take part in such operations. Various methods are used in smuggling operations using domestic animals like donkeys, sheep, goats and other animals for carrying smuggled items. The Saudi border security in Najran confirmed that they had seized large quantities of wires used in blasting and dynamites in different boarder areas, in addition to short-range shoulder-mounted bazookas.

Moreover, Saudi border guard patrols had earlier found quantities of liquors in areas under control authority of Lijam and Al-Sah border stations. The smugglers seemed to abandon the items there for fear of being caught. Commander of border guards in Saqam sector general Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Zahrani confirmed that the boarder guards could not arrest the smugglers who had fled the area after they sensed that their plan was discovered.

#### Smuggling of oil products

Yemen has recently announced that smuggling mafias are smuggling oil products from Yemen to neighboring countries in the region of the Horn of

Africa. The increase in fuel prices that had taken place July 2005 aimed at curbing smuggle of subsidized oil products, among other purposes. Before this price hike, smuggling of oil products had become a phenomenon exhausting millions of dollars from the state treasury. Now the government has to monitor fuel stations and other providers of oil products and ensure products are not being smuggled outside the country. The Ministry of Industry is also discussing with relevant authorities at the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Oil plans to activate the role of law and the issuing of severe punishments against violating fuel stations owners.

The penalties suggested range from fines and temporary closure of the fuel stations to canceling their licenses and permanent closure and detention. Measures cover oil tankers, vehicles and ships in which oil products are transported.

#### Smuggling of children

A more dangerous aspect of smuggling is that of Yemeni children, some of who are no more than seven years old. Boys and girls are smuggled across the Saudi borders with their parents consent. The smuggled children are generally of poor families with large members. The families hope that their children through getting into the Saudi territories would be able to get small jobs and send their families money. In many times the



children land up as beggars or other petty work. However, thousands of such children are regularly captured by Saudi authorities and repatriated back to Yemen. Smuggling of children is attributed to the degrading poverty Yemenis are living in, especially the residents of the governorate of Haja near the borders of Saudi Arabia.

A study by the Yemeni Center for Social Studies pointed out that the growing phenomenon of smuggling children represents an indirect out-

come of the Gulf war of 1991. The study emphasized that "because of the Yemeni government opposition of Saudi Arabia cooperation with the United States of America and its allies" to expel Saddam Hussein from Kuwait, Riyadh had expelled numerous Yemeni workers from their jobs. And since then it has become difficult to obtain jobs in Saudi Arabia in legal ways.

What aggravates the problem, according to UNICEF, is that the

Yemeni law does not directly include human smuggling and consequently when children smugglers are caught they could be immediately released. Therefore the first task would be to amend the concerned laws. In addition to the abasing poverty is among the major causes of children smuggling, the Yemeni fragile education system is another cause. Although theoretically, education in Yemen is free and compulsory since the age of six, the reality is completely the opposite.

## Budget Rent a Car begins operations in Sana'a this month

"We have had a number of inquiries from people wanting us to set up an office for operations in Yemen. There has been immense interest in our work from potential clients within the country. The Middle East region as a whole is expanding and the economies of the various countries are doing very well, so we decided why not?" explained regional director of Middle East and Africa, Budget Rent a Car, Robin Borton.

The new operation will begin with a fleet of 20 Toyota vehicles. "We will be promoting the new operation



through the company's partnerships with Saudi Arabian Airlines, Emirates, Qater Airways and Visa cards, as well as through our reservation offices. We will also advertise locally and provide special offers through our regional reservation offices," added Borton

## Study: Working women's contribution in economy is not recognized

A recent social study has revealed the extent of injustice inflicted on Yemeni woman, especially those in the rural areas. Research and national reports reveal that Yemeni women in countryside work very hard and generally without remuneration or recognition of her role or economic contribution. Rural women's income generating is not registered in the national economy and they are not included in the organized labor sector. Moreover, working Yemeni women, suffer from the double burden of bearing both productive and reproductive responsibilities. A study

on working women's conditions in Yemen, prepared by Dr Sukaina Ahmed Mohammed from Sana'a University presented recently at the regional forum of the rural woman, disclosed that the presence of the woman at work was still mediocre and modest to a great extent.

There are around 890,110 workingwomen in Yemen, equaling 25% of the labor force over the age of 15. Unfortunately 62% of those women (about 550,667) are unpaid laborers generally working in the farms or family business.

He study also reveals that the percentage of unemployed women who are able to work reaches 24.6%

of the total unemployment rate. Around 9.3% of the employed women work in the public sector, whereas 49.7% work in the agricultural and fishing industries of the private sector. Women working in education do not exceed 4.3% of the educational work force while 2.6% work in conversion industries. The study also unveiled that only one out of four women in the rural areas receive health care. And only 22% of deliveries take place under medical supervision and only 27% of the rural pregnant rural women avail prenatal health services. Only 61% of the women with venereal disease received medical treatment, whereas 39% of those

infected women did not receive medical advice because of financial, geographical obstacles or due to social constraints. Poor living conditions in the rural areas, as indicated by the report, increase women's susceptibility of suffering from multi diseases such as anemia, kidney and contagious ills.

The study concluded that the most prominent of challenges working Yemeni woman are facing are: the cultural constraints against accepting working women in the organized sector, unfriendly and inconvenient working environment, and absence of protection against harassment and discriminative practices.

# Let's get real about money

By: Robert J. Shiller

Throughout the world, people suffer from a serious perception error that has inhibited them from taking concrete steps to protect themselves from inflation or deflation. The error is called the "money illusion" – the belief that a nominal unit of currency is the best measure of value, even though its real value is unstable.

Historically, failure to protect against inflation or deflation has helped spur calamitous outcomes. When spectacular inflation hit Germany in 1923, it wiped out the real value of the (unhedged and unindexed) life savings and social-security benefits of millions of people, whose anger contributed to the rise of Nazism.

Similarly, spectacular deflation in many countries around the world in the early 1930's magnified the real value of (unhedged and unindexed) debts, leading to millions of defaults and widespread bank failures. Deflation also magnified the real value of wages and salaries, thereby fueling layoffs and unemployment.

Failure to hedge or index brought us the Great Depression. Much of Japan's economic malaise in recent years also reflects (unhedged and unindexed) debts magnified by deflation since 1999.

In 2003, an IMF study raised the specter of Japan-like problems around the world, and listed thirteen countries, including, China, Germany, Singapore, and Poland, with a moderate to high risk of deflation. Yet, in the face of overwhelming evidence of the importance of inflation or deflation risk, most people – even in countries that have been warned – generally still have not taken steps to protect themselves.

Given widespread apathy about changes in consumer prices, the modest success of a new market to hedge inflation risk, the European inflation futures market at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), is noteworthy. Since September, this new market has traded the Eurozone's Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices, or HICP – a contract that traders call the "hiccup." By purchasing or selling it, companies and individuals can

protect themselves against losses stemming from changes in the value of their currency.

The open interest recently was 355 contracts, with a notional value of \$355 million. This is a real beginning, and we should encourage such contracts to grow in order to help billions of people hedge their inflation and deflation risks. But this promising start follows a long trail of failures to create inflation futures, owing to the public's lack of interest.

This failure can be explained only by the money illusion, which ultimately is connected with what psychologists call "framing." How a concept is framed, the context and associations with which it is presented, affect human judgments enormously. A tax called a "death tax" is regarded very differently from a tax called an "inheritance tax," even though the two are really identical. The money illusion occurs because we are accustomed to economic values almost always being framed in terms of money.

For years, I have been arguing that national governments should take some simple steps to reframe economic quantities and help the

public overcome the money illusion. They could merely create an indexed unit of account to replace currency for measuring economic quantities and defining prices. The unit would be nothing more than a consumer price index, given a simple name, and published daily, so that people could use this unit and its name to quote prices in real terms. This would help reframe public thinking, which is all a government really needs to do. It would be easy and virtually costless.

Indexed units of account are not a new idea; Chile's government led the way in 1967 by creating the *Unidad de Fomento* (UF), and other Latin American countries have followed suit. Despite the unit's technical-sounding name, people in Chile seem to have learned to think in terms of the UF instead of the peso for important contracts.

Following Chile's example, governments also could redefine the tax system in terms of the units of account rather than currency. That way, people who fill out tax forms would have to learn the units of account. As a side benefit, the tax system would be automatically, fully, and transparently indexed to

inflation.

In my 2003 book *The New Financial Order*, I proposed that such units be called "baskets," since a consumer price index is the price of a representative market basket of goods and services. That name is very simple, and it conveys a new conceptual framing: by promising to pay someone so many baskets at a future date, one is promising to pay in market baskets of goods and services. Of course, the actual payment will be made in ordinary currency at the contemporaneous exchange rate, based on the consumer price index, between baskets and the currency.

What if people really got used to expressing quantities in baskets? Wouldn't futures contracts sound completely different if they were reframed as contracts for "baskets" instead of "hiccups?" A futures market for the complete market basket that consumers buy certainly rings with importance.

Ultimately, the advance of information technology will be the salvation of ideas like the CME's inflation futures market and indexed units of account. Inflation futures

appear to be gaining hold in part because the new contract is traded on an efficient electronic market (the Globex system) that allows futures contracts to get going without the initial splash that is required by open-outcry pit-based futures markets.

Indeed, this is also why an American exchange can make a market for European inflation; with new information technology, it no longer matters where people live. This should help popularize indexed units of account, too, since computer technology can now handle all the calculations involved in translating them into currency. The sooner this happens, the sooner one more scourge of financial instability will be behind us.

*Robert J. Shiller is Professor of Economics at Yale University, director at Macro Securities Research LLC, which he co-founded (see [macromarkets.com](http://macromarkets.com)), and author of *Irrational Exuberance* and *The New Financial Order: Risk in the 21st Century*.*

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# Dr. Prasad: "Al-Raheena" inspired me to translate it

Indian national Dr. Jyotsana K. Prasad recently translated the late Zaid Muttee' Dammaj's novel, "Al-Raheena," (also known as "Bandhak") into Hindi.

Prasad is a creative writer who lives in Ibb with her husband, Dr. Anil K. Prasad. She has written Hindi novels, short stories and poems that have been published and praised in India, Yemen and abroad. Roger Humes, editor at Literati Magazine in the U.S., commented on her poems, "I believe she is one of the great unknown treasures of the form in the West. I find her work to be stunning." Her book about Yemen, written in Hindi, "Yemen: An Introduction," awaits publication. She is a honorary member of the International Writers and Artists Association, USA. The following interview with Yemen Times records her experiences while translating "Al-Raheena," the "cornerstone" of modern Arabic fiction and the "splendid work" of Arabic literature, as she described the Novel.



Dr. Jyotsana K. Prasad, translator of Al-Raheena into Hindi

**YT - Could you please tell us about yourself briefly?**

Prasad: I'm an Indian citizen. I live in the city of Ibb with my husband, Dr. Anil K. Prasad. I came to Yemen in 1992. Since then, I have been living in Ibb because my husband works at the university here. Of course, we go home every year for two months.

**YT - What motivated you to translate "Al-Raheena" (The Hostage) into Hindi?**

Prasad: Please allow me to tell you that I'm not a professional translator. Since I'm not a professional translator, I am not motivated by the material aspect of it but by the idea, the idea of "me" doing something meaningful, something creative which would save me from wasting my time and creative energy. My husband is away from home at work, usually from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. So I found this time very useful for creative work. It started something like that, and then it took another turn because of my interest in the style of the novel. I wrote my doctoral dissertation on the prose style of a very great Hindi writer named Nirala. He is better known as a poet, but his novels and other prose writings are remarkable for their style, so I did stylistic study of his prose writings. Thirdly, the story of "Al-Raheena" inspired me to translate it. Before I started translating this novel, I was busy writing a book on Yemen. I was aware of many of the historical events and this helped me understand the background against which this novel is written. The story has many layers of meaning and it is told in a very interesting way. Fourthly, I was encouraged by an urge to present this novel to readers of the Hindi language, to give them something great and a novel that has been praised by so many literary scholars of the Arab world. And finally, I was motivated by the desire to satisfy myself, meaning self-satisfaction. Now I feel happy. It is a great feeling.

**YT - Have you met the author of the novel, the late Zaid Muttee' Dammaj?**

Prasad: Unfortunately not. In those days, he was unwell and we could not

meet him. But I have heard a lot about him and read about his writings.

**YT - As you know, the novel tells about a particular historical period in Yemen. Have you seen any relationship between Yemen, as seen in the novel, and India that encouraged you in this translation?**

Prasad: In Indian literature, I don't think I've come across something like this, but I cannot claim that I've read all. It is like a vast ocean, maybe because the political system in India was different. India was under British colonial domination and in Hindi and literary works written in many other Indian languages, there are descriptions of the oppressive British Raj. The novels of Vaikkam Mohammed Basheer, Tarashakar Badopadhyaya and Fakir Mohan Senapati can be mentioned in this regard. It was a different kind of exploitation and has been depicted, directly or indirectly in Hindi novels, "Balchanma" and "Baba Batesamath," by Nagarjun, Krishna Sobti's "Zindiginama" and Mridula Garg's "Anitya." During the British period, the form of exploitation was different. It was based on a system in which feudal lords and moneylenders were important connivers with the administrative machinery of the British Raj. The British Raj used to intimidate the 'zamindars' (feudal lords) and in turn, the zamindars used to exploit their subjects.

**YT - What difficulties did you face during translation?**

Prasad: Actually, I encountered many difficulties on different levels. When we read a literary work, we enjoy it but to translate a work into another language is always a difficult task because it is not only a literal translation, it is a literary translation in which the words carry various types of connotations. It requires utmost care on the part of the translator to understand them and then render them into the target language. In order to enable readers to understand cultural shades and differences of meaning, the Hindi

translation of "Al-Raheena" has lots of footnotes. I am basically a creative writer, so I have tried to be as faithful as possible to the language and style of the original in translating "Al-Raheena." This took a long time and lots of effort because literary translation is a difficult job. It is very demanding to translate the cultural implications and nuances. It was a difficult task for me to keep a sense of balance between the narrative voice, the multiplicity of voices, the dialogues and the chorus of the guards while translating the novel into Hindi. One example is the scene toward the end of the novel when Duedar Hali is being buried and after the burial takes place. The entire story is told in the first person narrative by the young hostage who is also the subject of suffering for three reasons: owing to his position as a "slave" (this is what he thinks), on account of the disease and death of his friend and because of his ambivalent obsession for the woman he loves. We the readers know all these through the narrator, the young hostage, who finally escapes into the world of freedom for which he longs. He is the one who suffers and he is the one through whose point of view we read the story. Another example which comes to my mind is the scene when, on his arrival, the young hostage is introduced to the women of the palace. Firstly, the names of relations are different in Hindi, as they are in Arabic, unlike in English and secondly, this introduction scene is meaningful in the total thematic structure of the novel. The difficulty was how to capture in another language, how to express in another language the things which are unsaid, which are between the lines. Similarly, the case with the chorus of the guards sometimes seems that it is used to tease the young hostage, but it is significant to deepen the novel's pathos for the young hostage, the narrator. The problem is how to connect it with different events in the novel. Perhaps it would be too simplistic to understand it as a narrative technique used merely to arouse sympathy for a young boy separated from his family.

In my mind, this is one of the serious problems a translator invariably encounters.

**YT - Who published the Hindi version of the novel? How many issues have been published? Will the Hindi version be available in Yemeni markets?**

Prasad: The book has been published in Patna by Aniljyo Prakashan. This is the first edition. I don't know whether it will be available in Yemeni markets, but it certainly will be available in libraries of Yemen's educational institutions. As I mentioned earlier, we are not interested in the monetary aspect of it but in its literary value.

**YT - How did Hindi readers react to the novel or is it still too early to know this?**

Prasad: Yes, it is too early to know this. The book has yet to be released in India. It came off the press after I returned to Yemen following summer vacation. Some copies have been sent to important Hindi scholars of national stature for their comments.

**YT - What was your husband's role in the translation process?**

Prasad: As I said, my husband appreciates my literary activities. I am really grateful to him for his support, encouragement and guidance, without which this translation of "Al-Raheena" would not have been possible. During translation, he offered a number of suggestions and read the manuscript. I am a housewife here and I don't have any literary circle. It was through his help that I found solutions to some problems I came across during translation. He also made me aware of what others have said about "Al-Raheena," both Yemeni and non-Yemeni Arabic scholars. This is how I came to know I was engaged in translating a great Arabic novel.

**YT - Did you have any difficulty finding "Al-Raheena" in Arabic and English in Yemeni bookshops?**

Prasad: I didn't get them from bookshops. I got the English translation from my husband and I have a copy of the original presented to me by the Dammaj family. Before that, I got the Arabic novel through my husband from Ibb University library.

**YT - Are you thinking of translating any other Yemeni literature?**

Prasad: Any work I do, I like to do with seriousness and sincerity. As a creative writer, when translating a work, the first person I want to satisfy is myself in the sense that my translation should not differ on any point from the original. It should not be a mistranslation and therefore a misrepresentation of culture. As a result, I am going to put forth more time and effort than I usually put into my own work. I already have stated why I translated "Al-Raheena." I did it not for any other consideration except to satisfy the wish of my literary soul. If there is another literary work as powerful and appealing as this, I certainly will think about translating it.

**More coverage on the Hindi translation of Al-Raheena on back page.**

**The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 6**

*Translated by Edward FitzGerald*

**And David's lips are lock't;  
but in divine  
High piping Pehlevi, with  
"Wine! Wine! Wine!"  
"Red wine!"- the nightingale  
cries to the rose  
That yellow cheeks of hers to  
incarnadine.**

## Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah

### The Full Poetic Collection 3/4

**Author:** Ali Abdul-Rahman Jahhaf  
**Language:** Arabic  
**Publisher:** Ministry of Culture and Tourism  
**Year Published:** 2004

In the second part of his poetry collection, the reader gets a greater look at the sophistication of the creative poet Jahhaf, and the part is titled "the Jasmine of April." Note that the simplicity of the author's heavy reliance on the down-to-earth philosophy of rural agricultural life remains with the author, even though his horizons have opened up new realms for the mind to delve in as he becomes more attuned to the "urban" flair of Sana'a (which for the most part has yet to reach the cosmopolitan nature that the city has now taken). Yet, we should bear in mind that Sana'a itself was still very much interfaced with the rural life of Yemen, with many households engaged in some domestic agricultural chores (especially in breeding of livestock).

Abdul-Salam Abbass Al-Wajih, in his introduction to the Second Part calls Ali Abdul-Rahman Jahhaf as the Humanistic Poet. This comes in light of the very strong intuition that the poet has for human feelings: "He is a poet in his writings, a poet in his normal conversation and in his behavior and in all his life...I can not imagine him to be anything but a poet."

This is Jahhaf as he imaginatively creates a love relationship with a TV newscaster, knowing full well that she is beyond his reach, but nevertheless deserves his emotional attention:

*They admonish me for Rania, I wish that they*

*Would feel what is within me when Rania is mentioned.*

*Then, I have no feelings, nor the ability*

*To understand what the person in front of me saying*

*By her eyes, I have been charmed into a world*

*Of beauty that drove me crazy for how she looks.*

The second part is also full of political analysis and criticism and in all the poems, he makes it a poet to side with the people and reflect their feelings and aspirations. In his creative poem, "I Am Not Here" did not forget his responsibilities as a poet to convey his political inclinations, as an advocate for the oppressed and the general population, who would be better off without the fumbling of politicians, as they seek to advance their own interests or causes, even if at the expense of the interests of the public at large. It is in the Humainy verse:

*I am not among those, who spelled the cups!*

*And played the game in such a different way.*

*They raised the prices on purpose, Which of them will pay out my*

*debts!*

*I, the poor are an integral part of my being,*

*All my life, I have never accepted the robbery of souls.*

The government supports many artists and poets, and gives them a stable salary to help them meet the cost of living, in case they are unfortunate to be able to meet their needs from the output of their work. Many of them usually come from poor backgrounds, or simply pay little attention to the mundane, and live a rather fatalistic life relying on whatever they can scrounge up to meet the day's needs, while leaving tomorrow to the next day to worry about. Thus Jahhaf was rather amused when all of a sudden the Ministry of Culture cut his subsidy:

Have you reformed the conditions of the greatest Government.

*For you my dear friends<sup>3</sup> to have to cut my salary!*

*If in this you find the correction of your economy<sup>4</sup>*

*Here, then take my furniture and kitchen utensils.*

*Take them so the people can live without a crisis.*

Again showing his deep affection for the general people and their struggle in life he criticizes those big whigs, who have neglected the plight of their people:

Who is there to believe what my ears are hearing,

While you are standing behind guards and behind a veil<sup>5</sup>?

*I am down on the ground the burning rays of the Sun burning me,*

*You are under cover amongst the glasses and the pots<sup>6</sup>.*

*I live in with a boudoir that has no cover,*

*While you are living in the palace among roses and myrtle.*

*I am seeking after mere subsistence,*

*While to you are driven all the bounties of the world in piles<sup>7</sup>*

*You live the life of Onassiss, from thanks to my sweat.*

*My tears, my suffering and bankruptcy<sup>8</sup>!*

Ramzy: Use the same picture of the cover of the book in last week's LC.

1 A satirical gesture to the politicians, who meet and come to agreement and then "spell the cups" on what they have agreed upon.

2 Here he is placing himself among the people who must drown in debt to meet life's subsistence needs.

3 Here he is alluding modestly to the fact that they all are quite familiar with him.

4 Again, alluding to their responsibility for the bad state of the economy.

5 That covers them from the people. Here, he is speaking about the big officials.

6 I.e., enjoying food and drink

7 I.e., all the amenities of the world

8 Note here he is personifying himself as the people.

# First national book fair concludes

ADEN, Dec. 27 - Under the slogan, "Books for Everyone," the first national book fair concluded Sunday at Aden's National Library hall. The fair, held Dec. 16-25, was organized by the General Book Authority and the Book Friends Forum, in cooperation and coordination with Khaled Bin Al-Walid Library.

The national book fair was a new experience for Aden, its publishers and local libraries. "It was a wonderful

initiative enabling researchers and science and knowledge seekers to obtain more information and data in different areas," National Library head N'ema Al-Ghabri said in a statement.

She assured that books have a great and integral role, despite the spread of modern techniques and technologies in the field of information exchange. She expressed her hope that the fair will last for a longer period and expand. Those interested in science and culture visited the fair, benefiting from discounts offered to help books reach everyone.

Al-Ghabri praised the initiative of MP Mohamed Abdu Sa'eed who donated 300,000 Yemeni Riyals to install communication and internet networks facilitating the task of researchers and readers to obtain necessary information. The philanthropist also donated 150,000 Yemeni Riyals to the Children's Library.

Al-Ghabri hopes other businessmen and interested parties will be like Sa'eed who has contributed to activating and improving the role of the National Library, the only one in

Aden province.

Sa'eed, Chairman of the Book Friends Forum, stressed the importance of the role of books in scholarly life, despite claims that books have lost their importance due to the spread of modern technology.

As many as 15 national publishers and 26 Arab book houses took part in the fair, containing more than 6,000 titles covering various topics.

The Yemen Times has conducted an entire probe into the role of the National Library and the Aden Book House, the oldest in Yemen.

## شاهد اخبار الجزيرة ولا تكتفي بقراءتها الآن مع سبافون قناة الجزيرة على جوالك

وقد صرح السيد / سعيد العزیز آل محمود ، رئيس تحرير الجزيرة قناة إن إيتلاف هذه الخدمة سينقل المشتركين إلى الجيل الثالث من الإعلام الإخباري بعد مرحلتنا التي التقطنا فيها وعبر الإنترنت، وأوضح آل محمود أن هذه الخدمة الجديدة ستتيح للمشتركين التفاعل الكامل مع أحدث التطورات العالمية ومختلف الأحداث بشكل فوري عبر الهاتف الجوال.

من جانب، قال السيد / بيبار سعاد ، المدير العام لإدارة التسويق في شركة سبافون: نحن سعداء بكون اليمن هي ثاني دولة في العالم تقدم هذه الخدمة، وكون سبافون ثالث شركة الاتصالات الاستقبلية في الوطن العربي تقدم هذه الخدمة.

كما أكد السيد / بيبار سعاد من مدير الجمعية القاد الإخباري والتكنولوجيا في عالم اليوم، ومن المتوقع أن تغطي هذه الخدمة بقبول واستحسان كبير بين أوساط مشتركي شركة سبافون كما تنتج به قناة الجزيرة من حضور عبر شبكة مراسليها وسعادتها الوثوقية في العالم وما تتميز به خدمات سبافون من نوعية عالية. إلا أن مثل هذا التعاون الاستراتيجي والشروع المشترك في عهد ذاته يمثل خطوة نوعية في تفعيل مفهوم التكنولوجيا للجميع.

الطاقة كانت الشركة اليمنية للهاتف النقال، سبافون، هي الشركة الرائدة والسيادة دوماً في تقديم الخدمات الجديدة والمميزة في اليمن معاً وترجع ويؤكد استمرار تعهدنا بتوفير خدمة نوعية لمتكلميها وعرضها الدائم على متوكليها غير ما توصلت إليه تكنولوجيا الاتصالات الاستقبلية، وسنمن الخدمات النوعية الجديدة التي أطلقتها الشركة لتخدم شركة سبافون مرة أخرى بمادرتها في تقديم خدمات الجزيرة جوبال الإخبارية، والتي تمكن مشتركينا من تلقي آخر الأخبار في الوطن العربي والعالم من شبكة الجزيرة الإخبارية عبر الرسائل القصيرة وكذلك عبر رسائل الوسائط المتعددة.

ويؤكد الشيخ / همدان الأحمر عضو الهيئة الإدارية لجمعية التسويق بأن شركة سبافون لتتبع استراتيجيتها خدمية بحتة تهدف إلى تطوير السوق اليمني وتقديم الخدمة المضافة لمتكلمي الشركة، والذين يحرصون كعادنا على خدمة شركة سبافون من جهود تسويقية متواصلة في متوكليها تطور الاتصالات الاستقبلية، ومنهجية مميزة التفاعل الشامل لاخر ما توصلت إليه التكنولوجيا الاستقبلية، ويضيف قائلاً بأن جميع ذلك ما هو إلا نتيجة عملية التقييم المتصلة في شركتنا، سبافون، لما عبر عن سعادته بتقديم شركة سبافون هذه الخدمة المهمة، كونها الأولى من نوعها على الصعيد المحلي.



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# Improve Your English



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# 284

## I. What To Say

### Situations and Expression (82)

#### 'Love you' wishes (V)

**L**ove is a token of a willing partnership, an everlasting comradeship that stands the test of time. It is not "Time's fool" and "doesn't alter when alteration finds". It is eternal.

- How do I love you... Let me count the ways... I love you to the depth, smiles, tears of all my life—and if God choose, I shall but love you better after death.
- To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved.
- Sweetheart! Just wanted you to know your love has turned my world upside down.
- You are my heartbeat. Essence of your love has given a great meaning to my life, and the world has become a beautiful place to live, for you're mine.
- With you I'm in paradise. It's like a dream come true, sharing a lifetime with you hand in hand and you by my side, moments seem like a joy ride. I love you.
- To know you is to love you. Your love gives me a kind of happiness, I've never known. Darling, if it was not for you I'd have never known the true meaning of love. For love is you.
- My love for you grew and grew and it grew! Love is the biggest thing in my life.

## II. How To Say It Correctly

### Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

1. She was bruised quite badly in the accident. It has got to still hurt a lot.
2. When I went to school we must learn English.
3. He didn't cook the dish himself so you mustn't eat it all. He won't be offended.
4. You weren't a special pass to get in.
5. 'Can I use the computer?' 'Of course you could.'

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. I won't be able to meet you next week. I **will be staying** in London for a few days.
2. Can I borrow your camera? I'll give it back to you tomorrow. (a promise)
3. I promise I **will** call you as soon as I get home.
4. I **can't** believe she's 50. She looks much younger than that.
5. After the trees have been cut back, we **will be able** to see more of the garden from the sitting room.

## III. Increase Your Word Power

### (A) How to express it in one word

1. One who wanders in search of adventure.
2. Irregular in behavior or opinion.
3. Mistake in printing or writing.
4. Having, showing great learning.
5. Moving stairs carrying people up or down.

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. Equal in value, amount, meaning: **equivalent** (adj)
2. Having a double or doubtful meaning: **equivocal** (adj)
3. Period in history starting from a particular time or event: **era** (n)
4. Destroy or put an end to: **eradicate** (vt)
5. Short journey to take or get something: **errand** (n)

### (B) Words commonly confused

#### Bring out the difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. analyst, annalist
2. escape, escapade
3. idle, idol, idyll, ideal, lazy
4. imaginary, imaginative

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **damage** (n) (harm or injury that causes loss of value): The flood did great damage to standing crops.  
**demurrage** (n) (money payable by characters to a ship owner for delay): Unless the consignment of goods is received in due time, the defaulting party will be liable to pay demurrage.
2. **rewarding** (adj) (happy and welcome): A visit to the islands was a rewarding experience.  
**dewarding** (n) (a legal process by which a child ceases to be a ward of court either by court order or by reaching full age): Consequent upon de warding, the orphan was released from the court's custody.
3. **shirt** (n) (man's loose fitting garment for the upper part of the body): Please put on your shirt and come with me.  
**skirt** (n) (woman's garment that hangs from the waist): The little girl looks smart in her new skirt.  
**skit** (n) (short piece of humorous writing, play, mimicry, etc.): Students put up an interesting skit on their Annual Day.
4. **prolixity** (n) (quality of a speech or story that is

tiringly and uninterestingly long): The prolixity of the speaker made the audience feel bored.

**propensity** (n) (natural tendency): He has a propensity to save.

**proximity** (n) (nearness): There is a close proximity between Urdu and Arabic.

### (C) Synonyms and Antonyms

#### i. Synonyms

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one given at the top

1. **deplete**  
a. to flatten b. to conquer  
c. to finish d. to exhaust
2. **tactile**  
a. considerate b. sharp  
c. pertaining to the organs of touch  
d. strong
3. **feline**  
a. delicate b. cat-like  
c. very feminine d. sleek
4. **inconceivable**  
a. unimportant b. unthinkable  
c. improbable d. inconsequential
5. **benign**  
a. radiant b. religious  
c. kindly d. hopeful

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

Word	Synonym
1. replenish	to provide a new supply for
2. eke	to supplement
3. vie	to strive for superiority
4. flagrant	scandalous
5. disparate	radically different

#### ii. Antonyms

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given at the top

1. **augment**  
a. atone b. decrease  
c. irregular d. ugly
2. **aromatic**  
a. stinking b. unscrupulous  
c. assist d. mean
3. **inimical**  
a. celebrity b. friendly  
c. speedy d. radiant
4. **inopportune**  
a. right b. truthful  
c. harsh d. timely or suitable
5. **toxic**  
a. harmless b. swollen  
c. insulting d. tonic

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

Word	Antonym
1. asceticism	debauchery
2. famish	devouring
3. chastity	grossness
4. allegiance	violation
5. zenith	nadir

### (D) Spelling

#### Choose the correctly spelt word

1. a. appearance b. apearence  
c. apparance d. appiarance
2. a. achievement b. achivment  
c. achevement d. acheavment
3. a. apollogy b. apology  
c. appology d. apalogy
4. a. abridgment b. abrgment  
c. abrizment d. abridgement
5. a. affectionately b. affectionately  
c. afectionately d. affectionatly

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. advisable
2. accommodation
3. admission
4. address
5. adulteration

### (E) Phrases and idioms

#### Use the following phrases in sentences

1. have something on
2. go great guns
3. show (someone) the ropes
4. keep an open mind
5. drown one's sorrows

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. **be a load/weight off one's mind** (to be a relief

from something that has been worrying one). Ismael has been worrying about the exam and it was a load off his mind when the exam was over.

2. **have a brainwave** (to have a sudden good idea): Jamil faced a financial crisis when he had a brainwave to work extra time.
3. **take the line of least resistance** (to take the course of action which will cause the least effort, trouble, etc.): In the fierce battle of words between the two friends, I took the line of least resistance and kept quiet.
4. **be taken with (someone/something)** (to think that someone or something is very pleasing or attractive): The audience was taken with the charming personality of the anchor.
5. **draw a veil over (something)** (not to discuss or mention something in the belief that it is better forgotten): Murad was dismissed from his job but he tends to draw a veil over the incident during conversation.

## IV. Grammar and Composition

### (A) Grammar

#### Reporting statements

The following sentences report some statements, but the words are in the wrong order. Put the words in the right order.

1. go to too the dog near He me not warned
2. threatened talking if I didn't He to him me stop
3. he he he who was was that fine I replied and asked
4. money He stealing the admitted
5. having to do anything robbery with the denied He
6. She she promised forget that me never would
7. go cinema suggested that to the should We he
8. He was making repeated thought that I a he mistake
9. claimed he he a seen that ghost had
10. He me felt to her say to talk and advised how I

### Suggested answers to the previous week's questions

1. When I was in hospital, they **allowed** us have visitors everyday.
2. The police officers **made** him sign the confession.
3. She **advised** me to complain to the police.
4. The fishermen **warned** us against swimming in the sea because it was dangerous.
5. My brother **wants** me to go on holiday with him.

### (B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

**102: TODAY WE KNOW MORE, BUT FEEL LESS**

### Suggested answers to the previous topic

**101: TO PROFIT FROM GOOD ADVICE REQUIRES MORE WISDOM THAN TO GIVE IT**

It is prudent to lend everybody our ears, and few our tongue. A wise man has the willingness and patience to learn from others experience rather than impertinently impose his opinion and advice to unwilling, deaf ears. In practical life we see that there are more sellers of advice than takers of them. Often advisers are abhorred, detested, looked with suspicion making them a veritable set of 'persona non-grata' or unwelcome persons. Some of the pseudo-advisors imply 'do as I say, don't do as I do.' Naturally such people are not taken seriously. So it is always advisable to keep one's mental antenna open and take in all that is worth emulating, regardless of the source. This would go a long way to enrich, elevate, enlighten and ennoble one's being and save one from the embarrassment of not being heeded, especially by the youngsters who often ignore advice of elders and term them as garrulous, senile and vainglorious. Moreover, silently listening to advice requires more patience and forbearance than giving them. Therefore it is well said that speech is silver, but silence is golden. It is however not easy to cultivate this art of listening with interest and enthusiasm to the substance of others advice. Yet we must try and imbibe this great virtue of receiving and synthesizing all that is good, noble and learnable in what the speaker has to say, with humility and modesty, and of refraining from unnecessarily burdening others with our personal opinion and advice.

## V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

*"This is the Guidance of Allah: He giveth that guidance to whom He pleaseth, of His servants. If they were to join other gods with Him, all that they did would be vain for them."*  
S6: A88

## VI. Food for Thought

*"The greater the obstacle, the more glory is overcoming it."*

—Moilere

## A letter to the teachers of English: 101 Conversation skills (1)

Dear Fellow teachers,

**A**fter one hundred letters of discussion covering various topics of interest to you, I am now planning to present to you something different – a series of day-to-day conversations, involving students, teachers, head-teachers, administrators,



PROF. M.N.K. BOSE  
mnk\_bose@hotmail.com  
Professor of English,  
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people who are related to their lives such as booksellers and librarians. Dr Sahu, the Editor of the Education Page, has been presenting in his sections conversations of various sort – social, academic and personal – for the improvement of English of the readers. I am going to add a bit, but my conversations are going to be centering round the students and teachers only. I am aware that these are going to be 'tailored' ones, as the students of Yemen hardly have to use English for their day-to-day life except when they speak to foreigners such as teachers from India, tourists from countries like the USA, the UK, Germany etc. However, they will help you to learn the art of conversation. After a series of day-to-day conversations, which you may practice for the pattern of conversations using role play technique, I will bring in more natural conversations for your use.

Conversations, as you know, need some special skills, in addition to the spoken skills; for example, one should know when to participate in a conversation, when to pitch in and when to be silent, how to introduce a new topic in a conversation etc. We have come across people who interfere in a conversation to the displeasure of the conversationists, people who switch over to new topics without any warning, people who switch off suddenly in the middle of the conversation. These are people who are not aware of the conversation skills.

Conversation skills are most often mistaken for spoken skills; one who has good spoken skills is taken to be a good conversationist. It is not true. The spoken skills in English, for example, include one's knowledge of English sounds, stress, intonation and pause. But conversation requires, as stated above, more than those skills. In fact, conversation skills are not limited to any particular language; they are skills necessary for conversing in any language. We employ them in our conversations irrespective of the language we are conversing in. Some of them, for example, are

- When to enter a conversation
- When to leave the conversation
- How to introduce a new topic in a conversation
- How to enable the conversation to flow smoothly
- How to avoid controversies, if any
- How not to break the conversation suddenly

Look at the following conversation, for example:

Mother: Why didn't you show your progress card to father, Ajith?

Ajith: Mother, they are giving books this afternoon, you see.

There is no connection between the question and the answer, either because Ajith wants to escape from the question or he is indifferent. Such turns in a conversation will not help to move the conversations smoothly. Sometimes people misunderstand each other because of the tone they use while conversing or the inappropriate words they use. I will continue the discussion in my next letter.

**Have the power of speech; it's greater than any power.**

Yours fraternally,  
Dr M.N.K. Bose.

## Hats off Dr. Bose

Dear Dr. Bose,

**K**udos to your sustained efforts over the years to enlighten the teaching fraternity in Yemen in particular and that in Arab World in general. Your illuminating and insightful column 'Letters to the Teachers of English' have truly been a path finder and a great source of encouragement to many actual and potential teachers, enabling them to discharge their onerous duties and

responsibilities with passion and professionalism.

On the happy occasion of completion of your your 100th Letter I, on my personal behalf, on behalf of the Editorial Team, and your countless readers offer you our profound thanks and sincerest gratitude for this signal contribution and wish that you'd continue to inspire and instruct the teaching community as well as general readers with your scholarship in time ahead.

Dr. Sahu

## YOUTH FORUM

### The words, set free

Listen out for the beats of your heart  
Keep the world apart

Set your mind free  
And play with nature in glory

The beautiful birds  
And their sweet words

Listen to them  
And understand them

They tell you to sing  
They tell you to swing  
They tell you to laugh

They never tell anything half

They tell you to play  
With beautiful Nature

They tell you to pray  
For every creature

They tell you a song  
They never tell you wrong

Listen out for the beats of your heart  
Listen, the birds are singing

They tell you to laugh

What ever wrongs you do to me,  
I will smile on your face, but sorry I can't forget.

What ever good I do, I'm sure you're a forgetfulness person.

O' I feel upset  
Please, I need you near  
I need your smile  
I need your warm voice

Please, then please, be nearer to me

I know hope glitters in my eyes  
I can feel it  
Since forgetfulness is your creed  
Remember just only my name  
Then I'll carry on in this life

Malakite Abdul-Tawab, Level 4  
Dept. of English  
Faculty of Education  
University of Science & Technology,  
Sana'a

### Ghosts

Our souls fly in the air  
Talk and talk no one hears  
If you do not want to be there  
You should go and disappear.

People call us ghosts  
But we are just souls  
If you want to be like us  
You should embrace death

People are dying everyday  
But they lost their way  
We are going to the moon  
Waiting for glory that is coming soon.

Rania Ali AbdAlmonam, Level 3  
English Department  
Faculty of Education and Arts  
Khawlan

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# Al-Raheena, the first Yemeni novel in Hindi

**A**l-Raheena "The Hostage" is one of the most famous novels in Yemen. Last month, it was published in India after being translated into Hindi (as Bandhak). Commenting on the Hindi translation, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, Yemen's foremost poet and scholar, said to Yemen Times: "Unfortunately, there are no Yemeni literary figures who know Hindi so that we could rely on his perusal in our appreciation of the rendition. It is, however, enough to know that a Yemeni creator is now readable by a language of a one billion people."

The Hostage depicts the experiences of a young boy who, having been taken hostage, in line with the Imam's general practice, as a pledge for his father's political obedience, is sent to serve as a young male attendant in the palace of the city governor. The growth of the boy's awareness, political, social and personal, is movingly portrayed against a background of bygone times whose decadence and injustice are presented with vivid satiric force.

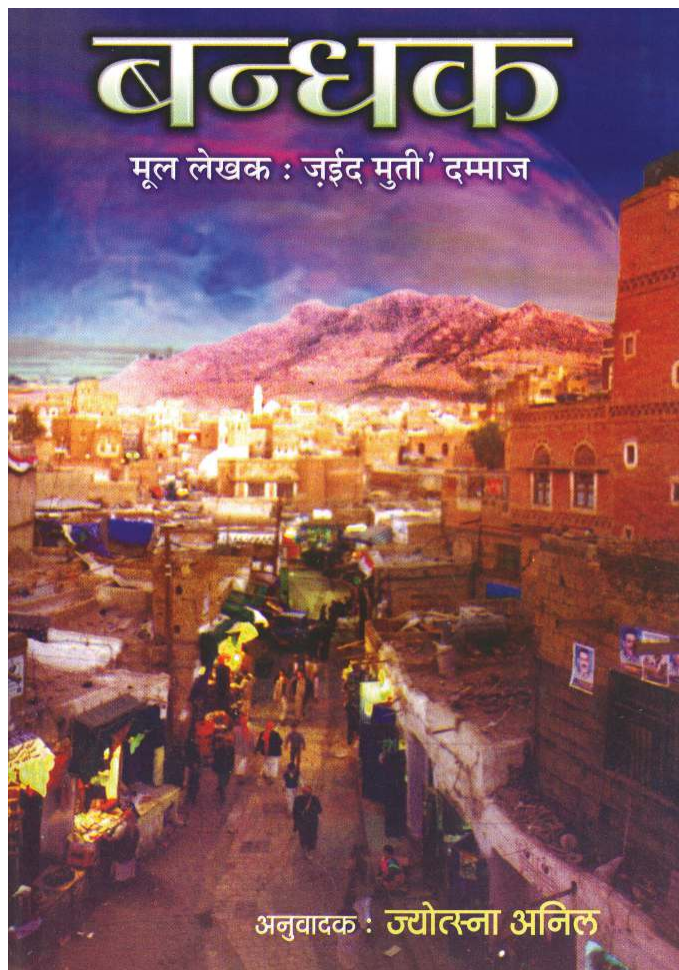
Zaid Al-Faqeeh, a short-story writer and Director of Dar Al-Kutub in Sana'a said: "the translation of Al-Raheena into Hindi is an addition to human being's knowledge of the atrocity and cruelty of that ruler (The Imam) who dealt with humans as animals,

flouting all tenets he pretended to hold sacred."

Dr. Jyotsana K Prasad, the translator of the novel into Hindi has told Yemen Times that "Al-Raheena" is a literary work that goes beyond boundaries of time and place. "It is an aesthetic rendering of love, pain, suffering, loss and hope," she added.

## The Hostage in Bollywood!!

"The hostage" has been the target of many Arabic and English moviemakers and directors. However, Zaid Muttee' Dammaj, the author of the novel was always reluctant to give permission for his novel to become a movie. This perhaps was due to "his fear that the movie will limit the imagination of the reader about its characters and the symbolic meaning of the novel", as Aisha



Bandhak: The Hindi translation of Al-Raheena

foremost novelist and fiction writer. He is one of the most important short story writers as indicated by Dr. Al-Maqaleh. "He is a pioneer in short stories which he wrote with a local flavor hardly found in works of other Yemeni short story writers", he added. On the locality of Dammaj's work, Zaid Al-Faqeeh stated that "the significance of Zaid Muttee' Dammaj's literary production essentially lies in his treatment of local, nationalistic and human issues. Locally, he treated, in his stories, by ways of example and not limitation, the situation of the Yemeni society under the Imamate reign. On the nationalistic level, he rejected oppression exercised against Arab peoples by colonialists. From the humanistic perspective, Dammaj treated the suffering of man in all countries." He told the Yemen Times that Dammaj,

through his work, "objected to the fabrication of class barriers and called for equality among human beings". Dr. Al-Maqaleh also added: "this is why his works have drawn extraordinary attention in the Arab World and found their way to the Arab radios and TVs in the form of wonderful serials that depict Yemeni locales and the spirit of the Yemeni life through the realistic characters such as "Warda" in "Al-Dhamari" story, and "Ali bin Ali", in "The one who returned from overseas" story.

## The "hostage system" in Yemen's modern history

"The Hostage" is the only published novel of Dammaj; yet, it has brought the author his wide fame. About the importance of the novel, Dr. Al-Maqaleh said: "it enshrines a critical part of Yemen's history - the period that preceded the 1948 Constitutional Revolution. Zaid Dammaj recorded the revolutionary vicissitudes, which were later crystallized in the 1955 Movement and in the grand

## Not obtainable in the market...!

Ironically, despite its fame and the fact that it has re-published many times by publishers outside Yemen, the novel is hardly seen today in the Yemeni bookshops.

Dr. Al-Maqaleh stated that it is the duty of the Ministry of Culture "to quickly publish the novel and bring it within the reach of the Yemeni readers instead of procuring it from Cairo or Beirut." A few years ago, Al-Thaqafia cultural newspaper has published the novel (in Arabic) in series so that the Yemeni readers, who have heard a lot about the novel, can read it. Al-Thaqafia went into trouble after publishing the novel. It is worth noting that the novel has caused a great controversy when it was published for the first time in 1984. This could be one of the reasons why Al-Thawra daily did not publish the novel when it was selected for the UNESCO project "A book in a newspaper" several years ago, forcing a private cultural newspaper, called "Al-Bareeid Al-Adabi" to shoulder the responsibility and publish the novel.

**Objection to class barriers**  
Zaid Muttee' Dammaj is Yemen's

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## The Author

Zaid Muttee' Dammaj was born in Ibb - Yemen, in 1944. He is the son of the well-known revolutionist Sheik Muttee Dammaj.



Zaid Muttee' Dammaj in Cairo in 1964.

After receiving the basic Islamic education in his village, he received his primary education in Al-Ahmediyah School in Taiz in 1957. After that he was sent to Egypt in 1958, where he finished his preparatory school in 1960 (Bani Swif



The author in Hyde Park, London 1998.

and secondary school in 1963 (Tanta). He joined the faculty of law in Cairo 1964 but lasted only for two years after which he changed to the faculty of Art

and Literature at the same university. He started writing articles and short stories in Al-Yaman Al-Jadida magazine. He retained to Yemen in 1968 to help his father (who was ill at that time) in the political struggle after the 1962 revolution.

He was elected as a member of parliament in 1970 as well as from 1979 to 1988. He was the governor of Al-Mahwit province in 1976 and a Minister Plenipotentiary in Kuwait (1980) and in the UK (1997). He died in March 2000, at the Middlesex Hospital in London, after 15 years of a courageous struggle with cancer. He has several publications:

- Tahish Al-Hawban (The Beast of Al-Hawban) - a short-story collection, 1973,
- Al-Aqrab (The Scorpion) - a short-story collection, 1982,
- Al-Jiser (The Bridge) - a short-story collection, 1986,
- Ahzan Albint Mayasa (The Sorrows of The Girl Mayasa) - a short-story collection, 1990,
- Al-Madfa'a Al-Asfar (The Yellow Gun) - a short-story collection, 2001, and
- Al-Inbihar Wa Adahshah (Amazement and Astonishment) - a biography fiction, 2000.

change led by the glorious 1962 September Revolution."

"I have never read a novel that captures me as Al-Raheena did in terms of the narrative structure, subject and literary value." Zaid Al-Faqeeh stated when he was asked about the novel. According to him, the novel represents a unique case for novels both on the local and Arab level. He pointed out that the novel has treated a vital issue, namely "the hostage system" during the Imamate era. This system, according to him, used to be a major component of the theological rule of Imams in Yemen. It is worth noting that the Imams applied the hostage system in order to ensure the tribes' compliance where sons and brothers of tribal leaders (Sheiks) were held as hostages in prisons around the country. If a tribe attempted to oppose the Imam's authority, its members, held as hostages, were killed.

"It provides the ordinary reader with an idea about the life within Imam's palaces which surrounded themselves with a hale of divine sanctity although they were similar to other people's houses if not meaner." Zaid Al-Faqeeh added.

Dr. Jyotsana K. Prasad, the translator of the novel into Hindi, pointed out that the novel is important "not because it tells the story of a dark and disorderly period in Yemen's history, but because of that, it is important for people to know." she concluded by saying: "Al-Raheena" very much tells a story of darkness, but the story is not about darkness.

It is a powerful fictional representation of a ray of hope, of the innate wish of every human being to attempt to resist, to struggle and to attain freedom.

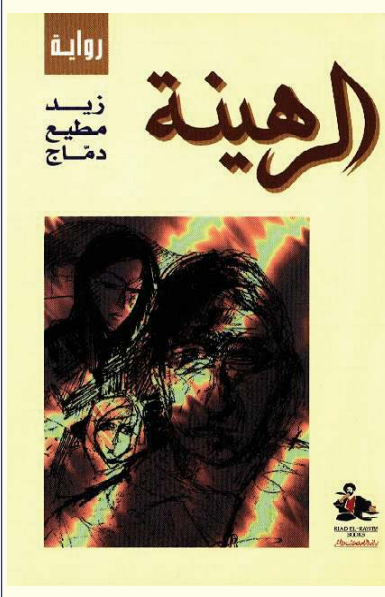
A full interview with the translator, Dr. Jyotsana K Prasad, can be seen on page 11.

## The Novel

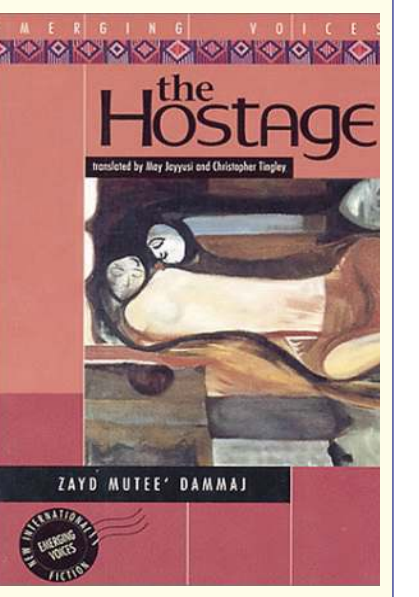
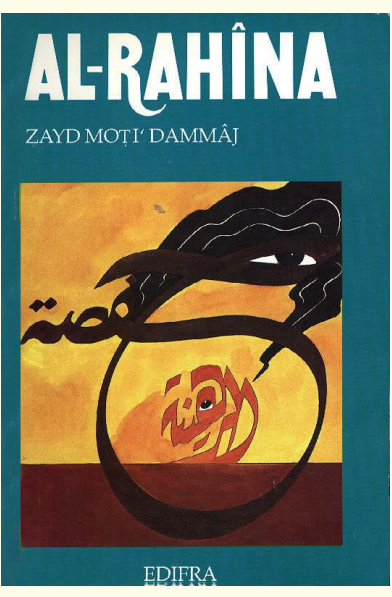
"The Hostage" (Al-Raheena) is one of the most famous novels in Yemen. Since it was published in Arabic first time in 1984, it has gained a lot of fame and attention

by Arabic readers both inside and outside Yemen. It has been re-published several times and translated into English, French and German, while Spanish and Russian translations are underway. In 1998, the novel was published in

the UNESCO project "A book in a newspaper" (http://thaqafia.sakhr.com/ketab), while in 2000, it was chosen by the Egyptian Writers Union as one of the best 100 Arabic novels in the 20th century.



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