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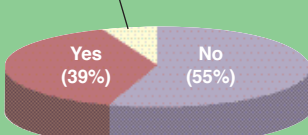
## Readers' Voice

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

### Last edition's question:

As it seems impossible for the required reforms to be implemented during the six months to come, do you think the Europeans will suspend aids to Yemen.

I don't know (6%)



### This edition's question:

According to political sources, dialog between the ruling party and the opposition on political reforms failed while donors threaten to suspend aids to Yemen in case the Yemeni government does not carry out reforms. Do you think that hardliners in the ruling party will submit to such threats?

Yes  
No  
I don't know

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

# Thousands demonstrate because of prophet Mohammed insult

**Thousands demonstrated in Sana'a to condemn publication of satirical caricatures of the prophet Mohammed (pbuh).**

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Feb. 18 — Thousands of citizens from political parties, labor syndicates and social personalities gathered in Tahrir Square. A large number of demonstrators from nearby Sana'a areas also came.

Debates were held in which a number of speeches were delivered by political parties and the Yemeni Clerics' Society. Speeches demanded diplomatic and media channels be activated to convey Yemeni people's stance refusing the



Thousands attended the demonstration in Sana'a.

PHOTO BY FOUAD AL-HARAZI

## Nu'man: regime never dealt with consequences of 1994 War

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, Feb. 19 — Inaugurating functions of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) Central Committee's second round, YSP Secretary General Dr. Yasin Sa'eed Nu'man said, "The Sana'a regime never dealt with consequences of the 1994 Civil War."

He said the regime reveals papers from old conflicts and remains of the dead to cover its failure in a scene of political bankruptcy.

Yemen's need to forgive and settle conflicts and wars requires joint efforts to end the Sa'ada fighting and confront everything exposing national unity to danger, Nu'man asserted. Respecting public will may help end wars and eliminate the impacts of oppression, terrorism and corruption, he added. Nu'man holds the regime accountable for exacerbating difficulties, which weaken national unity and public awareness.

The YSP Secretary General called on his party members to get rid of the circle of self-isolation and work hard with the public to restore balance to political life.

Regarding YSP plans for the coming period, Nu'man explained, "The most important step taken by YSP leadership after the fifth general conference was reaching an agreement with the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) on the political and national reform document."

He added that the agreement was



Dr. Yasin Sa'eed Nu'man

meant to restore balance to Yemen's political life and organize a bylaw for the JMP's work — as a political opposition striving to improve democracy — protecting the national project and accelerating Yemen's progress.

Nu'man urged his party members to achieve their political program on political grounds different from that which isolates the party from political life and creates a climate for justifying setback by the ruling party.

Concluding his speech before hundreds of YSP and opposition members, Nu'man described the JMP as a formula presented for political work in Yemen. "This formula is a must for achieving peaceful transfer of power and respecting public will," he said.

insult. They also called for combined efforts to establish international legislation banning, condemning and penalizing offenses to religions and rituals.

Demonstrators asserted that the Arab League, Islamic League and Arab Parliament should take firm measures to establish an international public opinion that bans and penalizes offending the prophet. They also called for continuing the Danish goods boycott because of its press publications and demanded respect for all prophets and religions, maintaining that the UN should pass laws preventing abusing rituals and prophets.

A statement issued by the demonstrators appealed to Yemen's government

to use all diplomatic means to convey Yemen's stance condemning the offense and to exert effort with organizations and international intellectual leaders to establish legislation penalizing offending religions. The demonstrators' statement affirmed continuing protests in a peaceful, civilized manner, absent of chaos and anarchy.

The Yemen Times met several demonstrators and filed some of their views:

Demonstrator Mansour Mohammed assured that the demonstration's objective was to condemn and protest against those insulting the prophet. "We want to assure through this demonstration that we condemn any insult to all

prophets and we want to declare our love and loyalty to the prophet (pbuh)," he said.

Mohammed said they wanted to affirm that demonstrations and protests should be in peaceful, civilized ways, so that is what they did. He assured that rage should be peaceful and that financial boycott is the best way to protest against those insulting prophets or any other religious beliefs.

Another demonstrator, Anwar Khaled, said he and other demonstrators came to protest the insulting caricatures and the offenses to the prophet. He said everyone should know that "we condemn any insult to any prophet or religion."

He continued, saying Muslims respect their religion and all other religions because Muslims believe in all prophets and respect all religions. He noted that Muslims had protested against distorting Jesus' image and that of other prophets.

Khaled wondered why there is no UN legislation obliging all countries to respect religions, rituals and prophets, saying all should understand that insulting religions is a terrorist deed resulting in creating differences and ruining dialogues. He said everyone should believe in dialogue between civilizations, tolerance and indulgence, adding that Western countries should understand the meaning of leniency.

# Pressmen still on trial for republishing prophet caricatures

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Feb. 18 — On Saturday, the capital's Southeast Court began the trial of Al-Hurriya newspaper's managing editor and one of its reporters for republishing the Prophet Mohamed (pbuh) drawings. The caricatures, disgracing Muslims and their prophet, originally were published by a Danish newspaper and subsequently republished by many European and Arab newspapers.

During the trial of Al-Hurriya, Prosecution convicted Managing Editor Akram Sabrah, 35, and news reporter Yahya Hussein Al-Abed, 37. The indictment revealed the caricatures scorning Islam and the Prophet Mohamed (pbuh) were republished on the front, third and last pages of Al-Hurriya issue No. 520.

Suspects denied all that was included in Prosecution's indictment, explaining to the court that their main intention was to defend Islam and the Prophet Mohamed (pbuh).

Defense advocates for the suspects confirmed that the republished caricatures were crossed out and covered by black ink by the newspaper's advisory panel. By republishing the drawings, the paper intended to defend Muslims and their prophet, publishing articles denouncing the behavior of those who disgraced the status of the Islamic

prophet.

After a heated debate between Prosecution and the defense team, the court adjourned until next Wednesday, the same trial date of English language newspaper The Yemen Observer. The court allowed defense advocates to photocopy the case file and present their evidence next week.

In press interviews published by Al-Nas weekly, numerous Islamic scholars unanimously agreed that republishing the prophet caricatures, crossed out and covered by black ink, was meant to scorn those who disgraced the Islamic prophet, but said the newspapers were wrong in their method.

The scholars said the Prophet Mohamed caricatures should not have been republished, even though such was meant to deplore the Danish media. According to the scholars, republishing the caricatures was not a crime deserving punishment, but rather, the newspapers should have been reprimanded and blamed for their actions.

The Islamic scholars called on journalists to visit the Yemeni Scholars Society to discuss the issue. They agreed that a fatwa should not be issued on anyone publishing or writing anything intending to defend the Prophet Mohamed until the appropriate court rules on the matter.

## Reaction on Al-Zindani's address

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) has expressed concern over an instigative address by Sheikh Al-Zindani against the Yemeni press, alleging it disgraced the Prophet Mohamed (pbuh).

A YJS source expressed curiosity that Al-Zindani would speak about the judi-

ciary, after it incited thousands of protestors in Al-Tahrir Square last Thursday to denounce the acts of Yemeni journalists.

The same source ascertained that speaking about the judiciary — by one issuing a fatwa in a public platform under the guise of religion — is out of context.

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# All U.S. troops recovered in dual helicopter crash



Two U.S. Marine Corps CH-53E helicopters are the same one shown in this photo.

SANAA, Feb. 19 (Agencies) — All 12 crew members from two U.S. Marine helicopters that crashed in the Gulf of Aden Friday, Feb. 17 had been accounted for by Saturday afternoon. “Information on whether the 10 crew members that were missing survived or died will not be released until 24 hours after their families have been notified,” a U.S. military spokeswoman said.

Two crew members were saved Friday, with one of the injured undergoing surgery overnight, Maj. Susan Romano of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa said. “The

other rescued crew member is being observed for inhalation of contaminated water,” Romano added. The two were transferred Saturday to the U.S. military’s Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in southern Germany.

On Saturday, the independent News Yemen web site quoted fishermen as saying search operations for the missing soldiers appeared to have stopped after the bodies were located and recovered. News Yemen reported that local fishermen and coast guards helped U.S. forces retrieve the bodies of American troops whose choppers collided off Yemen’s coast. The two

helicopters were searching for 23 Al-Qaeda members who escaped from Sana’a Political Security Central Prison on Feb. 3.

Quoting Pentagon officials, CNN television news reported, “There was no indication that hostile fire played any role in the crash of the two CH-53E helicopters. Each of the helicopters was carrying a crew of six.” Romano pointed out that the search-and-rescue mission was conducted by troops from the United States, Djibouti and France. “Troops have located a large portion of a CH-53E helicopter,” she added.

# Women’s rights in a training workshop for mosque preachers

TAIZ, Feb. 18 — The Women’s Forum for Research and Training (WFRT), in cooperation with Deutsch Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (the German Organization for Technical Cooperation - GTZ), is holding the first training workshop for mosque preachers to promote women’s rights and issues in Islam.

The 30 mosque preachers are from five governorates: Sana’a, Taiz, Aden, Ibb and Hajja. The Feb. 19-23 workshop at Shamsan Hotel hall is being conducted by Dr. Muna Talbh, professor of Qur’anic interpretation and its provision.

The workshop will discuss issues such as women’s education, employment, gender, witness, civil status law, etc., about which the community does not agree with one opinion. As a result, such issues have affected women’s status in the community and

issuance of laws, as well as women’s participation and reality in various fields, which assigned women a marginal role in the development procedure.

WFRT Chairperson Su’ad Al-Kudsi said a “Program of Women’s Rights in Islam” began two years ago through its activities, whereby it could train 60 women. Trainers possess many skills in spreading awareness among women in particular and society in general.

Al-Kudsi stated that the workshop’s main purpose is to work with effective public opinion makers, such as mosque preachers, media personnel and women leaders, who can affect public opinion as well as society. “We want targeted individuals to help us promote women’s rights and issues in Islam and analyze women’s reality, which suffers socially, politically, educationally and culturally,” she added.

WFRT concluded its first course for

30 female preachers and guides from various governorates. The workshop was conducted by Dr. Mangesh Al-Swaihi, professor of Qur’anic science and its provision at Tunisia’s Al-Zaitoun University. Part of the “Program of Women’s Rights in Islam,” the course included:

- Understanding women’s rights in Islam
  - Gender equality in education, employment and participation in politics and society
  - Social, political and economic handicaps and women’s rights
  - Women’s roles in promoting democratic procedures
  - Working on a strategic plan to activate women’s roles.
- “Our major goal is to demand the state amend Yemeni law because Yemeni law disagrees with the spirit of the Islamic religion,” Al-Kudsi said.

# Saudi-German Hospital fire a mystery

SAN’A, Feb. 18 — A huge fire broke out last Wednesday in north Sana’a at Saudi-German Hospital, which is still under construction. The hospital is a Yemeni, Saudi and German businessmen investment. The fire raised many questions and its cause remains a mystery as security apparatuses continue investigating.

The hospital was considered ready for inauguration with a scheduled opening during May’s unification festivities. Fire broke out at 5 p.m. and blazed for an hour and a half. The press was prevented from visiting or photographing the site.

Sources said investigations continue under prominent official supervision, especially after President Saleh’s visit to the site an hour after it broke out. Hospital administration and security sources refused to comment on the cause of the fire, which destroyed the \$4 million medical cinema hall. Official sources attribute the fire to an electrical short.

Firemen confirmed that they con-

trolled the fire, which destroyed the meeting and display hall on the building’s top two stories where the cinema hall also was located. Firemen assured that they saved numerous technical and other equipment in the display hall. They also confirmed that there were no casualties, as the hospital had not begun work yet.

Al-Nahar weekly reported, “The incident remains a mystery, yet the unprecedented surprise presidential visit adds to the ambiguity.”

However, the newspaper reported that the incident could be categorized as part of conflicts between different economic lobbies, which combine economic and political activity. They employ each of the activities to serve the other’s interest.

Equipped with modern German technical and medical apparatus, Saudi-German Hospital is considered one of Yemen’s investments in the medical field. At a cost of \$100 million, the six-story hospital contains 300 beds, as well as six residential

units for doctors and medical officials.

The hospital is expected to be a regional cancer treatment center for the African Horn and other countries. It also will be a treatment center for complicated open-heart surgeries and various types of trauma-related injuries as a substitute for treatment abroad.

Saudi-German Hospital is an affiliate of Saudi-Yemeni Group which invests in areas like Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, the Emirates, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Pakistan. Having built its first hospital in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in 1988, the group aims to finance, establish and manage more than 30 international hospitals before 2015.

Saudi-German Hospitals are considered the largest medical group in the Middle East and Africa with more than 500 doctors and specialists, 1,500 nurses and 1,500 hospital employees, technicians, architects and engineers, in addition to thousands of construction workers.

# In Brief

- In a press release distributed earlier this week, Journalists Without Borders demanded releasing jailed journalists in many countries, including Yemen, detained as a backdrop to re-publication of caricatures offending the Prophet Mohammed.

The organization said in its statement that whatever the individual’s personal opinion of the cartoons or whether they should have been published or not, there was no excuse for imprisoning the journalists, threatening or trying to kill them or closing the newspapers for which they work. The organization also demanded lifting bans on 13 publications in Morocco, Algeria, Jordan, Yemen, Malaysia and Indonesia.

The statement disclosed reports on three journalists detained in Yemen, four in Syria and Algeria and 12 in five other countries where they face trial on the same charge.

- Media reports mentioned in recent days that Saudi Arabia has imposed a state of emergency regarding its borders with Yemen, fearing infiltration of 23 Al-Qaeda escapees into its territory.

Reports added that Saudi Arabia has strengthened its watch on the borders, about which it complains of weapons smuggling and infiltrators from Yemen.

A Saudi official earlier said the cause behind the prisoner escapes was weakness in Yemeni security apparatuses and the existence of Yemeni sympathizers.

- The Ministry of Interior deputy premier disclosed last weekend that during 2005, Yemen repatriated 69 Saudi citizens believed to be affiliated with Al-Qaeda and wanted by Saudi Arabia. The measure is part of bilateral cooperation between Sana’a and Riyadh in this regard.

Minister Al-Alimi, who was attending the ninth conference of European police, added that those arrested during attempts to infiltrate Yemeni territories in 2005 were accused of Al-Qaeda affiliation, with some planning to go to Iraq.

- A report published in the latest issue of U.S. magazine Newsweek revealed that the U.S. embassy in Sana’a believes there are parties in Yemen’s government that facilitated escape operations of 23 suspected Al-Qaeda members.

The report mentioned the allegations are attributed to Yemeni sources in contact with the U.S. embassy who believe some elements in Yemen’s government might have aided the prisoners’ escape, motivated by the hope of gaining financial reward from U.S. authorities allocated for capturing the most-wanted individuals, namely, Jamal Al-Badawi and Jaber Al-Banna. A \$5 million reward is to be given to whoever provides information leading to any of the fugitives’ arrest.

- The Specialized Penal Court (SPC) last Tuesday ordered the release of Hadi Saleh Al-Waeli suspected of selling arms, ammunition and explosives to terrorists who bombed the USS Cole Destroyer at Aden Port in 2000.

According to media sources, the SPC ordered Al-Waeli’s release after three years in jail. The decision to release the arms trafficker comes shortly after the jailbreak of 23 Al-Qaeda prisoners from

Sana’a Political Security Central Prison.

- In its latest issue, Al-Nida weekly reported that Yemen’s eight largest poultry companies lose 1.3 billion Yemeni Riyals monthly due to the scourge of epidemics. Fears of disease transmission by migrating birds run high, as 60,000 migrating birds head for Yemen every migration season, which extends until February.

Citizens criticized authorities for being indifferent to curbing the country’s spreading epidemics. Citizens remarkably noticed chickens buried near farms overnight following infection by an anonymous disease that reportedly blackened chickens’ feathers. However, poultry investors confirmed the epidemic as Newcastle, not bird flu, and held the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation accountable for the spreading poultry epidemics.

- Several MPs last week called for quitting silence and forming a new committee to investigate the Sa’ada War that erupted two years ago. Some MPs cast doubt on Parliament’s ability to discuss the issue since it is unable to cross red lines imposed on it by higher authorities.

MPs confirmed that Parliament should take a stand to end bloodshed in the restive province, insisting it settle the bloody clashes that have claimed the lives of many innocent citizens, as well as troops.

- Yemeni security apparatuses last year seized 1,155 antiquities and ancient scriptures, as well as 171 popular heritage pieces, in several outlets and provinces. Seized antiquities included statues, coins, precious stones, gold and bronze articles, swords and shields and various farming tools, in addition to three mummies dating back to ancient Yemeni civilization.

- In the past six weeks, Yemeni security apparatuses have caught more than 5,000 African Horn infiltrators in Hadramout, Shabwa and other Yemeni coastal cities. September Net reported that 70 percent of the infiltrators are Somalis, while the rest hold Ethiopian nationality.

- Based on recommendations at its second women’s conference, the National Women’s Committee (NWC) will hold its third National Women’s Conference March 6 and 7.

Recommendations of the second conference aimed to improve situations of Yemeni women in various areas. The recommendations were incorporated into work plans and programs, putting an end to traditional methods of keeping conference recommendations in offices and cupboards.

Of the most important recommendations was integrating women’s needs into national plans and programs embodied by the NWC in the 2006-2010 national strategy for development and poverty alleviation.

The second women’s conference insisted on applying the “quota” and increasing women’s representation in government and decision-making posts.

- Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture will hold a symposium on

scientific research and its problems in Yemen. Sponsored by Dr. Saleh Ba Sura, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Feb. 27 symposium will begin at 9 a.m. at the Mercure Hotel in Sana’a.

In a statement, Al-Saeed Foundation head Faisal Saeed Farei said the symposium will deal with a number of scientific papers to be presented by scientists and researchers. The symposium also will discuss the current state of Yemeni scientific research and obstacles to it, as well as the role of Al-Saeed Foundation and other Yemeni scientific foundations in enhancing scientific research in Yemen.



- Phase one of an anti-measles campaign began Sunday in the capital, Sana’a governorate, Ibb and Hodeidah. The seven-day campaign aims to vaccinate 3,443,272 children aged between nine months and 15 years.

At a Saturday press conference, Minister of Health and Population Dr. Abdulkarim Rasei said measles is a difficult health problem in Yemen. He confirmed that the ministry registered some 8,000 measles cases last year.

- An educational symposium on child rights was held last Wednesday at Ibb Police Department with the participation of police officers from the passport authority, the traffic department and police stations throughout the province. The symposium discussed child rights according to 2002’s Law No. 45 and policemen’s responsibility to protect children from exploitation and punish perpetrators.

During the symposium, police officers distinguished between the law and applying it in real-life situations. They said the law ensures children’s rights, while real life indicates children experience terrible situations and are subjected to various types of abuse. According to the officers, poverty is the main problem leading families to force their children to work to add to the family income.

- The governor of Taiz is sponsoring a Feb. 23 assembly entitled, “The role of mosque preachers in enhancing awareness of the problems of qat.”

The assembly is the second organized for mosque preachers by the Society to Face Qat Problems and Al-Saeed Foundation for Sciences and Culture.

A number of intellectuals at the meeting will tackle the problems of qat from religious, health, social, water and cultural perspectives.

# Ruling party and opposition dialogue fails

SANAA, Feb. 19 — It has been confirmed that dialogue between the ruling General People’s Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) has failed. The dialogue regarded guaranteeing fairness in upcoming presidential elections.

A JMP source said dialogue indeed had failed, having come to nothing after four sessions. He said the ruling party refused all opposition suggestions concerning fairness of elections to be held in seven months. Topping the suggestions was reframing the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum by adding three opposition members to balance ruling party and opposition representation.

The source added that the GPC refused a Supreme Committee suggestion to appoint three

opposition representatives for committee membership. He said GPC refusal of the committee’s proposition was due to the committee’s refusal of its own suggestions. It also was because the ruling party was given more than 60 percent of electoral field committees.

Asked about the JMP’s stance on presidential elections and defects in voter registers being prepared, the source said the committee and the ruling party will be responsible for any voter registration flaws. He added that the JMP will not participate in presidential elections unless fairness is guaranteed and opposition candidates have the same chances as those of the ruling party.

For its part, the ruling party accused the opposition of extortion,

claiming opposition adopted impractical proposals to cover its failure to compete in presidential elections.

A General Secretariat “Political Bureau” source stated, “The JMP wants to extort us. At the beginning of dialogue, its proposals were to have equal dividends in field committees that check voter registers. It changed that to reframing the committee itself by adding three JMP representatives. It is clear that it wants to cover its failure to contest upcoming presidential elections.”

The ruling party and the opposition initiated dialogue at the beginning of this year on guaranteeing fairness in presidential elections and equally dividing election committees with the GPC.



# Libyans riot over Prophet cartoon; 10 dead

TRIPOLI, Libya Feb. 17 — Libyans set fire to the Italian consulate in a riot that left at least 10 people dead, the bloodiest protest yet against the Prophet Muhammad cartoons that have roiled the Muslim world.

In eastern Pakistan, police opened fire Saturday on a mob trying to burn down shops, the latest in a spate of cartoon protests that have killed five people in the conservative country. At last four people were injured in the city of Chaniot, said police officer Mohammad Ishaq.

A day earlier, a Pakistani cleric announced a \$1 million bounty for killing the cartoonist. Denmark, where a newspaper first published the cartoons, temporarily closed its embassy in Pakistan and advised its citizens to leave the country.

At least 29 people have been killed in protests across the Muslim world. Some 1,000 Muslims protested peacefully in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Saturday, carrying banners reading "We love our Prophet" and "Down with enemies of Islam."

Libyan security officials said 11 people were killed or wounded during Friday's riot in the eastern city of Benghazi when police firing bullets and tear gas tried to contain more than 1,000 demonstrators hurling rocks and bottles. The casualties included police officers, but the officials declined to say how many people had died.

Rioters charged the consular compound and set fire to the first floor of the building, the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

Domenico Bellantone, an Italian diplomat, said 10 or 11 people or all Libyan or had died.

Antonio Simoes-Concalves, an Italian consular official in Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city, said Libyan police were not able to control the crowd.



**This image made from television shows a burning automobile near the Italian consulate, in Benghazi, Libya, Friday, Feb. 17. Libyans protesting the Prophet Muhammad cartoons set fire to the Italian consulate in Benghazi on Friday.**

"They are still continually firing," Simoes-Concalves said Friday night, speaking on the telephone from inside the consulate where he was holed up.

About an hour after Simoes-Concalves spoke, Bellantone said the rioters had dispersed.

The situation is calm now," he said.

Libyan television showed police officers carrying Kalashnikov rifles in the street outside the consulate.

The riot appeared to be a reaction to Italian Cabinet Minister Roberto Calderoli, who said this week he would wear a T-shirt printed with the cartoons, which have provoked protests across the Muslim world. His remark was widely published in Libya.

Calderoli wore the T-shirt beneath a suit on Friday. Hours later, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi asked for his resignation, the ANSA news agency reported.

The Italian consulate is the only Western diplomatic mission in

Benghazi.

There was no demonstration outside the Italian Embassy in Tripoli, a possible indication of greater state control in the capital. Politics is tightly controlled in Libya or a former Italian colony or open dissent is rare.

The Italian ambassador to Tripoli met late Friday with the Libyan interior minister "who expressed the condemnation of his government for the acts of violence occurring in Benghazi," the Italian Foreign Ministry said.

In Pakistan, the cleric Mohammed Yousaf Qureshi said the mosque and the religious school he leads would give a \$25,000 reward and a car for killing the cartoonist who drew the caricatures or considered blasphemous by many Muslims. He said a local jewelers' association would also give \$1 million, but no representative of the association was available to confirm the offer.

Qureshi did not name any cartoonist and he did not appear aware that 12 different people had drawn the pictures.

A Danish newspaper, Jyllands-Posten, first printed the caricatures in September. The newspaper has since apologized to Muslims for the cartoons, one of which shows Muhammad wearing a bomb-shaped turban. Other Western newspapers, mostly in Europe, have reprinted the pictures, asserting their news value and the right to freedom of expression.

Mogens Blicher Bjerregaard, president of the Danish Journalist Union and spokesman for the cartoonists, condemned the bounty offer.

"It is totally absurd what is happening. The cartoonists just did their job and they did nothing illegal," he said.

He said the cartoonists or who have been living under police protection since last year or are aware of the reward and are "feeling bad about the whole situation."

Pakistani intelligence officials have said scores of members of radical and militant Islamic groups have incited violence in a bid to undermine President Gen. Pervez Musharraf's government, a close ally of the United States.

On Friday, police confined the leader of the militant group Jamaat al-Dawat, Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, to his home to stop him from addressing supporters, his spokesman Yahya Mujahid said. A senior police official in Lahore confirmed Saeed's detention and said the government had ordered police to restrict the movement of religious leaders who might address rallies and to round up religious activists "who could be any threat to law and order."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter.

ambassador from Copenhagen for consultations. The Danish ambassador in Islamabad said relations had not been broken off.

Protests in Pakistan have been large and violent and many have taken on a distinctly anti-U.S. tone. In addition to burning Danish flags, demonstrators have attacked U.S. fast-food outlets and burned effigies of U.S. President George W. Bush, who is scheduled to visit Pakistan next month.

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## Arab League to discuss monthly aid for Palestinians

CAIRO (AFP) - The Arab League will discuss Monday granting the Palestinian Authority monthly aid worth 50 million dollars, amid Western threats to cut off funding after the radical Hamas movement won parliamentary elections.

"The follow up committee from the last Arab summit will meet in Algiers Monday to discuss decisions that have not been implemented including the monthly delivery of 50 million dollars in aid to the Palestinians," Arab League Deputy Secretary Ahmed bin Hilli told reporters late Friday at Cairo airport.

The committee groups Arab League Secretary General Amr Mussa and the foreign ministers from Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Yemen.

The Palestinians' Hamas-dominated

parliament was sworn in Saturday, marking an end to the era of easy collaboration between the international community and the Palestinian Authority.

The European Union and the United States have threatened to curtail funding if Hamas, which has carried out the majority of suicide bombings against Israel, fails to renounce violence and recognise the Jewish state's right to exist.

However, Russia, one of four sponsors of the stalled Middle East peace process, has formally invited Hamas leaders to talks early next month.

Israel has vowed an immediate freeze on the monthly transfer of millions of dollars in customs duties owed to the Palestinian Authority and which amount to a staggering one-third of the cash-strapped government's budget.

# Shots wound 4 during Pakistan cartoon protest

MULTAN, Pakistan — Four people were wounded on Saturday when shots were fired during a protest in central Pakistan over publication of cartoons lampooning the Prophet Mohammad, police said.

The shooting occurred as hundreds of protesters pelted police with stones and tried to block a road in the town of Chiniot in the central province of Punjab, a local police official told Reuters.

He said it was unclear whether police or protesters fired the shots.

The official said police reinforcements had been called in from neighboring towns. "The situation is now under control".

Police detained around 40 activists of the student wing of an Islamist group in the city of Multan as they tried to stage a demonstration in defiance of government's ban on public rallies in Punjab.

Five people have been killed in Islamic Pakistan this week during violent demonstrations against the satirical cartoons, published in Europe, that have enraged Muslims across the world.

About 10 people were killed in clashes



**An activist from the National Conference (NC), Kashmir's main opposition party, shouts slogans outside the office of United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) during a protest against the cartoons of Prophet Mohammad in Srinagar, Feb. 18.**

with police in Libya on Friday when protesters tried to storm an Italian consulate.

Weeks of sometimes violent protests by Muslims across the world against the cartoons, first published by a Danish newspaper and then by many European papers, have triggered fears of a clash of civilizations between the West and Islam. Muslims believe that it is blasphemous to publish images of the

Prophet.

On Friday a Pakistani Muslim cleric and his followers offered rewards amounting to more than \$1 million for anyone who killed the Danish cartoonists who drew the caricatures.

On the same day, Denmark decided to temporarily close its embassy in Islamabad and urged its citizens to leave Pakistan as soon as possible.

Pakistan said it was recalling its

# Hopes fade for Philippine villagers

GUINSAUGON, Philippines — The stench of death hung over a village of 1,800 people in the central Philippines on Saturday, a day after a torrent of mud and rock from a rain-soaked mountain-side engulfed homes and a crowded school.

Only 46 bodies and 57 survivors had been pulled from the reddish soil, with the chances "very, very slim" of anyone else being found alive, said Colonel Raul Farnacio, in charge of the army's relief operations.

"We have two generators. We will try to work round the clock but our men have to rest too," he said.

Friday's disaster, as more than 200 children and their mothers celebrated women's day at the school, buried Guinsaugon, a farming village about 675 km (420 miles) southeast of Manila.

Lacking heavy equipment, about 300 rescuers must contend with deep, shifting mud and an unstable mountainside. Apart from some iron sheeting, other debris and a lone hut, there was little evidence a village once stood on the site.

A British man identified as Rebor White, 53, a resident of the area with his Filipino wife, was among those killed, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said.

The British embassy in Manila said it

could not confirm details until the next of kin was notified.

The government and international agencies were sending water, medicine and other supplies by air and sea, but many of the relief goods must be trucked to the devastated area on bad roads and around washed-out bridges after weeks of steady rain.

"We cannot do anything any more," Christopher Libaton, one of the survivors, said on television. "We just have to accept what happened to us."

Two groups of soldiers, wary of the soft ground, tried in vain to reach the school on Saturday.

"They had to withdraw. They couldn't enter," said Rosette Lerias, governor of Southern Leyte province. "We are continuing with our operations. We have not lost hope."

### Long road for relief

The Philippines is hit by about 20 typhoons each year, with residents and environmental groups often blaming illegal logging or mining for making natural disasters worse.

A series of storms in late 2004 left about 1,800 people dead or presumed dead northeast of Manila. On Leyte island in 1991, more than 5,000 died in floods triggered by a typhoon.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

gathered all state agencies involved in disaster operations and said her priorities were to rescue the living, recover the dead and rebuild the community.

"I call on each Filipino to pray for the victims and the survivors," Arroyo said in a statement. "It breaks my heart to think of those precious schoolchildren whose innocence and hope have been so tragically snuffed out."

C-130 transport planes carried supplies to Tacloban's airport, leaving military trucks to make at least a six-hour trip to Guinsaugon with medicine, rice and clothes from UNICEF and USAID.

The United Nations said it was sending a team to help determine emergency needs and was making an immediate grant of \$50,000 as part of the international response.

The International Federation of the Red Cross said it feared the death toll would be high. It was sending trauma kits, other relief goods and about \$150,000 in initial aid.

The United States sent two naval vessels with 17 helicopters and nearly 1,000 soldiers, already in the Philippines for annual military exercises, to the coastal area.

Australia offered A\$1 million (\$740,000) to help evacuate survivors, set up shelters and provide emergency items.

بِقُلُوبِ مُؤْمِنَةٍ بِقَضَاءِ اللَّهِ وَقَدَرِهِ

نَتَقَدَّمُ بِأَحْرَ التَّعَازِي وَأُصَدِّقُ الْمَوَاسَاةَ إِلَى

الْأُسْتَاذِ / جَمَالِ عَبْدِ الْوَاسِعِ هَائِلَ

وَكَاةِ أَفْرَادِ الْأُسْرَةِ

لَوْفَاةِ الْمَغْفُورِ لَهَا بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى

إِبْنَتِهِ الصَّغِيرَةِ

سَائِلِينَ الْمَوْلَى عَزَّ وَجَلَّ أَنْ يَجْعَلَهَا شَفِيعَةً لَوَالِدَيْهَا

يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ وَأَنْ يُلْهِمَ أَهْلَهَا وَذَوِيهَا الصَّبْرَ وَالسَّلْوَانَ

(( إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ ))

الْمَعزُون:

أ / نَادِيَةِ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيزِ السَّقَافِ

رَئِيسَ مَجْلِسِ الْإِدَارَةِ وَرَئِيسَ التَّحْرِيرِ

أ / خَيْرِ الدِّينِ مُحَمَّدِ النُّسُورِ

نَائِبَ رَئِيسِ مَجْلِسِ الْإِدَارَةِ

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#### **The main responsibilities are as follows:-**

- Participate in planning, evaluation, monitoring and reporting as well as maintain a data base for better implementation and impact results.
- Organize workshops and participate in supervision missions.
- Prepare progress reports on a quarterly basis related to the projects implementation and their impact on the beneficiaries and the capacity building.
- Follow-up of issues and action plans with the involved institutions to ensure effective ongoing operations management.
- Coordinate with the relevant departments in the Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation.

Applications should be sent in sealed envelopes one week after this announcement to the following address:

Poverty Monitoring Central Unit  
Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation  
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# Fifteen people burned in alleged Yarim gunpowder incident

Last month, Yarim, 55 km north of Ibb governorate, witnessed a horrible incident in which 15 people were burned, including six children. So far, none reportedly have died, but eight are injured badly, according to the head of Yarim's Yahsub Hospital.

By: Nashwan Dammaj

The incident occurred simply due to carelessness when two sacks of gunpowder suddenly ignited while being transported on a pickup truck. Loaded with other goods as well, the pickup was traveling through Yarim's Bab Al-Yemen neighborhood, heading for Ali Al-Thawani's trading store. Al-Thawani was riding in the pickup as well.

powder, not realizing where it would land. Others say the pickup stopped for a while after it suddenly broke down. When it began moving again, a spark ignited the fire.

Details remain inscrutable as security authorities refuse to comment on or give information about the incident. At first, they said they had no idea about the incident. The Yarim Security Department vice manager affirmed that it does not have even the least information about the incident, as there was

revealed (by a seeming slip of the tongue) that a pickup was burned by gunpowder, adding that the pickup now is in the Traffic Department's yard. By permission, the burned pickup was photographed. Back at the Security Department, the vice manager hurriedly left his office, saying, "No comment," as if addressing a crowd of journalists.

The supposed accident occurred in a sunny area, surrounded by garbage. In a narrow lane nearby called Bab Al-Yemen, two houses were covered in burned gunpowder. Eyewitnesses explained that a fire swiftly and intensively seared the place, not knowing from where it came, as there was neither an explosion, nor an indication of fire.

Anas Al-Hababi, whose shop was partly burned, said some soda cartons prevented the fire from burning him, while others in the shop were slightly burned. They were: Hajji Mohammed Abdan, Mabrouk Al-Daba and Mohammed Sa'd. A child, Khalid Badri, was among the victims, his back fully burned and parts of his face and arms also scorched. However, he fared better than another five children and some men burned in the incident, eyewitnesses said.

Injured victims were taken to Yarim's Yahsub Hospital, but because there was no medicine there, they were sent to Sana'a. Residents are displeased with Yahsub Hospital, which lacks simple first aid medicines, according to them.

Dr. Ali Muharram, head of Yahsub Hospital, said the hospital is in good condition but there is a deficiency of medical supplies. Despite this, the hospital continues receiving patients, treating various medical conditions according to its abilities. Muharram added that



The pick-up which was carrying two sacks of gun-powder. This view shows how it looks after the incident.

gunpowder victims received first aid treatment. In general, Yarim hospitals are not qualified enough to treat serious burns, so victims were sent to Dhamar governorate's General Hospital. Muharram explained that even that hospital declined receiving them. They were then sent to Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Sana'a. "Yarim Hospital is rumored to have not offered first aid treatment to the victims. Mobs and the public circulate such rumors trying to defame any good man," Muharram noted.

Regarding victims' medical conditions, Muharram said, "One was burned so completely that his countenance could not be identified. His condition is so serious that he may not live long. The other victims' conditions vary from

each other."

Two men at the accident site witnessed the incident – the pickup driver and Al-Thawani, the owner of the gunpowder and goods. They were about to be burned but a glass barrier protected them from the fire and they were harmed only slightly. They did not consider that something like this would happen. For them, the load was something familiar, like wheat or sugar, with the two gunpowder sacks wrapped carelessly and loosely.

They currently are in prison and will be referred to Prosecution. There are two large prisons and just one hospital in Yarim city.

The driver was freed on bail while tradesman Al-Thawani remained there.

The Prison Department refused access to them, claiming it cannot do anything without permission from the district's General Department. Similarly, General Department officials said they must get permission from the government's General Department.

Some say gunpowder frequently is sold and used in Yarim. It was not the first time Al-Thawani transported gunpowder. He allegedly sells it to well and rock quarry owners and may have a license to do so.

Both security department and prison department officials refused to make any statement regarding gunpowder selling or this incident, saying they thought there was "no need to amplify insignificant matters."

## When the power goes off

Electric power outages have become a normal occurrence in most Yemeni cities. This, in turn, creates many problems and embarrassments for everyone who depends on electricity.

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri  
Jabri333@yahoo.com

Since 1990, the electricity sector has witnessed a number of improvements. Over the past 15 years, the Ministry of Electricity Tender Board has approved approximately 1,500 bids to improve and maintain electric power stations. The ministry spent five billion riyals for an electricity improvement project in Sana'a governorate between 2002 and 2005. But despite all these improvements, the electric sector remains unable to cover the country's electricity deficit.

### Special occasions disturbed

Many citizens complain that electricity goes off two to three times daily, which has upsetting consequences for their daily routines. In some instances, power outages put them in embarrassing situations.

In marriage festivities, people set up hundreds of outdoor electric lamps and lanterns, which make the festivities more interesting and joyful. At night, hundreds of friends and guests attend the festivities. But what is embarrassing for the groom's family is when the electricity suddenly goes out. The joy of the occasion dwindles, as people begin leaving. "It was very shocking to me when the lights went out as my

wedding festivities began. I was really embarrassed, especially because my friends said the festivity was not that great," said Adel who married two months ago.

What strikes one most is that anyone intending to erect electric lamps for a marriage festivity should first get permission and pay the Department of Electricity to avoid a power outage. But even if people follow such rules, power outages are inevitable during marriage festivities.

Similarly, power outages also occur during graduation ceremonies, where students usually organize various functions like a projector show or a musical band involving microphones. Once, a graduation ceremony was proceeding and while students were receiving their certificates, the electricity suddenly went out. Some attendees left, while others waited disappointedly. They tried phoning those in charge at the Ministry of Electricity, but the power came back on an hour later. In the moment, students were disappointed and thought the whole ceremony was not a great success.

### Electricity at home

Every house needs electricity. Electrical appliances like washers, dryers and televisions do not function without power. Also, housewives have trouble doing housework. And what will happen to frozen food in

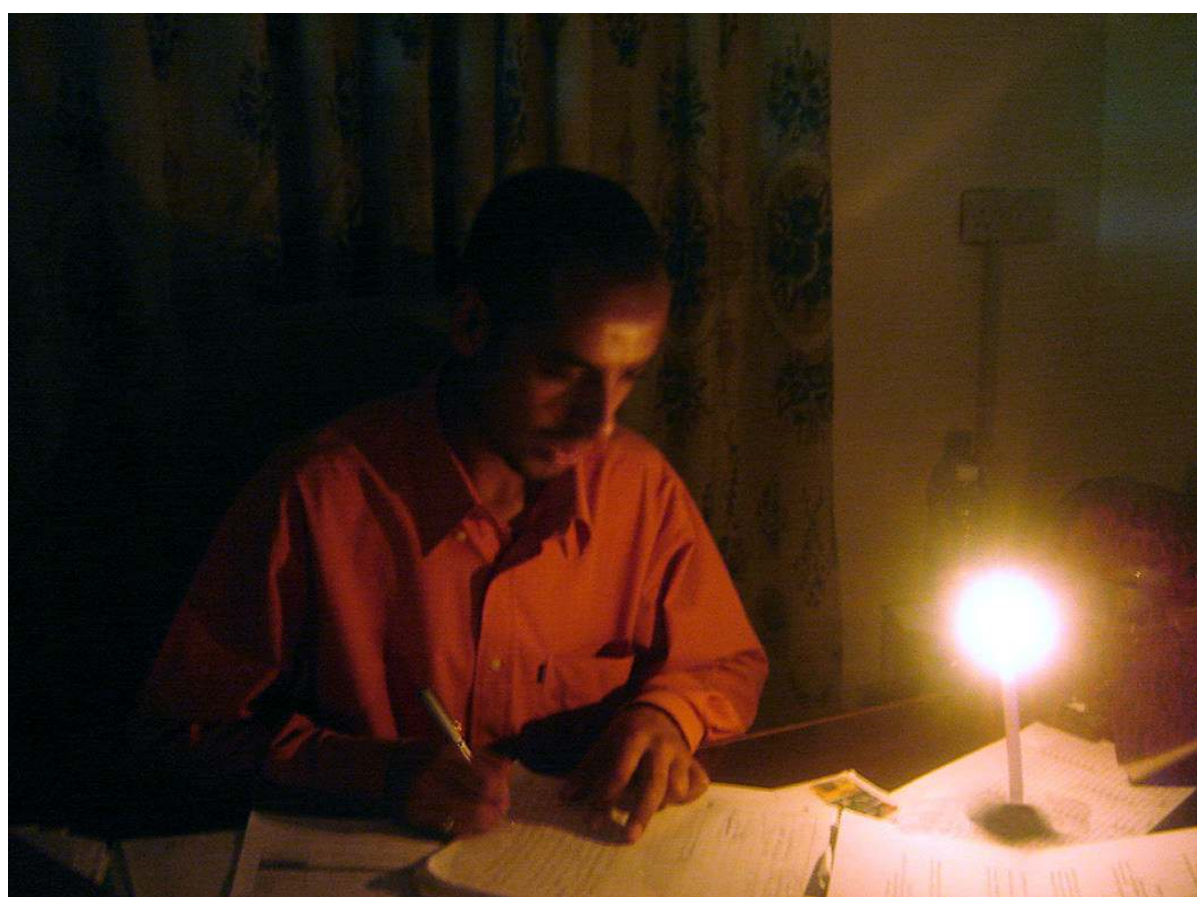
the refrigerator? Without power, families face a water shortage if their water system depends on an electric pump. Housewife Umm Rami says battling electricity has become part of her life, as it goes off morning, evening and night. "If the power goes off, I have to delay most of the housework. For example, clothes remain in the washing machine dirty," she says.

At night, students must use alternate lighting sources such as candles, oil or kerosene lamps, etc., when the lights go out. But such sources do not serve the same purpose as does electric lighting. A student will not be able to finish typing his research paper if his computer is disconnected due to a power outage. When exams approach, electricity very often goes off at night. Accordingly, students face many problems regarding their studies. Most must read by candlelight, which seriously affects their eyesight. Some students get frustrated and decide not to study at all when the power is off.

"I find it hard to read or write by the faint light of candles. I really strain my eyes as I read or do my homework. Sometimes I just wait in darkness for hours till the power comes back on. At times, I just go to bed, even if I haven't finished doing my homework," said Ibrahim, a secondary school student.

### Troubles all around

At night, when it is dark inside, it is dark outside. Walking in neighborhoods at night is difficult when electric streetlights are not working. In some public zones, one may get lost walking from alley to



As usual, lights go off at night. Nasri, a university student, is writing his research paper at the candlelight.

alley. Most surprisingly, in roads under construction, some may fall into a ditch or hit a parked tractor.

Citizens need electricity at work because almost everything involves computers or other electrical machines. Government employee Muneer remembers that a meeting was postponed because they could not provide meeting documents when the electricity went off.

University teachers experience similar problems. For one thing, they

are not able to deliver lectures when microphones are not electrified.

Mahmoud Ali remembers once going to a photocopy shop to copy a document. There was no electricity at time, so he went around to other nearby shops. He knew the whole area was cut off from power, so he took a taxi and went to Hadda Street. "You know, I went to Hadda Street only to copy one single document. It took me two hours and cost me 500 riyals! If there had been power in my

neighborhood, I could have copied it for only 10 riyals," Ali said.

University students also encounter difficulties regarding their studies. University student Sameer says last year he went to a photocopy shop to copy his research paper. When he later went to collect it, the worker said he had not copied it because there was no electricity. That day was the deadline for delivering the research paper, so Sameer was deprived 20 points.



# Natco Launches New HYUNDAI Cars for 2006



## ACCENT- TUSCON- AZERA natco



Hyundai breaks new horizons  
which been monopolized by  
other companies.



### Azera:

a Car that Reshuffles the Cards of Luxurious Cars

In a first celebration of its kind in the automobiles market, Natco the sole agent of Hyundai in Yemen, have launched its new automobile models: the Accent, Tuscon and Azera. Many distinguished guests attended the celebration, including Ahmed Mohammed Al-Kohlani, the Mayor of Sana'a, many businessmen and members of the diplomatic mission in Sana'a.

The Deputy Managing director of Natco, Mr. Jamal A. Hayat, delivered a speech on the occasion talking about the surprises that Hyundai is presenting to its customers, by providing all that is new in the automobile world.

He said in his speech that Hyundai is on its way to the top with steady progress, clear vision and strategy. This is going to make it one of the biggest five automobile manufacturers in the world by the year 2010, he said.

Mr. Hayat went on to say that in several occasions people have talked about Hyundai cars, and also the history of the company. They said it was astonishing amazing as to how it developed and grew so dramatically and rapidly.

They said it was astonishing and amazing as to how it developed and grew so dramatically and rapidly. He said people were looking at Hyundai as young company that had competed with the big ones- and surprised them. Things however had changed, he said, "Today is totally different. We are now talking about Hyundai the Giant car company, a company that arouses astonishment and appreciation among its competitors," he said. "If competitive automobile companies want to know about their portion in the market, it must pay attention and watch Hyundai as well."

Hayat added: "we in Natco bet on Hyundai and Hyundai did not let us down. We make big promises to our clients and our partners

in Korea make us fulfill our promises, no matter how big they are. Our partners always surprise us with more than we expect."

He also briefly explained some of the new launched cars, the Accent, Tuscon and Azera 2006. Accent 2006, is family practical car, with smooth lines, unique internal capacity in its category, in addition to its economy in using fuel.

Tuscon 2006, is 4WD vehicle that combines both comfortable performance of normal car and the strength of a 4WD. It is characterized by being a family car, excelling over its peers in its internal capacity and power of its engine. It was designed for those who love adventures and an exciting life. The fully new Azera was designed to compete with all luxurious cars in its smooth shape, quality, performance and absolute comfort in its cabin.

He said that Azera marks only the beginning from Hyundai in its entry into the category of big luxurious cars. "It's a quantum leap for Hyundai Company in terms of design, production and performance," he said, adding that "trying it once is enough to make the way a very exciting experience".

Mr. Hayat then talked about the great capacities and distinctive quality in after-sale service in the maintenance centers of Natco. He concluded his speech saying that there is no shortcut to success, and that the fruits of success comes from persistent and dedicated work, continual development in sale and marketing, and in creating strong relationships with customers in providing them with high quality in the level of after-sale service. After this a film show was played on a huge screen in the celebration hall, demonstrating the most important qualities of the three new cars. The main gate was then opened with the cars entering in a very innovative manner and style, which impressed everybody.



People attending the celebration listened to a detailed explanation on the distinctive features and specification from the experts in charge of sale in Natco. There was also an open cafe and light snacks, which people enjoyed while talking and exchanging views on the great models of Hyundai.



HYUNDAI models displayed today  
suit all different society classes and all their variable needs.



# Expert: keep Yemeni mummies buried

By: Yemen Times Staff

Two newly discovered Yemeni mummies currently are confined to a dark corner inside a National Museum annex awaiting necessary arrangements expected via routine government procedures.

Another mummy, unearthed sometime earlier, is displayed in a nearby glass case. "They came from Al-Jawf province," museum officer Muhammad Al-Sayani said, pointing to the two mummies, "however, we don't know from which part of Al-Jawf. The provincial culture office spotted them with some tribesmen and managed to buy them." Tribesmen would not tell from which exact part they brought the mummies.

A team examining the mummies has submitted reports to culture officials requesting specific equipment to preserve and prepare them for exhibition.

Some media outlets have hailed the act of purchasing historical and archeological finds as something encouraging leading to national heritage "conservation." However, after consulting experts about the state of



One of the leather-shrouded mummies found recently in Al-Jawf province.

affairs, one realizes the extent of the devastation. Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, former president of the General Museum and Antiquities Organization, believes Yemeni mummies should remain buried.

"We cannot afford to lose our heritage," he began. "Unearthing mummies requires specialists trained in this area of archeology. Mummies that

come by traditional digging are of no use. They are excavated by people who don't know what they are doing. They uproot them, carelessly damaging them and the archeological sites they are in.

"The problem with such mummies is not in the act of excavating them but in preserving them. We don't have the capacity to preserve such mummies or bodies. Until we become able to do so,

leave them buried. Looters are damaging our history by prematurely unearthing the dead and pillaging archeological sites." Abdullah recommended archeological sites be protected by tight security and looters punished, appealing to authorities to do something about such "national heritage abuse."

Abdullah led an expedition that discovered a group of mummies in Sana'a province's Shibam Al-Gharas in the 1980s. Those mummies are kept at the Sana'a University's museum. Mummies have been found in various areas across Yemen including Al-Mahwit, Sana'a and Al-Jawf.

Abdullah noted that Yemeni mummification depended on using a special local tree called "ra," as well as certain other substances. With its cotton-like yielding, the tree had the ability to absorb moisture, thus keeping the bodies dry.

"Like other pagan peoples, ancient Yemenis wanted to immortalize themselves, so this is why they turned to mummifying bodies," Abdullah explained. However, not all people had access to such a costly technique. "Only the rich could afford to do it, keeping the bodies in necropolises, tombs or special towers and structures," he added.

# Yemen's literary criticism ailing

By: Yemen Times Staff

A symposium was held Thursday, Feb. 16 at the Sana'a-based Arab Critic Forum discussing, "The Criticism Scene in Yemen," presented by coordinator Dr. Ahmed Al-Zumur, Dr. Ahmed Al-Mansouri and Dr. Ali Haddad.

Al-Zumur gave an overview of the general criticism scene worldwide and current approaches. The other two presenters discussed aspects of literary criticism in Yemen.

Sana'a University Faculty of Languages professor Al-Mansouri centered his talk on what he called, "The Reality and Ambition of Academic Criticism," focusing his attention on university-bound criticism. He admitted that literary criticism in Yemen is feeble and should be invigorated by first diagnosing its weaknesses and then trying to eliminate them.

Al-Mansouri pointed out that a country's literary criticism can be gauged by its academic institutions' production because it is only there that erudite, profound and disciplined criticism can be found. He divided such criticism into two categories: theoretical and applied. The former involves studying a particular issue in a theoretical manner, as well as

developing criticism in Yemen, such as Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh's "The Genesis of Criticism in Yemen," and Dr. Riyadh Al-Qirshi's "Modern Literary Criticism in Yemen." The latter includes works of a host of critics who tried examining creative works in light of set rules of a particular literary school or studying general aesthetic characteristics of poetry from a specific era.

Al-Mansouri said a number of critics have used the modern literary approaches, both textual and contextual. On the other hand, he also enumerated the foibles, mentioning a production crisis wherein academic critics do not produce works continuously. "After they obtain their academic degrees, they rest for a long time," he said, "Some feel more at home with politics or get absorbed in social activities." However, Al-Mansouri cited certain exceptions like renowned Yemeni critic Al-Maqaleh.

Another problem is keeping up with Arab and foreign criticism, as critics live on islands, isolated from other critics elsewhere and from Arab literary criticism heritage. Also among problems is lack of contact with creative individuals, especially young writers, who even have published their own full works – which Al-Maqaleh calls "orphaned works" – because they must be accompanied by criticism. He

concluded his presentation by highlighting the well-known adage, "Wherever there is good criticism, there is good creation."

Thereafter, Haddad indicated the problem of criticism in terms of the area it works in and the critic's own specifications. He described a true critic as "a rare creature," hardly to be found because of high qualifications he or she must embody, such as being knowledgeable, experienced, multilingual, etc.

He pointed out that modern criticism has come from the West, but criticism is a human phenomenon with no nationality. According to Haddad, this is why it is difficult to tackle literary criticism within the limited boundary of a country.

He mentioned some elements of Yemeni critical experience, such as knowledge accumulation, contact with the prevailing atmosphere, the nature and quality of criticism produced, critics and whether they live up to the task of criticizing literary works.

Haddad commented on Yemen's criticism scene regarding the following: the label "critic" must be redefined, as some are literature teachers or researchers and may not be critics; criticism published in journals is the most common type of criticism in Yemen but does not live up to the quality

of academic criticism. Haddad described Arab critics' contribution to the local criticism scene, saying most Arab literary figures visited Yemen and contributed something pertinent.

"Good creation can exist in a bad situation, but it takes a real civilization to give birth to good criticism," Haddad asserted. He cited examples from the Arab past, including great poet Abu Al-Tayyib Al-Mutanabi, who transcended his deteriorating age, but said criticism cannot live only in a bright age such as the Abbasid State.

Symposium participants pointed out that to discuss a subject as broad as Yemen's criticism scene requires a larger time span, as it requires discussing related aspects such as criticism of all literary genres – novels, stories, plays, etc. The topic also requires discussing the timeline of literary criticism development in Yemen. Participants called on literary and cultural institutions to encourage criticism, pushing it into broader horizons to improve cultural reality and stir stagnant waters. Audience member Dr. Hatim Al-Saqr suggested a week would have been adequate to cover the subject, provided more specialists were involved.

A number of academics and interested parties attended the symposium, including Arab Critic Forum director, Dr. Abdul-Wase' Al-Himiari.

# Marriage customs in Ba'dan district

By: Ahmed Al-Shariqi

Ba'dan district in Ibb province lies six kilometers east of Ibb with Ba'dan Mountain in between. It is bounded by Al-Sabra district in the south, Al-Sha'ir in the east and Al-Makhadir in the north.

Marriage is a common social convention essentially similar in all areas, yet there are slight differences from one area to another.

Of course, engagement is the first stage of marriage in which a man goes with his mother or one of his sisters to ask for a woman's hand from her parents. A small party is held on the engagement day involving many people including the fiancé's friends.

On the engagement day, a dowry is set in which the bride's father sets forth his terms and conditions to be approved upon both parties' consent. The agreement then is drafted and documented on paper by a local cleric or preacher.

In the past, a mother chose her son's life partner and she was responsible for that choice. The man did not see his bride until the wedding day and the situation stood thus.

## Henna night

Henna is done the night before the wedding day. On this night, villagers go out to a yard in the village center, called a *gareen*, where they make fires, beat drums, perform popular dances and chant religious poetry. The gathering includes the man's friends, guests and villagers who come to congratulate him and wish him the best life.

They then head to the bridegroom's house, chanting popular festive poetry until they arrive. At the gate, they contin-



ue performing dances and accompany the bridegroom to the sitting room.

A man spreads henna paste on the bridegroom's fingers and decorates the center of his palm with a geometric shape. Afterward, some attendants put henna on their hands, following the bridegroom's example. The party continues into the night and wedding necessities are prepared.

Villager cooperation is seen clearly on such social occasions. For example, villagers are divided into groups: one to prepare food, another to buy qat, another to host guests in their homes from outside the village, etc. The bridegroom spends the henna night with his friends until dawn. It is a memorable night in that it vibrates with songs, verses and merriment.

## The wedding day

The wedding day is the main celebration day when the bride is taken to her bridegroom. From the day's onset, drums are

beaten and songs are sung.

The bridegroom showers and wears a nice new traditional dress with a decorated sword on his shoulder.

Villagers of all ages gather in the yard where drums are beaten. Attendants perform popular dances, like *bara* and *haw-shaliah*, accompanied by songs and chants. Villagers also receive outsiders in this yard and then take them to the bridegroom's house.

Some villagers take guests on a short tour to a nearby mountain or valley and show their area's characteristics until noon.

At noon, a group including the bridegroom's relatives, guests and villagers, all of them called *shawah*, go to the bride's house and later return with the bride.

However, those who stay at the bridegroom's house go to pray in the local mosque. Afterward, they go to the bride's house for lunch, which includes many dishes prepared by several households.

They then go to the village's public sitting room where they drink tea and chew qat between afternoon and dusk prayers. People also sing and recite poetry during this session.

When night falls, all go to the mosque to pray and then return to the village yard where dances are performed accompanied by drum and pipe. They continue until the bride is brought by the other group. They stand in a line to receive the bride with anthems and attend the signing of the marriage contract, wherein the bride's father and the bridegroom formally consent to the marriage in the presence of a cleric and witnesses.

## Consummation night

On consummation night, the bridegroom lawfully consummates the marriage after having paid an agreed amount of money to the bride herself. This is the first night of married life. When the bridegroom comes out of the room, his brothers and friends receive him in the sitting room where they perform dances, eat sweets and a meal.

## The eighth day

The eighth day after the wedding, the bride's father and his family comes to the bridegroom's house to see how things are with the new couple. The bridegroom receives and welcomes the family. They then take a tour and practice shooting rifles, returning to perform the noon prayer. Afterward, they go to the bridegroom's house for lunch and tea in the garden.

Finally, they have a qat session in the sitting room. The bridegroom's father heartily welcomes them and gives them qat and water. They spend the session chatting about a variety of issues until dusk when it is time for guests to leave.

## The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

17

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

**They say the lion and the  
lizard keep  
The courts where Jamshyd  
gloried and drank deep:  
And Bahram, that great  
hunter - the wild ass  
Stamps o'er his head, and he  
lies fast asleep.**

## Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah

## The Qur'an and the Universe: From the Big Bang to the Great Conitron<sup>1</sup> (Part 2)

Author: Usamah Ali Al-Khadhir

Language: Arabic

Publisher: Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Year Published: 2004

No. of Pages: 833

After reviewing the rationale of the author in seeking to delve into the highly elaborate and constantly evolving fields of science and theology and for delving into the challenging task of bringing both science and religion together, we can look into the effort with more scrutiny.

The book starts off with a general exploration into Islam and the Prophet Mohammed as Chapters I and II (Respectively titled Mohammed the Messenger (P) and A Philosophical Scrutiny Between Science and the Qur'an). In the discussion on the Prophet's life and mission, the author asserts the importance of the task that was assigned to this humble man, who was born in the midst of what Arab historians call the "Period of Ignorance". The author sees this discussion on the Prophet Mohammed's life as essential for Moslems to comprehend and understand. Al-Khadir makes it clear from the start that the tragic state of the Moslem World today is due to the lack of real understanding that present day Moslems of their most revered human being and the actual pursuit he was after. He points out that the Prophet Mohammed spent most of the early part of his mission (in Mecca) instilling the essential frameworks of faith and to making faith as indivisible to the mind set as human instinct. Thus it is not the constitution of the Islamic State that the first 13 years of the Post Revelation period in the Prophet's life that consumed all his energy and skill. The significance of the religion of Islam comes in its ability to project that for human beings there is no other conforming dogma that is amicable to human nature than Islam and thus Islam is bound to be accepted by any open minded highly observant human being, who knows that somehow life must have meaning and spiritual legitimacy in the mind set of the believer if it is to be a worthwhile creed that goes beyond a set of worship rites and practices or restrictions and sanctions. That is why all the early verses of the Qur'an repeatedly remind man of his prominence and the large span of bounties that God has put in the universe all so that man can be what he is: the most developed of all lining creatures and the one that has greater limits of discretion than any other of God's unlimited number and types of creatures to whom God breathed into the spirit of life and equipped them with all the dynamism needed to maintain man's supremacy on this planet. According to Al-Khadir, the issue of today's Moslems is not so much the institution of the Islamic State, but more importantly the elaboration of the human believer in terms of doctrine and spiritual ideology. It is senseless then to have a Moslem State when its constituent citizenry is neither equipped with the spiritual wherewithal to grasp its highly refined moral dogma and nor the cemented bond between the human

spirit and the Divine, which is why faith is an almost inescapable prerequisite to any meaningful life that one would wish to have during his/her relatively short sojourn on this planet. The author in this part of the book basically sets out to answer the oft repeated philosophical question: Why am I here and where is all this that we face in life supposed to lead to? In order to understand the basic elements of faith and its practical implications on the life of human beings, the author contends that Moslems must be fully aware of the life of the Prophet Mohammed, for it is through this deeper scrutiny into the Prophet's life that they will have a chance to see the magnificence of what they are supposed to believe in and the grace that God has given man. As the greatest and final prophet, the Prophet Mohammed was indeed a unique human phenomenon that has never been equaled and will never be equaled by any man before or after him. It is only logical that the last messenger of God should be in command of all the traits and character that will project him out as the living model of the creed he is propagating for mankind. Without a doubt, this unique amalgamation of all the good that man can potentially be a reflection of is bound to have a lasting impression on anyone who is familiar with the life of the Prophet Mohammed. It is no wonder then that all those early Moslems, who lived in the prophets short span of 63 years are impressed by the uncontested amassment of morality and virtue in one man. In fact, had it not been for Mohammed's insistence that he is no more than a mortal being and insuring that this is instilled in the First Pillar of Islam (There is but One God, Allah and Mohammed is the Prophet of Allah – the proclamation of faith in Islam and the entry password into the creed – surely his followers would have otherwise regarded him as an element of the supernatural. In his time and among his people (even his enemies) he was recognized as free from any deviousness or mischief and his honesty and adherence to telling the truth was unquestioned by any of his people. Thus, it was easy for the Mission to be unloaded on a man who was to be the model and template by which all adherents to the faith can look to for the virtues and morals they need to have the favor of their Creator in this life and in the eternal life that awaits all men, when they are put to account for all their deeds and their misdeeds, their hidden secrets and their exposed moments of life to those they lived with. So the believer must study the life of the prophet well to grasp the fundamentals of the faith and to find answers to many of the questions that people normally conjure up as the trials and tribulations of life seek spiritual comfort and Divine inspiration. The author underscores the significance of this as an important element that will elevate the believer to the highest echelons of spiritual bliss.

*1 Actually the Arabic word "insihag" could also mean "grounding" to a powder, but contrition would be more fitting with the spiritual context of the book, when we all realize that we probably missed the chance to make peace with our Lord.*



## Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen need accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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

OUR  
OPINIONPublic wrath and  
saving face value

While the world today sits on a timed bomb, the Yemeni people are increasingly becoming aware of the uncertainty of life. The turbulences our world today is going through reminds me of what I have read about the first and second world wars. Only today, it is the public who will pull the trigger and not politicians. Governments have no longer been able to maintain their control over what is going on around the world. And it seems that masses are starting to take matters into their own hands rather than just wait for a new strategy, a new government policy or coming elections.

I am saying this because of the various reactions among the Yemeni people and local media regarding the recent changes in the government. Mistrust is the most common attitude and intellectuals have already jumped into the conclusion that this is just a show to save face value and buy time from the people until the presidential elections. Speculations are that this new structure will not last beyond the elections in September, when the actual change – if at all – will be decided through the ballot boxes. However, considering that there are fifteen brand new names in the composed government is worth appreciating. Moreover, replacing the minister of finance who has been there almost as long as the president himself is an achievement on its own.

What would have happened had these significant changes not taken place today? A high level friend at the ministry of interior explained that the Yemeni people are on the verge of breaking down and if it were not for the hope for political change things would have turned ugly. Apparently the Yemeni people still have some hope for political change whether through new policies of the government, or through local council, parliamentarian and presidential elections. Today, Yemen is going through an unannounced price hike. The prices of basic commodities have doubled and the cost of living has deteriorated awfully. Despite all this, and despite the doubtful sniggers by many local political observers it seems that many of the Yemeni people are still hoping against hope that the government lead by President Ali Abdullah Saleh would stop letting them down. Change is hope, whether it is just to save face value or a real attempt for reform, and any change is welcomed. Yet, if the new government turns out to be just a waste of time I fear that the people would react differently, perhaps violently. As they say, when you have nothing to lose, then you have nothing to lose.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf  
Editor-in-Chief

Palestine future after  
the legislative elections

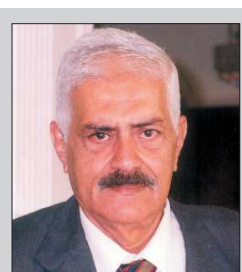
It has really been the first frees and decent elections held in the Arab homeland, that is how western media described the Palestinian elections and asked the western politicians to conduct dialogue with Hamas and other Palestinian organizations.

The Palestinian authority has decomposed because of the plague of corruption. This was what happened in Egypt and would happen in a number of other Arab capitals.

I do not want to talk about the dilemma nor about the present and the future. I just want to talk about peoples' rights to choice, and that was what happened in Palestine. The voters' turnout was estimated at more than 77%. They refused corruption and concessions and selected the resistance.

The results of elections were surprising, even the leaders of Hamas had not dreamt of this sweeping victory as the won 76 seats. Thus the elections that were not subject to fraud and voters were not exposed to prevention from casting their votes, came to reflect reality and emphasize that people selections are correct.

For this reason I believe that the



By: Prof.  
Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

Palestinian people deserve that every Arab citizen should bow his head in salutation with admiration and appreciation. The latest Palestinian elections, not just the results they ended with, single out two very important clear-cut indications.

First of all they reveal the extent of maturity attained by the

Palestinian people, and the second is the extent of resolution and insistence they entertain.

The turnout in the elections was very high despite of the troubled security circumstances and harshness of the Israeli occupation and disrespect for all human rights and civilized values, and taking into consideration that this proportion did not have any falsification or change of the fact.

Variables also change. Therefore the Palestinian authority had accepted the presence of foreign observers of more than one thousand Arab and non-Arab observers. The authority accepted all those because it had nothing to hide and did not think of declaring but the truth.

Those who fear the presence of foreign observers or overseers under pretext of the sovereignty of the state, they

ridicule themselves and do not laugh at others. They rather hide the intention of manipulating fraudulently the will of the people and do not want to have the world a witness on their fraud. The Palestinian people, however, proved to bigger than all that.

A question may force itself here and we must give an answer to it however hard it may be. Why he Palestinian people, despite the difficult circumstances around them, are the only Arab people who have such a high proportion turnout in the elections and welcome observers and none has said they have committed violations? Why do the Palestinian people live an experience heralding the birth of a genuine democratic state, despite the very severe circumstances surrounding them?

Why does not the ruling party study this experience? The experiment also deserves good contemplation and preparation by the opposition parties to take part in the upcoming local and presidential elections so that to be an inlet to the coming parliamentary elections.

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

## Again: why do they hate us?

By: Martin Bendeler  
mbendeler@yahoo.com

Why do they hate us? This seems to be the question occupying both sides in this clash of civilizations between Islam and the West. George Bush says Islamic terrorists hate America because they hate America's freedom and prosperity. He says the correct response is to invade Iraq and curb civil liberties. Many in the Middle East struggle to understand why Danish illustrators hate Islam and draw insulting pictures of the Prophet Mohammed. And why other European newspapers would reprint them. They say the correct response is to harm Danish companies, pressure the Danish Prime Minister to apologize and prosecute, even burn down embassies and issue Fatwas of death. But if you want to know why somebody hates you, just ask them.

Osama Bin Laden has said publicly, frequently and clearly why he hates America- because it based around 500,000 troops in the land of Mecca and because of its unstinting support of regimes that repress Muslims, particularly Israel and Saudi Arabia. A logical

response would seem to be policies that are tough on terrorist groups but tougher on the causes of terrorism. Not invade Iraq. However, in America now, powerful politicians have made it unpatriotic to question the causes of terrorism. And even treasonous to question whether invading Iraq was the right thing to do. George Bush prefers his people to be angry, scared and ignorant. It stops them asking other questions about what he does. It gets him reelected.

So do Danish newspapers hate Islam? According to the BBC, a Danish newspaper asked 12 artists to draw the Prophet "as they saw him" to highlight self-censorship after a prominent children's author could not find an illustrator for a book on the life of the Prophet for fear of attacks such as those on a University of Copenhagen lecturer who read the Qu'ran to non-Muslims and the murder in the street of Dutch film director Theo Van Gogh. The article was published under the headline, "Profound fear of criticism of Islam". It was written as an assertion of the right to criticize religion in Denmark without fear, not as a declaration of hatred towards Muslims.

European governments have not always been secular. Not so many hun-

dreds of years ago, many millions of Europeans died in wars between Protestants and Catholics. Europe stopped this bleeding by agreeing that people can say what they want about religion and governments can't. They will never compromise this principle easily. Many European newspapers republished the pictures not because they hate Muslims, but to say, "If you want to take action against one paper for caricaturing a religious figure, then you will have to take action against us, too."

Intelligent Muslims, if they are offended by the actions of an individual, should respond by approaching the person who offends them to resolve their differences within the laws of their land. Why make the Danish Prime Minister apologize for the questionable but legal actions of another Dane? Or why stop with him? Why not demand that Kofi Annan apologize and take action? Or the illustrator's parents? Why make unrelated Danish companies suffer? It is immoral to make an innocent person responsible for the actions of another. And it is illegal to prosecute someone for something that is legal. Why are some Muslim leaders inciting their people to settle for nothing less than responses that are illegal, immoral and impossible?

Europeans and Muslims are swinging punches at each other in this clash of civilizations not because they want to destroy each other, but because they want their values and concerns to be understood and respected - for Muslims, that any representation of the Prophet is hurtful, for Europeans, their right to freely criticize religion. Asking "Why do they hate us?" is a good first step towards this mutual understanding, provided we take the time to find our own answers and not blindly accept the reasons and responses given to us by self-interested politicians.

Islam is strong enough to withstand provocation from Danish illustrators. It makes itself little by responding angrily to little people.

Martin Bendeler is an Australian conservation and development consultant.

## Letters to the Editor

## Don't fatwa the messenger

Regarding responsible free speech, if the cartoon stereotypic reduction of Mohamed and Islam to terrorism and violence so offends, then don't fatwa the messenger – confront the ugly reality.

Aaron Agassi  
agassi@erols.com

## Where is your opinion?

I read your editorial. It basically retold the story, but I missed your personal opinion on it.

Have you ever seen the cartoons? Do you want to see them? Do you know there is an internet list with pictures of your prophet throughout the

centuries?

It is a misunderstanding if Muslim governments go to the Danish government to complain about its press. In "Western" countries, the press is absolutely free – it is the "fourth power." In most countries, only Nazi symbols and Holocaust denial are prohibited.

I also am following Muslim discussion about separation of religion and state, as well as about Islam and "enlightenment," which led to secularism and its freedoms in the West (not always in the U.S., though), a step Muslim societies have yet to make. Interestingly, most progressive Muslim

thinkers live in Egypt or in the West.

Thomas Richers  
trichers@datanetworks.ch  
Switzerland

## Women leaders

Your letter about women in leadership is timely.

In the Arab world, we seem to forget – or ignore – that women are the first teachers of our children and the mothers of our civilization.

It is only by helping and encouraging women to realize their full potential and be full partners in all spheres of society that men will ever realize their full potential and be able to hold

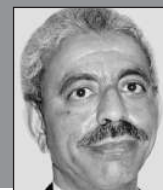
their own in a competitive world.

Rashid A. Abdu, M.D.  
raa1@neuoucm.edu

## The irony

Wow, how impressive – women, forced to wear burqas, slaves and property of their husbands, are commanded by their husbands to protest a cartoon! How ridiculous is that? Do they think the free world will find that a powerful image? Property protesting a cartoon – you ridiculous lot. If anything, it will emphasize how undeveloped you are.

Anglo  
yourmama@hotmail.com

COMMON  
SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Mohammed: The greatest  
reformer of all times

It is not just non Moslems who are ill informed about Islam. Many present day Moslems display a lack of true understanding of their own faith. This is not to say that they are lacking in faith, but rather a true comprehension of all the spiritual ramifications of their religion and its significant social ordinances that would be helpful in helping them to set their own societies on a proper course.

Thus, most Moslems are so enmeshed in the worship rites of Islam and the dos and donts of Islam that they almost forget that the social ordinances and the related political manifestations of the religion are just as important to consider, if a true believer is to obtain the full merit of their faith.

Therefore, it is not surprising that people of other faiths will find sufficient grounds for making fun of the religion or seek to find ways to misrepresent the religion out of a latent prejudice or temptation to please those who might find it in their best interest to misrepresent Islam, its important icons of great piety and reverence by all the faithful and its creed and doctrine.

Notwithstanding the sad state of the Moslem World today and brushing aside the mistaken association of a few Moslem extremists, who have been nurtured in so many misconceptions about Islam, to genuine Islamic doctrine, Islam still represents one of the greatest social reform movements of all time. Even with the gross biases that western historians have tried to disseminate about Islam, there is so much that one can say to make those biases not worth the ink they are written in. As a person educated in the United States from the elementary school to the university, this bias against Islam was very apparent and very real in all levels. Even at the university level, there was an effort by many professors (this was long before terrorism was made a synonym of Islam by the Bush clique and the Likudniks of the International Zionist Establishment). One is not sure whether this attitude on Islam stems from a long history of entrenched western misconceptions about Islam or the fault of the Moslems themselves for not trying to shed light about their religion, not to mention the true manifestation of the faith in many Moslem societies. I might venture to suggest that it is both of these factors together. However, in this age of relative ease in communications with the entire world, it has become imperative for faithful Moslems to dispel the misconceptions and let the West know that Islam is very easy to live with and has more to share, in terms of beliefs and heritage, than westerners are willing to believe. Today the relations between the Moslem World and the West have been put in jeopardy by some evil elements that are trying as hard as they could to increase the friction between adherents of Christianity and Islam. Thus, it is imperative that Moslems make it clear to their Christian friends that the similarities between both faiths are more than having to justify any divisions or rifts between them and that the horrendous misconceptions in many westerners' perceptions of Islam will not help further the cause of world peace. One of the best books written in English about Islam is the "Eternal Message of the Prophet Mohammed", by Abdurrahman Azzam (in English). Although written by a Moslem, it is really meant for non-Moslems, who do not have the faintest idea about how important Islam is to many of the modern conceptions that make up the social framework under which modern societies live by. The book also provides an interesting insight into how Moslems view faith, social cohesion and other fundamental issues that distinguish Islam from other faiths. In addition, the book also defines how Islam perceives its relations with the other monotheistic religions and the historical record in this respect. Accordingly it is easy to see why Moslems might get upset at some idiotic and obviously deliberate effort to portray an image of the greatest spiritual and social guide ever delivered to mankind. This becomes even more appalling when this is done by members of a faith, whose leading icon, Jesus Christ, is also highly revered by Moslems as one of the greatest prophets of Islam and indeed a miracle of God: a sign of His Omnipotence and Al-Mighty Power – a magnificent example of His ability to create as He so wishes.

The reforms that the Prophet Mohammed (Peace of Allah be upon him) introduced into the universe stem from Divine Ordinance that demands justice and equal treatment of all mankind, whether by Government or the society. It also calls for freedom from all kinds of oppression: the oppression of rulers, mercantile establishments and even people oppressing themselves by denying themselves the amenities of life, as long as they are not at the expense of the suffering of other human beings.

In addition, Mohammed introduced simplicity in religion, whereby there is no need for any complex illogical rituals or a clerical order (there is no clergy in Islam) as the relationship between the believer and the Al-Mighty is kept on a direct One-to-one basis that does not require any clerical intermediaries. Those who are sometimes labeled as Moslem "clerics" by the western press and even by some Moslem writers are no more than religious scholars, who have no spiritual leverage over the faithful and the degree of reverence they may have among the faithful are measured by the degree of piety and goodness they display, rather than any temporal power they may hold.

Oh sure, the Islamic World today is beset by many problems and difficulties, but *Islam is not the reason!* One hopes that non-Moslems will try to understand the essentials of Moslem beliefs, perceptions of God and other fundamental issues of faith that hopefully will remove biases and shed light on the magnificence of a truly great religion. As for Mohammed, there is no defense for him needed and the high regard that Moslems have for him then as evidenced by the reactions of Moslems from throughout the world to the Danish cartoons. Ms Condoleezza Rice is wrong in thinking that these protests are born out of enticement by any authority. In fact, if the current regimes that are ruling in Moslem countries were not so repressive, the protests would have probably been larger and more vocal than what has been seen up to now. For Moslems well remember that God says in the Quran to Mohammed: "We have sent you as mercy to all the worlds!", i.e., to all mankind.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

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# Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Wasat weekly,  
15 Feb. 2006.

## Main headlines

- Escape of al-Qaeda member prisoners calls world resentment, a demand for international investigating committee
- Under high-ranking directives, Sheikh Al-Ahmar re-elected chairman of the parliament presidency body
- Warships offshore Yemeni coasts to hunt down al-Qaeda escapees
- While the president denies them, International pressures behind the Yemeni government reshuffles
- Amnesty International warns Yemen against signing secret agreement with America
- Security not serious in pursuing kidnappers of girls in Taiz and a woman protest demonstration
- American professor: situations in Yemen similar to those in Lebanon in 1975, the regime liable to fall
- Teachers threaten with all out strike
- Al-Qaeda No. two man in Yemen stands trial
- Defending the Prophet in Yemen changes to accusations and condemnation

Editor in chief of the newspaper has devoted his article to talk about the opposition in Yemen saying part of the country's crisis is the responsibility of the opposition leadership. This leadership does not know what it wants and lacks in clear vision towards the solutions that should be adopted to get out of a really dark tunnel.

I mention the opposition because until today it has not put itself as an alternative of the existing regime and still unable to come of captivity of the president, considering the mere meeting with him and his listening to that leadership as a gain and accomplishment.

Opposition leadership considers that as an achievement even if the meeting did not come out with any decision, as happened in its last week meeting with the president devoted to discuss the Elections Supreme Commission.

How could we trust an opposition that is unable even to declare it is going to run for the presidential elections? Are the independents who announced they would compete in the presidential elections more courageous than the opposition together?

No one is against dialogue that will lead to real reforms. But on what ground the dialogue parties stand, if we take into consideration that the opposition is standing on quick sand

made by its illusions towards authority? The regime will not be reformed without a strong and good opposition and rust governs its parties.



Al-Wahdawi  
weekly, organ of  
the Nasserite  
Unionist  
Organization, 15  
Feb. 2006.

## Main headlines

- Cabinet reshuffles to manage lections of the ruling party
- Government negligence in encountering the threat of bird flu
- Security officials grilled in the case of prisoners escape
- Following increase in kidnapping children, demands for ousting leaderships of authority in Taiz
- Three soldiers and two women killed in confrontation in Saada
- Breaking through citizens houses in Amran in search for al-Houthi followers
- To prevent them from demonstration, oppressive practices against teachers
- Security pursuit of Al-Wahdawi newspaper, Yemen Journalists Syndicate: we refuse police ways against journalists
- As-Sabri demands re-formation of the Elections Supreme Commission

Columnist Ali Al-Saqqaq comments on the latest Yemeni cabinet reshuffle saying the reshuffle, as other similar ones before, has not brought forth something new and in general it was shocking and disappointing. Except the change that involved the minister al-Salami, any of the newcomer, departed or remained names have not been received with people's interest.

If there was any surprise, especially in the media circles, it was the return of Mr. Hasan Al-Lawzi to the ministry of information. Mr. al-Lawzi is a poet an intellectual and had previously been minister of information at the prime time of the totalitarian era. That has aroused large-scale argument among press and media circles that have divided in opinion about his return.

Many of those working in media fear that al-Lawzi return to mean restoration and revival the era of mouth muffling and suppression of freedoms. Oppositely, others think that the man and due to his culture, poetic spirit and experience would inaugurate a new media phase keeping pace with variables and accommodate changes.

Amidst justifiable pessimism and cautious optimism, hope remains high that the old new minister will take steps for the development of information in



Annas weekly, 13  
Feb. 2006.

## Main headlines

- Donor countries give the government a last chance with demands to be fulfilled in six months
- Decency of elections brings the JMP and the GPC back to dialogue table
- Female Media Forum condemns the official campaign to smear its reputation

An article on the newspaper's front page mentions it is the right of the new minister to give them a space of time before we could announce our despair from them. We cannot the news names before we read their CVs or activities in the coming period which seems to be meant to be an attempt for effecting necessary reforms called for by those interested in the future of this country inside and outside.

After the announcement of the cabinet shuffle we tried contacting national leaders and personalities in power and the opposition to sound out their impressions about the new formation. Nevertheless, most of them preferred to keep silent under claim of not being hasty in giving judgments about causes of the surprise reshuffle and the persons it brought to power until the image become clearer.

It seems Yemen is waiting for a new stage where the Yemeni administration looks too be forced to shake the stagnant waters under insistence of the international pressure that suffers from frustration because of ignoring its warnings. As a first impression some appointments that have been announced receive welcome of all and some we hope they carry cut what is expected from them. We think we are at a threshold of a new stage and we have to look for a ray of and to tell the new ministers you are welcome into the field of responsibility.

Al-Mithaq  
weekly organ of  
the General  
People's  
Congress (GPC)  
13 Feb. 2006.

## Main headlines

- Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar, the GPC candidate for chairmanship of parliament presidency



- Yemen takes part in Jeddah economic forum
- Considered the government reshuffle a serious direction towards reforms, Politicians: A technocrat government formation baring the spirit of the future
- A strategy for national action in childhood and youth area
- Verdict in the case of attempted assassination of the American ambassador beginning of March

Columnist DR Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says in his article "resistance is the solution" is the slogan that Hamas organization has been raising even as it is edging towards forming government of the Palestinian authority. To be fair the slogan is different than similar slogans raised by some political parties and regimes for political consumption. It has been a realistic slogan. We need this slogan very much. We need it not only to resist the enemies and the direct and indirect occupation but also to raise it against weakness that crept into our souls and to resist the readiness to surrender to occupation and dubious calls. The slogan of resistance is needed to be used against external and internal pressures aimed at imposing hegemony and expansion in political and economic control. We need resistance to deter the desire for division and sectarian split.

The enemies have temporarily succeeded in accusing the resistance of terror at a time it is innocent of it as a goal and style. It has only been the resistance of the enemy occupying the land and killing the innocent people. The genuine forces have clarified through commitment and practical conduct the real resistance. Those who accuse the resistance of terror realize before others that the resistance defends the legitimate rights of oppressed people and works for restoring the usurped land. There is no power on earth able to stop people who

have chosen the road of resistance and defense of freedom of the homeland and independence.



Ash-Shumou  
weekly, 11 Feb.  
2006.

## Main headlines

- Former U.S. ambassador to Israel discusses in Sana'a the question of reducing Hamas activity
- The army controls Anam, kills 10 rebels and arrests tens of them
- Teachers Union chairman: We shall sue Bajammal government as we did with Al-Iryani government

In an article on its back page the newspaper says we do not think that the opposition would continue in believing that its role is confined to condemnation of the government, the regime and the ruling party. We also do not think that it would maintain playing a past political tune which no one any longer wants to listen to.

Democracy and peaceful transfer of power cannot be achieved through declaration of enmity to the homeland

or seeking support from outside. Accusations marketed abroad are of the kind the pretexts the foreigner took advantage of to violate sovereignty of states and regimes. The opposition is need of possessing genuine national vision and national stand enabling it acquire sympathy of the Yemeni masses as well as their respect and trust. The opposition does not need to force others to open its files that would surely not make it happy.

Democracy is not in harmony with claiming legitimacy of possession or acquired rights. Also, the present disorders could not be treated by one party or through the current address of the opposition that led us to be in need of a national Marshal project. Such a project capable of enabling the opposition owning its cultural and political project by its own to define through it its ideological and political precepts and also to define its vision of citizenship with regard to rights and duties. After that the opposition can crystallize a national project suitable for deliberation, dialogue and circulation away from its present concept which invests disorders and failures to create more of them.



**SILVER LINING**

By: Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi  
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## Election Reform Boosts Fair Play

We have been following the heated debate between the opposition coalition and the Supreme Elections and Referendum Commission (SERC) and the ruling party on the voters' register revision committees. The SERC has been accused by the opposition coalition of fraud, of being biased and unfair in distributing the voters' register revision committees among the political parties which the SERC denied. We are used to such kind of media barrage between the opposition parties and SERC in every election and then the problem is sorted out in a way or another. But, this time it should be different, particularly after the opposition coalition signed an agreement concerning their joint work and issued their initiative for political reform, which is actually a joint program for their work in the future. This is exactly what people expect from this coalition.

I know the situation of the coalition member parties is not promising; they face a lot of challenges and are themselves unable to address the public concerns in vocal and courageous manner. They have not been able so far to name any person to challenge Saleh in the next presidential election. But, the wide participation of the opposition coalition in this election is very vital for the prosperity of the emerging democratization drive in the country. This does not mean participation for the sake of participation only to legitimize the election; rather it should be an active and strong competition that leads to change by the end of the day.

Like in some other Arab countries, the people of Yemen have become fed up with election and its inability to introduce any change into their lives. They voted in some elections and sometimes their votes were useless.

The same big influential guys who have been oppressing them for decades made their way to the parliament, however. Now, their oppression is now immune and unquestionable. These elections brought about massive wins for the ruling party, resulting in a toothless parliament. This has halted democratic drive and frustrated the voters.

However, the results of the recent Palestinian parliamentary election has given the people in the Arab countries a hope in the possibility of change once there is a fair play. People can not afford to go and cast their votes every six or seven years without any fruits. People need to see that their votes are able to hit the nail on the head, leading to the change of the people in power. This change can not take place unless there is fair and free election.

I guess the call of the opposition for a clean voters register is very important and the real step for substantiating a fair and transparent election. If the civil service payroll is plagued with the problems of dual and ghost job holders, we can not assume the voters register to be completely correct. This has been acknowledged by the political parties, SERC and some international election organizations which have praised some of the efforts carried out by the SERC.

Another crucial issue which has been discussed from time to time is the election system loopholes; the single-member electoral districts, according to the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, limit the chances of opposition parties to gain the number of parliamentary seats that would boost their competitiveness and has helped to kill pluralism before it has had a chance to develop. Therefore, it is very important that it is replaced by a system that strengthens party pluralism, even to cover half of the 301 seats of the parliament.

# The Quest for Investment

By: Jean-Michel Severino  
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The Hong Kong meeting of the Doha Round of trade negotiations has left a palpable sense of frustration in the developing world over the slow pace of agricultural liberalization agreed to by the rich countries. It may thus appear naive and counterproductive to raise the bar and suggest that we need to go beyond trade and move investment to the top of our priority list. Yet can any "development round" worthy of its name ignore this challenge?

It had originally been intended that the Doha Round would address investment, but the developing countries chose to downgrade the issue and concentrate on agriculture instead. This tactic has proven to be a two-edged sword.

In China, Brazil, Malaysia, and Mexico, foreign direct investment (FDI) accounts for 8% to 12% of gross fixed capital formation – without generating debt. Although the least developed countries attract less than 3% of north-south investments, these flows account for more than 3% of their GDP, a level higher than the average for developing countries.

In hopes of stimulating FDI, bilateral agreements have multiplied, but they rarely lead to balanced commitments. Competition among countries to attract investors is intense, and only a few, such as China or India, are able to negotiate on equal terms with the industrialized world. The developing countries, therefore, have an interest in calling for mul-

tilateral dialogue on investment conditions in order to obtain certain collective guarantees.

Indeed, without returning to the illusion of economic planning, these countries need to be able to set conditions for foreign investors that aim to maximize the local impact on employment, technological diffusion, strategic partnerships, and so forth. At the same time, developing countries may need to promote local private sectors and "infant industries" through temporary protectionist measures, which would help them to upgrade their output on the road to liberalization.

There is nothing heretical about such proposals. After all, the developed countries have done much the same thing. In the nineteenth century, the United States restricted foreign investment in several sectors, including finance. Today, both the US and the European Union keep a close watch on international acquisitions. The emerging countries of Asia similarly depart from the pure liberal model. Even Ireland, the champion of economic liberalization, has now turned to a more selective approach.

Refusal to recognize the legitimacy of such strategies caused the collapse of the Multilateral Agreement on Investment in 1998, after three years of negotiations between the OECD countries. The project was perceived – rightly so – as amounting to a surrender of sovereignty, because it introduced a rigid principle of non-discrimination between foreign and local companies that would eliminate the host country's room for maneuver without offering anything in return.

Such a prospect would be even less acceptable to developing countries.

Under what conditions can one reasonably hope to restart a multilateral agreement on investment? To be viable, such an agreement must recognize the legitimate need for some regulation. It would also need to help poor countries cope with the quasi-generalization of "social and environmental responsibility" standards that are increasingly shaping corporate practices and consumer demand. It should incorporate an investor code of ethics, as well as a formula for sharing the costs of implementing such standards among the state, foreign operators, and local sub-contractors.

Of course, imposing the same investment conditions in all countries could take away the incentive to invest in the least attractive of them. But an agreement could be reached to establish categories of countries, the most important aim being to prevent dumping between countries that are at the same stage of development.

To succeed, a multilateral negotiation would also need to address the expectations of foreign operators, who want assurances that their investments are safe. An agreement should contain provisions to improve the business environment – its transparency and predictability – by setting a framework for state intervention without stripping government of its prerogatives. This would reduce the probability of crises while putting in place mechanisms for cost-sharing should they occur.

No multilateral investment agreement

will be able to address all of the institutional problems and market failures that prevent capital from flowing to developing countries. Some economists point to imperfect information, which precludes companies from considering the higher returns on investment available in the developing world. If this view is correct, an agreement could create new instruments for disseminating information, while signaling poor countries' commitment to welcoming FDI.

Other analysts point to the increasing returns that accompany greater concentration of investment – a force that works to the disadvantage of poor countries. At the very least, a multilateral negotiation would provide an occasion to recognize the existence of the problem, reflect on how best to coordinate investments, and help move development assistance accordingly.

Despite the complexity involved and the need for technical assistance to the weakest nations in the negotiation, a multilateral investment agreement should be among the top priorities on the international agenda. Indeed, whereas agricultural trade issues put rich and poor countries' national interests on a collision course, promoting investment flows to the developing world could unify all countries around a shared objective.

Jean-Michel Severino is the CEO of France's international development agency, the Agence Française de Développement.

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www.project-syndicate.org



## NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

### Request for renders for a “Fleet Tracking System”

The National Water Resources Authority, (NWRA) is engaged in managing groundwater extraction by the licensing and control of drilling rigs operating within the Sana'a Basin. To this end NWRA invites companies with expertise in Fleet Tracking System to submit quotations to supply and install a comprehensive GPS-GSM or fully satellite-based fleet tracking system for between 100 and 200 Rigs. This is to be a stand alone government-owned and managed system (i.e. rental agreements will not be entertained) the requirement is for precise passive tracking; not two-way communication. The outline specifications are:

- The provision of robust and secure GPS receiver/ GSM or satellite transmitters on a fleet of up to 200 drilling rigs.
- Supply and installation of a central Receiver-Control station with large color monitor, computer, software, color printer, appropriate cabling and roof antenna.
- Provision and installation of a full-color detailed integrated computerized UTM-based map of the Sana'a basin of Yemen with  $\pm$  zoom capability and vehicle location resolution to better than  $\pm$  50 meters.
- The provision of both screen and hard copy of up to four daily position reports and a “locate vehicle on demand” capability.
- The provision of appropriation training for 3 to 5 NWRA staff in the system operation.
- A system capability for future modular upgrades for up to 800 rigs and up to 10 control stations throughout the GSM-serviced areas of Yemen.

The tender offer should be accompanied with the following:

- A bid bond of cheque payment for 2.5% of the bid offer valid for three months and issued from a local Bank in Yemen.
- A copy of a valid Tax Card with regard to local companies.
- Copy of valid insurance card with regard to local companies.
- A copy of qualification documents from manufacture.
- A copy of the agency document from authorized agent in Yemen representing foreign company and certified by the concerned authorities.
- The offer must be technically, financially, and commercially complete to be submitted in one original and three copies.
- The bid must be subjected to tax which is mentioned in Yemen law.
- The offer must be sealed by red wax.

The deadline of submission of offers is on Saturday 4/3/2006 at 11AM at NWRA office.

**National Water Resources Authority of Yemen**  
P.O. Box 8944, Sana'a  
Yemen (Amran Road, Sana'a, Yemen)  
Tel: +967 1 231733, 251530  
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E-mail: NWRA-HO@y.net.ye

## الهيئة العامة للموارد المائية

### دعوة لتقديم عطاءات لتوريد وتركيب اسطول متابعة الحفارات

تقوم الهيئة العامة للموارد المائية بإدارة الموارد المائية وبما في ذلك المياه الجوفية وذلك عبر مراقبة الحفر العشوائي في الجمهورية اليمنية، وبهذا الخصوص تدعو الهيئة العامة للموارد المائية الشركات ذات الخبرة في أنظمة المراقبة و المتابعة لتقديم عروض اسعار لتوريد وتركيب نظام مراقبة ومتابعة تحركات الحفارات يعمل بنظام الـ **GSP** أو **GSM** أو يعتمد كلياً على الأقمار الصناعية وذلك للعمل بين ١٠٠ أو ٢٠٠ حفار، سيكون هذا النظام نظاماً مستقلاً يمتلكه وتديره الحكومة (أي بمعنى لا تعتمد اتفاقيات تاجير) النظام المطلوب هو للمتابعة الدقيقة السلبية وليس نظام ايصالات ذو اتجاهين .. المواصفات العريضة للنظام هي كالتالي:

- توريد جهاز استقبال قوي ومأمون من نوع الـ **GSP** أو **GSM** أو اجهزة ارسال عبر الأقمار الصناعية تعمل على مجموعة الحفارات مكون من عدد يصل لغاية ٧٥ حفار .
- توريد وتركيب محطة تحكم جهاز استقبال مركزي مع شاشة ملونة ضخمة وكمبيوتر وبرمجيات وطابعة ملونة والتسليك المناسب وهوائي سقف.
- توريد وتركيب خارطة ملونة بالكامل ، مفصلة ، موحدة تعمل بالكمبيوتر وتقوم على نظام الـ **UTM** لحوض صنعاء في اليمن مع إمكانيات نظام تزويم  $\pm$  وحل تحديد موقع سيارة لأفضل من  $\pm$  متر.
- تقديم تقارير على شاشة وعلى نسخ ورقية لأربعة مواقع يومياً والقدرة على تحديد موقع السيارة عند الطلب.
- توفير التدريب لعدد من ٣-٥ من موظفي الهيئة العامة للموارد المائية على تشغيل النظام .
- قابلية النظام لعملية التحديث المستقبلية ليستوعب لغاية ٨٠٠ سيارة ولغاية ١٠ محطات تحكم على مناطق تشغيل الـ **GSM** في اليمن.

يشترط لقبول العطاءات إرفاق ما يلي :

- إرفاق ضمان بنكي بواقع ٢.٥٪ من قيمة العطاء صالح لمدة ٩٠ يوماً من اخر موعد لتقديم العطاء.
- إرفاق صورة من البطاقة الضريبية صالحة المدة مع إحضار الأصل للمطابقة.
- إرفاق صورة من السجل التجاري صالح المدة مع احضار الاصل للمطابقة.
- إرفاق سند تسديد رسوم المنافسة
- ان يكون المتقدم وكيلاً معتمداً أو مفوضاً رسمياً للشركة المصنعة.
- على المتقدم إرفاق شهادة مزاولة المهنة لتوريد مثل هذه الأعمال.
- تقدم الاسعار بالعملة المحلية أو ما يعادلها من العملات الأخرى .
- تقدم العطاءات بمظاريف مختومة بالشمع الاحمر من اصل وصورتين الى إدارة المشتريات والمخازن بالهيئة بصنعاء
- الهيئة غير ملزمة بقبول أقل الاسعار والعطاءات غير المستوفية للشروط.
- رسوم العطاء ١٠٠٠٠ ريال لا ترد

سيتم فتح المظاريف بمقر الهيئة بصنعاء شارع التلفزيون جوار مجلس الشورى يوم (السبت) الموافق ٢٠٠٦/٣/٤ الساعة الحادية عشره صباحاً بحضور الموردين أو المندوبين.

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بريد الكتروني : NWRA-HQ@Y.NET.YE

## Request for Proposals

Yemen's National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) invites companies with scientifically qualified staff in the field of crop-water requirements and analysis of irrigation efficiency, to submit proposals for:

### A STUDY TO CONSERVE GROUNDWATER THROUGH MORE EFFICIENT CROP WATER USAGE.

The objectives of this study are to:

- (1) Determining the optimum crop-water usage for a range of crops-qat, cereals, fruit and vegetables, under the full range of environments within Yemen.
- (2) Optimization of cropping patterns and calendars for irrigated annual crops.
- (3) Capacity building in NWRA to measure crop water requirements as a part of their medium-term monitoring infrastructure.
- (4) Preparation of guidelines to farmers for conservation of irrigation water through improved irrigation efficiency, and the elimination of over-irrigation.

This study, to be conducted in stages over 18 months, is funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, and will involve a detailed analysis of crop-water usage with a view to improving irrigation efficiency and hence groundwater conservation, throughout Yemen.

Tenders should conform to the following documents and requirements in addition to technical and financial proposals:

- A bid bond of cheque payment for 2.5% of the bid offer, valid for three months, and issued from a local bank in Yemen.
- A copy of a valid Tax Card with regard to local companies.
- A copy of valid insurance card with regard to local companies.
- The offer must be technically, financially and commercially complete, to be submitted in the form of one original and three copies.
- The bid must be subjected to tax, in accordance with Yemen law.
- The offer must be sealed with red wax.

The deadline for submission of offers is, 12.00 noon on Saturday, March 11th 2006. Companies interested in submitting offers are invited to contact NWRA's chairman for the *background*, *Terms of Reference* and detailed *Request for Proposals*.

NWRA's contact details are:

**National Water Resources Authority of Yemen, NWRA,**  
P.O. Box: 8944, Sana'a, Yemen (Amran Road, Sana'a, Yemen)  
Tel: +967 1 231733 Fax: +967 1 231530;  
e-mail: NWRA-HQ@y.net.ye

## Request for Proposals

Yemen's National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) invites companies with suitably qualified staff in the field of socio-economies within the water sector , to submit proposals for a study on:

### ‘Options for Changing the Economic Incentive Structures for Groundwater Extraction in Yemen’.

The objectives of this study are to:

- a) Identify which factors are driving groundwater overdraft in Yemen
- b) Identify realistic incentives to motivate the agricultural sector in reducing its groundwater extraction from rapidly depleting aquifers, and
- c) To make recommendations for implementing water conservation incentives as part of ‘water basin management plans’.

This five-month study, funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, will involve a detailed analysis of farmers' water usage and on-farm practices, attitudes, traditions and micro-economic constraints within the wider context of the socio-economic and political environment.

In order to facilitate this 3-basin study it is expected that interested international companies will utilize field specialists with local knowledge.

The tenders should conform to the following documents and requirements:

- A bid bond of cheque payment for 2.5% of the bid offer, valid for three months, and issued from a local bank in Yemen.
- A copy of a valid Tax Card with regard to local companies.
- A copy of a valid insurance card with regard to local companies.
- The offer must be technically, financially and commercially complete, to be submitted in the form of one original and three copies.
- The bid must be subjected to tax, in accordance with Yemen law.
- The offer must be sealed with red wax.

The deadline for submission of offers is midday, 12.0 noon on Saturday, March 11th 2006.

Companies interested in submitting offers are invited to contact NWRA's chairman for the *background*, *Terms of Reference* and detailed *Request for Proposals*.

NWRA's contact details are:

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# Poor environment means poor health

By: Amel Al-Ariqi  
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

Three months ago, many citizens panicked after a local newspaper reported a family of six was taken to Al-Thawra Hospital in Sana'a suffering high fever, muscle and joint pain, stiffness, headache, delirium, cerebral disturbance and a dark red rash of elevated spots on the torso and shoulders, spreading to the rest of the body.

Dr. Abdulhafidh Al-Sulwi, Al-Thawra internal department director, confirmed the report, adding that a driver from Al-Hudeidah governorate arrived at the hospital experiencing the same symptoms. Al-Sulwi revealed that all patients were infected with typhus, which is transmitted by body lice and less commonly by head lice. According to Al-Sulwi, the disease is common among those living in unsanitary environments, as they are subjected to attacks by insects and rodents residing in exposed sewers spread throughout their neighborhoods.

Although the patients recovered, Al-Sulwi confirmed, most returned to live in the same environmental circumstances. "They constantly will be at risk for infections and diseases," he warned.

Typhus was not the only disease mentioned by the press. Local press recently dispersed news stories of disease outbreaks in many Yemeni regions. Typhus, cholera, shigella (dysentery), polio and cancer were common diseases headlining many newspapers, which declared Ministry of Health negligence and asked for investigation of the reasons behind such outbreaks.

Al-Sulwi and other doctors called for considering environmental factors



Many people in Yemen die annually due to water pollution-related diseases.



in any studies or invitations to discover problems and solutions to them.

## Cholera or shigella?

Al-Jazeera Channel reported last month that 14 Yemeni children died due to cholera infection in Al-Jawf. Shortly thereafter, local press reported that 14 children died and 63 children experienced cholera symptoms in Al-Jawf governorate. According to local reports, the children suffered diarrhea and loss of water and salts in their stools.

A Ministry of Health official later confessed that nine children died; however, he insisted shigella caused their deaths, not cholera.

Whether they died from shigella or cholera, both diseases result from contamination. Medical studies show that the only means by which a person can be infected with cholera is through contaminated food or water. Therefore, disease prevention is a matter of sanitation.

The same is true of shigella, which is

spread via contaminated food, water and milk. Feces from active cases – and those from healthy carriers as well – contain massive amounts of the disease-producing bacteria. Flies carry the bacteria on their feet, in their saliva and feces and deposit them on food. Ants also are believed to spread the disease.

Such information was confirmed by the ministry's Epidemic Control Department director, Dr. Abdul-Hakim Al-Kohlani, who said the dysentery was caused by dirty water and pollution. He pointed out that Yemeni citizens do not consider cleanliness of water resources or their children's food.

## Cancer

Doctors at Al-Jumhuri Hospital's cancer center revealed that 20,000 Yemenis are diagnosed annually with cancer, with more than 5,000 traveling abroad for treatment. Excessive use of insecticides in spraying fruits and vegetables, air pollution due to burning waste in populated regions and con-

taminated food and water are the main causes of lung cancer, gum cancer, stomach cancer, liver cancer and skin cancer, which are very common among Yemeni cancer patients, according to cancer center studies.

## Polio

Polio's reappearance in Yemen was a huge shock to many, particularly the World Health Organization (WHO) and Yemeni Ministry of Health experts, as Yemen was so close to being announced as a polio-free country. However, the discovery of 22 polio cases caused the ministry, in association with WHO, to instigate numerous vaccination campaigns to try to stop the disease's spread. Although doctors confirmed that the polio virus transferred to Yemen from Sudan, they also confirmed that children infected with polio all were living in unsanitary environments.

Medical research insists that the polio virus typically enters the body through the mouth, multiplying in the

tonsils and lymph nodes of the upper respiratory tract. Infection proceeds from the mouth through the stomach to the gastrointestinal tract and into intestinal feces. The virus multiplies in the intestines and is shed from feces, often resulting in further infections. Improper waste disposal can lead to water supply contamination. Such infections, in turn, will spread the virus more widely.

## Poor environment and lack of monitoring

A parliamentary report revealed that 55,000 children die annually due to water pollution-related diseases. The report, which warned of spreading contaminated water usage, confirmed that 50 percent of childhood death cases in Yemen are due to water pollution, 20 percent due to diarrhea and 30 percent due to malaria and typhoid.

The National Water Sector Strategy Investment Program (NWSSIP), reporting on the years 2000 through 2003, indicated that only 25 percent of

rural populations have safe water access, while those with safe sanitation access are 20 percent. Many citizens use unsafe methods to get rid of waste, whether human or water waste, which leaks into the ground. The report said such behavior damages groundwater, Yemen's main water source, as well as public health.

The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) confirmed the above figures in its "Report on the State of the Environment in Yemen for the Year 2001." According to the report, there were more than three million registered death cases in 2000 due to water pollution-related diseases, confirming that death occurs mostly among rural peoples, representing 77 percent of Yemen's population.

The EPA report also warned about random waste-disposal, noting that large amounts of waste and rubbish are thrown out without management or classification. Such waste is exposed to stray animals and insects who become diseases carriers.

The EPA report also referred to high health risks from air pollution, which is obvious in major cities like Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Hudeidah, due to activities such as burning fossil fuels like gas, coal and oil for powering industrial processes and motor vehicles. Among harmful chemicals such burning releases into the atmosphere are carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and tiny solid particles, including lead from gasoline additives.

The recent remarkable spread of epidemics and diseases in Yemen is considered a clear sign of environmental deterioration and vice versa. Therefore, many experts refer to the importance of considering environmental issues impacting health in order to promote public health in society.

# Dia and ECHO provide humanitarian services to Al-Muftash area in Taiz

By: Tahani Mohammed  
And Ahmad Al-Bukhari

Al-Muftash area in Taiz governorate, where a majority of the poorest and most marginalized citizens live, has been in a miserable state for a long time. Due to its location at a flood site, it has been subjected to this natural disaster, which left behind scores of garbage of various kinds, as well as damaged houses. Consequently, residents have been affected environmentally, financially and health-wise.

The area's deteriorated state drew the attention of Dia, a humanitarian non-governmental organization (NGO). With the support of ECHO (Humanitarian Aid /European Commission), Dia decided to improve residents' and the area's condition. Among services offered were flood protection walls and a water and sanitation network, accompanied by hygiene and environment training courses. Once work was in full swing, a Yemen Times correspondent went to the field to interview Dia's work team and area beneficiaries as follows.

## Many needs, limited capability

Senior Technical Adviser Mohamed Benechebli explained, "We conducted a study on the area to identify its needs and found that due to its flood bed location, Al-Muftash and nearby areas have suffered flooding disasters for a long time. The situation has worsened in recent years due to the fact that chan-

neling of Taiz implemented by the Flood Protection Project allowed the water flow to become so high, that it reached the area too fast."

According to Benechebli, floods accompanied by garbage swept away soil and houses causing financial, health and environmental problems. Also, several residents are found dead each year in the wadi bed and 20 houses were flooded and seven completely destroyed in the last heavy rain in September 2004.

"Lack of an area sanitation system forces people to defecate outside, causing environmental as well as health problems," he pointed out. Residents also lack water since the area is not connected to Taiz main network. Women and children especially must obtain water from far away. "This pushed Dia, with ECHO financing, to implement projects whereby Al-Muftash and nearby residents can benefit," Benechebli explained.

He said Dia and ECHO began work by implementing floods protection walls to reduce flooding impacts on soil and housing. They also implemented two sanitation networks with two septic tanks: one in Al-She'ebah and the other in Al-Muftash. The septic tanks were implemented in a way that doesn't affect the environment, as they also implemented a water network. To support the above-mentioned activities, the two groups conducted hygiene and environment training courses. Committees also were formed to follow up future activities, especially in terms of flooding. "One of their most impor-

tant tasks is maintaining the [walls] and taking care of them," Benechebli added.

Concerning difficulties faced, he said, "Frankly speaking, the area needs too many things Dia cannot meet with in its current capability, especially in terms of soil conservation. We coordinated with different sides, such as those in charge of the Social Fund for Development, the Soil and Groundwater Conservation Project and the Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry, which paid field visits to the area and looked closely at the area's needs. These needs can't be met except through the efforts of those who care about the environment."

Benechebli continued, "While implementing our projects, we encountered a lot of difficulties, but we overcame them with the cooperation of Taiz leaders, whom we thank so much, especially Mohammed Ahmed Al-Haj, local council secretary general; Shawqi Ahmed Hayel, chairman of the planning, finance and development committee and Anas Al-Nahari, Al-Qahera local council secretary general."

## "Dia saved us"

One local beneficiary said, "We have lived here in Al-Muftash for more than a century since our ancestors came and settled here. Truly, Dia saved us from heaps of garbage and flood dangers and let us feel we are like others having the same rights. We used to be forgotten; nobody paid attention to us."

He said floods assailed their houses, leaving behind various kinds of garbage, which caused residents diseases.

He also mentioned regional water shortages, saying, "We had a spring, but spring waters ran out, so we were without a water source and had difficulty getting water. We used to defecate outside," he noted.

He added that Dia implemented the flood protection project and water and sanitation networks as it trained women, girls and boys in the fields of flood mitigation, hygiene and environment. "So our area became as any other in Taiz city, having its share in the modern city."

## Two- to three-meter flood walls

Ibrahim Abdulqawi, flood mitigation works contractor in Al-Muftash and Al-



Flattening Wadies to build Gabions

She'ebah, clarified, "We are implementing long flood walls consisting of the rocks and baskets at the riversides. The height of these walls ranges from two to three meters. Work began several months ago in 2005. We encountered many difficulties like rain and floods, which took away work materials, but we overcame them. As you know, Al-Muftash area was a flood garbage area. Floods come from Saber Mountain, passing through channels implemented by Taiz Flood Protection Project and finally remaining in Al-Muftash area, along with all the garbage it carried on its way."

## Sanitation networks for residents

Bakeel Ali Mohammed, supervising engineer of water and sanitation networks, said they are implementing water and sanitation networks. The sanitation network in the two areas is connected by pipes and manholes to two septic tanks: one in Al-Muftash and the other in Al-She'ebah. Each consists of a reception, sedimentation room and clarification room which go to a filtration field.

Mohammed confirmed that the way the septic tanks have been built will not effect either the environment or soil. Waste will be pumped at least every six months by pumping trucks belonging to Taiz Cleaning Office. "We built septic tanks due to the impossibility of connecting the area to Taiz sanitation network because the Grilled Chamber is much higher than the area. This huge

project will help the area avoid disease, transferring it into a civilized one. The water network consists of main pipes to be connected to Taiz main network," Mohammed added.

## Hygiene and environment training courses

Ibtisam Nagi, one of the women benefiting from the project, said, "Dia French organization implemented many

## Regularly providing garbage trucks and bins

Dia social activities leader Raja'a Naser clarified activities: implementing the project's technical aspects, accompanied by social activities in the fields of hygiene and environment. Many training courses were conducted for women and students, with the main aim of improving health and environmental conditions. The courses focused on cleaning and how to use water.

Taiz Cleaning Project Chairman Sadeq Al-Taweel provided the area with garbage bins and sent trucks to the area to regularly transport garbage. Two committees, one for flood mitigation and the other for hygiene and environment, were formed to implement what residents have been trained in. The flood mitigation committee was trained by experts from Yemen's Red Crescent, chaired by Abdulwahab Al-Gherbani. Dia provided cleaning supplies.



Filtration test for Al-Muftash septic tanks



## Job vacancy

SIPC represents a reputed multinational oil company engaged in petroleum exploration and production. SIPC is based in Sana'a and now announces for "financial consultant" all applicants must be aged 30 or above.

## Required qualifications and certificates:

- Education : bachelor degree in financial or related major.
- Language : fluency in writing and speaking both Arabic and English.
- Knowledge : a good knowledge of oil and gas accounting, and having a professional accounting qualification.

## Grade/salary:

will be only commensurate with qualification and experience, and will not be a constraint for the right candidate.

If you meet the above requirements please forward your resume, not later than February 28<sup>th</sup>, to: SIPC E&P YEMEN

Add: Villa #10, off Street No. 21, Shalameh Area, Haddah, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Tel: 00967-1-411788

Fax: 00967-1-424185 P.O. Box: 16383

E-mail: yemen69-71@sipc.com

iepyemen@zpeb.sinopec.com.cn





# VACANCY Economic Assistant

The U.S. Embassy, Sana'a is seeking individual for the position of Economic Assistant in the Political/Economic Section.

Post uses the incumbent's various capabilities to help advance efforts to reform and develop the country's economic, financial and investment sectors through a variety of technical and consultative programs. Incumbent develops post's contacts with representatives of the government and private sector, and provides analysis and research to support post's economic reporting. Incumbent uses language skills and familiarity with local economy to help strengthen bilateral economic and investment relations between Yemen and the United States.

### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

NOTE: All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed below with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.

- A. Education: B.Sc. Degree in economics or related field is required.
- B. Prior Work Experience: 3-5 years work experience in economic related field is required.
- C. Post Entry Training: N/A
- D. Language Proficiency (list both English and host country languages proficiency requirements by level (II, III, IV) and specialization (speak/read): Level IV (fluent) in English and Arabic is required
- E. Job Knowledge: A strong general knowledge of the host country's economic structure and institutions. Required to understand USG procedures for programs and reporting. requirements. Solid fundamentals in macroeconomics and public finance. Must have broad knowledge of host country's economic relations with the region and the United States.
- F. Skills and Abilities: Ability to interpret the needs of higher grade staff members for press and related coverage of current economic developments

**SUBMIT APPLICATION TO**  
Human Resources Office (or Admin Office)  
P.O.Box 22347  
Phone No. 755 2050  
Fax No. 303182  
E-Mail: [hrosanaa@state.gov](mailto:hrosanaa@state.gov)

**CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION:** March 04, 2006

**NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**



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- Embassy (eg: a commercial bank) is required.
- 3. Language proficiency: fluency in English and Arabic (level 4 on a scale of 5) is required. Must demonstrate ability to read and interpret regulations and to communicate effectively in written English. This will be tested at the interview stage.
- 4. Skills and Abilities: Requires above average competency in computerized business applications as well as in the Microsoft Office suite of software, in particular, Excel and Word applications.

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Phone No. 755 2050  
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**CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION:** February 26, 2006

**NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**

## VACANCY

EQUIP 1, a USAID funded project working in the field of educational development has the following position opening for Yemeni candidates only:

### Financial Assistant

**She / he will be responsible for the major job function of the position. She / he will be part of the team.**

### Qualifications & requirements:-

**The candidate should be capable of:**

1. Initiating and clearing the project payments in a timely manner.
2. Inputting the monthly cost in accounting system.
3. Ensuring that costs are allocated to the correct element of cost.
4. Reconciling monthly project payments with bank statement.
5. Issuing, tracking and reconciling cash advances.
6. Reviewing subcontractor and vendor invoices for accuracy.

### Additional Qualifications:

1. Payroll experience.
2. Knowledge of QuickBooks software.
3. English Language skills.
4. Excel software skills.

Experience in developing budget projections would be an added advantage.

**All interested candidates should have a minimum of B.S. degree in accountant with a minimum of 5 years of professional experience in accounting position preferably in the private sector or in a development project.**

**All interested candidates may send their CV's with supporting documents of experience no later then Feb. 25, 2006 to the following address**

**[Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply].**

**Attn.: Financial Manager**  
**Fax: + 9671 304109**  
**P.O. Box 22377**  
**Sana'a - Yemen**

## Invitation for bid “Second Time”

Ministry of Local Administration announces its bid No 3/2006 which has been previously announced under No.[8/2005] for establishing information program system in the Ministry's premises and local Governances as stated in the Terms and Specifications book. Documents for this bid can be purchased from Store and Purchase department in the ministry's headquarters upon payment of non-refundable fess of YR. 100.000.

### The following documents are required for identification:

- 1- 2.5% preliminary bid security by a check valid for 90 days from the date of tender opening and free of terms. Any inconsistent bids will be cancelled.
- 2- Local companies should attach a copy of qualification certificate valid for 2006.
- 3- Local companies should attach tax card valid for 2006.
- 4- Local companies should attach insurance card valid for 2006.
- 5- Local companies should attach Zakat card valid for 2006.
- 6- Prices of units should be written in letters in their respective places in Quantity tables. Any inconsistency will result in canceling the bid at envelop opening session.
- 7- Closing date will be 30 days starting with publishing this advertisement in Althorah, 14<sup>th</sup> October or Yemen Times newspaper.
- 8- Foreign companies should have a legal representative office in Yemen.
- 9- The bids [tenders] That are submitted by the national [local] companies with the partnership of foreign companies must submit partnership documents, along with defining and determining the type [kind] and nature of partnership. This documents have to [must] be approved legalized by related competent authorities in Yemen and abroad as well.
- 10- It must be understood that any bids that tack or do not meet the terms and conditions or any part of them will naturally be ignored and will be considered need and void.



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نقدم مراكز نيوهورايزنز برنامج تدريبي للتأهيل للحصول على الشهادة الدولية للحاسب والانترنت IC3 وهي شهادة دولية لا غنى عنها لكل الناس. وتعتبر معياراً دولياً يؤكد أن حامل الشهادة يملك المعرفة والمهارات الأساسية للحاسب والانترنت. يتم الحصول على الشهادة بعد اجتياز ثلاثة اختبارات بنجاح.

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- أسئلة عملية تدمج أحدث تقنيات الاختبار الإحصائية من خلال مزيج من الأسئلة المعتمدة على المعرفة Knowledge-Based والتهام المعتمدة على الأداء Performance-Based.
- حساب النتيجة تلقائياً يعطي نتائج اختبار فورية والحصول على نسخة رسمية من النتيجة في الحال مجرّد إكمال الاختبار.
- يمكن للمندربين الالتحاق بالاختبارات في أماكن مختلفة في العالم.

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# Yemenis celebrated Egypt's victory

Yemeni football fans celebrated Egypt's triumph in the African Nations Cup. The Pharaohs, who hosted the cup, won the African Nations Cup for a record fifth time when they beat Ivory

Coast 4-2 on penalties in the final in the Cairo International Stadium on Feb. 10.

"This is a victory for all Arab sport," says Muttee Dammaj, a football fan.

He added that he and his friends had been very eager to see the match.

The match was watched by millions around the world. Even the Egyptian President Mubarak watched the match from a bullet-proof box at the stadium.

In Yemen, sport fans watched the final through space TV channels. Some were unlucky as the electricity went off in some zones during the match. They had to travel from one zone to another to continue watching the match in public cafés or friends'



Fans celebrated Egypt's triumph in the African Nations Cup.

houses. "Well, it was worth the trouble at the end," says Muttee Dammaj.

Another football enthusiast, Dr. Mohammed Al-Sabahi says: "Luck and the goalkeeper, Essam Al-Hadary, were the reasons that Egypt won the cup". Al-Sabahi thanks Allah for winning the Cup, especially "when Captain Didier Drogba missed the Elephants first spot kike."

The Egyptian coach, Hassan Shehata, said to BBC Sport after the game: "The goal Zaki scored late in the normal time should have stood because there was nothing wrong with it and when we again lost the penalty in extra time, I was beginning to think it was not going to be our day." He added: "Thank God, we were luckier during the penalty shoot-out".

## Yemen vs. Saudi Arabia next Wednesday

SANA'A, Feb. 19 - the Yemeni National team will meet Saudi Arabia national team on Wednesday Feb. 22. The match is within Asian Cup Qualifiers. ART TV channels director stated that ART has bought the rights for broadcasting this match. He stated also this deal is the first contract with Yemen, hoping that the channel will broadcast Yemeni Football Primary league in future.



The national football team.

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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



**Post Title: Project Manager – Gender Equality Activities (SC-B)**

**Duration: 12 months**

#### Responsibilities

- Develop comprehensive work plans for gender activities under the Human Rights Project.
- Supervise the implementation of gender activities under the Human Rights Project.
- Prepare first drafts of reports (both financial and narrative) for donors.
- Provide advice to the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) and the rest of the Human Rights Project Team with regard gender equality and women's human rights.
- Supervise the activities of the designated project assistance.
- Undertake any other tasks assigned by the CTA.

#### Qualification

- Possess a master's degree in social sciences, preferably women studies and human rights.
- Minimum of 5 years of experience in project management and gender activities.
- Human rights experience/knowledge is an asset
- Excellent command of the English and Arabic languages.
- Excellent Communication and writing skills (in both languages).
- Proficiency in major computer software (Microsoft Word, Excel and Power Point), database use and development, and advanced Internet search engine tools.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website

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

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a / Fax: 448841

E-mail: ([registry.ye@undp.org](mailto:registry.ye@undp.org))

The deadline for receiving applications is Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2006

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## VACANCY Female Guard Receptionist

The U.S. Embassy, Sana'a seeks applications from interested and suitably qualified and experienced individuals for the position of a Female Guard Receptionist. The position is located in the Local Guard Program, Regional Security Office, American Embassy, under the immediate supervision of the Head Guard and the general supervision of the RSO. Employee will perform guard receptionist duties service to safeguard U.S. Government property and /or personnel.

### QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

**NOTE:** All applicants must address each selection criterion detailed below with specific and comprehensive information supporting each item.

1. Education: Completion of Elementary school is required.
2. Prior Work Experience: One to two years of a professional experience in security related matters.
3. Language proficiency: Level III (good working level) English required
4. Job Knowledge: Knowledge of security procedures and protection measures
5. Skills and Abilities: Must have the ability to follow instructions, and be reliable in attendance and performance.

### SUBMIT APPLICATION TO

Human Resources Office (or Admin Office)  
P.O.Box 22347  
Phone No. 755 2050  
Fax No: 303182  
E-Mail: [hrosanaa@state.gov](mailto:hrosanaa@state.gov)

**CLOSING DATE FOR THIS POSITION: March 2, 2006**

**NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND/OR RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**

**SANA'A UNIVERSITY announces (for the second time) an international tender regarding, preparation of the studies and engineering designs for the Faculty of Information, and invites interested consultant companies and offices [residing and outsidings the republic] wishing to participate in this tender to submit their offers, at the following address:**

**Republic of Yemen - Sana'a university**

**P.O. Box (1247) Tel. (01464677)**

**The General Administration for Financial Affairs  
Wadi Dhahr Road.**

Tender documents can be obtained upon submitting a written request to the general secretary, against non-returned amount (200u\$). Bids should be submitted in 2 envelopes (technical + financial) sealed by red wax original + 3 copies and duplicated (in Arabic and English).

A primary security (bid bond) at (2.5%) of total bid value, by payable cheque from a bank recognized in the republic of Yemen or a bank guarantee valid for (120 days) from the envelopes opening date to be attached with the bid.

The date of opening bid (technical envelopes) shall be at 11:00 a.m. on MONDAY, March: 13/2006 in the presence of the bidders or any party representing them.



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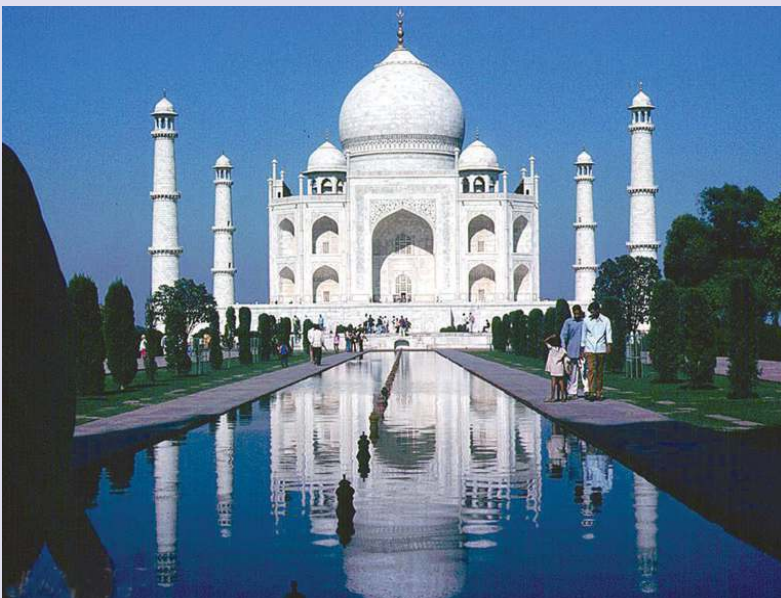
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## Did you know that...?

- The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
- The only big cat that doesn't roar is a jaguar.
- The only bird that cannot fly is the penguin.
- The only jointless bone in your body is the hyoid bone in your throat.
- The only time the human population declined was in the years following 1347, the start of the epidemic of the plague 'Black Death' in Europe.
- The only three non-Presidents pictured on U.S. paper money are: Alexander Hamilton on the \$10 bill, Benjamin Franklin on the \$100 bill, and Salmon Chase on the \$10,000 bill.



The minarets of the Taj Mahal in India are angled at 88 degrees outwards so that they would not collapse into the structure should an earthquake occur.



The only one of his sculptures that Michelangelo signed was the "The Pieta," completed in 1500.



The name of the Russian space station, Mir, means "peace."

- The national anthem of Greece has 158 verses.
- The moon actually has mirrors on it. They were left there by astronauts who wanted to bounce laser beams off them, so that the distance to the moon can be measured.
- The most common blood type in the world is Type O. The rarest, Type A-H, has been found in less than a dozen people since the type was discovered.
- The most expensive book or manuscript ever sold at an auction was The Codex Hammer, a notebook belonging to Leonardo Da Vinci. It sold for \$30.8 million.
- The most widely cultivated fruit in the world is the Apple. The second is the Pear.

- The Mona-Lisa, now hanging in the Louvre museum in Paris, is valued today at \$100,000,000.

- The Nile catfish swims upside down.

- The number of times a drowning person will rise to the surface depends on how much air is in his lungs. He could rise once, twice, five times, or not at all. Obese people will stay afloat longer than skinny people because fat contains air molecules.

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