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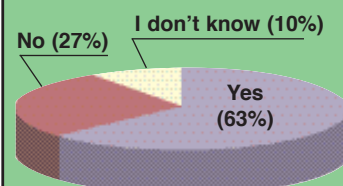
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The exemplary justice of the Prophet

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

According to the media, the new Sa'ada governor has managed to settle fighting between government troops and Al-Houthi followers. Do you think the government's cunning policies in dealing with the issue are behind the two-year bloody confrontations?



This edition's question:

Recently, President Bush sent a letter to President Saleh protesting that Yemen did not carry out the International resolutions regarding Sheikh Al-Zindani, who has been regarded as a supporter of terrorism. Do you think Sheikh Al-Zindani supports terrorism?

Yes
No
I don't know

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

Bush demands Yemen enforce UN resolution on Al-Zindani

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, Mar. 4 — U.S. official spokesman Adam Erly denied in a press conference last week that the U.S. asked Yemen's government to arrest Sheikh Abdulmajed Al-Zindani. He explained that the U.S. demand was limited to insisting Sana'a prevent Al-Zindani from traveling abroad and freeze his assets under a UN resolution, which does not include Al-Zindani's capture.

Erly said, "What I can say is that we explained more than once to the Yemeni government via high-ranking officials that Al-Zindani must respond to the UN's decision. As a UN member, Yemen has a list of obligations to fulfill, one of which is taking steps to pass the UN resolution on Al-Zindani to prevent him from traveling abroad and freeze his assets. The UN Security Council stipulates these two main actions, but the resolution mentioned nothing about capture."

Erly continued, "For us in the U.S., it was unclear why the Yemeni government never has passed the UN resolution."

In response to a question by Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper about why the U.S. did not demand Al-Zindani's capture since it considers him a terrorism supporter, Erly answered, "In our demand, we focused on passing the UN resolution on Al-Zindani. If Al-Zindani violates Yemeni laws, it is the Yemeni authorities' responsibility to capture him or not. This matter does not concern us."

On Saturday, September Net published President Bush's letter to President Saleh protesting his accompanying Al-Zindani to last year's Mecca Islamic Summit. The letter also protested Yemen's receiving Hamas political head, Khaled Mesha'al.

Bush wrote in his letter to Saleh, "We were pleased to welcome you to the White House once again in October when we had a fruitful meeting. Ambassador Krajewski told us it was a good visit for you. We jointly committed to consolidate cooperation between our countries, but I was disappointed when I learned that you included Sheikh Al-Zindani — listed by the UN as having connection with Al-Qaeda Organization — in Yemen's delegation during the Mecca Summit, an event designated for condemning terrorism, combating extremism and enhancing forgiveness."



President Saleh

Sheikh Al-Zindani

President Bush

Moreover, meeting Mesha'al harms Palestinian President Abbas, who exerts extensive efforts to establish security, stability and democracy in the Palestinian Authority.

"Your close relationship with the aforementioned parties causes us to cast doubt on your commitment to the war on terrorism," the letter added. "The method by which you can confirm that you are an abiding partner is to fulfill Yemen's international obligations, freeze Al-Zindani's assets and prevent him from traveling

abroad in the future. I urge you to break relations with Hamas and its leaders. Your cooperation in the war on terrorism is important. I hope to rely on your leadership to defeat terrorism."

According to September Net, the U.S. demanded Al-Zindani be arrested in a Wednesday telephone call by U.S. Advisor for Terrorism Affairs, Farwan Panobid, to President Saleh.

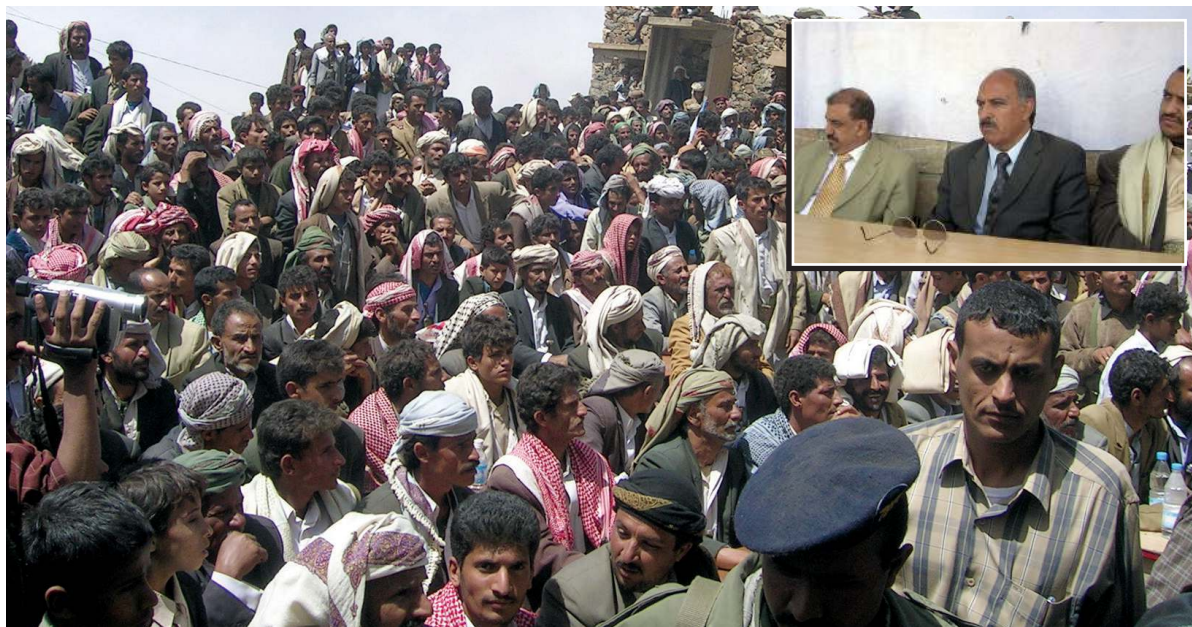
Continued on page 2

Al-Houthi followers to recognize law and constitution

An undeclared deal between authorities and Al-Houthi followers seemingly contains terms whereby Houthi followers recognize the law, the constitution and the republican system. Another term seems to be that they cease reiterating their slogans. In return, the state will release detainees, compensate victims and reinstate Al-Houthi followers in their jobs.

By: Mustafa Rajeh

SANA'A, Mar. 5 — The Supreme Security Committee, which contains the Ministers of Defense, Interior and security leaders, announced in a statement the release of 600 detainees imprisoned for participating in fighting with Al-Houthi groups or backing them in the Sa'ada War, which has continued since mid-2004.



Local people in Sa'ada being addressed by parliamentarian delegation and other officials.

PHOTO BY SADDAM AL-ASHMORI

Though the number of those released is not known precisely, the release decision came under amnesty issued by President Saleh last September. Sources said the release is the result of an undeclared deal between authorities and Al-Houthi groups represented by Abdulmalik Al-Houthi. The deal's details are not known, however sources say confidentiality is jointly agreed

upon so as not to embarrass the authority which is preparing for September's presidential elections.

Considered part of the deal, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi issued a statement declaring his followers' compliance with the law, the constitution and

the republican system. Sa'ada governor Yahya Al-Shami confirmed the same in a speech to 235 of the released detainees. He affirmed the necessity of rejecting violence and observing the law and the constitution.

Continued on page 2

GPC and JMP exchange accusations over elections

SANA'A, Mar. 4 — The General People's Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) exchanged sharp accusations after the latter decided not to take part in election management committees. The GPC accused the opposition of planning to boycott September's presidential elections.

Main opposition party leaders are due to hold a March 6 press conference to explain why they decided not to participate in the election committees and to announce conditions for standing in upcoming presidential elections, a JMP source told media.

He added, "We have completed all measures to ensure free and fair elections. These measures, considered the criteria for standing in or boycotting the elections, will be announced at the press conference." He confirmed that the opposition will work hard to participate in elections, as such is the best option for them.

GPC Secretary General Sultan Al-Barakani said, "There are many parties who do not want to stand in the elections, but they want to hole the ship and then cover it. We will never pay the price for anyone attempting to blackmail us. Yemen will never fall if any party rebels against the law."

Al-Barakani pointed out that his party is prepared to bring in lawmakers from around the world if JMP violations necessitate it.

A GPC official source indicated that the opposition has the right to boycott the presidential poll, but citizens nationwide will not be denied the right to vote. He

says what the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) did — regarding high school and university graduates revising and modifying voter registers after voter registration committee talks with the opposition reached a deadlock — is a matter of its concern. According to the Constitution and the law, this is part of SCER's responsibilities.

JMP spokesman Mohamed Qahtan demanded SCER members be punished for violations committed against the Constitution and the law, which ban the SCER's actions, he said in a statement to Nas Press.

He added, "Such acts imply that the SCER does not operate in compliance with the law, but according to higher directives, as it feels that higher directives are the source of its protection."

According to Qahtan, the formation of the SCER is a matter related to misuse of majority while the Constitution stipulates that the SCER must be neutral and independent. The law reads: 'The SCER must be composed of seven members selected from 15 candidates.' Qahtan added "However, majority misemployment resulted in selecting five of the seven members from the authority. This destroyed all that the Constitution built."

SCER officials renewed the commission's intention to continue forming voter registration committees from civil service job applicants. Abdulh Mohamed Al-Janadi, head of SCER's Media and Election Awareness sector, said this method will favor the SCER.

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Apology
The Yemen Times apologizes for an unintended mistake published in the Monday, Feb. 27 Yemen Commercial Bank advertisement in issue 924.
The ad for an ATM card inadvertently contained two names when it should have had just one.

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Wild doves found dead in Abyan

Citizens are panicked of the possible spread of bird flu causing the death of wild doves in Abyan while authorities claim the cause to be the Newcastle disease.

By: Waheeb Al-Nasari

SANA'A, March 5 — Following the spread of bird flu in a number of Arab countries, Yemeni people deserted eating poultry, fearing being affected with the disease. Official reports confirm that Yemen is free of bird flu. In Abyan governorate south of Yemen, a disease appeared last month and killed wild doves and poultry. Local citizens were panicked; especially as the authorities did not rush to investigate the disease and seemed not to identify it immediately.

Health sources said that immigrating wild doves, which cross the region at this time of year, were among these dead birds. They often mix with other birds such as local poultry and transfer the H5N1 disease to them. However, labora-

tory reports confirmed that Abyan governorate is free of bird flu. The report of the Central laboratory of the ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation attributed the death of doves and immigrating birds to Newcastle disease which often affects certain types of birds such as doves.

A veteran team had conducted a field visit to the districts of Loder, Modiah and Al-Wadie last Thursday, following the citizens' complaints of the death of many of the wild doves.

Dr. Faisal Awad Al-Dabia director of veterinary in loder, and member of the investigating team said that the result of the examination proved negative to bird flu. He said that there were doubts among the concerned authorities and the technical team over the symptoms of the dead birds. However, they denied presence of

bird flu, adding that the rate of mortality among wild doves was not more than 7 percent. He assured that there are other types of birds living in the area and feeding on the same grass, but are not affected. He confirmed that the mortality rate in bird flu cases would have been 100 percent had it been the epidemic. More over it would have affected all sorts of birds without exception.

Dr. Dabia explained that this result which was taken from the blood and saliva of 20 birds and doves secretions were taken prior to birds' death to assure people of the absence of bird flu in Abyan.

The wild dead bird's phenomenon appeared at the beginning of last February, and its increase worried the citizens as they thought that it was bird flu.

The symptoms of the disease are in forms of exhaustion of the sick birds. They could hardly move and could easily be caught. It is noticed that the sick doves look for water sources. They drink large amounts of water and soak their bodies and heads in water. Their bodies were clearly warm when they are touched with the hands.



Dead wild doves found in increasing numbers.



The investigative team at work in Abyan.

Social welfare society gains UNDP membership

By: Adel Al-Haddad

SANA'A, Mar. 1 — The Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) Wednesday, Mar. 1 announced its membership in the United Nations Department of Public Information.

In celebration, Flavia Panasieri, UNDP resident representative in Yemen, delivered a speech in which she congratulated CSSW on its membership. She said it is not only important that CSSW gained department membership, but the society also will play a vital role at the

international level. She mentioned that it should be noted that struggles, conflicts and tensions are increasing remarkably in the world. CSSW's efforts should be visible to others, she added.

Moreover, Panasieri said CSSW plays an important role in Yemen, with UN organizations unanimously agreeing on its role and the acts it carries out.

Established March 19, 1990, CSSW was the first charitable, humanitarian and community development organization in Yemen. Its initial goals

were to help alleviate Yemen's widespread poverty by serving the poor and needy in accordance with studied plans, enhancing quality of life for as many as possible through its pioneer programs in health, water, education, training, vocational training, community development, etc.

Since then, CSSW has succeeded in extending its services to all Yemeni governorates via 23 branches and 236 committees. CSSW's main fields of activity are assisting the poor, education, relief, health and community development.

In Brief

- The 28th Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Near East Regional Conference (NERC-28) will be held in Sana'a March 12-16 under the auspices of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Gathering 32 member countries of the FAO Near East region, the conference aims to hold high-level consultations to highlight regional issues and constraints, as well as identify the region's priority areas for preparing a work and budget program and the organization's longer term strategic work program.

The conference will be preceded by the fourth session of the Near East Agriculture, Land and Water Commission (ALAWC), which also will convene in Sana'a March 7-9.

- Scientific Arbitration Committees for the Hayel Sa'eed Foundation for Sciences and Arts Award are due to meet March 8-9 to discuss research evaluation results. Much research has been evaluated for the Award in areas of medicine, environment, agriculture, human studies, literary creativity and Islamic science. Committee recommendations are due to be approved at a press conference scheduled in the final days of March.

- A German Institute antiquities team began implementing a plan to refurbish inscriptions of the Defeater of Kings in Sirwah. The inscription measures 7,240 meters long, 72 centimeters high and 52 meters thick.

Discovered last September, the inscription is composed of seven lines for the Sheban Makrab Yan'e Amr and Tarif Yakreb, King of Yakher. The Defeater of Kings inscription describes political, economic, social and military life of a period extending from the sixth to the seventh century.

- Eight people, including six children in the Wadi Hawar area of Al-Mahwit governorate, are rumored to have died in January and February from bird flu.

The death toll raised concern among village locals in Al-Bakr and Al-Masiba.

- In a copy of a statement obtained by the Yemen Times, the Higher Administrative Authority for the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate announced it will stage a strike including all education workers beginning March 14.

According to the statement, the government never met teachers' demands regarding improving their entitlements, which they claim were ignored by the new wage strategy. According to organized law, the syndicate is to stage a gradual strike until the government meets their demands.

- Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture, in cooperation with the German Embassy in Sana'a, will organize a Harman Porchardit exhibition in Yemen. Due to be held March 8-22, the exhibit will feature photographs from voyages dating to the period 1900-1909.

The highly valued documentary photos depict cities, areas and Yemeni people who appeared at the beginning of last century. It is worth mentioning that Porchardit made voyages to Yemen between 1900 and 1909.

- Over the past few days, flood-affected residents in Lahj province have complained of poor conditions at schools in which they were given shelter after their homes were damaged. Some flood victims told the press they, along with their families and children, suffer instability, as the schools are not suitable for residences. In them, they

have been subjected to cold weather and the spread of epidemics. They suggested authorities lease houses in the area's vicinity until the situation improves.

A 30-member Red Crescent team has been erecting tents for displaced families lodging in Al-Hautah area's Educational Complex. Many societies have extended aid to approximately 150 families whose homes were damaged by the flooding.

- An extremist Salafi group in Laudar, Abyan province, attacked many province locals after security authorities released them late. The group was accused of having links with Al-Qaeda Network and the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army.

Over the past three days, group members launched three offensives against citizens, beating them. The group claims to fight vice, implement provisions of the Qur'an and control any deviant habits like drinking wine.

- Al-Beidha locals now are burning their birds, fearing the spread of bird flu in the area. Concerns and fears run high due to the scourge of land birds in their area. Despite learning of the phenomenon, local authorities took no preventive measures to curb the spread of bird flu in the province.

- Since last week, measles have spread in many districts in Abyan province. Several measles cases emerged in Laudar, Modia, Al-Wadhe' and Sabah districts, with such cases numbering up to 21 in a single day.

Local authorities informed relevant parties in the capital of the infection, who in turn promised to take suitable measures to curb the epidemic's spread. However, until now, nothing has been done.

Yemeni Writers Union consolidates Al-Junaid and Al-Mustakila

Threatening messages and a fidelity campaign in Taiz and Al-Dhale mosques are calling writer Adnan Al-Junaid and Al-Mustakila newspaper infidels.

SANA'A, Mar. 5 — A Salafi group is leading an extensive campaign against writer Adnan Al-Junaid and Al-Mustakila newspaper due to his writings about the Prophet Mohammed's fellow, Abu Hurairah.

Al-Junaid criticized prophetic traditions narrated by Abu Hurairah. Critics also blame Al-Junaid for doubting many prophetic traditions in the volumes of Al-Bukhari and Muslim (considered by Muslims to be genuine sources). Al-Junaid is a mystic scholar classified under the Shiite sect.

In his last issue, Al-Junaid said the Islamic legacy should be revised in order to redecorate Muslims' image in the eyes of Westerners. According to the writer and journalists' petition to the Minister of Interior and the Attorney General, the campaign included Friday speeches of Al-Asadi mosque preacher Mahmoud Al-Barakani and Al-Tawheedon mosque preacher Khalid Al-Saighi, in addition to mosques of Nasar, Al-Shaibani towns or mosque names and Al-Kurifa in Al-Mudam area.

Al-Mustakila received a number of electronic and faxed threatening messages, the most prominent being a message from 'Abu Abdullah Al-Yamani.' Addressing the writer and the newspaper, it said, "We tell Adnan to stop his writings or consider himself on the screen and the blacklist. In God's name, if you do not stop your writings and apologize, your blood is considered spilled with impunity. The threat also concerns the newspaper."

In a special release to the Yemen Times, Al-Mustakila owner, MP Ahmed Saif Hashid, said the fidelity campaign has spread to most governorates like Lahj, Al-Maharah and Taiz. "The campaign went to the extent that some infidel accusers went to my constituency to tell them that Al-Mustakila newspaper spreads infidelity and that it insults the prophet and his fellows," he said.

Hashid called on authorities to take measures to stop the campaign to protect Al-Mustakila employees. He also called for protecting cultural and press freedom and not conniving with



defamers, adding that he saw no official reaction after two weeks of the defaming campaign.

In a Sunday statement, the Writers Union condemned the campaign against cleric Al-Junaid and Al-Mustakila newspaper. It expressed concern over such a campaign, which it believes contradicts the law and encourages the emergence of negative values, enabling those with wrong beliefs to use mosques to defame those holding different beliefs.

The union called on the state to interfere to protect citizens and called for resorting to judiciary instead of fanaticism. The union also urged civil societies to face the phenomenon to preserve public stability.

Continued from page 2

Bush demands Yemen enforce UN resolution on Al-Zindani

On a relevant front during the last few days, Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani head of Al-Islah Showra Council and director of Al-Iman University met with two life-threatening accidents on two separate occasions. The first was on his way to Friday prayers two weeks ago in Amran governorate when the rear tire of his car suddenly exploded. The other accident took place Saturday morning 3rd of March when his car again had serious problems as the front tire suddenly disconnected causing the vehicle to dangerously divert from its route on his way to Al-Iman University.

Consequently, Sheikh Al-Zindani complained to the ministry of interior

and criminal investigation about the incidents. As reported in September.net news service a group of investigators were designated for the task by the relevant authorities and actually started off on their mission. The investigation will include interrogation of the Sheikh's bodyguards and persona security although many view them as unlikely suspects.

Another news source that demanded anonymity explained that there are technical investigations taking place in the case especially that there had been a number of similar accidents that had taken the lives of Yemeni personalities such as Yahya Al-Mutwakil and

Mujahid Abu Shawarib.

In a press statement, Sheikh Al-Zindani explained the recent incident by saying: "I was on my way to the University and in one of the less crowded streets the front left tire suddenly fell off. I checked the bolts and links connecting the tire to the vehicle body and realized that it was messed up with deliberately."

Sheikh Al-Zindani refused to accuse any particular party indicating that he has already reported these attempts to the presidential office and deputy prime minister who requested the Sheikh to present an official complaint to the concerned authorities.

Al-Houthi followers to recognize law and constitution

He assured the state's commitment to set right all of the crisis's aftermath by granting amnesty, compensating victims and releasing all detainees, confirming their release last Thursday.

It is not yet clear whether amnesty will include hundreds of detainees still in Sana'a security prison. They were arrested at various times in the grand mosque while repeating their famous slogan, "Death to America! Death to Israel! Death to Jews! Victory to Islam!" Authorities released Dr. Abduraheem Humran, who was detained eight months ago.

Two clerics, Yahya Al-Dailami and Mohamed Miftah, remain in Central Prison. Tried by a special extraordinary court following their call for a peaceful sit-in denouncing the war's continuation, they later were accused of collaborating with a foreign country (Iran) to damage national security. Judgments against them, which were upheld by the appeals court, condemned Al-Dailami to death and Miftah to eight years' imprisonment. Ex-Haraz Judge Loqman received 10 years' imprisonment from the same court.

Amnesty did not include 36 insurgents accused of attacking soldiers and military vehicles in Sana'a in recent months. One officer was killed and 27 injured in the attacks.

Information reveals that authorities stipulated ceasing of the group's slogans in mosques and public places. Al-Houthi followers indicated their observation of such terms by passing a law banning repetition of the slogans.

State institutions are expected to



A kid from Sa'ada in front of a military tank.

PHOTO BY SADDAM AL-ASHMORI

reinstate fired Al-Houthi employees and return religious schools under Ministry of Education observation, as stated by the governor.

Observers expect fighting to end following the pleasure in Sa'ada and wide satisfaction among Al-Houthi followers at Al-Shami's appointment as new governor, replacing Hussein Al-Omari, who was transferred to Al-Baidha governorate. Previously Sa'ada governor in the mid-1980s, Al-Shami has good relations with sheikhs and Zaidi religious clerics there, sharing with inhabitants their beliefs and social associations.

Reconciliation appeared impossible before under a governor Al-Houthi followers and others considered an opponent. They also believe he was the reason for the break out of war. Previous agreements with authorities failed, among them an agreement with

Abdullah Al-Rizami, Al-Houthi's partner in founding the Believing Youth.

Forty parliamentarians, accompanied by a large press delegation, ended a four-day visit to Sa'ada last Thursday. During the visit, which included all the war-torn regions in Maran Haidan Kitaf, Nishoor and Al-Rizamat, they met citizens who called for conveying their voice to authorities, demanding provision of education, health, electric and road projects.

Sources accompanying the delegation affirmed that an essential reason behind Al-Houthi's strong backing was his care in solving citizens' problems in these remote areas that receive nothing of their demands from the government. Jestering comments asserted that the region needs another Al-Houthi to speed road construction, as 30 kilometers of road were paved to facilitate military operations.

GPC and JMP exchange accusations over elections

Regarding media silencing and preventing opposition parties from presenting their electoral programs, Al-Janadi said television is responsible for such things, as the parties do not abide by the 15-minute specified time limit.

Media sources mentioned last week that the JMP is due to discuss necessary guarantees for conducting free and fair elections and ensuring neutrality of the SCER, media and government jobs.

The JMP held the SCER account-

able for any constitutional and legal infringements, confirming their vision in bringing about an independent and neutral management election. Opposition parties refused to confine the matter to forming election management committees.

Local Muslims United in Distress Over Iraq Violence

A Los Angeles Times report on March 4, 2006 mentions After Friday-night prayers, inside a modest mosque behind a McDonald's on Murchison Avenue in Pomona, nearly 400 Muslims were gathered for a rare town hall meeting on the situation in Iraq.

They were Shiites and Sunnis, men, women and children from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds from throughout Southern California. But, inside Ahlul-Beyt Mosque, a Shiite house of worship, those labels appeared not to matter.

What united them appeared to be the wrenching pain they were experiencing as Muslims over the Feb. 22 bombing of a sacred Shiite site in Samarra and the violence that followed. They were also united as Muslims watching events unfold from the United States.

"We are Americans," said Salam Al-Marayati, executive director of the Los Angeles-based Muslim Public Affairs Council. "The question is, what can we do about the situation from here?"

As the night progressed, and in the days to follow, the answer would prove elusive. But on this night, Feb. 24, many attending agreed that the meeting itself was an important step.

"Unfortunately, it takes such a tragedy to bring Muslims together here in Southern California," said Imam Moustafa Al-Qazwini of the Islamic Educational Center of Orange County in Costa Mesa.

Yet, good can come of what perpetrators meant for evil purposes.

Al-Qazwini, a Shiite, is a member of a prominent family of Islamic scholars and activists in Southern California and Detroit. As he put it, "One of the goodnesses of the tragedy is that we see tonight in this place ó and in other places throughout the world ó Sunnis and Shia getting together, expressing their outrage against this crime."

In the mosque, men and women sat or knelt on a green-carpeted floor, the sexes separated by a low, green curtain partition. A number of teenagers were there too, some checking their cell-phones as the discussion wore on for hours.

The mosque was full, so latecomers stood in the courtyard, straining to hear the proceedings through open windows.

During the meeting, the air thick with emotion, people vented their anger, shared their pain and, again and again, pondered ó in English and Arabic ó their role as American Muslims.

Hamida Desuqi, an African American, suggested that Muslims remember how blacks changed the hearts of Americans by marching peacefully during the civil rights movement.

"We as Muslims have to learn to protest ó without the destruction of property and without harming any human being," said Desuqi, a teacher. "Then and only then will we be able to gain the respect of the world and gain the pleasure of Allah."

Some said they wanted to help raise



Following the violence, Baghdad was quiet today, but defiance remains. (AP)

public awareness of their faith. Some blamed the news media for accentuating only the tensions between the Sunni and Shiite sects and failing to put the divisions that do exist in the proper context.

Still others expressed their displeasure with a fellow Muslim, U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, and said he should be recalled. The ambassador, who is a Sunni, and other embassy officials have reportedly pressured Shiites to make political concessions, such as firing an unpopular interior minister, to appease Sunnis.

"One of the problems that instigated the tragic attack [in Samarra] was the inflammatory statement of Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad two days earlier," said Al-Qazwini. He said the ambassador's comment that the Iraqi government was "sectarian" gave "the green light to those barbaric people to attack the holy shrine."

But how to respond? After nearly three hours of discussion by scholars and religious leaders, their comments interspersed with exhortations in Arabic from the audience, all that the gathering could agree on was to seek a congressional inquiry into America's role in Iraq.

Such an inquiry, Al-Marayati explained later, would ask Congress to "review our stated goals, look at achievements and failures, and provide an honest assessment of the mission in Iraq to the American people."

Muslim Public Affairs Council officials distributed a list of members of Congress from Southern California who serve on the House International Relations Committee and urged everyone to bombard them with e-mails, phone calls and letters.

In the days after the town hall meeting, area Islamic leaders reflected on the challenges ahead for their faith.

Car ban quietens fractious Baghdad
An AP report from Baghdad said a driving ban yesterday brought the Iraqi capital a day of relative calm, a rare period of peaceful streets enforced, in part, by a Shiite Muslim militia, one of several armed groups the U.S. military wants abolished.

Thousands of Shiites, frisked by Mahdi Army militia forces in yellow

button-down shirts and armed with Kalashnikov rifles and metal detector wands, knelt in prayer at a huge outdoor service in Baghdad's Sadr City slum.

The militia that kept order yesterday was the same force that went on a rampage of reprisal attacks against Sunni Muslim mosques and clerics after the Feb. 22 bombing of a Shiite shrine in Samarra.

Thursday night, after a deadly bomb attack in the poor Shiite neighbourhood, police and aides to anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr announced the radical leader's militia, the Mahdi Army, would help government security forces patrol Sadr City.

The government decision to legitimize joint patrols with the Mahdi Army, which had been going on anyway, appeared to have tacit U.S. military approval, although American forces have fought several protracted battles with the Shiite fighters for control of southern holy cities and the Sadr City Shiite stronghold.

Acceptance of the higher profile for the Mahdi Army, if only for a time, signalled the extreme importance U.S. authorities have put on quelling more than a week of deadly sectarian violence after the Samarra bombing.

The Americans took pains to stay out of the conflict but were criticized nevertheless.

Abdul-Salam Al-Kubaisi, of the Sunni clerical Association of Muslim Scholars, suggested U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad might share blame for the violence along with some Shiite religious leaders.

The ban on traffic made for a chilling silence throughout most of Baghdad today. But in the sprawling Shiite slum of Sadr City, there was defiance.

Residents there drove, and clerics at Friday prayers ignored the prime minister's plea to preach peace.

"The government asks us to preach unity," a clergyman said, "but they're the ones who spit on the Iraqi people."

The Iraqi government's extraordinary efforts ó the curfews, the traffic bans ó have not stopped the horrible cycle of violence between Sunni and Shiite Muslims.

In a small town just south of Baghdad last night, at least 25 Shiite

men were gunned down. Hundreds of civilians, both Shiites and Sunnis, have been killed since the bombing of a revered Shiite shrine last week.

Many Iraqis fear the recent bloodshed is particularly ominous because it divides mainstream Sunnis and Shiites who have coexisted peacefully, often intermarrying, as they have for generations in Zayuna, a mixed neighborhood in Baghdad.

"We are all Muslims," one woman said, "and we are all brothers."

Last week armed men came to a Sunni mosque in Zayuna where Sunnis and Shiites have prayed together for generations. They set fire to the mosque and killed three worshippers, transforming what had been a peaceful community into a place of gloom and terror.

And the violence feeds off itself. After a car bombing in Baghdad yesterday, Jabar Abded Taha, an Iraqi Shiite sheik and resident of Sadr City, told ABC News, "We will not allow for this to happen again, or we will return the attack doubled."

The director of the Baghdad morgue is busy these days. "The dead people we receive, Sunni, Shiites and Christians," he said, "they are all Iraqis, and you cannot distinguish which sect they belong to."

Iraqi PM vows to fight opposition for another term

Some agencies reorts said from Baghdad that advertising Iraq's prime minister and his radical Shiite backers vowed to fight a bid by Sunni Arabs and Kurds to oust him, threatening to plunge the country into political turmoil, delay formation of a new government and undercut US plans to begin withdrawing troops this year.

Meanwhile, gunmen attacked the disabled car of Iraq's top Sunni politician, Iraqi Accordance Front leader Adnan al-Dulaimi, killing one bodyguard and wounding five after al-Dulaimi sped away in another vehicle. It was not clear whether the assault was an assassination attempt, and the Sunni leader refused to blame anyone. Altogether, 39 people died on Thursday in a new round of violence.

A coalition of Sunni, Kurdish and secular parties formally asked the Shiite bloc Thursday to withdraw its nomination of Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari for another term. The prime minister's adviser, Haider al-Ibadi, insisted the bloc would stick by its candidate.

Many Sunnis blame al-Jaafari for failing to rein in commandos of the Shiite-led Interior Ministry. And Kurds accuse al-Jaafari of dragging his heels on resolving their claims around the oil-rich city of Kirkuk.

"The clerics on Friday must express themselves in the language of national unity ... We will take firm action against inflammatory rhetoric."

Ibrahim al-Jaafari, Iraqi prime minister

Iraqi troops and police patrolled the

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deserted streets of Baghdad yesterday after the government imposed a day-time traffic curfew to avert violence between Sunnis and Shiites on the Muslim day of prayer.

Al-Jaafari warned clerics not to use "inflammatory" language from pulpits as he tried to rally Sunni and other leaders into a US-sponsored unity coalition to help staunch 10 days of sectarian bloodshed.

The main minority Sunni bloc ended a boycott of talks called in protest at reprisal attacks on Sunni mosques following the bombing of a Shiite shrine on Feb. 22 -- violence has killed at least about 500 people, even by conservative official accounts.

But after al-Jaafari hosted a late-night meeting on Thursday of the main parties elected to parliament in December, political sources said Sunnis, Kurds and other leaders were still pushing the dominant Shiite Alliance to ditch al-Jaafari as premier.

"The negotiations will go on but we still insist on removing Jaafari," said a senior official in the Sunnis' Iraqi Accordance Front.

Al-Dulaimi was at the talks at al-Jaafari's office after escaping the attack on his car.

Critics accuse al-Jaafari, a soft-spoken Islamist doctor, of being ineffectual in combatting rebel violence and economic collapse in his year in power as interim prime minister. Some, including US officials, look askance at his ties to Iran.

Since Sunni Arabs took part in the US-sponsored election in December, US President George W. Bush has been pushing hard for the ruling Shiites to bring them into a national

coalition.

He says that could bring stability and let him start bringing home some of the 133,000 US soldiers now in Iraq. He said this week that Iraqis had a choice between "chaos or unity."

Al-Jaafari made a late-night appearance on state television to urge religious leaders to defuse sectarian passions from the pulpit:

"The clerics on Friday must express themselves in the language of national unity," he said.

"We will take firm action against inflammatory rhetoric," he said.

Traffic was banned in Baghdad but people would be able to walk to weekly prayers, officials said -- similar to a three-day curfew last weekend that helped damp down the initial violence.

After a bomb on a minibus in his impoverished Sadr City bastion in Baghdad killed five people, Sadr's Mehdi Army militia said it would defend its neighborhoods.

But the US military, which mauled Sadr's militia in two anti-US uprisings in 2004, warned Sadr's forces.

"We are not going to allow him to take control of security of any area across Iraq, nor would the Iraqi government," Major General Rick Lynch said.

Al-Jaafari has ordered thousands of troops and police onto the streets of Baghdad, backed by US soldiers, but their effectiveness is untested and their loyalties are uncertain in the face of sectarian militias to which some once belonged.

Fearful of reprisal attacks, some Baghdad residents have thrown up barricades. Others are leaving their homes.

US State Department discourages Americans to travel to Israel

Paris, Mar. 4, 2006 - When the US State department recently issued a travel advisory discouraging travel by Americans to Israel, and this on the basis of the "criminal activities by organized crime" in the country put forth as an even more surprising reason for its decision, organized crime being quite flagrant in many other countries where US citizens are not discouraged to travel, the news was so alarming that hardly anybody seemed to notice, that is until a few days ago when the Israeli tourism lobby decided to react vigorously to what is being characterized by an industry publication - ETurboNews - as nothing short of "surprising news."

Reacting to the advisory which according to an ETurboNews staff-written article "said that Israel is a dangerous criminal state" and that consequently "visits should be avoided," Israeli Tourism Minister Avraham Hirschson led the charge by

telling the travel industry media that "we intend to inquire what caused the Americans to publish a travel warning for tourists wanting to visit Israel. Only then will we publish a response."

However, the first shot of what seems to augur a long-ranging battle, in the media and elsewhere, had been fired, and notwithstanding Minister Hirschson's promise of an eventual "response," the Israeli travel industry chose to have its word to say about the advisory, with, in a first phase, "some Israeli tourism insiders" saying, according to ETurboNews, that "they are surprised about the US announcement."

Worse still is the assessment of the Israel Tourist and Travel Agents Association managing director Yossi Fatael who told Globes Online that he was "astonished by the travel warning" and this because, says Globes Online, "he

does not think, however, that the travel warning will have any effect on incoming tourism."

Fatael is also quoted as having said he "thinks the travel warning seemed more like an attempt by some groups to cover any eventuality. "Warnings of this kind are issued almost daily, and updated every day."

There was also the question about timing, pursued the ETurboNews analysis, with its unnamed staff writer noting that "Israeli tourism insiders find the timing of the US travel warning very odd, since the number of tourists visiting Israel, especially from the US, has grown over the past year."

Indeed, points out the ETurboNews survey of Israeli travel industry reaction to the Advisory, "demand is high enough to convince Delta Air Lines to resume flights and Israil Airlines to start daily flights between the US and Israel."

RSF demands Pakistan government to protect journalists

Paris, Mar. 4, 2006 - Worldwide press freedom organization Reporters sans frontiers (RSF) is demanding in Paris that the Pakistani government "act against religious extremists threatening journalists", and this on

Pakistan's border with Afghanistan where RSF has repeatedly in recent months insisted that authorities better protect local and international journalists attempting to report on intense military activity in the

Region by, among others, US and European troops supposedly in the process of locating high-level members of Al Qaeda, Osama bin Laden having himself been sighted locally by French troops during the past two years.

Through its Asia-Pacific spokesman Vincent Brossel, RSF cited notably the "targeting" of Khyber Agency reporters Nasrullah Afridi and KhayalmatShah by a local mufti, Munir Shakir as evidence of the behaviour that

Islamabad and local governments in the tribal areas have been tolerating, especially that of extremist religious figures "who harass and censor reporters there for national newspapers."

The RSF spokesman said too that the worldwide press freedom organization had "urged the Pakistani government to act against religious extremists threatening journalists" and cited the targeting of Khyber Agency

Reporters Nasrullah Afridi and Khayalmat Shah by a local mufti, Munir Shakir.

"The threats to journalists in the tribal areas are unacceptable," spokesman Brossel, noted, adding, "We call on the government to take steps to deal with those, especially extremist religious figures, which harass and censor reporters there for national newspapers."

"We and the TUJ call for an immediate campaign to avoid more deaths of journalists, such as those in Feb. 2005 of Amir Nawab Khan and Allah Noor Wazir, and the disappearance of Hayatullah Khan last December." The two

murdered journalists were caught in an ambush in South Waziristan tribal area after reporting on the surrender of a Taliban warlord. Those responsible have not been punished.

Afridi, correspondent of the daily

papers Mashriq and The Statesman, and Shah, president of the Tribal Union of Journalists (TUJ) in the Khyber

Agency (west of Peshawar), were threatened by the mufti in clandestine radio broadcasts on Feb. 24 after they reported clashes between his supporters and those of rival mufti Pir Saifur Rehman for control of the

Khyber Agency region. He urged his supporters not to believe "false stories" in the press and urged them to read papers such as the banned extremist paper Zarb-e-momin.

"Munir doesn't like journalists talking about his rival Rehman," said Afridi. Munir has reportedly declared papers mentioning Rehman as "enemies of Islam and the tribal nation." Both journalists asked for government

protection.
They told RSF that they dared not return to their home town of Bara because Munir's supporters might attack them. TUJ president Sailab Mehsud warned at a conference in Peshawar on Feb. 18 that the situation in the tribal areas were "going from bad to worse."

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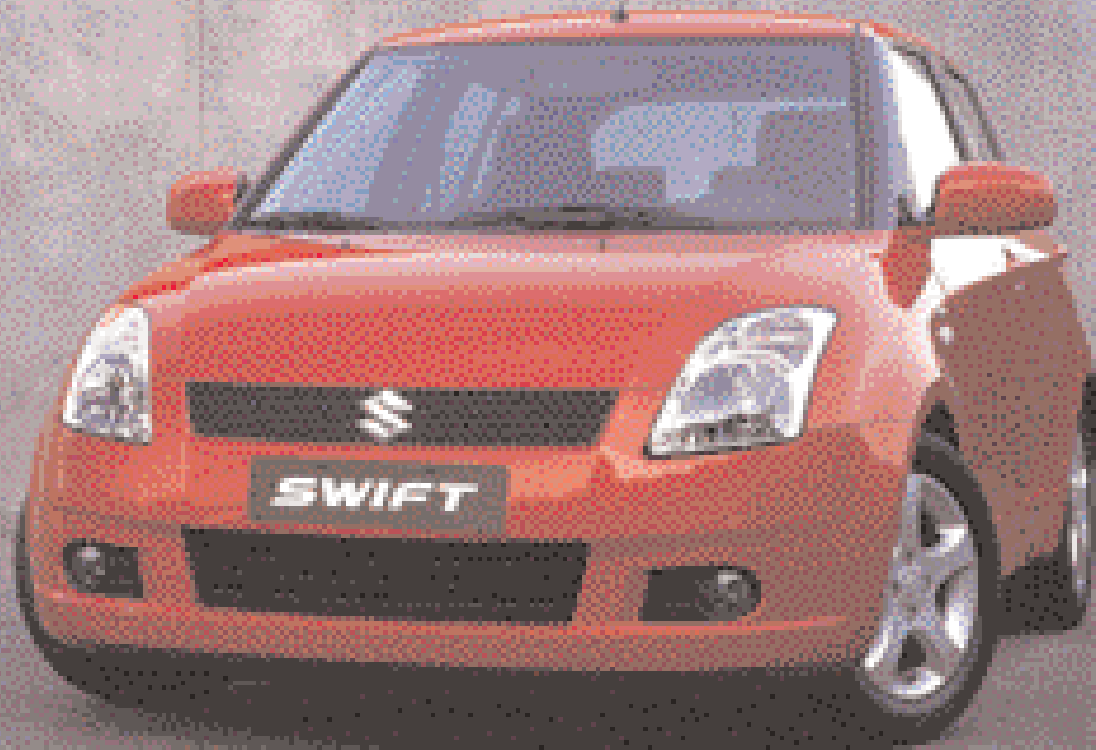
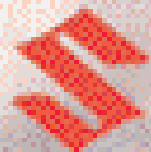
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Faculty of Agriculture: from development to deterioration

Sana'a University's Faculty of Agriculture is not as it was when three U.S. companies constructed it and provided it with necessary equipment and apparatuses. The faculty has experienced constant deterioration due to aid suspension by the American Technical Unit (ATU), the Saudi Islamic Fund (SIF) and Saudi Agricultural Bank (SAB).

By: Walid Al-Boks

In the beginning, the faculty began working from within the Faculty of Commerce premises. In response to a plan by Dr. Nasser Al-Awlaqi and supported by the ATU, Sana'a University embarked on establishing a separate Faculty for Agriculture. The first batch of only seven students enrolled in the faculty 1984-85 and Dr. Al-Awlaqi became the first dean. "I was among seven students who joined the faculty in the mid-'80s and graduated four years later," Ahmed Al-Touqi said. "The government called 1985 the year of agricultural development."

Two years later and according to the faculty guide, the number of students joining the faculty multiplied. Accordingly and in line with its agricultural development plans, the government found it appropriate to direct its sights to such a promising sector. President Saleh himself went there in 1986 to inaugurate the educational farm, which has a total area of 25 hectares. The farm included 12 buildings, a water storage tank and cow and sheep fences. A year and half later, actual farm operation, production and research began as to sheep and poultry. Thus, the farm became the main source of animal products like meat and eggs in addition to vegetables for all university staff members and employees. Another building later was added to the farm containing garden plants and another year was spent making dairy and food, but the faculty badly lacked support, as stated by a teacher there. "All of the facilities are impaired due to halting of U.S. support since 1990," he added.

Synchronized with the first Gulf War in 1990, CCC Company along with Adio-system and Stanley Company left the country after completing the faculty's construction and furnishing it with necessary equipment. In the meantime, a sudden halting of support occurred and the three supporting parties - ATU, SIF and SAB - decided to suspend aid which assisted the faculty's development.

The eruption of the first Gulf War affected bilateral relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and Yemen and the United States as well, as Yemen backed Iraq in the war. This resulted in halting all U.S. and Saudi support; thus affecting the Faculty of Agriculture. "Most of the staff who used to teach and work on the farm left the faculty, since they were brought and paid by ATU and Saudi Arabia," said staff member Dr. Al-Zumair, also among the first batch of students.

Aid vanished along with some faculty employees' hopes, like Al-Touqi who began as a bachelor student in the same faculty. Although granted a scholarship to the U.S., he was compelled by war circumstances to continue his education in a neighboring Arab country, being reluctant to mention its name. According to Al-Touqi, the faculty's future was affected by the war. Only one apparatus called a Spectrum Light remains in service, though affected before them all, while other devices were destroyed or have no qualified staff to work on them.

"They used to take that apparatus to different places around the country where agricultural wadis (valleys) exist so they could apply what was studied theoretically. They used to pay for such journeys," said a 15-year employee, who refused to give his name, speaking about field visits adopted and supervised by the U.S. support unit. He added, "It was essential that students complete their field training successfully as a partial requirement for obtaining a bachelor's degree in agricultural science. Four weeks of field training were allocated for three accredited hours."



Abandoned part of the Faculty of Agriculture.

PHOTO BY AMEL AL-ARIQI

Mohammed Al-Goubari, who has worked on the farm more than 14 years, shares the same opinion. He describes the farm's situation as deteriorating. "My salary was 2,000 riyals. Over the years, it has increased to 10,000 riyals. However, I don't care because I love this land," he added.

Al-Goubari, who is illiterate and lost fingers on his right hand, has eight sons who share the farm work. He seems worried about the farm. "It is not green like used to be, except for some patches dedicated for some students' graduation projects. The percentage of well water also has decreased," he explained.

Mohammed Al-Tahish shares the same worried feelings about the farm's future. "This farm provides teachers with milk, as well as all faculty employees. This is an apiary. They get honey out of it, yet we do not know how," he added, standing beside a one-story building with closed doors. Honey, milk, eggs, potatoes and meat are all among faculty products, but the percentage of beneficiaries has dwindled remarkably to the extent that it does not go outside the faculty's borders.

"Outer appearances maybe misleading, as the faculty building seems like an equipped and artistic masterpiece,"

Al-Zumair said, "It contains eight departments: land, environment, machinery, economics, gardens, woods, corps and animal production, as well as food production industry; however, all are paralyzed."

Secondary school graduates' avoidance of enrolling in the faculty has caused shock. According to a student affairs department source, the number of students joining the faculty is shrinking. However, to the contrary, the faculty will develop one day. According to Al-Zumair, the Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for the faculty's deterioration. "This ministry demands only consultations or rather viewpoints," Al-Zumair said. He picked up a pen and a sheet of paper and drew three joined circles, writing 'agricultural guidance' in the first circle, 'agricultural education' in the second and 'agricultural research' in the third. He drew an arrow out from each circle and in front of them he wrote, 'Faculty of Agriculture.' Then, he put the pen aside, smiling and added, "I hope this message is understood."

What is more saddening is the story circulated about cow deaths caused by a technical employee who prepared medicine in an opposite way when medicating the 11th cow, thus causing their deaths. "More than one teacher passed away during my study at the faculty. It was possible for the university or the faculty to give a hand and get them treated. Here, they don't care about people, let alone cows," said student Wafa.

Walid Al-Boks is a Yemeni journalist

ANNOUNCEMENT

Background

The Ministry of Finance is responsible for internal audit across Government. Currently the understanding of internal auditors and management of the internal control and internal audit concepts is considered very low. Consequently the Control and Inspection Department of the Ministry and the Fiscal Institute are collectively commissioning the design and delivery of a 5 week train the trainers training course for potential internal audit trainers in internal control and internal audit.

The Institute and the Department are seeking training design and delivery experts in internal control and audit with a demonstrated ability in applying adult education concepts.

The objective of the training is to enable participants to understand the internal control and internal audit concepts and practice so that the participants could deliver similar training to internal auditors.

The approach to the training should be a combination of lectures and testing or workshop exercises, ideally tailored as the course is delivered in response to the pace at which participants gather an understanding of the key concepts.

Terms of Reference

- Design and deliver a 25 day training program of 3 hours a day twice a day to 20 participants (40 in all) which will include
 - Internal control concept
 - Internal control structure
 - Examples from local transaction documentation and Workshop Exercises developed from local documentation on Key Internal Control Parameters
 - Internal Audit concept
 - Activity, role and purpose of internal audit within government departments
 - What Internal Auditors should not do
 - Independence concept and why it is essential to the effectiveness of internal auditing
 - Examples of internal auditing activities
 - Liaison With External Auditors
 - Audit Reporting Requirements, and
 - Audit management, including assignment management, risk based planning, audit preparation, monitoring results procedures and practices.
- Design and have participants utilize testing exercises to demonstrate that trainees understand the following key internal control concepts and how to test the degree to which they are applied -
 - Ensuring timing of processes so that transactions and decision making processes are more promptly recorded.
 - Ensuring competent supervision is provided to ensure that controls are applied.
 - Ensuring all transactions and decision making processes are clearly documented and that documentation is readily available for examination.
 - Ensuring managers continually monitor operations and take prompt action on findings of irregular, uneconomic, inefficient and ineffective operations.
 - Ensure key duties and responsibilities in authorizing, processing, recording and reviewing transactions and events are separated among individuals.
- Design and have participants utilize testing exercises to demonstrate participants understand how an audit report should be prepared

Proposal Requirements:

Proposals should outline

- Training Designer Qualifications and experience
- Training Delivery Qualifications and experience
- Training Design approach, administration and methodology
- Training Delivery approach, administration and methodology
- An outline of the likely program, and
- Proposed procedure for demonstrating effectiveness

Outputs required from selected contractor

All of these items should all be provided to the Institute and the Director General Control and Inspection at the Ministry of Finance -

- Documentation of all lecture and workshop exercise material in hard (45 copies) and soft copy (Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and or Excel)
- The results of all tests and or responses to workshop exercises are documented and tabled to facilitate measurement of progress, achievement of objectives and tailoring of later sessions of the training program.
- Participants' course evaluation sheets to be completed at the conclusion of a number of key subject components in the course.

Deadline for submission of proposals:

Interested consultants are expected to submit proposals in English by **12:00, March 16, 2006** to the following address:

Ms. Samira Al-Farah
United Nations Development Programme
Email: samira.alfarah@undp.org
Phone: 00 967 1 448605
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Only successful applicants will be contacted.

VACANCY FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST

Project: Yemen Agricultural Support Program (YASP)
Position: Monitoring and Evaluation
Activity: Manage YASP Monitoring and Evaluation [M&E] system
Duration: 19 months

ARD is seeking applications for the position on Monitoring & Evaluation for a USAID-financed Yemen Agricultural Support Program (YASP). This is a junior to mid-level position requiring a background in managing information related to project performance measurement.

YASP is entering a new phase of project implementation that involves field based activities in 5 target governorates. With the approval of the 2006-07 Work Plan there is the need to establish baseline, annual monitoring and results indicators to measure YASP progress against specific benchmarks for the remaining LOP. The M&E system is designed to ensure effective and efficient operation of program activity measures with respect to project implementation, capacity building, results and impact.

Tasks and Duties:

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Collaborate in the design of project M&E System
- Manage the M&E System for the project
- Design data collection instruments
- Assist project management in establishing baselines and target input levels
- Periodically collects project implementation data
- Perform data audits
- Prepare reports, graphics, and other visual presentations required for project performance reporting
- Undertake special services as requested by his/her supervisor.

Candidate Profile

- Bachelors Degree- and three years experience.
- Knowledge of community-based organizations, Agriculture in Yemen.
- Knowledge of USAID monitoring and evaluation practices and requirements
- Excellent report writing skills
- Effective preparation of oral and written presentations
- Excellent command of Excel, Access, Word and Power Point.
- Knowledge of concepts and applications of GIS and GPS
- At least one year of work experience in accounting, statistics or analytical jobs.
- Excellent people and networking skills.
- Understanding of organization and maintenance of files.

For Further Information:

Interested and qualified individuals should submit their CVs with a cover letter in English via fax to (Sana'a) 304-121 or via e-mail to: khulood.zariqah@ardymen.org

Tel: 304124/5

The deadline for receiving applications is 15th March 2006

VACANCY FOR GRANT MANAGER

Project: Yemen Agricultural Support Program (YASP)
Position: Grants Manager
Activity: Manage YASP Small Grants Program (SGP)
Duration: 19 month

ARD is seeking applications for the position on Grants Manager for a USAID-financed Yemen Agricultural Support Program (YASP). This is a junior to mid-level position requiring a background in managing information related to project performance measurement and prior experience working with projects that have small grants components. Women are encouraged to apply.

The Grants Manager will supervise the provision of development grants and "seed money" to communities throughout the five Governorate Regions that will further support development initiatives generated at the local level. Grants will be implemented in accordance with the guidance found in the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Automated Directives System (ADS) 303.5.15b for Fixed Obligation Grants (FOGs). Grants will be processed, awarded, and managed in accordance with the instructions contained in the YASP/FOG guidelines

Tasks and Duties:

Grants Management

- Develop system for collection and review of grant applications that conform to the FOG format using a very clear set of criteria
- Assure that the SGP supports initiatives generated by local NGOs, cooperatives, associations, local councils and agricultural extension authorities
- Encourage and promote women's initiatives
- Target beneficiaries to include formal civil society agents, producer and processor groups, public and private actors delivering social and economic services.
- Monitor and collect data on both direct and indirect beneficiaries affected by SGP activities.
- Partner with other local initiatives, as appropriate, to enhance SGP impact including MAI, Local Councils, Extension Directorate, Governors in the targeted Governorates and other donor programs
- Provide timely information and guidance to the SGP Review and Evaluation Committee (REC) for all project applications
- Prepare timely reports on YASP results for the donor and host government

Candidate Profile

- Bachelor-level degree
- Knowledge of community-based organizations
- Excellent report writing skills
- Effective preparation of oral and written presentations
- Excellent command of Excel, Access, Word and Power Point.
- Knowledge of concepts and applications of GIS and GPS
- At least one year of work experience in accounting, statistics or analytical jobs.
- Excellent people and networking skills.
- Understanding of organization and maintenance of files.

For Further Information:

Interested and qualified individuals should submit their CVs with a cover letter in English via fax to (Sana'a) 304-121 or via e-mail to: khulood.zariqah@ardymen.org

Tel: 304124/5

The deadline for receiving applications is 15th March 2006

Words of Wisdom



The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle

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

OUR
OPINIONYemen Times
Crystal Anniversary

Just last week, the Yemen Times entered its 15th year. Founded by the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf in 1991, the newspaper's first issue came to light February 27, 1991. At that time, it was Yemen's first English language newspaper and since has become one of its most prominent independent newspapers. Its credibility has been attained from its truth-seeking neutral policy, as the newspaper was established to promote democracy, justice and human rights.

Today, the Yemen Times has more than 50 full-time staff and more than 100 part-time employees and contributors around the world. It is the first and only regional independent English language newspaper with a female Editor-in-Chief.

Yet the biggest achievement for which the newspaper prides itself is that it embraces young Yemeni activists and potential journalists. The Yemen Times has delivered many exceptional youth and talented men and women, pushing them further in life. We pride ourselves on the fact that many Yemen Times journalists and staff are working today on distinguished projects and are among outstanding activists both inside and outside Yemen.

Coinciding with this crystal anniversary, Dr. Al-Sakkaf was one of five finalists for the first MEPC (Middle East Publishing Conference) Lifetime Achievement Award for Newspaper Publishers. It appears that even after more than six years since his death, the world still remembers the astonishing character he had and his efforts to promote freedom of press and human rights.

In tribute to our founder, Dr. Al-Sakkaf, the Yemen Times remains bound to his teachings and always will be faithful to his legacy for the prosperity and development of this country. May his soul rest in peace.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

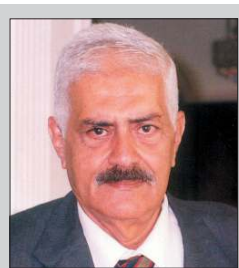
Reforms and political development

To encounter corruption we need economic and political reforms, and encounter poverty and unemployment we have to achieve political development. As a matter of fact, there is in our country a comprehension that matters will not run in the right course unless there is reform and political development at the same footing. Moreover, the economic, cultural and social problems and others have close and dialectical relationship with politics and will not be solved in exclusion from politics and politicians.

The real inlet to political reform and development begins with the public participation for the change and reform. In order not to lose the goal the involvement of people and masses in the political action requires necessarily approval of democratic elections law, especially after what happened in the Egyptian and Palestinian elections whose results will reflect on Yemen's local councils and presidential elections in September and November 2006. This may open a chance for large-scale and effective participation by all. Thus the Yemeni arena would witness what happened in Egypt and Palestine. Both the woman and youth segments will surely take part actively in the upcoming electoral process.

To realize the political reform and development we are in need of actually abandoning the policy of excluding or expelling others. This matter would necessarily demand a law of elections (Supreme Commission of Elections) on basis of revising election slates and representation of all political spectra in the supreme commission and its supervising committees, each according to its actual weight and size on the ground.

Those who want the political reform



By: Prof. Abdulaziz
Al-Tarb

matters related to public meetings, freedom of the press by not pursuing its people and sending them to courts. Allowing people to express their just and legitimate demands is considered essential introduction to the change, reform and development in their large concept.

The political reform and development also dictate the work among ranks of the larger mass sectors (we have previously launched a slogan of plan with us, carry out with us and rule with us) and we have seen interaction of all in all plans in the period of 1970-1985.

The great and compound problems for finding suitable forms of organization lie in arranging and unifying the masses and rid them of their spontaneity. The reason is that the unorganized masses are inactive and unable to wage types of convenient struggle for influencing decision makers for peaceful transfer of power. Therefore, organization is a significant question and should not be spontaneous. It demands skilful party cadres leading the building of mass organization process for the ruling party or the opposition parties and civil society organizations that represent the lungs with which political parties and national personalities could breathe. Distancing themselves from their masses, means those political parties are facing an execution verdict against them.

There is a big difference between the

political party and the mass establishments. The establishment is for all while the party is for the vanguard, the leaders of the segment or the class rather than for all. The mass establishment is the primary school that draws up features of realistic and tangible programs. Here are defined the legitimate goals and purposes from which the democratically elected executive bodies are derived in civil society organizations, which have to possess time-tabled yearly, quarterly and monthly plans to guarantee implementation.

Those plans have to have close relation to interests, concerns of the citizens and the responsibility of following them up is on shoulder of democratic organizations that are supportive of political parties. They are in affiliation with formations of the civil society through which nomination to party membership is done.

The question is whether we capable of realizing our dreams and qualified for that. We can witness the security disarray trespass the red lines and kidnappings of tourists are doubling. There are the unreasonable rise in prices of consumer stuffs and deterioration of public services and their high prices.

Will the masses of people take part in local elections while the experience the deterioration in their living conditions? Does the ruling party have confidence and ability to render words into actions to lead us towards achievement of the goals in order to participate in the elections and active political and development reforms?

It is imperative to read experiments while getting prepared for the coming local, presidential and 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.

Agricultural lands in Ibb...where to?

"Time pulses in you
And you are as you are:
More gorgeous than the heart's mirth
But you ever persist to ashes be
-I want to know why-
And sink in the sunset sea."

Thus does my friend commence his poem, sending forth his protests. He addresses Ibb as he fearfully sees the ogre of construction swallowing more and more of the green land every day. New neatly-built buildings now blatantly occupy once-green valleys with pastures endowed some 700 years ago by Queen Arwa of Al-Sulahi state. It since has been known as the Salabat (area) of Queen Arwa.

Many newly-constructed buildings reflect a rich picture costing several years' expiration in different countries, spending that could have opened factories and other feasible investment projects. However, this sublime scene is no reflection on actual development

reached via certain necessary stages culminating in commendable welfare, at least aesthetically. These buildings are mere concrete blocks with repulsively garish ornamentation.

Many people think that planning and construction of this new breed of Ibb buildings is characterized by much randomness that has transgressed horribly upon the fertile lands, putting to death hundreds of agricultural plots that formed the bulk of the city's memory. It is common that whenever the word "Ibb" is mentioned, buoyant and jubilant images are conjured: summer, rain, grass, clouds, greenery, etc.

But, as though there is some sort of discrepancy between the city's geography and its present dwellers' psychology, randomness adamantly continues emphasizing and embodying



By: Nashwan Dammaj

land.

Then the objection is not to the construction's style and shape. It is, however, a cry over every killed piece of land, which was sacred and spared in the past. Yemenis used to regard encroachment on agricultural land as a crime no less than that against humans. At least, this is my own view.

Nashwan Dammaj is a Yemeni writer and a poet. He is Yemen Times correspondent in Ibb.

that dissonance through attrition of endowment lands and law-eluding stratagems manipulated to transfer ownership of those lands to influential individuals. It seems as if land is so scarce that there is no other resort than agricultural land. We see what appears to be a nationwide conspiracy against every tree and green

Letters to the Editor

Muslims Image

Muslims around the world are rioting because of the apparent insult a cartoon has made to their sacred religious symbols. However, the recent bombing of the sacred Askariya shrine in Iraq reveals the utter hypocrisy of Muslims. How can Muslims expect the rest of the world to respect Islam when even Muslims do not respect it. You call on others to respect your religious symbols and images, yet blow up your own sacred religious shrines.

Ever wonder why the car-

toon image started in the first place? Ever wonder why the world views Islam the way it does? Stop shooting the messenger. Only Muslims can fix that image.

M. Hand
mthanley@ups.com

Protecting religions

There are 6000 religions in the world. How are you going to implement rules that oblige you to never insult any of them? Just think about it! It can't be done. Try instead to develop a little thick skin so you don't get offended when somebody doesn't agree

with you. By the way I wouldn't have seen those cartoons if it weren't for all those protests!!! And now they are being seen on more than 10000 sites on the internet. So the protesters are achieving the opposite of what I suppose they wanted.

Per, Denmark
kristensen1945@yahoo.dk

Jews in Yemen

Just a comment to the above article about Jews in Yemen. As you know that about 300 to 400 Jews are in the town of Rydah, which is near Amran City. Rabbi or Mory Saeed Amar

is the leader in the Jewish community and his brother-in-law Mory Amran Garadi is a Teacher and educator for boys.

A few young men have studied in N.Y. in the United States; they are teachers and helping to build a better future for Yemen Jewry.

Eliezer
shoferinstitute@yahoo.com

This is Amina

After I read "This is Amina" parts one and part two, by Shadha Mohammed Nasser, I was moved to tears. First I thought it was a fiction, but when I realized that it was a true story of a nine year old Amina, who was forced to

mary, bear children, and later to be sentenced to death, I cried, not just for Amina, but for my beloved country, where many "Aminas" are deprived of their childhood, robbed of their innocence, and are subjected to a life of misery and servitude.

Her story is a cause for people, especially Muslims, to demonstrate in the streets, and to preach in mosques, against this type of cruelty to the innocent and helpless children. What happened to Amina is a crime against Islam and against humanity.

I applaud President Ali Abdullah Saleh for commuting her death sentence, and I hope that his crown legacy

will be to help in establishing and, in enforcing laws, against the exploitation and early marriage of children. Until then, we all should be crying for our beloved country.

Just think, given the opportunity, Amina had the potential of being another "Shadha".

Rashid A. Abdu, M.D.
raal@neoucom.edu

Poor Aden

After 30 years I visited Aden, and to my shock I am honestly disappointed at what I witnessed. The city is in a pathetic shape and is a ghost city, despite what I expected to see of some progress. The country is

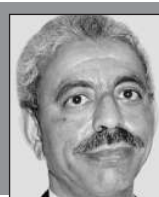
neglected and is poorly maintained. The municipality is doing nothing to improve the image and beautification of the city, and on the contrary allow the illegal shanty buildings within the city and as a result the streets are narrow and dusty. The roads are still potholes and many areas remain without streetlight. The stench of gutter and garbage is everywhere on the street, and it is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, cockroaches and rats. Allah knows what else.

The newly built Sierra and Abyan corniche resorts are an eye sore and in poor taste. The public lacks proper taxis and anyway most of

the vehicles on the road are a laughing matter and should be seriously reviewed and written off the road.

Public service departments are not functioning, and much bribery is destroying the security of the country. I could point out a lot of neglect but it will take a lot of space. The only progress I saw are some of the few buildings built by investors. As a proud Yemeni, I need to see my country prosper and develop and its image matches the great history and civilization of glorious Yemen.

Sadeq Mohsen Ali
Karamah
sadeqmk@emirates.net.ae

COMMON
SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

For the Palestinians:
A life without hope

While the world is busy talking about all the horrible demonstrations that Moslems have carried out against the devious "Danish cartoons" and whether Iran should exercise her legitimate sovereign rights, and as Moslems sit horribly idle while their brothers in Iraq and elsewhere are butchering each other, the news from Palestine has taken a comfortable back seat. Comfortable, of course for the ambitious Zionist demagogues, who continuously murder the Palestinians from the air and the ground, encircle them with concrete and electric barriers, subject them to the most dehumanizing processes just to go from one Palestinian "enclave" to another, deny them their democratic choice for representatives in Government and all the daily ongoing acts of elimination of any choice for a possible solution to the Palestinian problem. For Israel, that is the only choice it has accepted and is carrying it out with all the power it has at its disposal. It is really disheartening to believe that the world can be blinded to such systematic gross dehumanization of an entire people, who have been betrayed by their own kin of blood, neglected by the international community and rejected by those who are supposedly their neighbors seeking to live "side by side" with the people they previously have rooted out of the land that once used to be called Palestine. If that was not enough to deserve some justice from the international community, the Palestinians are now being systematically erased from existence in whatever is left of what used to be the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza. The horrible conditions in what remains of Gaza and the West Bank shown in reports from western journalists and international human rights activists, who have had a chance (a chance that is getting tougher and tougher to get day by day) to see vividly are enough to make the hardest heart shed tears of disappointment at the state of human morality. The pictures painted by these reports indicate that the Palestinians are on the road to extinction as a viable citizenry for any form of Palestinian state, as their Israeli occupiers use every dehumanizing method that the geniuses of the International Zionist Establishment (in Israel and elsewhere) can come up with to make their life as miserable as it could ever be, if they get lucky to survive the starvation, deprivation from the most basic services and even the access to each other. Blockades, cement walls and "Jewish Only" roads have turned the West Bank and Gaza into large scale prisons, where even humanitarian laws on prisoner treatment are not applicable, because the prisons are enmeshed in what is presumed to be the territory of a sovereign Palestinian State. How much can a people sustain as they are subjected to the meanest bureaucratic procedures just to undertake normal activities that are needed for sustenance, education, medical treatment and so on. While Israel is adamantly showing its tough "no Hamas" attitude, presumably for the latter finding no other alternative but armed resistance, since all the peaceful theatrics played out by the international community and the "recognized" leadership to failure have proven no more than a farce and a long term purchase of time to allow the Zionist machine to unroll its mastery of the art of legitimate ethnic cleansing, the Palestinians have been confined to innumerable prison cells, with very difficult contact not only with the rest of the world, but even the other enclaves where other Palestinians are imprisoned. Camouflaged by an international nod's head and the unrestricted and unlimited protection of the World Superpower and an imaginary war on terror that has proved to be the fuel for more terrorism than the world has ever seen, the Israelis carry on with their long-term and steady plan for the absolute elimination of anything and everything Palestinian. Where is the sense of justice in the international community, while the Israelis are given every opportunity to carry out their mischief and their full conquest of the Holy Land, while the Palestinians are denied not only the chance to live any semblance of normal life, but the right to live as well?

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

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

E-mail: yementimes@yementimes.com
Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com

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

Managing Editor in Charge
Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammaj

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

Head of Design Dept.
Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Editorial Staff

Al-Ajel, Fatima
Al-Ariqi, Amel
Ali, Mohammed
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Almasmari, Hakim
Al-Mayasi, Yasser

Al-Molsi, Shaker
Exler, Stine
Khidhr, Mohammed
Patterson, Dana

Branches

Aden Bureau Chief:
Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596
Fax: +967 (2) 347056
Email: ytaaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau Chief:
Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,
Telefax: +967 (4) 217157
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttai@y.net.ye

Hodeidah Bureau:
Mazen Abdulghani Al-Saqqaf,
Telefax: +967 (3) 206886

Ibb correspondent:
Nashwan Dammaj
Mobile: (+967) 733840609,
Email: naschuan2000@yahoo.com

Hadramout Correspondent:
Saeed Al-Batati
Mobile (+967) 733896986
Email: Albatati88@yahoo.com
Fax: +967 (05) 360303

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- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr



Ath-Thawri weekly,
organ of the YSP
2 Mar 2006.

Main headlines

- During his meeting with President Abu Mazin, the YSP secretary-general confirms the party's support for the Palestine cause and applauds its democracy
- JMP parties face violations of the elections supreme commission and Al-Jundi threatens of arresting thousands
- Al-Attas: What is important is not nomination but reformation of the political system
- Condemning the assassination of journalist Atwar Bahjat, the YSP general secretariat calls the Iraqis to abandon fighting
- Human Rights Commission: Arrest and trial of Dailami violations of international conventions
- Journalists in Aden stage sit-in in protest to squandering their rights by the Syndicate

Writer Abu Salwan wrote an article saying the voting of the YSP Central Committee with great majority in favor of the document for comprehensive political reform issued by parties of the JMP, has borne more than one indication and reflected many important indicators related to the party's internal life. The first indication is confirmation of the members on the necessity that all he party bodies should move to the institutional work as an essential step on the re-building of the party with democratic orientations. The second indication is the renewal of trust in the party leadership.



As-Sahwa weekly,
2 Mar. 2006.

Main headlines

- Islah Party calls for peaceful struggle and expansion of the woman role
- Spokesman for JMP calls for punishing the Elections Supreme Commission
- To see volume of damage, a delegation from the parliament in Saada
- The president reiterates his non-nomination for the presidential elections
- A criminal rapes an eight-year child
- Yemeni aviation engineers begin putting on red badges in preparation for strike
- Columnist Zaid al-Shami writes saying the constitution says the election commission is independent and impartial undertakes administration and supervision on elections. Is the commission independent and neutral? This is the point of dispute and core of the problem. This entails formation of the committees and proportions of par-

Note

The article "A respond to Martin Bendeler (Why do they hate us)", published in issue no. 925, had the name of its writer omitted by mistake. The name of the writer is Mohamed-Mahad
(mahad_dirieh@yahoo.co.uk)

ties in them. There are the election violations, non-neutrality of the official media instruments, the authority exploitation, inability of the supreme commission to force the ruling party commit to the constitution and the law. The complaint has always been of the partiality of the commission that is composed of seven members, five of whom are from the ruling party. Therefore it is normal for the ruling party to defend the commission.

The difference of the opposition parties with the commission is not something new and the commission's bias is not the product of today. The commission always accuses parties of the JMP and shows high transparency towards the General People's Congress.

For instance the local council in Marib is still not assuming its authorities because the Islah is the winner there. It is something contradictory with policy of the ruling party which sees it is not allowable for the opposition to assume the post of deputy governor and to that the elections supreme commission did not respond and then it wants to convince the people that it is impartial and independent. The writer maintains to say official media continue to publish propaganda for the ruling party until one hour before the beginning of voting and on the other hand publish things deforming programs of the opposition parties, to which the commission for elections could do nothing against that. Above all, security committees direct both lower and higher election committees in a clear violation of the constitution and the law.



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

Main headlines

- During the Yemeni-Palestinian talks, Abu Mazin expresses his appreciation for the Yemeni supportive stand towards the Palestinian people struggle
- In an interview to Al-Hayat newspaper, president Saleh says the difference between the governance and opposition something natural in democracy
- Escapees from prison did not leave outside Yemen, three of them surrendered themselves
- Elections Supreme Commission forms electoral committees from university graduates; the GPC supports its decision
- One- hundred members of parliament visit Saada city
- Higher education minister: \$ 5 million to develop scientific research

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says in his article that at last the conscience of the International Organization woke up and also the conscience of the UN secretary general after a long silence lasted for four years. Among expressions of that awakening was the report that uncovered the lid of the democracy of lies and pointed for the first time to Guantanamo new "holocaust" of which administration of the White House brags to present as an example of the new world order democracy and what would accompany it of freedom of opinion and human rights.

It goes without saying that the

Guantanamo holocaust is not the only one the American administration is bragging of accomplishing. European and American press and a number of human rights activists have already discovered tens of arrest camps the intelligence of that administration had built in many areas of the world.

The report of the UN has come to prove that the horrible Guantanamo Bay detention camp is a real holocaust and it called for speeding up in closing it and destroyed to liberate the remaining victims or to try them in a just way, the report also points out that whether the detainees of Guantanamo guilty or innocent, they have been exposed to unprecedented inhuman torture.



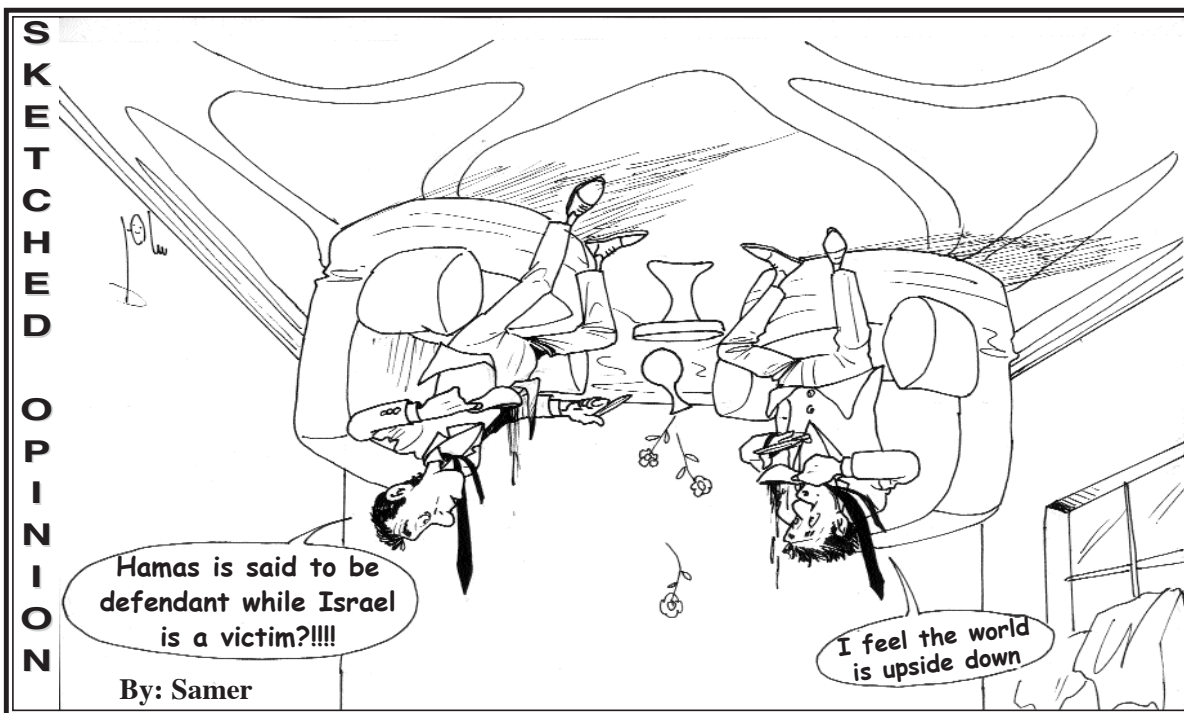
Al-Wahdawi weekly,
organ of
Nasserite Unionist
Organization, 28
Feb. 2006.

Main headlines

- In order to register them in the committees, GPC sends circulation to its branches to register the members applied for civil service
- Military maneuver in Marib claims lives of soldiers
- JMP emphasizes its stands demanding the change of Elections Commission
- At a symposium on corruption, NUO secretary general says fighting corruption a national priority
- An unsightly rape crime of a child in Amran
- The president renews his decision of not nominating for the presidential elections
- NUO condemns targeting sacred places and journalists in Iraq
- YSP central committee: Reform document, a base for common struggle
- Columnist Ahmed Saeed says in an article it is for sure there is a democratic need for cooperation among civil society establishments to pres for changing the Supreme Commission of Elections or to treat its situation. That is a correct inlet for carrying out serious reforms to prepare the democratic field for partners of political action in the country.

The current scene does not afford dangers of the undesired control of the Elections Commission that impedes development and growth of the democratic experiment and gives it more recessions in favor of the ruling system. Therefore it is for the country's good providing secure and upright climate to realize sovereignty of the law that ensures effective and serious participation in the coming elections.

What the elections submitted of solutions have no legal text but rather a violation of the law and clear bias to the ruling party. If the law has given it the right to form committees, which is a procedural question that comes after partnership agreement not before it, the same law has taught it how to do that through obliging it to two rights that it must understand. The first is that the committees should not be formed from one part, which means partnership in the formation. The second thing is that in case of changing any member in any election committee he should be replaced by another from the same party



SILVER LINING

By: Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com

The raped Somali refugees... the raped country!

I have been very much stunned by the story of the three Somali refugees raped by security men. I interviewed two of them. They told me a very tragic story of how they were beaten up brutally and raped by some savage security men. Two were raped when security men broke up the month-long sit-in for hundreds of Somali refugees last December in front of the UN agency UNHCR office in Sana'a. The third was raped upon arrival the land of Yemen in Shabwa in October 2001. Like many other refugees, she was blackmailed by the marine security men and was asked to pay YR 1500. All paid expect her. She had nothing and therefore, was not allowed to leave. She was beaten up and then raped by three soldiers in front of her three children. They were crying but to no avail.

The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) has demanded an immediate investigation into the case and the attorney general responded positively and ordered the prosecution to start investigating into the refugees claim. The two women told me they could not go to the prosecution out of fear to be killed and shame which makes it difficult to start the investigation.

This is just an example of how the Somali migrants, asylum seekers and refugees suffer. Others are drowning in the sea from time to time in their endeavors to escape the instability of their homeland. Last week only, 137

migrants and asylum seekers were forced by human smugglers deep into water. According to UNHCR, these people are beaten up, raped and tortured by their smugglers.

Dictatorial regimes can never produce but disasters and chaos. The war-torn Somalia is a sheer example of this fact. The regime of Siyad Barri put the country into the turmoil of civil war and killings for over 15 years. It is the people who suffer while the rulers manage to escape. Of course, there is a difference between dictators in the Arab countries and those in the other part of the world. Due to the absence of institutionalized states where the rulers enjoy absolute power, these countries are forced into disorder and the result is collapse of the system at large when the dictators are out of power.

Another example is that of Iraq. I used to think that Saddam managed to create a secular state free from the complex of religious differences. However, when the regime fell down, the whole system collapsed and the hidden rotten apples and religious conflicts came to the surface. The recent fiasco in Iraq is a real example of this. Saddam oppressed his people and ruled them with an iron fist but did nothing to build an institutionalized state that can sustain even after he heaves power. I believe other examples can be seen in other Arab countries where the regimes do everything that can prolong their stay in authority.

Let us go back to the plight of the Somalis who are scattered in many parts of the world looking for a better and safe life. The Somali state does not exist as the whole system has collapsed after Barri who raped the country for many years and finally left it to ruins. The lack of life opportunities force the Somalis to take the risk and sail on even old-aged and unsafe boats under the sun. Most fall an easy prey to human smugglers who have the reputation of treating their passengers brutally. According to UNHCR, between 12 January and mid-February, 48 boatloads of people arrived off the Yemeni coast from the Somali port of Bosasso. Among these were 2,528 Somalis.

What is more saddening is the silence of the international community that is just entertaining watching the movie of a dying nation and people left at the mercy of human smugglers and high seas. The UN has not moved to do something to the Somalis as it did somewhere else. The Arab States and the super power countries including the US just keep watching the dilemma of this people as there is no interest that can attract them there.

I know the world is driven by economic and political interests. However, out of their ethical commitments towards the power countries like Somalia, the international community should at least urgently stop these ruthless smugglers, putting an end to the desperate people plight in the seas.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its project "Decentralization and Local Development Support Program (DLDSP)"

Post Title: Participatory Systems Development Associate
Grade: SC-6

Responsibilities

- Identify and document existing participatory mechanism that enable communication between communities and their elected representatives and assess their level of effectiveness.
- Hold awareness building events to enhance the understanding of communities of their roles and responsibilities under a decentralized system of government and to clarify the nature of their relationship with their elected representatives.
- Develop (in close coordination with communities and council members) programs for the strengthening of such mechanism and facilitate their testing and adoption if found effective and practical.
- Work closely with council members to increase their effectiveness in communicating with their constituents and in conveying their needs in local council meetings and planning sessions.
- Work closely with communities (and their various segments) to increase their effectiveness when defining and articulating their needs for basic services and as well as social and economic development.
- The Participatory Systems Development Associate shall report to the DLDSP coordinator and Deputy Coordinator.
- Perform any other duties as required.

Qualification

- A university degree in social science such as public administration, public and international relations or other related discipline.
- The post holder should have considerable experience in the field of local governance and local development. Specific experience and a solid track record of participatory planning and community needs assessment would be of significant value.
- He/she shall have strong communication skills as well as analytical and writing abilities. The applicant to this post must be fluent in Arabic and proficient in English and ready to spend a large percentage of his/her time in the field and between districts in various governorates.
- Computer skills are required.

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

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.yp@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 15 March 2006



Artificial Intelligence and Globalization

By: Kenneth Rogoff

Today's conventional wisdom is that the rise of India and China will be the single biggest factor driving global jobs and wages over the twenty-first century. High-wage workers in rich countries can expect to see their competitive advantage steadily eroded by competition from capable and fiercely hard-working competitors in Asia, Latin America, and maybe even some day Africa.

This is a good story, full of human drama and power politics. But I wonder whether, even within the next few decades, another factor will influence our work lives even more: the exponential rise of applications of artificial intelligence.

My portal to the world of artificial intelligence is a narrow one: the more than 500-year-old game of chess. You may not care a whit about chess, long regarded as the ultimate intellectual sport. But the stunning developments coming out of the chess world during the past decade should still command your attention.

Chess has long been the centerpiece of research in artificial intelligence. While in principle, chess is solvable, the game's computational complexity is almost incomprehensible. It is only a slight exaggeration to say there are more possible moves in a chess game than

atoms in a universe.

For most of the twentieth century, programmers were patently unsuccessful in designing chess computers that could compete with the best humans. A human chess master's ability to intuit, visualize, and prioritize easily prevailed over the brute force approach of computers. The computers gradually improved, but they still seemed far inferior to the top humans. Or so we thought.

Then, in 1997, in what will surely long be remembered as a historical milestone for modern man, IBM's "Deep Blue" computer stunned the world by defeating the world champion Garry Kasparov. Proud Kasparov, who was perhaps more stunned than anyone, was sure that the IBM team must have cheated. He sarcastically told reporters that he sensed the "the hand of God" guiding his silicon opponent.

But the IBM team had not cheated. Rather, through a combination of ingenious software and massive parallel computing power, they had produced a silicon-based entity capable of such finesse and subtlety, that international chess grandmasters worldwide (including me) were simply amazed. Since 1997, the computers have only gotten better, to the point where computer programmers no longer find beating humans a great challenge.

Only a game, you say? Perhaps, but let me tell you this: when I played professional chess 30 years ago (I once repre-

sented the United States in the World Chess Championship cycle), I felt I could tell a lot about someone's personality by seeing a sampling of their games, even those of an amateur. Until a short while ago, I could certainly distinguish a computer from a human opponent.

Now everything changed like lightning. The machines can now even be set to imitate famous human players – including their flaws – so well that only an expert eye (and sometimes only another computer!) can tell the difference.

More than half a century ago, the godfather of artificial intelligence, Alan Turing, argued that the brain's function could all be reduced to mathematics and that, someday, a computer would rival human intelligence. He claimed that the ultimate proof of artificial intelligence would be met if a human interrogator were unable to figure out that he was conversing with a computer.

The "Turing test" is the holy grail of artificial intelligence research. Well, for me, a chess game is a conversation of sorts. From my perspective, today's off-the-shelf computer programs come awfully close to meeting Turing's test.

Over the course of a small number of games on the Internet, I could not easily tell the difference. True, today's computers have not evolved to the level of the deranged chess-playing HAL in the filmmaker Stanley Kubrick's masterpiece

"2001: A Space Odyssey," much less Arnold Schwarzenegger-like droids from the Terminator movies. But the level that computers have reached already is scary enough.

What's next? I certainly don't feel safe as an economics professor! I have no doubt that sometime later this century, one will be able to buy pocket professors – perhaps with holographic images – as easily as one can buy a pocket Kasparov chess computer today.

So let's go back to India and China. Globalization proceeded at a rapid pace through much of the last century, and at a particularly accelerated rate during its last two decades. Yet the vast body of evidence suggests that technological changes were a much bigger driver in global wage patterns than trade. That is, technology, not trade, was the big story of the twentieth-century economy (of course, the two interact, with trade helping to diffuse and stimulate technology, but this is a matter of semantics.)

Are we so sure that it will be different in this century? Or will artificial intelligence replace the mantra of outsourcing and manufacturing migration? Chess players already know the answer.

Kenneth Rogoff is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Harvard University, and was formerly chief economist at the IMF.

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Water tankers polluted

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

An experimental test on water samples collected from various sources revealed that tanker water is the most polluted.

According to the test, conducted by experts from a company selling water purification equipment, water delivered to homes by tanker contains the highest levels of salt, microorganisms and leeches.

The test results shocked the audience attending the experiment, as

all confirmed that they use water tankers since government water supply service cannot cover their water needs. "I never imagined that the water tanker was impure to this rate," said attendee Fatima, who confirmed that she and her family members drink this water.

Qasam Ali Ataf, general director of the Works Ministry environmental sector, confirmed the test results, saying, "We receive many complaints about the existence of moss, mushrooms and leeches in water." He said there are many rules and laws defining quality and conditions that must be applied to water tankers;

however, there is no mechanism to execute such rules.

Contaminated water for everyone

According to the national water sector strategy (2005-2009), poor citizens living in areas inadequately served by the public water supply are forced to use lower quality water or buy expensive water supplied by tankers. The strategy mentioned that only 47 percent of Yemen's urban population and 25 percent of rural populations receive water supply service.

In fact, those benefiting from water supply service are also regular water tanker customers. "In the past, we

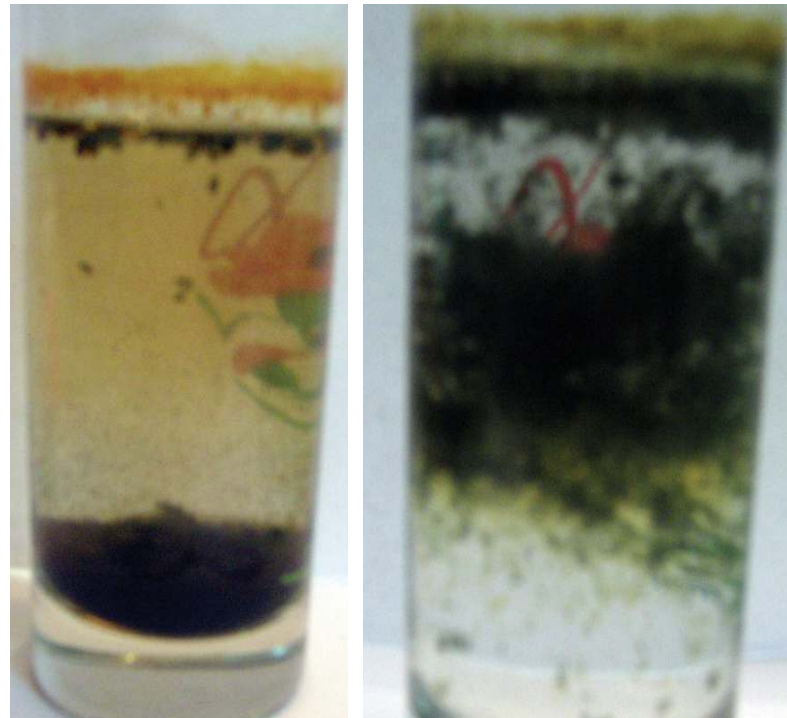
used to distribute water to some building owners, but nowadays, we distribute water to whole residential neighborhoods," confirmed water tanker driver Naser Hidera. According to Hidera, all tanker drivers can obtain water from widespread wells.

The question as to the reasons behind pollution affecting water tankers can be answered differently. Groundwater is the source for water tankers. According to the strategy, many practices pose potential threats to groundwater; for example, discharging untreated domestic and industrial wastewater into the aquifer, which is more visible in rural and urban areas.

Agriculture college lecturer Dr. Nabeel Al-Maghribi referred to another reason for water tanker pollution, saying that well owners continue drilling, trying to reach a water quantity to cover customer demands. However, such random drilling may reach the earth's depths, which is characterized by high salt density. "Water from deep wells generally contains salt and minerals in the solution," he explained.

According to Al-Maghribi, such water causes many health problems and kills plants. Well drilling licensing did not become obligatory by law until the 2002 Water Law was issued. However, implementing the licensing system remains difficult.

A third reason may lie in the tankers themselves. A cabinet resolution exists regarding standard water qualities, defining required standards and qualities that all water tankers must meet. However, such a resolution remains on paper. According to the resolution, the environmental health authority is charged with monitoring water tankers. However, Hidera,



Water delivered to homes by tanker contains the highest levels of salt, microorganisms and leeches.

Hussein Ali and other tanker owners confirmed that they have never seen any environmental sector employees.

service demand drives a "race to the bottom of the aquifers."

Who is responsible?

Regarding water quality, there is often duplication and some overlapping of responsibilities among various institutions. According to the Water Law, the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) is responsible for monitoring and regulating water resources quality (natural water resources), while potable water quality (in the networks) is monitored and controlled by the water utilities and public health authorities. Water quality monitoring mandates presently are fragmented among several entities.

Who is the victim?

According to the strategy, there are thriving water service markets in rural and urban regions, for example water tanker delivery service. The market is based essentially on resource capture because the sellers of these services have neither restrictions on access to or quantity of water to pump nor a recognized right over the water they access.

The strategy warned that lack of clear water rights causes unsustainability because higher water



Water tankers distribute water to houses

Project promotes safe child delivery at home

By: Faisal Al-Sofany

Maternal mortality rates in Yemen are among the highest in the world. Home deliveries are estimated at 84 percent. Therefore, the project to save mothers during childbirth at home is considered a positive gesture. However, the project has faced many difficulties and obstacles. The project's program officer, Asia Makwi, talked about the project and obstacles to it.

When was the project established?

The Social Affairs and Labor Ministry issued a 2003 resolution to establish this project under Ministry of Health - population sector supervision and supported by the United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA). However the project's actual work began in 2005.

What are the project's objectives?

The project's main aim is to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates. On the basis of resolutions from the first National Conference on Population Policies held October 1990 in Sana'a, Yemen must reduce newborn mortality rates from 130 deaths per 1,000 to 60 deaths per 2,000. Therefore, the Social Affairs and Labor Ministry's General Management for Mother and Child, through women's roles in social, economic development programs in coordination with UNFPA, proposed the idea of establishing this project which was being studied two years ago.

The idea has been crystallized to found an experimental factory to produce packets containing safe childbirth requirements. We are going to generalize this protective means and distribute them to all Yemeni regions. We believe the packets will be the most important protective means used to improve healthy circumstances of domestic childbirth operations and decrease the risks leading to death, as well as diseases and infections leading to infant deaths.

A 2003 demographic survey estimated that 366 women die for every 100,000 babies delivered. There are eight maternal deaths daily in Yemen, which is considered the highest rate among Arab countries.



The contents of the safe childbirth kit.

What are the regions in which you work?

Our priority is to cover the densest and most rural regions of the republic, as such regions urgently need these types of services.

What are the reasons for Yemen's maternal mortality and how we can reduce such causes?

Seventy-five percent of Yemenis reside in villages in mostly isolated regions, whether in the mountains or the desert. We found that the main reasons for maternal mortality are the difficult circumstances women live under in these regions.

For example, 38.8 percent of mothers die due to absence of a nearby medical facility, 14.8 percent die because they cannot afford childbirth operation expenses, 8.8 percent die due to absence of proper medical equipment and facilities, 5.5 percent die because of lack of transportation in these distant regions and 2.6 percent die due to the husband's refusal to transfer the mother to a hospital. Also, 11.8

percent of mothers prefer giving birth at home.

Thousands of women die or suffer permanent injury each year due to childbirth complications, bleeding, postpartum hemorrhaging and diseases like malaria, hepatitis and anemia.

How will the project help to reduce maternal mortality?

The production factory where the project is set is prepared to produce safe childbirth kits consisting of:

- Medical gloves and sterilized masks
- Soap for washing hands before childbirth operations
- Piece of plastic cloth and sterilized cotton
- Sterilized threads and razors
- Definition brochure from which midwives in any region can learn delivery procedures simply

There are three such production factories

in three governorates: Al-Dhala, Al-Mahwit and Amran. The tools have been tested many times by Arab experts and local midwives.

Project management also has arranged many workshops and lectures specializing in reproductive health, as well as launched many training courses to introduce the production and trained midwives to use such tools.

Do you cooperate with NGOs?

Some organizations like UNFPA, Oxfam and GTZ are very cooperative; however, some organizations refused to deal with us. We welcome private sector cooperation and other NGOs.

What are the obstacles facing the project?

We experience a lack of financial resources that hinders distributing the products to targeted groups with less cost. Financial problems also prevent us from carrying out the program completely. For example, we face difficulties in conducting field studies, training courses, educational lectures and media announcements to introduce the project and its goals.

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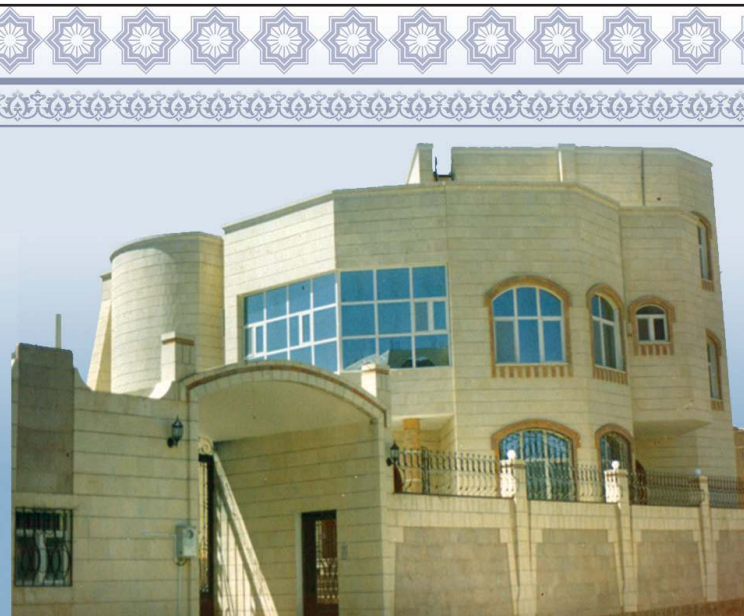
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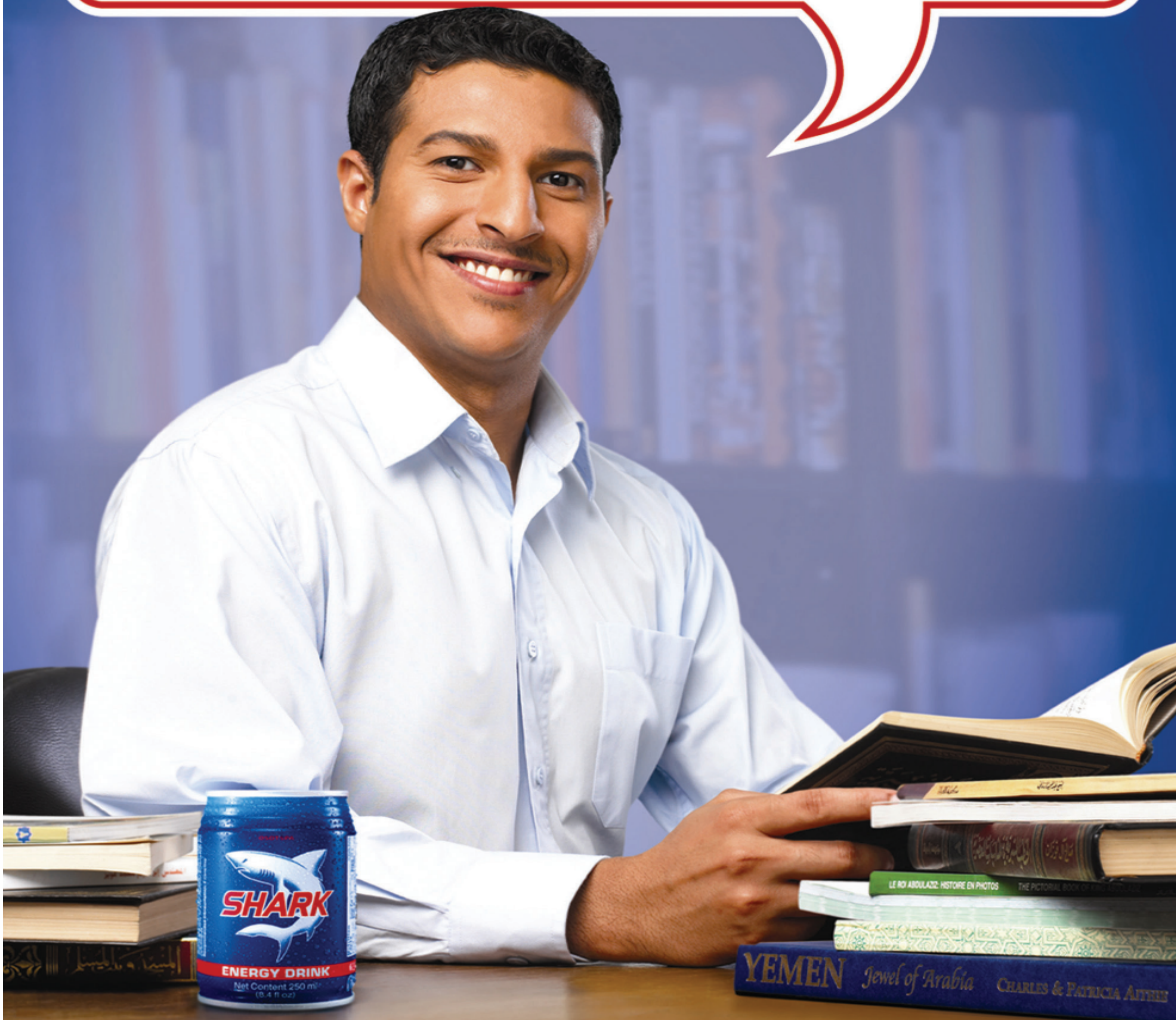
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بناءً على الاتفاق المؤرخ 2004/6/21م والمعمّد بواسطة وزارة الصناعة والتجارة وحكم المحكمة التجارية رقم (48) المؤرخ 2005/10/1م فإن
مؤسسة الكبوس للتجارة والصناعة
 تحذر كافة المنشآت والمحلات التجارية من قبول أو بيع أو توزيع أية عبوة شاي تحمل العلامة المقلدة التالية :

وذلك لأنها تعد تقليدًا غير مشروع للعلامة الصناعية والتجارية المملوكة لمؤسستنا والمكفولة بالحماية القانونية ويحمل كل من يتولى التوزيع أو البيع بالجملة أو التجزئة المسؤولية القانونية في حالة تداوله وقبوله عبوات الشاي التي تحمل العلامة المقلدة أعلاه، وسيتم اتخاذ كافة الإجراءات القانونية اللازمة ضده.

والله الموفق ..

مؤسسة الكبوس للتجارة والصناعة

التاريخ : 2006/2/27م

The exemplary justice of the Prophet (SAAS)

In the Qur'an, Allah commands believers to "Be upholders of justice, bearing witness for Allah alone, even against yourselves or your parents and relatives. Whether they are rich or poor, Allah is well able to look after them. Do not follow your own desires and deviate from the truth..." (Surat an-Nisa': 135). With the rules he imposed on Muslims, his just and tolerant attitude towards those of other religions, languages, races and tribes, and his way of not discriminating between rich and poor, but treating everybody equally, Allah's Messenger (saas) is a great example to all of mankind. Allah says this to His Prophet (saas) in one verse:

They are people who listen to lies and consume ill-gotten gains. If they come to you, you can either judge between them or turn away from them. If you turn away from them, they cannot harm you in any way. But if you do judge, judge between them justly. Allah loves

the just. (Surat al-Ma'ida: 42)

The Prophet (saas) abided by Allah's commands, even with such difficult people, and never made any concessions in his implementation of justice. He became an example for all times with the words, "My Lord has commanded justice..." (Surat al-A'raf: 29).

A number of incidents testify to the Prophet (saas)'s justice. He lived in a place where people of different religions, languages, races and tribes all co-existed. It was very difficult for those societies to live together in peace and security, and to check those who sought to spread dissension. One group could grow aggressive towards and even attack another over the slightest word or action. Yet, the justice of the Prophet (saas) was a source of peace and security for those other communities, just as much as it was for Muslims. During the time of the Prophet (saas), Christians, Jews and pagans were all treated equally. The Prophet (saas) abided by the verse "There is no compulsion where the religion is concerned..." (Surat al-Baqara: 256), explaining the true religion to everyone, but leaving them free to make up their own minds.

In another verse, Allah revealed to the Prophet (saas) the kind of justice and and conciliation he needed to adopt towards those of other religions:

So call and go straight as you have been ordered to. Do not follow their whims and desires but say, "I believe in a Book sent down by Allah and I am ordered to be just between you. Allah is our Lord and your Lord. We have our actions and you have your actions. There is no debate between us and you. Allah will gather us all together. He



By: Harun Yahya

is our final destination." (Surat ash-Shura: 15)

This noble attitude of the Prophet (saas), being in total harmony with the morality of the Qur'an, should be taken as an example of how members of different religions today should be treated.

The Prophet (saas)'s justice brought about understanding between people of different races. In many of his addresses, even in his final sermon, the Prophet (saas) stated that superiority lay not in race but in godliness as Allah states in the verse:

Mankind! We created you from a male and female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you might come to know each other. The noblest among you in Allah's sight is that one of you who best performs his duty. Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware. (Surat al-Hujurat: 13)

Two hadiths report the Prophet (saas) as saying:

*"You are sons of Adam, and Adam came from dust. Let the people cease to boast about their ancestors."*¹

*"These genealogies of yours are not a reason to revile anyone. You are all children of Adam. No one has any superiority over another except in religion and taqwa (godliness)."*²

During his final sermon, the Prophet (saas) called on Muslims in these terms:

*"There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab and for a non-Arab over an Arab; nor for white over the black nor for the black over the white except in piety. Verily the noblest among you is he who is the most pious."*³

The agreement made with the

Christians of Najran in the south of the Arabian Peninsula was another fine example of the justice of the Prophet (saas). One of the articles in the agreement reads:

*"The lives of the people of Najran and its surrounding area, their religion, their land, property, cattle and those of them who are present or absent, their messengers and their places of worship are under the protection of Allah and guardianship of His Prophet."*⁴

The Compact of Medina, signed by the Muslim immigrants from Mecca, the indigenous Muslims of Medina and the Jews of Medina is another important example of justice. As a result of this constitution, which established justice between communities with differing beliefs and ensured the protection of their various interests, long years of enmity were brought to an end. One of the most outstanding features of the treaty is the freedom of belief it established. The relevant article reads:

*"The Jews of Banu 'Awf are one nation with the Muslims; the Jews have their religion and the Muslims have theirs..."*⁵

Article 16 of the treaty reads: *"The Jew who follows us is surely entitled to our support and the same equal rights as any one of us. He shall not be wronged nor his enemy be assisted."*⁶ The Prophet (saas)'s companions remained true to that article in the treaty, even after his death, and even practiced it with regard to Berbers, Buddhists, Brahmins and people of other beliefs.

One of the main reasons why the golden age of Islam was one of peace and security was the Prophet (saas)'s just attitude, itself a reflection of Qur'anic morality.

The justice of the Prophet (saas) also awoke feelings of confidence in non-Muslims, and many, including polytheists, asked to be taken under his protection. Allah revealed the following request from the polytheists in the Qur'an, and also told the Prophet (saas) of the attitude he should adopt towards such people:

If any of the idolators ask you for protection, give them protection until they have heard the words of Allah. Then convey them to a place where they are safe. That is because they are a people who do not know. How could any of the idolators possibly have a treaty with Allah and with His Messenger, except for those you made a treaty with at the Masjid al-Haram? As long as they are straight with you, be straight with them. Allah loves those who do their duty. (Surat at-Tawba: 6-7)

In our day, the only solution to the fighting and conflict going on all over the world is to adopt the morality of the Qur'an, and, like the Prophet (saas), never to depart from the path of justice, making no distinction between different religions, languages, or races. The Prophet (saas)'s human love, kind thought and compassion, which turned those around him to true religion and warmed their hearts to faith, is that superior morality which all Muslims should seek to reproduce. (For further reading about the attributes of the Prophet (saas), see "The Prophet Muhammad (saas)" by Harun Yahya)

- 1- Sunan Abu Dawud, Book 41, Number 5097
- 2- Ahmad, 158/4
- 3- Prophet Muhammad's Last Sermon (<http://www.stanford.edu/~jamila/Sermon.html>)
- 4- The Pact of Najran, Article 6, <http://www.islamicresources.com/Pact-of-Najran.htm>
- 5- The Constitution of Madina, <http://www.islamic-study.org/jews-prophet-p-2.htm>
- 6- The Constitution of Madina, <http://www.islamic-study.org/jews-prophet-p-2.htm>

Harun Yahya is a pen name used by Mr. Adnan Oktar. He is a prominent Turkish intellectual and Islamic writer, completely dedicated to communicating the sacred values of Islam to other people.

His official website is (www.harunyahya.com)

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 19

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

**And this delightful herb
whose tender green
Fledges the river's lip on
which we lean-
Ah, lean upon it lightly! for
who knows
From what once lovely lip it
springs unseen!**

Literary Corner

By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah

The Qur'an and the Universe: From the Big Bang to the Great Contrition¹ (Part 3)

Author: Usamah Ali Al-Khadhir

Language: Arabic

Publisher: Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Year Published: 2004

No. of Pages: 833

From the highly spiritual context of the First Chapter, the author starts out the exploration of the strong ties between science and Islam. However before getting too deeply into the core of his treatise Al-Khadhir recounts the historical beginnings and development of scientific knowledge from ancient times to modern times. Science was originally pursued by monks and other people involved with regulating the spiritual inclinations of their society. Initially scientific knowledge, according to the author began with concentrating on what was absorbed by the senses and out of such momentary limited scopes of realizations, efforts were made to understand the nature of the world around us. But this primarily consisted of surface observations that contained little analysis or in-depth scrutiny. When the Greek philosophers emerged, scholars sought to rely on more in depth tools of evaluation of natural phenomena such as mathematics and geometry, weights and measures and introduced the concept of experimentation. However, to the Greeks goes the credit of introducing logic as an important element in explaining how nature behaves and what constitutes nature itself. With Christianity, according to the author, science was left with very little progress to speak of in the Middle Ages, because the Church ruled that any delving into the mysteries of the unknown constitutes heresy, especially if it did not conform to biblical renditions of the explored phenomena. With the coming of Islam, however, according to the author, science indeed was given the right environment to grow and develop and to become more significant in the daily lives of human beings.

It was Islamic scientists like Alhazen (Ibn Al-Haytham), Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Al-Berouni (Al-Khawarizmi), etc. who set the foundations of many of the major modern scientific fields, including Mathematics, Physics, Medicine, Astronomy, Chemistry. The author makes it a point to note where more recent western scientists relied upon the works of their Moslem predecessors in such areas as the explanations of light, gravity, optics and the photon theory of physical chemistry, just to name a few. The author in fact alludes that some recent "discoveries" attributed to recent western scientists were actually made by Islamic scientists centuries before. Needless to say, these arguments are well recognized by unbiased modern scientists, as this critic recalls the first lecture of his university physics class by a brilliant young Jewish scientist all dealt with the contributions of scientists of the heyday of Islamic civilizations in the Middle Ages. The contentions of the author of the book under scrutiny here did not conflict with much of what this professor stated. The interest of Islam in science had its foundations in the revelations of the Qur'an,

in which the first revelation was: "Read in the name of your Lord who created - created mankind from a clot². Read, and your Lord is the most Gracious, who taught by the pen - taught Man all that which he knew not!" (Surah 96: The Clot, verses 1-5). This important introduction of the Qur'an to mankind underscores the importance of learning (science).

Then the author delves into what modern science entails and the methodology used in science to explain the world around us - the world we grasp by our senses and the world that lies beneath and beyond what our senses can readily perceive. The author defines science as: "A systematic methodological approach by which facts are derived from objective observations that aim to link natural phenomena that may appear to be not interconnected within a general and holistic law" (The book under review, page 71). He also emphasizes Albert Einstein's suggestion that: a scientific view is more fascinating when its preface is as simple as it can be and the things that are interconnected thereby are more divergent and has the widest application scope³.

The book then goes into a description of the components of science, which he breaks into three major groups: I. Mathematics; II. Physical Science, including Physics (kinematics, Kinematics, Dynamics, Properties of Elements, Heat, Light, Sound, etc); III and Nuclear Physics. Physics is viewed as the most abstract of the sciences, as well as Astronomy, Geology (Earth Science), Chemistry and Biology and their various subgroups; and III the Humanities, which include psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics, political science, etc.

The author delves into the method of arriving to scientific laws, namely by Deduction or by Induction; i.e., by close observation and scrutiny. Then he points out the four general characteristics of science and scientific facts: i. quantitative description or language, ii. Objectivity and reasoning; general application and experimental truth.

The author goes at length to explain all these to show how scientists have used them to come out with their various theories and laws and shows how other scientists have come later to disprove them or change some of their findings by means of utilizing different approaches etc.

Next week, we start on the crux of the matter under discussion in the book, namely the Qur'an and Science.

1 Actually the Arabic word "insiahq" 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.

2 Many translators of the Qur'an, have translated this to mean coagulated blood, which this critic (a freelance translator himself) finds too hasty and less perfect (i.e. clot of blood) than the intended meaning, which the latter sees as meaning any change from a liquid to a thickened (more sticky) state (See following link: <http://www.websters-online-dictionary.org/definition/clot.>)



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The green village of Hadda

In the spring, the Hadda village outside Sana'a blooms. A variety of fruit trees cover the area in green and according to the inhabitants, Hadda is a perfect place for tourism.

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori

The village of Hadda lies in the south east corner of Sana'a. It has its place between the village of *Ishash* in the north and *Sina'a* in the south. In the beginning of each spring, the whole of Hadda blooms and gets dressed in a green cover. It is, as the literal descriptions say, like a piece of music frozen in time, and the green step fields are like natural paintings that adds to the

beauty of Hadda. But the inhabitants of the village would like help in order to keep their area beautiful.

"The cabinet announced Hadda a natural protectorate," says Murad Sultan, an inhabitant of the village. "However the resolution was never implemented. The official bodies showed no interest to preserve Hadda's trees and monuments."

Sultan says that the area could be an important tourist attraction if it was taken proper care of. He would like arbitrary buildings of influential officials to be stopped and irrigation projects that has been stopped to be rehabilitated. Building parks and gardens in the area would also help to enhance Hadda's state as a tourist attraction. And as Sultan points out, this would benefit both the local citizens and the state economically.

Historical monuments

Hamoud Al-Shaibah is one of the original inhabitants of Hadda area. He says that



A winter view of Hadda village.

PHOTO BY SADDAM AL-ASHMORI

the most important monuments of the village are its mosques. Of these are the two big mosques of Imam Al-Mutahar and Imam Al-Motawkil.

The Imam Al-Mutahar mosque lies about hundred meters outside the village. Though it was built five hundred years ago, its pulpit is still there. The scripts on the wall of the mosque tell of its old history. Hamoud pointed out that people has continued to pray in this mosque ever since that old time up to now.

The other mosque was built seven hundred years ago. Hamoud says that this is one of the important monuments of the old fortified village. The old village used to be built as a fort with one door. Today, the fort is a ruin and has been deserted because of its remoteness and the desiccation of its spring. No one lives in it now. In general, people are attracted to a more recent style of architecture and many of the old houses have been deserted.

Important cultivations

In the Hadda area several types of fruits are grown, such as almonds, nuts, peaches and apricots. But also wheat, barley and peanuts are important crops, and qat growing occupies about 50 percent of the cultivated area.

Pine trees and Turkish elderberry are the most prevailing trees in the area. They grow along side the streets, next to the houses and almost everywhere in the village.

Hamoud Al-Shaibah belongs to one of the inveterate families of the village. He identified the more important families in the village as the Bait Al-Shaibah, Bait Al-Sultan, Bait Al-Ashwal, Bait Al-Najar, Bait Obied and Bait Goladh. Asking him about the population of the village, Hamoud said that the original inhabitants of the village are about one thousand. Yet, over time the village has attracted many people from other governorates.



The remains of the old village.

PHOTO BY SADDAM AL-ASHMORI

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