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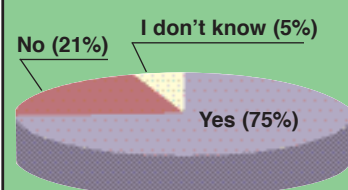
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"I hope you feel better, doctor" - a short story

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Yemeni women struggle to have an effective role in Yemeni life, but most of the community still oppresses them. Do you think establishing a ministry for women will support their cause?



This edition's question:

A U.S. State Department human rights report exposing corruption and law violations in Yemen has raised tension among authorities. Do you think the report is true?
- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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Government and opposition exchange of accusations indicates looming crisis

Most of the symposiums held for exchanging viewpoints between authority and opposition have been transformed into meetings for exchange of accusations exposing a looming crisis, particularly as the presidential elections draw nearer.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, March 12 — Woman Journalists Without Constraints (WJWC) and Al-Nas for Journalism Establishment organized a meeting Saturday, March 11 concerning peaceful transfer of power and the priority of political reform. Many ruling and opposition party leaders attended.

Papers that were presented indicated huge political differences prior to elec-



Opposition parties leaders and ruling parties representatives discussing peaceful transfer of power.

PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

tion time. Socialist Party General Secretary Dr. Yaseen Saeed Noman defended the opposition, saying it is not falsely charging anyone. He said what they are presenting is "A scientific perspective for resolving problems and complications our people suffer. No individual party can undertake this alone. Dialogue remains the only way to reach compromise."

Noman asserted that economic and administrative crisis is not the root of Yemeni crises. He said there is a missing link in the vicious cycle that controls

the entire circle: "The regime is the fulcrum and producer of this circle and it bears the blame."

Yasser Al-Awadhi, head of the General People's Congress (GPC) bloc, said he hoped the overt cases the opposition raises will be the same ones discussed behind closed doors. He added that the GPC will nominate President Saleh and demanded the opposition be earnest in the presidential election contest. He criticized previous elections, saying they were run unitarily. Al-Awadhi hoped the next election will be

dually contested, adding that his party cannot be the ruling and opposing party at the same time.

Islah (opposition) Party General Secretary Mohamed Al-Yadomi said the difference with the GPC is a difference in programs, confirming that the GPC program proved to be a failure. He said political powers, civil society organizations and citizens announced their refusal of GPC administration methods, adding, "We as opposition forces can manage to rule the country in a better way. The polls will be the arbitrator

between the ruling party and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP)." Al-Yadomi confirmed that they will not go to the polls unless there are constitutional and legal electoral guarantees.

Mohamed Qahtan, Secretary of Islah's political circle, assured that the opposition is insistent that presidential elections be an access to change citizens' lives, confirming that the situation will not tolerate anything other than change. He continued, saying that peaceful change is the only method for such change.

Yunis Haza', head of the GPC political circle, considers the opposition's continued criticism of the GPC political juggling, asserting that under President Saleh's leadership, Yemen has become a symbol for peaceful transfer of power. Haza' added that the GPC desires its deeds to coincide with its words. He criticized the opposition parties and described them as parties suffering old age symptoms, saying they attempt to cover their own failure by highlighting others' failures.

Many interjections concerned the matter of enhancing the democratic experience. The meeting's heated debates disclosed deeper political differences that are widening from one day to another. Discussions also disclosed the gap between the ruling party and the opposition, especially realized by the opposition's demand to change the elections committee to pave the way for free elections, which the GPC has refused.

FAO Near East regional conference convening in Sana'a



Participants in the conference.

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, March 12 — The means of controlling trans-boundary animal diseases, positive and negative impacts of genetic crops, Near East region fisheries and drought mitigation are all critical issues being discussed at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 28th Near East Regional Conference.

The March 12-16 conference convening in Sana'a began yesterday with a meeting of senior agricultural officials from 23 member countries, in addition to observers and international organizations.

Throughout the conference, mem-

bers will discuss several agenda topics such as redrafting laws organizing marketing systems to meet new economic and social changes, as well as modernizing the means of monitoring quality.

Participating members also will report on agricultural conditions in their countries and investment in the region's agricultural development, as well as the private sector's role. Additionally, they will debate on a pre-selected pressing issue in the region, which is the implication of recent developments in the global and regional trading environment for food security and agricultural development in the Near East.

Continued on page 2

U.S. Human Rights report on Yemen: various violations and some commendations

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, March 11 — The U.S. State Department issued its annual human rights report Wednesday, March 8. Despite mentioning all previously tackled issues, this year's report, which includes Yemen, is somewhat different, focusing on several concerns topped by human rights.

The report indicated many violations that do not reflect the Yemeni government's viewpoint, are not connected with political activity and do not represent official government policy. Examples include some security force abuses and the behavior and private prisons of some sheikhs. There are also legal violations mentioned under the War on Terror.

The report pointed to the Yemeni government's respect for human rights in some fields, yet, according to the report, its conduct in other fields remained weaker. The government, other parties affiliated with it and security forces intensified harassment of journalists and political critics. The report listed several abuses of journalists by name. In several instances, the report praised Constitutional laws, but said they are violated and not implemented.

The report highlighted a number of problems connected with human rights, among them are those concerning citizens' ability to change the government, inhumane treatment and recognized torture. It pointed out that Yemen's Constitution prevents torture and inhumane treatment; however, Ministry of Interior security forces tortured and mistreated citizens accused of violent crimes during detention and interrogation. It noted that Yemen's government admitted the torture, though it is not official policy.

The report admitted decreased tor-



Khalid Salman

Hajie Al-Jihafi

Jamal Amir

Nabeel Subai'

Khalid Al-Humadi

ture and cruelty in Ministry of Interior prisons, saying such torture is committed due to illiteracy of some police personnel, as well as corruption and pressure exerted by officials to extract confessions during interrogation. The report also noted deteriorating situation of prisons, arbitrary detentions and lengthy arrests without charge.

Judiciary weakness and restrictions imposed on press and free speech were included in the report. It also tackled the Yemeni government's lack of transparency and discrimination against women, children and labor rights, as well as discrimination and oppression in the community.

Regarding the report's focus on free expression and press freedom, it listed several instances of oppression and abuse against Yemeni journalists, criticizing laws and Constitutional provisions that impose press restrictions. It also criticized routine methods, procedures and fees for newspapers and magazines to obtain operating licenses.

Concerning detention of journalists, the report mentioned a number of arrests, stating, "Although no more journalists were arrested, the government and other unidentified bodies affiliated with it or its security apparatuses intensified pressure on independent and partisan newspapers. Such pressure included telephone threats to journalists and their family members, attacks on their homes, indefinite

detention, supervision and follow-up. This caused journalists to impose self-censorship, fearing government reaction."

The report referred to convictions against some newspapers including the weekly Al-Tajamo, mouthpiece of Al-Tajamo' Unionist Party. The paper was closed for six months, with its chief editor and another editor being convicted for publishing an article that triggered an ethnic conflict.

The report also mentioned the independent Al-Hurriyya newspaper that was closed and sealed with red wax. The court issued a two-year prison sentence with hard labor for chief editor Abdulkareem Sabra and journalist Abdulqawi Al-Qobati. However, they received a stay of judgment following an appeal. Their conviction was due to publishing a 2004 article criticizing the president.

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Al-Maqaleh honored on World Poetry Day

SANA'A — Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh was honored Monday, Mar. 5 in observance of World Poetry Day. The evening celebration was held at the Sana'a-based Henri De Monfried French Cultural Center where audiences listened to recitals of a host of Al-Maqaleh's poems. Several poets, intellectuals and interested parties attended the event, held in cooperation with the newly-established Poetry House.

"We would like both our nations to celebrate this occasion," French Center director Alain Joly said at the beginning of the ceremony. Dr. Jean Lambert, director of the French Institute for Archeology and Social Sciences (CEFAS), then gave a brief profile of Al-Maqaleh, described as "the greatest Yemeni poet alive."

A number of poets, including Ali Al-Muqri, Mohammed Abdussalam Mansour and Dr. Ali Al-Hadhrami, later took turns reading selected poems of Al-Maqaleh, who himself was invited to the podium to recite a



Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

couple of his poems.

He read from his own 'Questions and Mirrors': "Did I take the wrong path when I chose the letter as a space and wing? ... Did I take the wrong

path and the letter fell on my way as thorns and wounds? O Mother, I was an embryo inside flower. Flower was an embryo inside water. And water was an embryo inside thunder..."

Al-Maqaleh congratulated the world's poets during the occasion, explaining why Mar. 5 is World Poetry Day: "This is because it is the beginning of spring, when flowers and roses naturally and magnificently start to bloom."

Included in the audience were deaf students who were invited to take part in sensing and appreciating the poetry of Yemen's foremost poetic figure. A sign language interpreter stood onstage, trying his best to convey the meaning and nuances of verses to the keen students using his hands and facial expressions.

Al-Maqaleh is a poet, critic and intellectual, as well as the President's Cultural Advisor. Formerly Sana'a University rector, he now directs the Yemeni Center for Study and Research.

Workshop on media's role in democratic transformation

SANA'A, March 12 — As part of the Democracy Assistance Dialogue, the Human Rights Information & Training Center (HRITC) organized a workshop Saturday on media's role in democratic transformation.

At the beginning of the workshop, HRITC General Manager Ezziddin Al-Asbahi spoke about such dialogue from the civil community's viewpoint. Yousef Abu Ra'as, the civil community organizations program coordinator, then briefed attendees on the dialogue.

Abu Ra'as said the program works to enhance current democracy and establish new democratic programs. According to him, it gives participants the opportunity to improve their joint activities and enhance democratic institutions' abilities. It also seeks to facilitate exchange of experience between civil community organizations and other parties.

Dr. Ahmad Al-Wihaihi, program coordinator for the government, said democracy in Yemen still is developing and that democracy is the only option for driving Yemen onto a safer track.

Many media personnel attended the HRITC workshop, which came up with



A snapshot from the workshop.

the following findings:

- The government controls most leading posts in media institutions.
- There is no apparent right to obtain information.
- Penalties are imposed due to publication bans.
- There is lack of training for journalists.
- Journalists experience deteriorating

living standards in various media institutions.

- The journalism profession must be organized.
- The government controls official media.
- Media is privatized and its ownership is transferred to employees.
- Legal freedom of press lacks enough support and promotion.

Photo exhibition of German traveler in Taiz

TAIZ — An exhibition of historical sites photos shot by the German globetrotter Hermann Burchardt was held at Al-Saeed Cultural Foundation in Taiz city Wednesday 8 March 2006. The photos record the period of 1900-1909 when the German globetrotter Burchardt had visited Yemeni areas and took photos of historical fortresses and mosques, in addition to some natural landscapes.

The German traveler had also written many remarks on habits and traditions of that time inside the Yemeni society. His tragic end was when he was attacked by highwaymen who killed him in the area of Udain, the governorate of Ibb on 19 December 1909. After around one-hundred years of his trip, the Yemenis wanted this exhibition to be a gesture of appreciation and consideration for the traveler and to apologize to his family and all the fair orientalist and to extol his human role through which at that



Haj Said talking to Burchardt - Sana'a 1907.

time he had tried convey to the world and his country the suffering of the Yemenis under the Ottoman rule that stabilized backwardness in the

Yemeni society from which they are suffering until now.

The German globetrotter Hermann Burchardt was born in Berlin in 1857 to a bourgeois family. Because of his great interest in the orient, he had studied eastern languages at Berlin University. There he had learned the Arabic and Turkish languages. He had made many research trips to Syria, East Africa, Mesopotamia, Persia and Central Asia, as well as to Yemen. He had visited Yemen three times, the first was in 1900, then in 1907 and the third in 1909 when he had been killed.

He had documented his first trip in an article titled "Sketches" from my trip to Yemen which he had published in 1902 in the Berlin magazine of Earth Sciences.



Bab Al-Yemen Sana'a 1907.

Third GSM operator in Yemen

SANA'A, March 8 — Yemen Telecom Company Unitel held a press conference Tuesday, March 7 at the Taj Sheba Hotel, wherein Unitel executive manager William Taylor announced commencement of a third GSM telecommunication operator in Yemen.

Taylor explained that, following three months of negotiations and a meeting with President Saleh, Prime Minister Ba Jamal and the Minister of Telecommunications, the third license to develop telecommunication was approved. He added that Unitel and RLR Company, as well as Gulf, Saudi, Bahraini and UAE investors, own the company, which he confirmed will be operated with the most recent international GSM telecommunication technology.

Asked about Unitel's aim, Taylor said it will present the best services in the field. The company's administrative structure was determined in agreement with all shareholders, as well as its management board members.

Asked what distinguishes Unitel,



William Taylor (middle) announces the commencement of a third GSM telecommunication operator in Yemen

Taylor said it considered all Yemeni market factors concerning pricing and staff, who will be trained in the best international standards. He noted that Unitel's capital will be \$300 million.

The other two GSM companies operating in Yemen are Sabafon and Spacatel. Following the Unitel announcement, citizens are hoping

there will be new and better services.

Ali Al-Tawili, who has two telephone lines from Spacatel and Sabafon, said he hopes for a better alternative that will consider citizens' income, adding that if there is competition, each party will tend to present the best and there will be no monopoly.

Benevolent fair to promotes women's awareness



A scene from the fair.

SANA'A, March 12 — Sana'a Commercial Center organized a three-day benevolent fair March 7-10 to mark International Women's Day March 8, with more than 14 charitable societies and institutes participating and exhibiting products.

Center General Manager Mutahar Ghamdhan said space was offered freely to societies to exhibit their products, adding that the fair's aim was to promote social awareness, especially of women. Ghamdhan said the center

holds numerous activities, with this year's activities being devoted to social ones.

Abdo Saeed Al-Hakimi, Deputy of the Ministry of Social Affairs, which supervised the fair, said the ministry is ready to provide help according to the law, adding that its aim is to focus on women's active social role. He pointed out that the fair was a joint effort with the private sector, noting that it is an important partner in promoting women's awareness.

Two women die in building collapse

HURIDHA — A three-story building collapsed Friday, 10 March, in Huridha, 83 kilometers west of Sayun, killing two women and injuring three others, sources reported.

Abdullah Bin Beshar, a mathematics teacher at Huridha Secondary School, said the building collapsed after its owners added a new story to the weak-structured building. Construction workers replaced metal pillars with stone ones. The process left cracks in the building's mud walls, which lead to the collapse at approximately 5:05 p.m.

The accident could have been worse if the building had collapsed at night. Immediately after the collapse, dozens of citizens ran to the site to assist in rescue efforts. The three injured women were taken to Huridha Central Hospital.

Continued from page 1

U.S. Human Rights report on Yemen: various violations and some commendations

The report spoke of armed individuals, presumably government affiliates, who confiscated Al-Shoura newspaper. Afterward, they allowed a new pro-government administration to take over the paper's management.

On August 23, unidentified men thought to be security kidnapped Al-Wasat independent newspaper chief editor Jamal Amir. They took him to an unknown location, beat and urinated on him and interrogated him about his relations with foreign embassies during his six-hour kidnapping. They threatened to kill him if he continued criticizing the government.

Air force soldiers arrested London-based Al-Quds Al-Arabi correspondent Khalid Al-Humadi in September following his reporting on a military plane crash. Soldiers demanded he write a pledge not to write about military affairs as a condition for his release.

The report also mentioned the detention of journalists in other cases including Al-Jazeera Channel journalist Ahmed Al-Shalafi and photographer Ali Al-Baidhani, arrested while film-

ing Sana'a Spinning Factory employee protests. An-Nahar newspaper chief editor Hajje Al-Jihafi was injured July 17 when he opened a booby-trapped letter attributed by sources to a tribal chief.

The report mentioned a number of journalists and attacks to which they were subjected including journalist Mohamed Saleh Al-Hadiri because of articles he wrote in Socialist Party mouthpiece Al-Thori newspaper. Journalist Mohamed Sadiq Al-Audaini and Nabeel Subai' also were mentioned for an assault upon them by armed men near their Sana'a home.

The report also mentioned the closing of Al-Shoura and Al-Thori newspapers, saying more than 12 cases were filed against Al-Thori and chief editor Khalid Salman. The report tackled other incidents involving other newspapers.

The first official reaction to the U.S. report came from the governmental 26 September network. It described the report as a method adopted by the U.S. Administration to serve its policies in different parts of the world, including

the Arab region. It added that U.S. policy is suffering a setback, as is the case in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A source said the Human Rights Ministry will issue a report focusing on the U.S. report's points, asserting that most of them relied on opposition viewpoints, who want to strengthen their position with foreign forces. The source added that the U.S. report relied on unspecified information.

The governmental source also said the report ignored many facts and developments promoting human rights in Yemeni law and legislation. The Yemeni source expressed sorrow at the report's unspecified information, asserting that it is a circulation of opposition viewpoints which aim to destabilize security by falsifying social and public facts. The source called on the opposition to interact responsibly and care about Yemen's achievements and good when they base their speeches on such reports.

Ultimately, the U.S. report praised the Yemeni government's positive efforts in encouraging women and the reform process.

FAO Near East regional conference convening in Sana'a

In this regard, Prime Minister Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal held talks Saturday with FAO general director and regional representative, Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Berthini. Talks focused on mutual cooperation between Yemen and the FAO in fields of food security, agricultural and fishery development. According to Saba News Agency, they also discussed FAO participation in preparing special studies on the fertilizer industry and marketing fishery and agricultural products.

The 28th conference was preceded

by a session of the Near East Agriculture and Land Water Use Commission (ALWUC), which convened in Sana'a March 7-9. Fourteen participating Near East region states attended, as well as observers from other countries and regional and international organizations.

The commission discussed several matters including a report on FAO action to implement ALWUC's third session recommendations.

Additionally, participants reviewed two documents dealing with the Near East region's top priority issues: plant

protection and a plant quarantine system to enhance plant health and food safety and promote agricultural exports, and ways to improve agricultural water productivity.

The FAO General Conference established ALWUC as a statutory body open to all Near East region countries, as well as observers from outside the region and concerned regional and international organizations. The commission's objective is to serve as a regional forum for identifying and discussing priority issues and responding to member countries' specific needs

German parliament to probe aid for US during Iraq war

BERLIN — Opposition parties Friday cleared the way for parliament to conduct an investigation into the activities of Germany's foreign intelligence agency in the fight against terrorism and allegations that German spies in Baghdad supplied target information to the US during the 2003 Iraq war.

Negotiators from the Free Democratic Party (FDP), the Greens and the Left Party agreed on an agenda for the probe, which opposition deputies are expected to sanction on Tuesday so that parliament can formally set up a seven-member commission of inquiry at the end of the month.

Peter Ramsauer, a spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel's Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, said the inquiry was unnecessary and could prove harmful to Germany.

In addition to examining the activities of the BND intelligence service, the inquiry will also look into clandestine CIA flights transporting terrorist suspects across German territory to secret prisons for torture.

It will also investigate whether German officials passed on information about a German citizen of Lebanese origin, Khaled el-Masri, who was mistakenly caught up in the process known as "extraordinary rendition" and interrogated in an Afghan prison before being released months later.

In two lengthy stories last week The New York Times described the activities of the BND agents in Iraq and said their involvement with the Americans was much greater than the Germans had previously acknowledged.

The BND admitted last week that one of its agents worked alongside the US military at its operations command centre during the Iraq war but said he did not pass on any information to the Americans.

The admission came in response to a claim in The New York Times that a BND liaison officer based at US Central Command in Qatar passed on information gathered by two other BND agents in Iraq before and during the early



Heat rises in German spies in Iraq.

stages of the war in 2003.

Relations between Berlin and Washington at the time were at a low over then-German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's opposition to military action against Iraq, which he made the focus of the 2002 federal election campaign.

The Times said the US-German intelligence-sharing arrangement was made and approved in late 2002 by officials that included then-foreign minister Joschka Fischer and the current foreign minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who was Schroeder's intelligence services coordinator.

The opposition in parliament hopes to get to the bottom of the BND's role in Iraq

Following a protracted tug-of-war, Germany's opposition parties Friday agreed on the terms of reference for a parliamentary inquiry into the activities of German intelligence service BND before and during the Iraq war.

Germany's three opposition parties, the free-market liberal Free Democrats (FDP), the Left Party and the Greens accuse the former government of Social Democratic Chancellor Gerhard Schröder of having secretly supported the US-led war effort while publicly rejecting the 2003 invasion.

The parties have overcome their differences on the issue and on Friday

agreed on a brief for the planned parliamentary inquiry. Stating the need for an inquiry had been one thing, but agreeing on joint terms of reference quite another, especially since one of the opposition parties -- the Greens -- was in government at the time and is worried about what the inquiry will reveal.

Now that this stumbling block is out of the way, the opposition has to collect the required 154 signatures in favor of the inquiry next week. Altogether, the three parties have 166 members in the Bundestag, meaning that they can afford over 10 dissidents in their own ranks.

Did BND agents help the US in preparing the invasion of Iraq?

The opposition wants the probe to deal first and foremost with the role of BND agents stationed in Baghdad before and during the war on Iraq. Of particular interest are all issues related to the question as to whether these agents or their bosses at home passed on any information to the US military or intelligence which might have helped the Americans pick bombing targets.

This would have meant direct involvement in the war effort and would have stood in stark contrast to the official line of the German government, which openly and vociferously opposed the war.

But the inquiry will deal with a number

of other aspects as well, such as the abduction of a Lebanese-born German national to Afghanistan by the CIA and the interrogation of terror suspects by German intelligence agents in detention camps located in countries with a record of using torture.

Government rejects inquiry

Germany's Foreign Minister Frank-Walter belonged to the former and current government

It didn't come as a major surprise that the ruling grand coalition of Social and Christian Democrats showed little understanding for the opposition's intentions.

"The Free Democrats should be ashamed of forging an alliance with the Left Party and the Greens in such a sensitive matter," said Peter Ramsauer, the parliamentary leader of Bavaria's Christian Social Union. "The really shouldn't ignore the damage they're about to do. The reputation of Germany's intelligence service is bound to suffer. And I doubt whether in such a situation the BND can do its job and provide maximum safety for our citizens in the months ahead."

For the opposition, the FDP's Jörg van Essen said he was certain the inquiry would not serve to discredit the work of the German intelligence, but would rather look into what he believes was a double game being played by the Schröder government.

He also brushed aside allegations that his party wanted to use the probe mainly as an instrument to win over voters during elections in several German states later this month.

The hearings will take place in a room like this one

The opposition parties have suggested that the inquiry could start as soon as the end of March. They -- especially the Greens -- don't want it to drag on for months on end, turning into a general investigation of the previous government's foreign policy.

They are planning to appoint a special investigator to speed up things. The

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3rd anniversary of US-led invasion of Iraq

As the third anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq approaches, Reporters sans frontiers "condemns the murder" of an 83rd journalist, television reporter Monsef Al-Khalidi of Baghdad TV, who was shot dead at the wheel of his car by gunmen on the road from Baghdad to the northern city of Mosul.

By: Paul Michaud

Paris, Mar. 10 — French-based worldwide press freedom Organization Reporters sans frontiers (RSF) has decided to mark the 3rd anniversary of the US-led invasion of Iraq by condemning the "murder" on March 8 of Monsef Al-Khalidi of Baghdad TV, who was shot dead at the wheel of his car by gunmen on the road from Baghdad to the northern city of Mosul.

Said RSF Middle East spokeswoman Lynn Tehini in commenting news of the murder, the 83rd time a journalist has been killed in the line of duty: "journalists are continuing to pay the

price for the appalling situation in Iraq three years already following the start of the war," noting almost despairingly that "we yet again call on the Iraqi authorities to carry out thorough investigations into these killings in order to quickly Establish the circumstances," knowing full well that, once again, and this largely because of the influence of US authorities who have always attempted to play down the deaths of reporters attempting to report out of Iraq, Baghdad will not go out of its way to attempt to discover who in fact has been systematically killing journalists -- both Iraqi and foreign - who are simply attempting to do their job, albeit in near-

impossible circumstances.

The RSF spokeswoman added, "Our thoughts go out to this reporter's family and his employer. This is the third journalist that Baghdad TV has lost. The previous ones were reporter Maha Ibrahim in July 2005 and cameraman Mahmoud Zaal in January 2006."

In addition to the 83 journalists killed since the start of the war, 38 journalists have been kidnapped. Their abductors killed five of them - four Iraqis and one Italian (Enzo Baldoni). The Others were released unharmed.

US journalist Jill Carroll has been held hostage since Jan. 7. Two Iraqi reporters, Reem Zeid and Marwan Khazaaal, have been held hostage since Feb.1.

The pan-Arab satellite TV station Al-Arabiya is the foreign news organisation that has sustained the highest losses in Iraq. Six of its journalists have been killed. The local TV station Al-Iraqiya is the hardest-hit Iraqi media, with 10 journalists killed.

RSF characterizes as "an appalling attempt at militarizing the media landscape" in Nepal

Paris, Mar. 10, 2006 — Reporters sans frontiers (RSF), the French-based worldwide press freedom organization, has characterized as "an appalling attempt at militarizing the media landscape" the decision by the Nepalese army to begin test broadcasts on six FM stations, and this, in their words, "to counter Maoist propaganda," with the police concurrently cutting off power the power at an independent FM radio whose broadcasts as to the conflict are not to its liking. "King Gyanendra's decisions often clash in this way and show his reactionary and propagandist concept of the media," said bluntly Vincent Brossel, RSF's Asia-Pacific spokesman, noting that "since Feb. 1, 2005, the king has been doing his best to drive independent news off the airwaves." On the evening of Mar. 7, 2006, police successively cut the electricity and generator of independent radio station Annapurna FM in Pokhara, situat-

ed west of Kathmandu, with RSF spokesman Brossel insisting that "King Gyanendra was present in the historic town when the decision was taken."

With the result, he added, "programs were only restored the following morning under pressure from civil society, with police being forced to apologize." "This act remains humiliating, arrogant and cowardly towards the independent media," said Shivalal Malla, station manager and president of the Broadcasting Association of Nepal (BAN), who said that he would decide to claim damages in the matter. RSF said that radio and TV operators in Nepal "are always under threat of the application of a new ordinance from the broadcasting authority that could have disastrous consequences for the development and independence of privately-owned radio. The price of licences is due to be multiplied by 10 or 20 and the authority will have very wide

powers over radio, cable TV and online media." The FM stations set up by the royal army will be exempt from licensing and customs charges for importing radio equipment. "I don't know about this project. It is not yet up and running," RSF reported "an army spokesperson" as having said.

According to the Kathmandu Post, the army obtained ten licences from the information and communications ministry in June 2005, for FM stations to counter propaganda put out by Maoists, who have their own radio.

The army already broadcasts twice a week on Radio Nepal, as well as on a television programme on the national channel.

Elsewhere, the daily Upatyaka, which was suspended on Mar. 4, 2006, reappeared three days later. However, its editor, Jaya Prakash Gupta, is still being held at a Kathmandu police station.

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35 YEARS OF CONTINUED CONFIDENCE SABEHA TRADING COMPANY

Sabeha Trading Company has in the world of Suzuki Automobiles and motorcycle distributors launched on Thursday morning in Sana'a the 3rd generation Sport Utility Vehicle **GRAND VITARA** and the



Next Generation Vehicle **SWIFT** produced by Suzuki Motor Corporation. In the presence of businessmen and people interested, Sabeha showed the latest technology it

has in the world of Suzuki Automobiles. The General Manager of Sabeha, Mr. Fuad Ahmad Sabeha assured in his speech that the confidence of customers obtained by Suzuki Motor Corporation is the fruit of real experience embodied by the level of service and the quality of Suzuki products. Suzuki top quality cars meet the needs of the Yemeni citizens and fit their purchasing power. In addition, Sabeha offers after-sale services, maintenance and spare parts throughout Yemen with reasonable costs. For his part, HE Ambassador of Japan to Yemen Mr. Y.ishii expressed his happiness at the inauguration of the new Suzuki models, which interpret efforts exerted by Sabeha to introduce new and top quality products into Yemen. Suzuki automobiles have a prestigious status in



the Yemeni auto market. "This reflects success of Sabeha in implementing its marketing activities, as seen today in the inauguration ceremony," he added. The third generation Sports Utility Vehicle enjoys distinctive specifications in terms of shape, power and performance. It has a strong engine with multiple tasks and options, 4 cylinders, 2000 CC and 140 horsepowers. The engine has three different positions for the four-wheel drive action. Sabeha intends soon to introduce the Vehicle with 6-cylinders engine, 2740 CC and 188 horsepowers. This strong engine is due to enhance power and performance of the distinctive vehicle, which enjoys higher technology



and luxurious entertainment means. With regard to the New **SWIFT** it is pondered upon as the strategic model for the Next Generation of Suzuki sports personal cars. It is distinguished by its exterior design and the angels of its exterior frame painted with distinctive colors. This gives an impression of vitality and comfort as well as an optimism that Suzuki automobile future will be provided with luxury and



safety options. Suzuki plans to introduce the Swift with a special design, making out of it a popular world model to be distributed to auto markets worldwide. The **SWIFT** obtained international awards for creativity of design and distinction of performance in Britain, New Zealand, China, Australia, India, Ireland, Iceland and Malaysia. These countries represent the most important auto markets throughout the world. The **SWIFT** has a strong engine, compared to its size. It is a 4-cylinders engine with 1500 CC and 102 horsepowers, which is

highly economical in fuel consumption and provided with an electrical spray system. This system makes the vehicle to consume only 20 liters of petrol in a 250km-drive. It is worth mentioning that Sabeha Trading Company, since its establishment and throughout its 35 years of success in the sales of Suzuki automobiles, gained fame nationwide. It offers automobiles with top specifications in the sense of power, durability and suitable prices. Suzuki vehicles were designed to occupy a high prestige in the world auto markets.



Dear Mr. President: "Help me seek justice" Al-Ahsab says

By: Hakim Almasmari
hakim_almasmari@hotmail.com

In his letter, Al-Ahsab asks the president to help him seek justice in his ongoing case, and grant him a life where his rights are respected and honored. Four years ago, Ahmad Rashid Al-Ahsab's house was robbed during the latter part of the night. He and his family were robbed, attacked, beaten and threatened to be killed. A massive farm and agricultural lands he owned were destroyed and its equipment damaged and stolen. His 12 children also were threatened with death and beaten ruthlessly. A gang of 16 brutally attacked his family, taking millions of riyals in money and personal belongings.

Al-Ahsab has tried every possible way to get justice, visiting nearly every major Yemeni official demanding the government protect his rights and bring the suspects to trial under the law. "I even went to the president demanding justice. He gave leading officials direct orders to solve my case but nothing has happened. I never expected a normal citizen would have the heart and bravery to go against direct orders from the president," he added.

Immediately after the attack on his property, Al-Ahsab called authorities to investigate the case. Just days later, some of the gang members' fingerprints were found, giving him hope that justice would be seen. Ironically, things just got worse after that, as no effort has been seen to bring to justice those behind the crime.

Al-Ahsab suspects a massive conspiracy is behind the government not doing its job to secure and help the oppressed. "I have visited numerous ministers, political security heads and many top-ranking Yemeni officials. All of them gave direct orders to Dhamar police authorities to solve my case and bring the perpetrators to justice but



Al-Ahsab and his family as they stand waiting for justice. The family has been living in streets for months now.

nothing as happened. Nothing," Al-Ahsab lamented.

Al-Ahsab produced several appeals from high-ranking officials agreeing with him in his case and ordering concerned sides to take immediate action to solve his ongoing problems. Those officials willing to help included the former and current Human Rights Ministers, the assistant Speaker of Parliament, the Yemeni Forum for Human Rights and other ministers and high-ranking officials.

Last year, as Al-Ahsab's family defended their case, they lived in a tent in front of the Minister of Interior's home, hoping the minister would stand

up for their rights. Instead, according to his wife Mrs. Dahan, and mother of 16 she claims that she was pulled away, beaten on various parts of her body, dragged ruthlessly into a police vehicle and taken to prison along with her innocent children where they remained more than 12 hours without food or water, suffering mistreatment and inhumane treatment. The simplest home utensils including forks, spoons, small half-cracked teacups and even old ripped blankets were taken by police officers, resulting in the family losing the remaining little they had left.

"I refused to go to prison to claim my wife and my children's release,

since I believed it was a flagrant human rights violation in general and women's and children's rights in particular," Al-Ahsab said. Mrs. Dahan remembers and claims police authorities mistreated her when they touched her body in front of dozens of viewers on the street that day.

According to Al-Ahsab, when the family was released, they were taken to the capital's dirty sewers and harshly thrown from the police vehicle and into the sewers like old rags. Days after the incidents at the Minister of Interior's house, the family moved what was left of their tent and headed to the UN office in Sana'a. After Al-Ahsab fami-

The translation of a letter to the president written by Al-Ahsab

Dear Mr. President,

It is internationally known that any complaint to an official body should in return be treated fairly. It should give back his rights and treat him with due respect. However things are different now. A civilized complainant is harassed and humiliated as police try to hush him up and prevent his voice from reaching you. In this respect, my case is a good example.

Police arrested me, my sons and my 55-year-old wife while staging a two-month sit-in in front of the Minister of Interior's house. They illegally and in an uncivilized manner imprisoned my children Feb. 20, 2006. A group from the fourth police center took the tent in which my children were sheltering during the sit-in. They also stole their mattresses and their kitchenware. When they reached the fourth police center, they beat them, insulted them, called them bad names, threw stones at them and threw them in the al-sailah (aqueduct) after confiscating their belongings.

This happened while the opponents who stole our belongings remain free due to indifference and lack of positive reaction from Dhamar governorate security authorities. They did not abide by the Minister of Interior's directions based on your directions. Dhamar security apparatuses made themselves representatives of my opponents indicated by the fact that they did not refer them to judiciary. I presented my case to all official government bodies and it was published in several newspapers. However, it is a personal insult to you that these officials did not want to interact in a responsible manner with citizens' problems.

From 2004 to the March, 11, 2006 writing of this petition, I staged several sit-ins beginning with the Human Rights Ministry, the president's headquarters, the Minister of Interior's house and finally the UN office. My children were arrested from the UN offices and taken with their mother to detention at Al-Mojtama' Police Center in the industrial complex area.

For this reason, I repeat my demand for rapid fair treatment. I demand that all officers and policemen who arrested my children and my wife be punished; otherwise, I will be compelled to seek humanitarian asylum in any country respecting human rights.

With my best regards,
Ahmed Rashid Al-Ahsab

ly's brutal beating, they were taken to a hospital for treatment of wounds and injuries they received.

"Any gang that can out power the government is unbelievably strong. The Italian government took control and brought the mafia - considered the greatest gang in recent times - to jus-

tice, while our government cannot secure us from simple unorganized bandits," Al-Ahsab noted. "I have lost hope. I lost everything I ever possessed in life. Life has lost its meaning for me and my family," he concluded, walking away sorrowfully, looking to the sky and awaiting help from the One above.

Expression of Interest

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The supervision committee and working group of National Science Museum invites eligible consultant's firms to indicate their interest in providing professional architecture and engineering design services for

National Science Museum of Yemen

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, of similar assignments, experience in similar projects, professional qualifications of staff, equipments, financial status, etc.). Consultants may associate to enhance their qualification (In this case the associated consultants have to provide qualification's information). An association declaration expressing nature & responsibility of each party is required.

Expression of interest must be delivered to the below address not later than 11/4/2006:

The Geological Survey & Mineral Resources Board,
Al Zubairy Street
P.O.Box (297), Sana'a
Tel : 00967-1-211818 or 00967-1-471454
Fax : 00967-1-217575

For further information contact the same address.

Words of Wisdom



The Republic of Yemen cannot afford to develop on the basis of the traditional snail-pace growth rate. We need a strong force and zeal to address such grave issues as excessively high population growth rates, rapid depletion of water resources, corruption and mismanagement, etc.

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

OUR
OPINIONHappy
Women's Day

If there is a world day for water, why can't there be a day for women? There is even a day for the ozone, for God's sake! This is what Layla Abdullah, a Yemeni teacher from Sana'a, argued with her husband last week on Women's Day March 8. The International Day for Women is not very well known or appreciated in Yemen. In fact, if it were not for news about a conference organized by the Women's National Committee in Yemen, many Yemenis would not even have acknowledged the day. With satellite channels and the internet, many educated Yemenis have become more familiar with such international days, like my friend Layla.

Layla waited impatiently for this day so she could demand attention from her husband. However, upon informing him it was Women's Day, she was utterly disappointed when she received a "So what?" in reply. Being a shoulder to cry on and with the aid of internet references, I decided to explain to Layla's husband and all Yemen Times readers what International Women's Day signifies.

International Women's Day is a major day of global celebration for women's economic, political and social achievements stemming from the early years of the 20th century when women faced extreme discrimination, especially economically. Unions and syndicates were a growing trend at that time. Due to poor working environments for women in the U.S., Europe and Russia, women staged the first demonstrations demanding equality with men.

On the last Sunday in February 1908, socialist women in the U.S. initiated the first Women's Day after large demonstrations calling for women's voting, political and economic rights. The following year, 2,000 people attended a Women's Day rally in Manhattan. That year, 1909, women garment workers staged a general strike where 20,000 to 30,000 shirtwaist makers struck for 13 cold, winter weeks for better pay and working conditions. The Women's Trade Union League provided bail for arrested strikers and large sums for strike funds.

The 1910 Women's Day was taken up by socialists and feminists throughout the country. Later that year, delegates went to the second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen with the intention of proposing that Women's Day become an international event. The following year, International Women's Day was marked by more than a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. However, soon thereafter, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City killed more than 140 garment workers. Lack of safety measures was blamed for the high death toll. Furthermore, on the eve of World War I, women across Europe held peace rallies March 8, 1913. With the resurgence of feminism in the late 1960s came a renewed interest in International Women's Day. Feminists found it a ready-made holiday to celebrate women's lives and work and thus began promoting March 8 as such.

Today International Women's Day is celebrated around the world to acknowledge the brave pioneering women who fought for their rights. It is also an occasion to reflect on struggles and inequalities women used to suffer and still do in many parts of the world, including Yemen. The very least we can do on this day is appreciate our women and acknowledge their endless giving.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

Is it political development
or elite rotation?

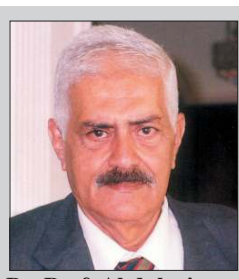
Analysts still cast their eyes on Yemen following results of the ruling party's conference as it is preparing for the local and presidential elections. Yemen is currently experiencing an unprecedented state of political activity after introduction of new changes to structure of the General People's Congress'

alterations coming without prearrangement that may need a long time. They are self-restraint people and patient by nature and with inborn flexibility. That is why many rulers here used this concept for eternalizing situations and for continuation of regimes of governance without mentionable change. Yemen uprisings at times of oppression and keeps calm in times of prosperity. The people entertain rare kind of social cleverness and consider the tribe and carrying weapon as breathing space for their woes, pains and problems.

In order to be able to explore dimensions of the latest changes in Yemen, we ought to study the following points:

First, the state has experienced sharp alterations since the transfer from the autocratic era- the state of Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen- to the unionist republican era after declaration of the Yemeni unity in May 1990 and has become the Republic of Yemen. Those developments were associated with changes. Some of them were superficial and the other some shooting deep into the society, specifically related to changing systems and laws dating to the state of division of the two parts of the country. Therefore, the talk about the Yemeni political system gives us indicators calling for the necessity of considering the post 1994 secessionist war period or to retreat to the era of pre-unity. That has affected considerable amount of change in the national minds and conscience due to what suffering the masses had experienced from the pre-unity regimes.

Second, since declaration of the unity and the political pluralism, the religious trends have played an effective and influential role in the political life and until the American 11 September events. The religion has remained active party inside and outside the political system, especially in the southern governorates, particularly that religion practices huge impact on the Yemeni mentality. It constitutes a collec-



By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

tion of values and draws up frontiers of juristic reasoning in the society and regulates the relationship between the past and present in a manner that sometimes it may confiscate the future.

Third, throughout various epochs of history nature of the Yemeni people indicates to a special type of patriotic temperament. They are people preferring imperfect stability to sudden changes or

alterations coming without prearrangement that may need a long time. They are self-restraint people and patient by nature and with inborn flexibility. That is why many rulers here used this concept for eternalizing situations and for continuation of regimes of governance without mentionable change. Yemen uprisings at times of oppression and keeps calm in times of prosperity. The people entertain rare kind of social cleverness and consider the tribe and carrying weapon as breathing space for their woes, pains and problems.

Fourth, for many years the partisan system has been suffering from isolation from the political street to an extent that made some imagine that political parties are not Yemeni merchandise. Those adopting this view say the Yemeni political parties have failed after the 1994 war. That failure, as they claim, is due despite the people suffering from unemployment, inflation, high prices, absence of security and stability, which through complicated confrontations ramifications of these at until now existing. The main of those ramifications is trial of the press and its closure.

Fifth, we must not think what happens in Yemen in isolation from the general context of regional and international developments. Repercussions of the call for reform finds obvious reflection on the civil society establishments and organizations. They further extend to the official political arena, at a time the freedom of press has reached an unprecedented degree in the history of the region. In addition, there is the general feeling in the necessity of change. I can presume that the confidence the General People's Congress had acquired in its latest conference was a

mandate from the ruling party's bases that demand for change and call for purging the society from political, economic and social corruption before the local, presidential elections and the parliamentary elections in 2009, if the party wanted to realize results keeping it in power and forming the government of unity.

The complex of fear began to diminish and the national shyness does no longer exist and unless structural changes happen and open the gates before a different pursuit and required political orientation, the arena would witness unexpected results.

Sixth, dealing a blow to the political and administrative corruption represents an important issue or the Yemeni citizen. He has become hearing much and seeing little in the reality of implementation. He has been feeling interrelationship between wealth and authority, between religion and politics and between the tribe and affiliation. For this reason he is looking forwards to disengagement between those elements. The Yemeni citizen also realizes that the Yemeni future is dependent on the ride-dance of the existing problems and the challenges, along with invoking the absent visions for the creation of modern Yemen and through it the state of law and order.

Seventh, the bunch of legislations necessary for reform needs a general climate pushing it forward. The wisdom is not in the lifeless texts, but what governs all the matter is the nature of the citizen's receiving of the reformative steps, his interaction with them and his response to them. It is particularly so that Yemen is in dire need of institutional construction and requires good amount of transparency in the political life so that to be a support for the regime.

That is a general vision of the current political development I Yemen that will prepare a healthy peaceful transfer of power. They are matters I do not perceive as far from the citizen's interest. All see what happens around us here and there.

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

To the Arab dinosaur

I am addressing you, Arab dinosaur. I tell you that the current status of the world is the result of nations' experiences accumulating over time.

O, Arab dinosaur, it is he who has the ability to sense the rhythm of chance and development of life and possesses the awareness to deal judiciously with the present world's laws that can live a descent life. Did you know, my dear Arab dinosaur, that the contemporary age has laws and requirements that supercede and revoke the Jurassic laws and all that was imposed by dinosaurs on their peoples?

When will you ever understand that this age heavily depends on something called the revolution of information technology, and the mass media?

If you understood this, could you imagine, then, that the world is no longer a village but has been reduced, by virtue of the current laws, to a global neighborhood in



By: Atif Awad

which nations live side by side and are attached to each other?

The Jurassic sovereign boundaries and localized laws have come to an end. Gone are the days when dinosaurs were able to do whatever they wanted with in their political boundaries and against their subjects. Now, a dinosaur is only to be held accountable for his oppression, crimes and squandering of the national wealth.

Do you understand, my dear Arab dinosaur, that the present era's wars have been waged due to dinosaurs' persistent attempt to build something that, if it goes off, can annihilate their neighbors on the shared earth?

O, Arab dinosaur, you have remained throughout ages the laughing stock for other nations, derided by them whenever you, prompted by the malign Zionist capitalist tamer, make a move at the UN meetings. The Zionist trainer knows well that

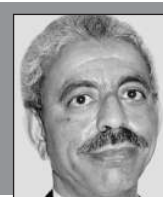
you are a big dinosaur lacking senses and awareness of time and the evolution of the laws of life. You are unaware even of the fact that you know nothing except the Arab typical conviction that you are the sole ruler. Hence, all mankind justifiably laugh at you.

Your lack of senses and awareness of the laws of the age and life developments will not keep you barbaric and tyrannical forever. However, the life rhythm beating in the nation will shelf you as a stone statue, resembling the dinosaurs that fossilized a long time ago.

O, Arab dinosaur, if your tamer holds you as a scarecrow or to maintain his barbaric influence on us, don't feel secure for the very present moment embosoms the germ of change.

O, Arab dinosaur, thus did dinosaurs and their sacred values come to extinction; this is the way Arab dinosaurs die out; nobody would even shed a tear nor mourn over them.

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

COMMON
SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

AIPAC and Mr. Bolton
A matter of
split loyalties

On Monday March 6, 2004, as the heat over the Iranian nukes was heating up, Mr. John Bolton, Ambassador of the United States to the United Nations and esteemed member of the Right Wing iconic group that has been responsible for the mayhem that is now seen everywhere in the world, was screaming wolf at the Islamic Republic of Iran. In a speech given dubiously at a conference or meeting of the American - Israel Public Affairs Committee, Mr. Bolton, in his typical belligerent tone pointed out that Iran was to suffer serious consequences if it did not adhere to the international community's demands, etc. What is intriguing about the speech is not so much the usual scarecrow attitude of the neo-cons about the politics of power or "might makes right", but the baffling importance of having to make such serious foreign policy speeches, on matters that especially have been the subject of major spy scandals involving American civil servants at the highest level in the Defense Department and senior officials of AIPAC at an AIPAC Conference. All the serious charges involved staff with close associations with Mr. Edward Feith, Donald Rumsfeldt and other leading figureheads in the White House Administration of G W Bush. All these scandals involved providing policy information to Israeli officials on American policy formulation on Iran. The FBI has already charged officials from AIPAC ("who have resigned" their posts in AIPAC immediately thereafter or before), as well as the senior staff involved. Incidentally, no one is certain as to what proceeded in these serious crimes against the security of the United States. But to Mr. Bolton, this is all history not worth recalling, because, if AIPAC was not satisfied with the information provided by her spies in the Bush Administration, he was ready to devolve of all the things that AIPAC has been wanting to hear all along (see Common Sense, Issue 898). Previously, AIPAC has voiced concern that the White House was not acting congruent to Israeli demands vis a vis Iran. It needed reassurances that now that the matter of Iran was going to the UN Security Council, in one form or another, that Mr. Bolton knew what AIPAC had in mind all along in its prodding on this matter on behalf of the Israelis.

Needless to say that the diplomatic propriety of such a move by Bolton is questionable, as he was making statements that would normally be expected to come from the highest level of the State Department (as his words amounted to policy matters that have not even been fully decided upon then). Maybe since Condoleezza Rice was too busy wooing Kamal Jumblatt of Lebanon to act as their newly found friend - erstwhile previous enemy), and AIPAC could not be allowed to have to wait any longer for being briefed on the next moves by the Bush Administration on Iran - never mind its questionable loyalty to the US, which is always superseded by the loyalty to Zion. But then, why shouldn't Mr. Bolton gain his respectable place in the large complex network of Israeli lobbyists in the United States? After all his colleagues in the Cheney group of neo-con icons have found their comfortable niches there, with or without being involved in spy scandals on behalf of Israel and walking away freely. Israeli spies just don't fit the specifications of guests at Abu Ghreib or Guantanamo Bay.

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

Letters to the Editor

To the Ministry of Health:

Health awareness needed
I am currently working as a staff nurse here in Saudi medical at Hajja. I have been here for almost three months now. Back in our country, Philippines, I worked as an assistant dean of one of the college of nursing in our city.

I have noticed that most of our patients here in the hospital have little interest in preventing diseases among

themselves and that they have low awareness of what will be the effect of these kinds of diseases to the community where they live.

These certain diseases happening to their own community must be promptly solved. Therefore I would even suggest to have an intensive work in the application of primitive care in the community by raising their awareness about certain diseases in

which they would be able to understand the nature, the effect and its complication to each individual, to their family and at the same to the larger community thus promoting a healthy community which will lead to a more productive citizens.

As World Health Organization stated in 1977: health is a means and an end to development. A productive country will depend on how

healthy the people living.

I am also suggesting that universities or colleges of nursing must have to include in their curriculum the community health nursing where in these enrolled nursing students could be a great help in disseminating health information which will promote awareness about health in every community here in Yemen.

And I would like to suggest applying the new trend of care for nurses - primitive care, preventive care, curative

care and rehabilitative care.

Hope that this little insight of mine would touch your heart for the betterment of all citizens not only here in Yemen but globally.

Benny
starbj19@yahoo.com

East and west

Arab writers are difficult to understand. Their logical processes tend to mirror that of a petulant teenager being denied their latest demand for instant gratification!

First, dealing with the "de rigueur" focus-group rhetoric. The history of the so called "Occupied Territories" happened because numerous Arab States launched a preemptive war against Israel and then lost. Losing a war generally has consequences. To use an "Americanism", "If you can't pay for the peaches, don't shake the tree!". Get over it!

Second, if a Palestinian State is so desperately important for "Middle East Stability (yet more of the

focus-group rhetoric), why don't Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon redraw their own borders and pony up some turf of their own? If it's such a small price for Israel to pay for "Palestinian/Arab Dignity and Justice", why are the neighboring Arab States so reluctant to contribute their own "pittance" as well? Is the irony in the current Arab view, that the only possible location for a Palestinian State is on land conquered by force of arms from fellow Arab States by the Israeli

Army, lost on all of you? From my desk, the only people that have been willing to provide the "Guns and butter" to create a viable "Palestinian State", are the Israelis!

Perhaps the "solution" to the issue of a Palestinian State is for the Israeli Army to fuel-up their tanks and aircraft, and capture enough land from its reluctant Arab neighbors to create a viable country!

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YEMEN
TIMES

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Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Jawab
Ath-Thawri
weekly, organ of
the YSP, 9 Mar
2006.

Main headlines

- JMP: It is no longer acceptable to forge the voters' will and empty pluralism of its content
- Qahtan: The situation of the country no longer bears any form of bargaining
- YSP in Saada welcomes agreement with al-Houthi followers
- Shovels demolish three houses in Buraika
- Demand to try officer of armored brigade 37 for dragging on ground the soldier Sael

Writer Mohammed Mohammed al-Maqaleh says in an article the decision taken by the authority lately in the name of the elections supreme commission to keep away opposition parties from taking part in election committees is a decision no one thought of unless it is meant against opposition parties. The decision wants to remind the opposition that the authority possesses everything including the authority over the elections commission and whatever decisions that could be issued by it. Such decisions which are taken by the commission regarding the coming elections. In its stand it depends on a long history of disregard and negligence of opposition parties' reactions, specifically the parties of the JMP. The authority in its recent decision versus the opposition has proceeded from convictions that seem to be firm in its mind. The conviction is that the opposition parties that call for re-formation of the elections commission and forming another one are not serious in their demands as much as an attempt of extortion and realization of narrow partisan interests for this party or that. If the authority realized these undeclared demands these parties would relinquish their political and national

demands and visions. The conviction of the authority is that the opposition is weak and possesses no power of influence and has no option other than accepting the decision of pushing it away.

Personally I say the authority is much mistaken in assessment of the volume of opposition and the status and influence of opposition in practical events of elections especially that the opposition parties can turn over the table of the presidential election in the face of the authority and make it confused and without a decision. It is quite enough that the opposition sticks to its stand towards the elections supreme commission and refuses any dialogue with the authority before the latter rectifies its stance of this issue.

Al-Majma'a
As-Sahwa
weekly, 9 Mar
2006.

Main headlines

- JMP announces its vision for free and upright elections, threatens to resort to people's peaceful protest
- Yemeni American agreement to lift Zindani name from terror list
- Islah secretary general discusses with the American ambassador the elections and Sheikh Zindani issue
- Student's security regulations, Warnings against instigation of conflict in the university
- GPC's campaign of accusations against Bin Shamlan denounced
- Columnist Zaid al-Shami writes an article on the visit to Saada governorate by a group of parliamentarians. He says the visit made by a group of members of parliament to the governorate of Saada was meant for dissemination of assurance and healing the wounds and to prove that things returned to previous situation. The patriotic feeling was the motive behind the MPs action and to achieve meanings of fraternity and to see

the security situation and stability in the governorate.

All feel with satisfaction for the end of seditions and wars and all wish that cordiality and harmony prevail the area and that the government, people, sheiks and political parties should work for deepening the meanings of fraternity and reconciliation. That is the best in the relationship among the people.

The surprise is that the visit had changed into electoral propaganda for the ruling General People's Congress, but in the improper time and venue. The people there are in need to cure their wounds and assure their souls especially that the consequences of destruction and dead bodies of the victims were still before their eyes. No doubt, many of the MPs taking part in the visit had felt a kind of embarrassment because the visit diverted from its noble goal and purpose to untimely election propaganda.

Al-Shoura
Ash-Shoura
weekly, organ of
the Yemen
People's Forces
Union

Main headlines

- Educationists unanimous on strike
- Somali pirates capture 105 Yemeni fishermen near Abdeh Kori Island
- Dar Saad lands in Aden usurper to be convicted soon
- A state of panic and fear haunts residents of Abyan and Dhalic
- In armed confrontation sin Mahweet, eight citizens injured
- Six of the prisoner escapees surrender themselves to security authorities
- Residents of Socotra demand setting up a committee to investigate into their deteriorated situations
- The newspaper editor in chief writes saying since the American-Zionist occupation of Iraq, under blessing of a number of Arab states and connivance of

another, destruction is including everything. It involves the man, riches, destinies, religion, honor and the national unity. Since the American invasion of Iraq the crimes are expanding day by day. It began with the occupation of a UN member sovereign state with plundering its riches, destruction of its historical landmarks, targeting scientists and committing crimes against helpless citizens by using internationally prohibited weapons, in addition to raping women and men as happened in Abu Ghraib prison. All these are unsightly crimes against humanity and ethics.

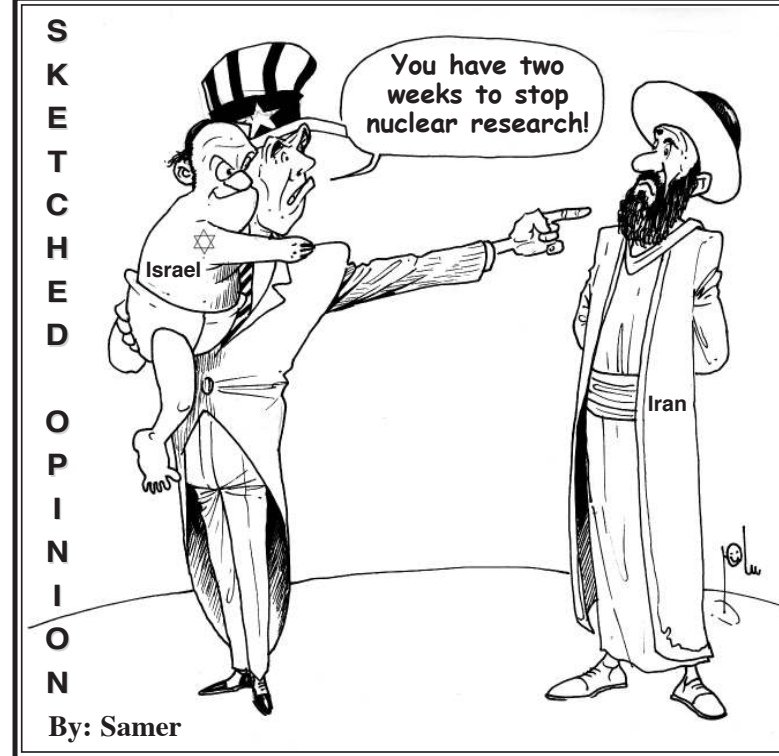
Despite all that the Arab states have not even stirred with denunciation and condemnation. The Arab stand was unlike the demonstrations and rejection of the American presence in Iraq that marched European and American streets, organized by civil society organizations in those countries which have no relation with Iraq except the bond of humanity. All those activities did not arouse any feeling in the Arab entity, which Iraq is part of and has with it ties of land, religion, language, fraternity and common destiny.

Nowadays he occupier has begun to instigate sectarian conflicts and igniting the sedition among the sons of the homeland in prelude to achieve its goals in partitioning Iraq in security, politically and in sectarian manner. The partitioning of Iraq will begin actually unless the Arab and Islamic countries stand up to contain the situation and defend sovereignty, independence and the unity of Iraq.

Al-Wahdawi
weekly, organ of
the Nasserite
Unionist
Organization, 7
Mar 2006.

Main headlines

- JMP declares its vision on guaranteeing free elections
- Man and a woman injured in a military maneuver in Al-Buraika area
- Al-Atwani takes part in Arab parties and liberation movement conference
- Four people killed 1 armed confrontation between tribes of Amran and Hajah



- Official attempts to play down the crime of raping a child in Amran

- Iranian ambassador meets the Nasserite Organization leadership

Writer Ahmed Saeed discusses in his article the role of the elections supreme commission claiming that there are many aspects of failure and non-independence the elections commission has been carrying out more than once. Among them the violations it has committed in 2003 elections and the by-elections of 199 and 227 constituencies in the governorate of Rima, such as riggings. This makes it not trustworthy in managing elections in means of failures and concepts of violations and not listening to criticisms.

We are quite certain that he elections commission is unable to free itself from pressures of the ruling party. So continuation in implementing the authority's orders and demands in creating a deformed version of democracy, contradicts the tasks defined for the commission in the Yemeni constitution.

The reality is that the elections com-

mission is squandering the rights and imposes itself as a partner in the electoral process and shares with the political parties election committees, a matter that makes it lose neutrality and the role assigned to it. It is trying to dictate its instructions and decisions on the political parties and partners of the political action in favor of the authority to enable it draw up the country's map and political future. Therefore, there is nothing in the offering that the ruling party is ready to back down from its insistence on not curing the commissions failure or to change it. This casts shadows of dark political stage permeated with ambiguity and surrounded by dangers. This is in fact a matter the country cannot bear because it is suffering from deteriorating economic situations pushing towards explosion in addition to social disintegration.

The JMP has put forward comprehensive guarantees for the upcoming elections, including judicial guarantees through formation of a judicial committee to guarantee control against rigging of the voters will.

Colonization of Palestine precludes peace

By: Jimmy Carter

For more than a quarter century, Israeli policy has been in conflict with that of the United States and the international community. Israel's occupation of Palestine has obstructed a comprehensive peace agreement in the Holy Land, regardless of whether Palestinians had no formalized government, one headed by Yasir Arafat or Mahmoud Abbas, or with Abbas as president and Hamas controlling the parliament and cabinet.

The unwavering US position since Dwight Eisenhower's administration has been that Israel's borders coincide with those established in 1949, and, since 1967, the universally adopted UN Resolution 242 has mandated Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories. This policy was reconfirmed even by Israel in 1978 and 1993, and emphasized by all American presidents, including George W. Bush. As part of the Quartet, including Russia, the UN, and the European Union, he has endorsed a "Road Map" for peace. But Israel has officially rejected its basic premises with patently unacceptable caveats and prerequisites.

With Israel's approval, The Carter Center has monitored all three Palestinian elections. Supervised by a blue-ribbon commission of college

presidents and distinguished jurists, they have all been honest, fair, and peaceful, with the results accepted by winners and losers.

Hamas will control the cabinet and prime minister's office, but Mahmoud Abbas retains all authority and power exercised by Yasir Arafat. He still heads the PLO, the only Palestinian entity recognized by Israel, and could deal with Israeli leaders under this umbrella, independent of Hamas control. He has unequivocally endorsed the Quartet's Road Map. Post-election polls show that 80% of Palestinians still want a peace agreement with Israel and nearly 70% support Abbas as president.

Israel has announced a policy of isolating and destabilizing the new government (perhaps joined by the United States). The elected officials will be denied travel permits, workers from isolated Gaza barred from entering Israel, and every effort is being made to block funds to Palestinians. The Quartet's special envoy, James Wolfensohn, has proposed that donors assist the Palestinian people without violating anti-terrorism laws that prohibit funds from being sent directly to Hamas.

In the short run, the best approach is to follow Wolfensohn's advice, give the dust a chance to settle in Palestine, and await the outcome of Israel's election later this month. Hamas wishes now to consolidate its political gains, maintain

domestic order and stability, and refrain from any contacts with Israel. It will be a tragedy - especially for the Palestinians - if they promote or condone terrorism.

The preeminent obstacle to peace is Israel's colonization of Palestine. There were just a few hundred settlers in the West Bank and Gaza when I became president, but the Likud government expanded settlement activity after I left office. President Ronald Reagan condemned this policy, and reaffirmed that Resolution 242 remained "the foundation stone of America's Middle East peace effort." President George H.W. Bush even threatened to reduce American aid to Israel.

Although President Bill Clinton made strong efforts to promote peace, a massive increase of settlers occurred during his administration, to 225,000, mostly while Ehud Barak was prime minister. Their best official offer to the Palestinians was to withdraw 20% of them, leaving 180,000 in 209 settlements, covering about 5% of the occupied land.

The 5% figure is grossly misleading, with surrounding areas taken or earmarked for expansion, roadways joining settlements with each other and to Jerusalem, and wide arterial swaths providing water, sewage, electricity, and communications. This intricate honeycomb divides the entire West Bank into multiple fragments, often uninhabitable or even unreachable.

Recently, Israeli leaders have decided on unilateral actions without involving either the US or the Palestinians, with withdrawal from Gaza as the first step. As presently circumscribed and isolated, without access to the air, sea, or the West Bank, Gaza is a nonviable economic and political entity.

The future of the West Bank is equally dismal. Especially troublesome is Israel's construction of huge concrete dividing walls in populated areas and high fences in rural areas - located entirely on Palestinian territory and often with deep intrusions to encompass more land and settlements. The wall is designed to surround a truncated Palestine completely, and a network of exclusive highways will cut across what is left of Palestine to connect Israel with the Jordan River Valley.

This will never be acceptable either to Palestinians or to the international community, and will inevitably precipitate increased tension and violence within Palestine and stronger resentment and animosity from the Arab

world against America, which will be held accountable for the plight of the Palestinians.

Acting prime minister Ehud Olmert and others pointed out years ago that Israel's permanent occupation will be increasingly difficult as the relative number of Jewish citizens decreases demographically both within Israel and in Palestine. This is obvious to most Israelis, who also view this dominant role as a distortion of their ancient moral and religious values. Over the years, opinion polls have consistently shown that about 60% of Israelis favor withdrawing from the West Bank in exchange for permanent peace. Similarly, an overwhelming number of both Israelis and Palestinians want a durable two-state solution.

Casualties have increased during the past few years as the occupying forces imposed tighter controls. From September 2000 until March 2006, 3982 Palestinians and 1084 Israelis were killed in the conflict, and this includes many children: 708 Palestinians and 123 Israelis.

There is little doubt that accommodation with Palestinians can bring full Arab recognition of Israel and its right to live in peace. Any rejectionist policies of Hamas or any terrorist group will be overcome by an overall Arab commitment to restrain further violence and to promote the well-being of the Palestinian people.

Down through the years, I have seen despair and frustration evolve into optimism and progress and, even now, we need not give up hope for permanent peace for Israelis and freedom and justice for Palestinians if three basic premises are honored:

1. Israel's right to exist - and to live in peace - must be recognized and accepted by Palestinians and all other neighbors;
2. The killing of innocent people by suicide bombs or other acts of violence cannot be condoned; and
3. Palestinians must live in peace and dignity, and permanent Israeli settlements on their land are a major obstacle to this goal.

Jimmy Carter is a former U.S. President. He led The Carter Center/National Democratic Institute observation of the Palestinian elections in January.

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Bridging or widening gender gap

Women throughout history have been subjected to various forms of discrimination, injustice, inequality and abuse of their rights. They have been looked down upon and considered inferior to their fellow men. In fact, they have been imaged as a mass of sentiments whose minds and intellects can not function and produce any fruitful ideas and thoughts.

However, these inferior views of patriarchal and masculine-driven societies could not sustain and stand before the growing vocal voices demanding equal rights and treatment for women. Despite the achievements women movement has made worldwide, the strife to put an end to patriarchal and masculine cultures being hostile to women is still going on.

Last week the Yemeni women observed the international day of women, March 8. Women in our country are still facing a lot of problems in challenging a patriarchal conservative Islamist tradition that still honors the man, considering him more superior in everything. As in some other Arab countries, women in Yemen are still fighting hard for their rights in a society plagued by poverty and illiteracy.

The women conference last week urged that 30 percent of the contested seats in upcoming local elections be reserved for women. This is fine. There is no problem in giving support to women to boost their participation in politics. The quota system might push to erase the traditional social stigma, doubting the competence of women in the political sphere. However, this does not mean women should given a special treatment and care everywhere.

The Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajamal said that women do not need a special ministry as this will hamper the integration of women and widen the gender divide. He is right that this is a sentimental call that will not serve

the cause of women integration and the aspired androgynous relationship. And I think that some of these centers operating on women issues in various spheres including media and education do help in women integration into society, dismantling gender gaps. Rather, they help widening the gap and keep the traditional stereotype that women roles are very much associated with the domestic work. Outside this sphere, they continue to need the support of men.

Women are not a commodity to be marketed by some people including women in the international market. They are rather human beings who should fight for their rights as women did before in Europe and the US. I have been reading about the feminist movement in England and the US and I have found that the suffrage and liberation that women have gained did not come very easily; there has been a strong feminist fight for these rights.

The most important obstacle facing women in the Islamic countries including Yemen is a traditional and conservative culture. Women all over the world learn for enlightenment. Unfortunately, women here receive that kind of education that drives them to be more conservative and close-minded. They are taught to be more dependent and less confident.

Women in the West during the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were facing similar problems. But, devoted women have resisted the social pressure and sacrificed even their family and society relationship. The outcome is that they won by the end of the day.

The question of women liberation in Yemen needs a lot of hard work and fight in different religious, cultural and social aspects. It requires commitment and seriousness from women movement leaders as well as the support of the government and civil society organizations. In short, they need equal but not special treatment. Don't you think so?!

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Plastic surgery needed in Yemen

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

“My life will never return.” Those were the only words Hanan said before she left, refusing to say more or allow a photo and leaving me with her mother, who recounted her daughter's story.

Hanan, 29, was in a car accident three years ago. She miraculously survived, undergoing numerous surgeries that left many scars on her body. “She had the accident two weeks after her graduation party. She planned to be a teacher. However, after the accident, she refused to deal with people, avoiding any comments or questions that reflected pity or curiosity,” her mother said.

Hanan's condition worsened after her fiancé abandoned her. “She believed her fiancé abandoned her because of her disfigurement.”

Hanan cannot face people with her physical disfigurement. Other people with other types of disfigurement have the courage to continue their lives nor-

mally; however, they cannot deny that such physical disfigurement changes their lives in some way.

Heba, a 16-year-old high school student, was burned as a child. The accident left a mark on her left cheek and left hand. “I try to ignore the way people look at me because I know the first thing they see is this mark,” she said, pointing to her face. For this reason, she prefers to wear a veil to hide her face. “I rarely take off this veil, even if I am with my classmates,” she added.

Hanan and Heba are two of many Yemenis suffering physical disfigurement. Unfortunately, there are no available statistics exposing the actual number of Yemenis affected by physical disfigurements. However, Dr. Saleh Al-Aidhani, deputy director of Al-Jumhuri Hospital's burn and disfigurement treatment center, confirmed such information, saying many Yemenis suffer physical deformities due to automobile accidents, birth defects and burn accidents, as well as cancer patients who have undergone face and neck treatments and also may need plastic surgery.

Al-Aidhani referred to plastic surgery's primary objectives which are correcting defects, restoring lost func-

tions and improving appearance. He also confirmed that this branch of surgery is not taught in any Yemeni medical university. “Very few doctors in Yemen have traveled abroad to study this field. However, they wouldn't be able to transmit their knowledge or experience to others because there is no department to teach such specialization,” he added.

The Ministry of Health continues inviting plastic surgery experts from different countries in an attempt to meet growing demand from patients seeking a cure and a new life without disfigurement. The last such medical delegation involved German plastic surgeons who launched a campaign in Dhamar governorate wherein they performed approximately 250 plastic surgeries in only 10 days. The surgeries were described as “successful operations for serious cases.”

Finding a plastic surgeon is considered a hard task in Yemen. In this regard,

Adel Al-Khawlani recounted the story of one of his relatives who accidentally broke her nose. “We looked for plastic surgeon to fix her nose and we finally found one in a private clinic. The doctor agreed to perform the surgery; however, he had to find a hospital to use its operating room. Fortunately, he found one and did the job perfectly,” he said.

Plastic surgery a controversial issue Today's plastic surgery often is done for cosmetic reasons to remove blemishes or change contours. Among the most common cosmetic plastic surgery operations are remodeling the nose,



Yemeni people who suffer physical malformation due to burning accidents

reshaping the outer ear, removing excess skin and fatty tissue from eyelids and the eye area and face lifts to remove signs of aging. Such operations have become very common in Arab countries like Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

However in Yemen, cosmetic plastic surgery is considered controversial. Religious men forbid such surgery, saying that any action to change what God created is banned. Other religious men tend to say there is no problem fixing deformities resulting from birth defects or removing conspicuous scars by cutting out scar tissue and adjusting a wound's shape.

Nowadays, Yemen needs plastic surgery not for cosmetic reasons but for reconstructive reasons, according to Al-Aidhani, explaining that reconstructive surgery restores function to damaged body parts and rebuilds normal physical contours when body parts like the nose,

jaw, ears or fingers are missing or deformed.

Hanan, Heba and others may not know the difference between cosmetic and reconstructive plastic surgery. The only thing they want is to live their lives without disfigurement.

Plastic surgery is one of the oldest forms of surgery practiced. Nose reconstruction surgeries probably were performed in ancient India as early as 2000 BC, when amputating the nose was a form of punishment. The potters caste eventually devised a method for rebuilding the nose using a piece of the forehead, a technique still employed today in grafting. Some discussion of such surgery also appears in ancient Greek and Roman texts. Plastic surgery's importance was demonstrated in the 20th century following World War II after victims of war wounds and burns regained use of injured body parts and experienced cosmetic improvements as well.

Polythene everywhere: Yemen in danger!

By: Minal S.
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The day was Friday, about 5a.m when I started an exciting journey towards Taiz after landing the previous day in Sana'a. I had only seen India and Thailand and this was a totally new country for me. Being a Friday, all shops were closed, roads had a deserted look and men were seen carrying machine guns, AK-47's and I too felt a bit afraid, but that all got eased out with my friendly driver. Throughout the journey I'd ask him umpteen questions and he'd reply. (Though except for a few words I never understood what he said in Arabic and vice-versa)

After we'd left Sana'a and were on the outskirts, I saw something strange! I saw a colourful boundary around the highway and was shocked to know that it wasn't anything else than a sea of polythene bags. When I got accustomed to the new life of Taiz, I'd go to fetch my daily needs from the market and felt very strange when each shopkeeper gave me a polythene bag for every single item I bought. The use of polythene is seen at every nook and corner of the country. That's because, I have travelled to Aden also and seen the same scene everywhere. Whenever I sit alone, I always rewind my memory and think of the highlighting past features. In the same way, I always think of the future of this country.

Recently I was in Bombay, India for my summer vacation and was a victim of the floods that occurred on the 26th of July last year. Since Bombay is known as “the business capital of India”, it is the largest metro in the country and is resided by billions of people. Due to pollution and due to the similar extensive use of polythene there, the entire drainage system of this metro was clogged. Being an island, Bombay was trapped as the rivers and lakes were over-flowing above the danger mark and there was no outlet for the flowing water than to remain in the metro itself. Hence, Bombay welcomed it's own created environmental floods. Thousands perished and countless were bereft of their houses and their prized possessions. The overall scene was pathetic.

All over a sudden, I switched over to the flood incident only to open the eyes of every citizen and every common man of this country. Now I have the residence visa for this very country, so I automatically become a temporary citizen of Yemen and thus I take this as my responsibility to be concerned if any kind of danger revolves around. After all, “Charity begins at home.”

What is it?

In order to know what polythene is, we should first find out the scientific origin of polythene. Polythene is a polymer of



Nothing grows on the polythene-infested land thus making the land barren.

the gas ethane (C2H4). It is a tough, white, translucent, waxy thermoplastic (which means that it can be repeatedly softened by heating). It is used for packaging bottles, toys, wood preservatives, electric cables, pipes and tubing.

Polythene is produced in two forms: Low-density polythene, made by high-pressure polymerization of ethene gas (the monomer), and high-density polythene, which is made at lower pressure by using catalysts. This form, first made in 1953 by German chemist Karl Ziegler, is more rigid at low temperatures and softer at higher temperatures than the low-density type. Polythene was first made in the 1930s at very high temperatures by ICI.

Polythene is used for making sandwich bags (as polythene preserves things for a longer period as it doesn't allow air / moisture to enter and exit), cling-wrap, freezer bags, water pipes, car covers, squeeze bottles, liners, liners for tanks and ponds, moisture barriers in construction, pipes, wires and cable insulation. It is also used in surgery, book covers...etc, the uses are innumerable.

Hazards of polythene:

Polythene has several hazards among which the most alarming is that it is non bio-degradable. This means that, if polythene bags are cast off after use, they remain littered on the ground, mix up with soil but are not soluble like paper, wood and other bio-degradable products. So, if after a few years the place where the polythene bags had been deposited is dug again, we will find the polythene as it was.

Even if the same pit of deposited polythene is again excavated after a decade or after several such decades, the polythene will be found as it is. This condition causes several environmental hazards. Moreover, Polythene cannot be perished when burnt. Try burning polythene. What do you see? It's very natural that polythene does burn but doesn't perish like wood, paper and other products. It changes its form but doesn't perish. Thus, it again remains inside the

surface of the earth, but doesn't dissolve. When burnt, it causes emission of toxic gases into the air and causes a major air-pollution hazard for the environment.

Another thing is that Polythene is easily clogged. As polythene is non biodegradable, it gets clogged in drainages and thus it may result in a serious clot which may become unsolved at times. Also while playing, if children happen to come into contact with polythene and if

they put it in their mouth or wear the same around their face, polythene immediately results in suffocation and the result may lead to death.

Polythene is not water-soluble and if spilled in seas, oceans, rivers, lakes or any other water bodies, refuses to be soluble in water. It remains floating on the surface of water and this is the reason why tourists and visitors are advised not to carry any edible products at important places of national interest. Another hazard is that after polythene gets mixed up with soil, the land automatically becomes infertile, not allowing any agriculture. Nothing grows on the polythene-infested land thus making the land barren.

Saving Yemen

This problem of polythene bags was realized in my hometown Bangalore. Bangalore has always been known for being ahead of time and this city started using paper bags almost three decades ago as it had an intuition about the after effects of this life-threatening product – polythene. It's up to the citizens of Yemen to decide whether we should encourage, continue or ban this product?

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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: Database Associate for the Management of Information System / SC-6 Responsibilities

- Examine the Public Expenditure Management (PEM), cycle and identify data needs and physical outputs (reports) to support decision making throughout the entire cycle. The data needs and physical outputs will address the needs of the district, DLDSP and Ministry of Local Administration (MOLA).
- Review the current indicators, primary and secondary data that have been collected by the DLDSP district facilitation team for quality, consistency, relevance and validity.
- Archive in a retrievable manner, all data collected to date in the 28 DLDSP districts.
- Ensure that the initial archiving system will avail an information body which could provide the needed foundation for decision making processes related to needs assessment, planning and budgeting as well as monitoring of impact of district development interventions.
- Provide advice and get agreement on the physical outputs that data subsequent indicators will provide to enable the monitoring of DLDSP impact.
- Once the physical outputs have been agreed to, determine areas of data collection and data flow points and related indicators and develop formats and procedures for their collection and calculation.
- Perform any other duties as required.

Qualification

- Bachelor degree in computer science, programming and/or MIS or other relevant discipline.
- The post holder must have considerable and proven experience in the field of database programming and the design of information management systems.
- Fluent in English and Arabic.

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

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 22 March 2006

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position:

Post Title: Driver / SC-2

Responsibilities

- Drive a motor vehicle as requested, with due regard to time schedules, apply knowledge of driving regulation, safety requirements, traffic and conditions, and most desirable routes to minimize travel time; ensure that all rules, regulations and local requirements are adhered to in the event of involvement in an accident; take suitable precautions for the security of the vehicle and its contents when left unattended.
- Make regular deliveries of parcels, documents, etc. between the organization, collection location and destinations.
- Make minor purchases and collect required goods from local supplier on demand; collect goods from customs with due regard to customs regulations and formalities.
- Meets official personal and visitors at the airport and facilitates immigration and customs formalities as required; provides necessary information upon arrival of officials; also assist passenger in entering or leaving the vehicle; load and unload baggage, parcels, documents, goods or supplies; visit designated locations in advance of transporting passengers thereto and advise the supervisor of any problems. Follow up visa requests and travel documents.
- To carry out clerical duties upon request including photocopying, logistical support to the office and to UNAIDS supported meetings.
- Perform any other duties as required

Qualification

- Primary education, driver's license, knowledge of driving rules and regulations and chauffeur courtesies, skills in minor vehicle repair.
- Four years work experience as a driver, safe driving record.
- Minimum knowledge of English is required.
- Strives for quality client-centered services (internal/external).

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Women's Chess Championship concludes

SANA'A, March 12 — The Republic Chess Championship for Women, organized according to the Swiss system, concluded last Wednesday in Aden.

Women players from Sana'a, Taiz, Ibb, Aden, Hadramout, Abyan, Lahj and Hajjah participated in the competition, which was organized by the General Chess Federation (GCF) and supervised

by international referee Ahmad Salem, chairman of the GCF's referees committee.

Umaimah Awadh Sa'eed was crowned champion at the competition's conclusion with an eight-point credit. Nadhmia Abdussalam of Sana'a came in second, Amani Jalal of Taiz was third with six points, Adilah Raweh was fourth with the same number of points and Nada Al-Sharif of Lahj was fifth with six points.



Sports in Brief

Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Karate Championship to kick off

The Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Karate Championship will begin March 20 in Sana'a with the participation of junior teams from various provinces.

Involving 112 competitors from 14 provinces, the event is organized by the General Karate Federation (GKF). There are multiple goals behind the championship such as inaugurating the Japanese Sports Center and distributing sporting equipment to main centers.

The championship is considered a preparatory stage to raise the level of the game and proficiency of participants from the season's beginning.

The Japanese government has extended support to Yemen including equipment for five centers in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Hodeidah and Hadramout. In addition to training equipment, the Japanese support includes 250 suits and different protective masks.

YFF committee issues general note about board nominations

The Yemeni Football Federation (YFF) Temporary Committee issued a general note Friday to premier league club presidents and representatives, as well as referee and coaching representatives, concerning YFF formation and nominating its board of directors.

According to the note, which included nomination requirements, the YFF board of directors consists of 11 members: the president, his two deputies and eight members, one of which is to be responsible for women's sports.

Ministry of Youth and Sports awards women volleyball winners

SANA'A, March 12 — On Saturday evening, the Ministry of Youth and Sports awarded women volleyball players who won top positions in governorate volleyball competitions.

The ministry's General Women's Department organized the competition, in coordination with the Yemeni Volleyball Federation. Teams from Sana'a, Taiz, Aden, Hodeidah, Abyan

and Lahj participated in the competition staged at the Hall of Bilqis Club for Women's Sports in Sana'a.

Aden's team won first place in the championship, which lasted eight days, while Taiz came in second and Sana'a third. Sports officials also were honored for their contributions in making women's sporting events a success.

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Short story

“I hope you feel better, doctor”

Written By: Hamdan Zaid Dammag*
Translated By: Shaker Al-Molsi**

He was there too. I saw his form staggering in the gloomy darkness of night. The street still was engulfed in darkness and the dawn tranquility was disturbed by nothing except the chilly winds beating against the iron doors of the neighborhood's closed shops.

Obviously fatigued, he was staggering with his head concealed below the collar's edge of a heavy winter coat. As I approached him, he tried to swerve. I hesitated, but he was so near that neither of us could have evaded the other without leaving a doubtful or something-fishy impression on the other. Hence, we chose confrontation.

He put on a clearly artificial smile, the same as I was displaying. I greeted him but he didn't respond. A foul stench emanated from his mouth and I was sure he was drunk. I recognized him and he definitely recognized me. Damn him. How had he come to me out of the blue on this night? We hadn't seen each other for a long time. Our relationship had grown cold since he began to criti-



cize me, flouting the ethics of mutual friendship. He came to barely tolerate me, as did I him.

At this moment, we were face to face and neither of us could ignore the other. It was a nerve-racking situation, but we kept silent and walked forward staggering abreast. Whenever our bodies

touched, they would recoil fiercely from each other.

Suddenly, the muezzin called for prayer. I ignored his reproachful look. I then stumbled and fell to the ground on my chest. I stopped breathing for awhile. He burst into derisive laughter, with his hand groping for something to

lean on. Blood boiled in my veins as he continued laughing. I picked up a nearby stone and threw it at him. He let out a shriek and fell down with blood running from his head. He ceased laughing and began weeping, screaming all the abuse I know at me.

Silence prevailed once again. I endeavored to feel the bleeding wound on my head while he lay exhausted on the pavement beside me. The street was still dark but worshippers' figures began appearing at the other end of the street. A few moments later, voices came nearer. I turned my head searching for him but he was gone. Many hands extended to help me stand to my feet.

“What happened?” one of them cried. “We just found him thus,” another voice replied. I listened unconsciously to their conversation. I kept looking for him but in vain...he had slipped away!

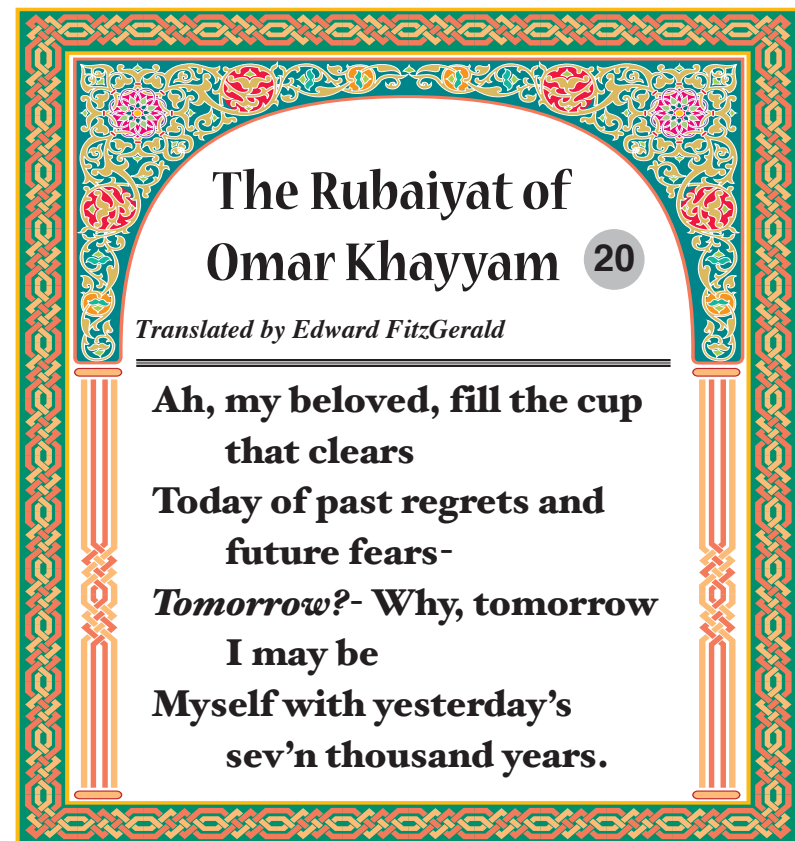
- “Is he OK?”

- “Bandage his head well. He must be taken to the hospital.”

- “Who did him this? We should tell his family.”

- “No time for that now...”

I gradually recovered consciousness



The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 20

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

Ah, my beloved, fill the cup
that clears
Today of past regrets and
future fears-
Tomorrow? - Why, tomorrow
I may be
Myself with yesterday's
sev'n thousand years.

and discerned a neighbor's face. I cautiously tried not to let anybody smell my mouth but followed their instructions obediently. One of them whispered in my ear encouragingly, “I hope you feel better, doctor. I hope you feel better!”

*Hamdan Zaid Dammag is the

Managing Editor of Yemen Times. He is a poet and short-story writer with many literature publications. He is a computer scientist and a research fellow at the Institute of Computing, London South Bank University, UK.

**Shaker Al-Molsi is a researcher and professional translator. He is the cultural page editor of Yemen Times.

Al-Magaleh: “We should make use of Oriental culture”

By: Yemen Times Staff

Established in Sana'a in 2005, the Oriental Cultural Association was inaugurated formally two weeks ago. At its headquarters, founder Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Magaleh spoke about the association, as well as other aspects of his career.

With a thoughtful flow of words and a mystical countenance, Al-Magaleh gave an account of the association which aims to “contribute effectively to Yemen's cultural heritage” based on a “humanitarian vision open to world cultures and rooted in awareness of oriental cultural identity.”

He refuted the claim that the association calls for isolation and confinement; rather, it aims “at spreading the values of diversity and variation of cultures and civilizations. When I head eastward, I am by no means against the occident. Actually, we should make use of the rich culture of the Orient, as we are part of it. The West itself is taking advantage of such a culture. Many Eastern experts are of great use in the West and are providing their service.”

Al-Magaleh has taught English language and translation at Sana'a University for approximately 10 years. He received higher education in the U.S., Britain and India and has successfully completed a number of translation projects (17 books so far) from various literature (Chinese, German, Japanese and Indian) from English into Arabic. He is most famous



Dr. Abdulwahab Al-Magaleh

wheelchair; however, when I began practicing yoga, I was cured. This is on a personal level. Yoga is very beneficial for many diseases and a good way to treat a wide range of physical and psychological disorders.”

During his five-year stay in India, Al-Magaleh spent considerable time with renowned yoga masters. He now has begun promoting yoga in Yemen, aiming to attract Yemenis and teach them how they can practice it and make use of its “miraculous benefits.”

“I already have prepared four trainers,” he noted, “We intend to

popularize yoga.”

Concerning the association's planned activities, he said it will host a Japanese reflexology expert and hold an event entitled, “What India can offer to world culture.”

Al-Magaleh said his career as a translator is very rewarding in terms of knowledge and illumination he receives, also providing a sense of achievement. “I feel I have achieved a lot and offered a great service to society. Therefore, I can describe my work as very rewarding.”

He selects works that have a sense of intellectual and philosophical appeal, as he likes translating works of value. “Many translators work on reports and such things that are rewarding financially. But the translation I do is rewarding spiritually and intellectually.”

Al-Magaleh now is planning to work on “Manazil Al-Salikeen,” a book written by an Arab author in the fourth Hijra century. “I feel it has the same elevated level as that found in spiritual books of China and India.”

He underscored the importance of translation, which he said is vital to growth of a nation's knowledge. He described the translation situation in Yemen and the Arab world as “shameful,” comparing it to other parts of the world. “Approximately 80 percent of books published annually in the U.S. are books translated from other languages, while our production as Arabs pales shamefully into

insignificance.”

Al-Magaleh said he has no particular rituals when he approaches translating a book. “If I feel a book is worth it in terms of its content, I begin translating it. I once started translating a book after just reading a few pages. Right from the beginning, I was very attracted to it. This is why it obliged me to translate it.”

Al-Magaleh enumerated some characteristics any translator “worth his salt” should cultivate: “A translator

should internalize the text, identify with the writer and render the translation accordingly.” As for theories, he said acquaintance with them does not ensure a good translation. “Theories are problem solving – and they themselves are problematic sometimes. A good translator should adopt what he or she thinks fits the context at hand.”

As a teacher, Al-Magaleh complained about crowded translation classes at the Faculty of Languages' Arabic and Translation Department.

“From my experience, in a class comprising some 70 students, there are only a handful of potential translators. To teach the whole crowd descends into abuse of teachers' ability and a waste of time.”

However, he pointed out another facet of the problem: “Most students in the department come with a modest level of the language itself. This makes it difficult for teachers, who don't know whether to teach language or translation.”

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“Colors are my language”

Sameh Yosuf Al-Faqih is a special kind of artist. Sameh does not speak. He uses colors to express thoughts and emotions.

By: Shaker Mohammed

Sameh Yosuf Al-Faqih is suffering from a speech deficiency due to poor hearing. He can only utter a few words, but incoherently and with difficulty. Since he was five years old, art has been his main way of expression.

During the interview, Sameh's mother interprets his gestures. "I feel relaxed with colors," she explains for him. "They are my language."

23-year-old Sameh never joined an art school. He picked up the brush when he was just five years old on his own initiative, and his parents encouraged him from day one. "His father and I encouraged him psychologically and in terms of preparations for the paintings by bringing the necessary tools, paint, frames and the like," his mother says. "I have a background in art, but not as an artist. I am essentially an appreciator of art," she added. In their home, Sameh's work fills the walls for the whole family to appreciate. His maternal uncle, Mohammed Da'il is a plastic artist and this may have influenced Sameh.

Recently, the silent painter participated in an exhibition at the Sana'a based Culture House. An assortment of 24 paintings with different themes showed the artist's great sense of colors.

"He likes to depict sad faces," says the mother of Sameh Yosuf Al-Faqih. "He also portrays the faces of old men and women with traditional attire. He



Sameh Yosuf Al-Faqih in front of one of his paintings at the Culture House.

PHOTO BY: SHAKER

can be described as a realist".

Sameh is also fond of depicting Yemeni landmarks such as Dar Al-Hajar (the Rock Palace), the Tarim Minaret and the Al-Ghuwaizi Fort. The coloring in his paintings is quite distinct. When examining the Dar Al-Hajar painting, one can see that the coloring is quite different from previous depictions.

The collection of displayed paintings at the Culture House also includes paintings with political images. One painting is of Palestinian children who resist the occupation with stones, another of a Yemeni revolutionist fighting against the colonization with his "gun and pen", while yet another of his paintings symbolizes the Yemeni Unity.

Sameh also depicts natural scenes, especially flowers. But when his mood is not that joyous, he portrays flowers with thorns in a shabby manner. A cathartic expression that elucidates the hardships of life. One of his paintings

features an anguished face of a capped Tihama girl that reveals a silent sadness. His power of expression through colors has been further intensified as he severely lost the ability to talk, and although he is the eldest of her six children, his mother describes him as hypersensitive, a silent sufferer.

"Art is my life. It is a reflection of my psyche," Sameh's mom interprets from his vague expression. "I depict my inner feelings and emotions and explain my inner thoughts through the paintings."

He describes how he goes about his work. The process involves five stages: He first starts outlining the image with a pencil, then adds light colors, once again he uses colors, after which he refines the painting and makes necessary decorations. The last stage is to sharpen the colors and make them be as expressive as possible. He mixes colors with each other and experiments with different painting methods until he finds the best

one that suits the subject.

Sameh was awarded a certificate of recognition by the Cairo-based Arab House in 1996, and he sent some of his works to Japan and Shariqah in 1997. Recently he has participated in the Youth and Childhood Conference held in Sana'a on February 19 where he drew a good deal of attention.

Sameh Al-Faqih has a dream to one day be a great artist and get international recognition. He is also a sculptor, engraver and calligrapher and is quite skillful at computer sciences, says his mom. She unveils her wish for the future, when she says: "I hope the concerned authorities would take care of him and other young artists and further help them refine their talents and excel artistically."

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