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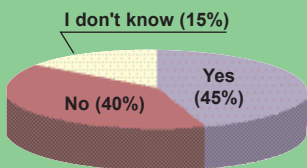
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Joint Yemeni-Omani oil export company to be formed

## Readers' Voice

### Last edition's question:

After several years' detention in Guantánamo Bay, the U.S. recently handed over several terror suspects to Yemen. Do you think the suspects will receive kind treatment here?



### This edition's question:

Do you think the Yemeni government could be serious to put an end to the people's suffering from chronic electricity problems?

Yes  
No  
I don't know

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# Yemen, Pakistan enhance cooperation

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 12 — President Saleh returned home Wednesday afternoon following a three-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, during which he and his Pakistani counterpart, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, agreed to cooperate in areas of intelligence and information exchange.

Saleh and Musharraf exchanged views on a range of issues of mutual interest, including the War on Terror, bilateral trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Yemen, in addition to regional and international issues. Musharraf welcomed Saleh, saying Pakistan attaches much importance to its ties with the brotherly country of Yemen and Saleh's visit will help boost those relations further.

Both leaders agreed to enhance coop-

eration in various areas of activity including defense, trade, economy, culture, education, science and technology, agriculture, security and the war against terrorism. They insisted on an obvious definition of terrorism and recognized the right of nations to resist occupation in compliance with United Nations conventions.

The two leaders called on the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to play an active role in settling disputes between Muslim nations and implement resolutions approved by the Mecca Summit and the ministers' meeting in Sana'a. They underscored the need to further strengthen the OIC to resolve problems facing the Muslim ummah (worldwide community).

Both leaders strongly condemned publication of sacrilegious sketches, laying more emphasis on developing

dialogue between religions and civilizations. Musharraf noted that it is essential to remove misconceptions between Islam and the West; therefore, implementing a vision of enlightened moderation is inevitable to achieve this objective.

He underscored that Pakistan is fighting against terrorism on the basis of principles, stressing that it is cooperating with all world nations in this regard, including the Muslim world, as it is a global issue. Saleh lauded Pakistan's role in the war against terrorism.

He also expressed grief and sorrow over devastation caused by the disastrous Oct. 8 earthquake.

Saleh also appreciated Pakistan's economic development, noting that Yemen is keen to consolidate bilateral relations with Pakistan in all fields. In Monday's meeting, both parties inked a memorandum of understanding and protocols on media, sports, quality control, youth affairs and trade. Saleh said both countries' foreign ministries will finalize details to ensure implementing affairs agreed between the two sides.

He described his meeting with Musharraf as fruitful, saying both countries endorsed common stances on issues involving Iran, Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan. He added that both sides' foreign offices will elaborate further on criteria to implement endorsed agreements.



The two leaders called on enhancing cooperation in various areas including intelligence.

Addressing a joint press conference, Musharraf said, "We agreed to strengthen political and diplomatic ties between our two countries by extending cooperation in trade, defense and private sector investment." He added that Pakistan will meet all Yemeni police and Security Forces demands to broaden the area of cooperation between two nations.

Prior to touring Pakistan, Saleh paid a six-day visit to China, during which he and his Chinese counterpart signed numerous agreements whereby China allocated \$1.35 billion to fund projects

in Yemen. According to official sources, part of the sum is offered as assistance, while the rest represents loans to finance development projects in electricity, roads and technical institutes.

Saleh said the financial assistance offered by China will be devoted to the development process, denying media reports that the assistance will go to the army. He confirmed that they never inked an agreement on military affairs.

"We do not need to buy military equipment, as we have enough arms, and our move is toward development," Saleh added.

# Parliament returns motorcycles to work

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, April 12 — In its April 10 session, Parliament issued directions to the government to return fit motorcycles to work, stipulating that they should have customs license and metal plates. Parliament directed that unfit cycles can resume work as soon as they meet these conditions.

The decision came following sit-ins held by motorcyclists (known in Yemen as motors), their families and children in front of Parliament, the last of which was Monday. Several civil society representatives and journalists joined the motorcyclists and their families at Monday's sit-in. They demanded the motorcycles' release and for the government to stop hampering cyclists in earning their living.

Members of Parliament confirmed the unanimous decision and the fact that they are insistent on executing it. If the government refuses to carry it out, they will take measures against it, including withdrawal of confidence.

The remonstrating motorcyclists shouted slogans and poems attacking the capital's citywide ban against them. A number of journalists gave speeches in solidarity, denouncing government practices that hamper many sectors in their living. One such speaker asserted, "If one of the officials' sons established a motorcycle investment institution, it would be praised as a great step and would find support."

The crisis between motorcyclists and the government reached a climax following escalations by the cyclists to defend their honorable living and face government constraints. The case found public, parliamentary and political support following the government's pressure to stop the cycles. This caused cyclists to resort to demonstrations and sit-ins to pressure the government to abstain from its decision.

Confrontations with motorcyclists



Motorcycles became a means to make a living for thousands.

began last year following the government's decision to ban motorcycles in Sana'a for security, traffic safety and environmental reasons, as well as preserve the capital city's civilized appearance. The decision to limit them in the governorates was justified by reducing daily traffic accidents, noise and traffic jams in main streets caused by motorcycles.

Following the decision, the government instituted a number of measures to prevent more motorcycles from entering Yemen, with many motorcycles being held up at customs entrances. There was a wide range of campaigns to confiscate motorcycles because of the nuisance and environmental damages they cause. Within three months, traffic authorities confiscated hundreds of motorcycles and closed down their sales stores to stop their spread in the capital.

The decision was met with widespread refusal by motorcyclists, despite government's confinement of its decision to the capital in consideration of economic conditions in the governorates. Official institutions also refused the decision, including Parliament, which called on the government to reconsider its decision.

Motorcycles recently became popular, replacing cars for reasons including unemployment, poverty, poorly planned roads and traffic jams. Motorcycles became a means to make

a living for many and thousands of families depend on their income.

According to Ministry of Interior statistics, those using motorcycles to work in the capital were 2,400. Hodeidah has the highest number of motorcycles, estimated at 30,000, whereas there are approximately 10,000 motorcycles in Taiz. Among all the governorates, the total number of those using motorcycles to work is approximately 150,000.

# Prince Nayef feels sorry for Saudis helping terror suspects

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April 12 — Saudi Minister of Interior Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz commented Tuesday on confessions made by Al-Qaeda second-in-command in Yemen, Mohamed Hamdi Al-Ahdal, who was tried in Sana'a confessing that he received money from Saudi citizens but refused to name them.

In a Riyadh press conference, Prince Nayef said, "We feel sorry for the irresponsible Saudi nationals who help terrorists from other countries."

Al-Ahdal confessed before the State Security Specialized Penal Court that he received financial assistance and cars from Saudi citizens. Meanwhile, Yemen allowed Saudi detectives to investigate Al-Ahdal, who confessed to receiving 1.06 million Saudi Riyals from Saudi businessmen.

Yemen's government announced that it provided Saudi Arabia with all confessions

Al-Ahdal made revealing names of Saudi nationals in Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the United Arab Emirates who funneled money to Al-Qaeda terrorist operations in Yemen.

Yemeni authorities accused Al-Ahdal of receiving 1.06 million Saudi Riyals, equivalent to YR 80 million, to distribute to Al-Jawf and Marib tribesmen to harbor wanted terror suspects.

Backed by tanks and helicopters, Special Forces raided Al-Jalal strongholds in Marib in December 2001 in an attempt to arrest Al-Ahdal. The raids turned into clashes, with Abida tribesmen killing at least 15 and wounding 20 others. Yemen's Al-Qaeda second-in-command was arrested November 25, 2003.

In last Monday's session, the court adjourned the cases of Al-Ahdal and his aide, Ghalib Abdullah Ali Al-Zaidi, until April 18 for final appeals.

Born in Saudi Arabia, Al-Ahdal was considered Al-Qaeda's second-in-command in



Al-Ahdal

Yemen after Ali Qaed Senen Al-Harithi, one of those who plotted the USS Cole attack in 2000. Al-Harithi was killed by a U.S. fighter in Marib in 2002.

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## Socotra to be added to World Heritage list

SANA'A, April 9 — International biodiversity expert Eduardo Zandri stressed the importance of preserving Socotra's rare biodiversity as a world heritage for all biodiversity and nature scientists, calling on Yemen's government not to make the same mistake as Africa's Greenhead Islands.

In a statement, Zandri said, "Arbitrary activities, economic projects that do not consider environmental effects and temporary use of resources all contribute to affecting the island's biodiversity and environmental safety. During our work in the Greenhead Islands, we realized the importance of biodiversity in Socotra. It is important to preserve such biodiversity, especially because Socotra will be added to the World Heritage list, as indicated by UNESCO in France."

Zandri also said it is important to implement projects in Socotra in a way to preserve the safety of its biodiversity. "There should be a qualified local authority able to coordinate and communicate with concerned authori-



A view of part of Socotra Island taken from a plane. PHOTO BY MUS'AD SWALEH

ties for the sake of preserving the island's biodiversity. The importance of the island's biodiversity should be spread among its locals," he added.

A UNESCO delegation will visit Yemen later in order to verify information contained in Socotra's file to be added to the World Heritage list.

Zandri also expects UNESCO to add Socotra to the list.

Zandri still is on his visit to Yemen, which will last for a few days, in which he offers technical assistance to Yemen's government regarding Socotra's joining the World Heritage list.

## Four cars totaled in early morning Zubairy Street accident

SANA'A, April 12 — A speeding Cressida caused an accident on Al-Zubairy Street Monday, April 3, totaling four cars.

Two cars were destroyed completely, in addition to an electrical post.

The accident knocked out electricity in an adjacent residential area for a quarter of an hour.

Eyewitnesses said the speeding Cressida's driver lost control of his car due to high speeds while chasing another car. The high speed resulted in a collision with another stopped car.

Nabil Al-Jumai, a car owner stopped at the accident scene, said the accident was frightful, adding that it would have caused greater damage had it not been so late at night. He noted that the accident occurred at 2:45 a.m., adding that high speed was the reason for it, although the speed-



Two cars were destroyed in the accident in addition to an electrical post (inset). PHOTO BY SULIEMAN AL-QUSIMI

ing car's driver was unhurt.

The speeding driver was arrested and will be referred to traffic prosecution. The case is pending at traffic

prosecution — famed for lengthy cases — and the matter remains unsettled, despite the fact that the case is quite clear.

## International law symposium concludes in Aden

ADEN, April 10 — A symposium to teach international human law in Yemeni universities concluded Sunday, April 9, in Aden. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) organized it in cooperation with the National Committee for International Law Affairs.

Twenty academics from six colleges, as well as faculty deans, participated in the symposium. For two days, participants discussed work papers concerning international law in today's world and the facts of teaching international human law in Yemeni universities. They also discussed difficulties in uni-

versity terms and ways to support international law teaching staff's needs. Additionally, they reviewed the best methods for introducing international law into Yemeni universities' curriculums.

The symposium yielded a number of decisions recommending teaching international law in government and private Yemeni universities. Some Yemeni universities began teaching international human law last year, among them Sana'a, Aden and Ibb. This is in addition to teaching the subject in army, police and other military institutes and colleges.

The ICRC called for continuing to supply necessary documents and references for easy access to researchers and teaching staff, on condition that a copy is given to the faculty's deanery to be put in the library. Exchanging visits also should occur between Yemeni universities to share experiences on how to teach international human law.

ICRC mission head Martin Amakhir, Aden University Rector Dr. Abdul Wahab Rawih, Attorney General Dr. Abdullah Al-Ullofi and Dr. Abas Zobarah, Secretary of the National Committee for Legal Affairs, attended the symposium.

## Government hires electric station for \$24 million

SANA'A, April 9 — The General Electricity Corporation (GEC) announced it signed an agreement with British firm Aggreko PLC last week, under which it will supply Yemen with a 50-megawatt capacity electric station.

According to reports published by Yemeni army mouthpiece 26 September weekly, the electric station, hired for \$24 million, is to power Hodeidah province for two years.

"The government is confused about covering the power shortage, as it depends on random work," Al-Shoura Net quoted MP Shaiban as

saying, commenting that the money paid to the British firm should have been used to purchase a new government-owned electric station.

Shaiban attributed the failure of electrical projects to poor management and unwise tender distribution to firms. He added that the government must utilize previous loans for strategic projects to benefit the country, such as electricity, in lieu of spending them on other projects exploited by corrupt officials.

"In the past week, Parliament approved loans worth \$177.5 million, most of which is destined to go for buying cars and other expenses far

from improving the country's infrastructure," Shaiban commented.

A parliamentary report revealed that most electrical projects lack financing, while a gas station project and other maintenance expenditures exceed the cost of new stations. Three years ago, the government obtained a grant worth more than \$350 million to establish a gas station, a project which has not been started.

The government has been studying the gas station project's implementation in Marib for a year and a half and it has been conducting preliminary surveys for the project for three years.

prosperity within the upcoming period. He reviewed the experience of Kuwait's audit department, revealing its desire to promote cooperation and exchange experiences between his department and Yemen's Committee for Control and Audit (COCA). Al-Razooq and the head of COCA met to

discuss the two countries' bilateral relations on control and audit.

The COCA head and his officials attended a lecture on the Kuwaiti audit department's experience, followed by discussions about the two countries' experiences in control and audit.

## Bajamal on World Health Day: Yemen is suffering critical shortage of doctors and health facilities

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, April 8 — Prime Minister Abdulkader Bajamal said Yemen is suffering a critical shortage of doctors and health facilities.

Attending World Health Day celebrations arranged by the Ministry of Health and Population Ministry in association with the World Health Organization (WHO), Bajamal said he has statistics revealing the critical shortage of doctors and health institutions in Yemen. He insisted that such problem must be solved, as Yemenis need qualified personnel who can deal with diseases and epidemics that "don't recognize geographical boundaries and spread without permission."

Bajamal also referred to the importance of promoting management in medical foundations. "Reforming and developing management in medical and health institutions is the main task for the Health and Population Minister in this stage," he noted. He emphasized the importance of placing pharmacies and drug management under highly intensive monitoring.

He stressed that such monitoring must be conducted in private hospitals and private medical colleges. "We (the government) never ever accept the existence of private hospitals or colleges that do not follow legal technical and professional standards, restraints and disciplines ... to prevent expected risks that threaten citizens, as well as the reputation of this humanitarian job." Bajamal pointed out that



Prime Minister (right) and Minister of health in the World Health Day celebration.

Yemen's government will direct the health sector according to the system in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

WHO representative Dr. Hashem Zeen said this year's World Health Day is of a particular nature, as it addresses the health workforce. "There can be no doubt that there is a growing health workforce crisis in many parts of the world. The global population is rising, but the number of health workers is stagnating or even falling."

He continued, "WHO estimates the current global health workforce to be around 59 million women and men. There are 39.5 million health service providers and more than 19.5 million management and support workers. It is

estimated that there is a global shortage of more than four million doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, dentists, technicians and support workers."

WHO statistics estimate that at least 1.3 billion people worldwide lack access to the most basic healthcare, often because there is no health worker. The shortage is global, but the burden is greatest in countries overwhelmed by poverty and disease where health workers are needed most.

Yemen is among 57 countries experiencing serious health worker shortages. The 2003-2004 annual health statistical report estimated that there are two physicians for every 10,000 people, whereas there are five nurses for every 10,000 people.

## 15 killed, 8 wounded in various republic incidents

GOVERNORATES, April 11 — Six people were reported killed and another eight wounded in clashes Tuesday in Marib. The military-affiliated 26 September Net quoted a Marib source as saying clashes erupted 40 km. south of Marib between Al-Hadad and Al-Qaradea tribesmen over revenge cases dating back to 1990.

The same source indicated that both tribes sustained deaths and injuries, adding that clashes between the two tribes continued for three hours in different areas of Marib after tribesmen resorted to hunting each other in armed cars.

In other news, six people died Tuesday in a dawn fire that destroyed a western Sana'a carpet store, damaging property estimated at YR 2 million. Security sources said fire broke out in a Hayel Street carpet store, killing six people ranging in age from 15 to 55 years old as they slept inside.

Four civil defense vehicles rushed to the scene to extinguish the fire that killed the six, who were from Al-Hattami area, Wesab Al-Safel in Dhamar province. The victims' bodies were taken to the Kuwait Hospital morgue in Sana'a.

The same sources pointed out that the incident is being investigated to

identify the cause of the fire at the carpet store, which belonged to Mohamed Al-Hutami.

In Ibb, three sisters suffocated to death in Najed Al-Juma'e district when an outdated refrigerator running on gas consumed all the oxygen in the room where they were sleeping. The room's door and windows were shut, thereby preventing any ventilation.

A security source told Saba News Agency that the girls were 13, 14 and 15 years old. He attributed the three deaths to negligence and carelessness on the part of their family, which put an outdated refrigerator inside their room.

## Rockslide kills woman, devastates agricultural land

A mountain in Hufash district in Mahwit province northwest of Sana'a unleashed an avalanche of rocks resulting in the death of 20-year-old woman and devastating agricultural terraces, Saba News reported.

The rockslide occurred at 11 a.m. on a mountain near Sharaf village. The rock mass is estimated to have been originally 25 meters long and four meters wide. The avalanche came

down, killing the woman who happened to be gathering hay at that time and destroying a considerable area of mountain terraces.

A geological team is due to visit the affected area.

Two other rockslides recently occurred in Yemen, the severest of which afflicted Al-Dhafeer village in Bani Matar district 42 km. west of Sana'a on Dec. 29, 2005, claiming near-

ly 100 lives and crushing approximately 16 houses. A second rockslide occurred Feb. 21 during road construction in Raimah province, killing four people.

Such incidents have triggered efforts to geologically identify rockslide-prone areas in Yemen. The task consists of examining populated mountainous areas and providing findings in order to take measures that will save lives and property.

## Yemenia: e-ticketing among other new improvements

SANA'A, April 12 — Yemenia Airways announced Wednesday the launch of its summer flights schedule. In a press conference held for the occasion, commercial manager Abdullah Al-Mutareb noted that the summer flight schedule includes new flights and more flights to some destinations.

"Yemenia seeks to focus on enhancing flight schedules by operating non-stop flights and increasing the number of flights to some destinations. For example, three non-stop flights per week will be scheduled to Paris, instead of two. Four non-stop flights per week will be scheduled to Frankfurt, instead of three. A new flight will be added to flights scheduled to Beirut and the like," Al-Mutareb explained.

Al-Mutareb added that the airline seeks to schedule daily non-stop flights, which can be achieved gradually by adding new flights at the beginning of each new flight schedule.

Regarding new improvements, Al-Mutareb announced that Yemenia will begin using e-tickets from August. "Yemenia is offering its services via the



Abdullah Al-Mutareb explains Yemenia's summer flight schedule during a press conference. PHOTO BY MOHAMMED AL-JABRI

internet. Our clients will be able to book and know ticket prices via the internet," he added, mentioning that the airline also will use the Billing and Settlement Plan (BSP) system, which will help clients benefit from Yemenia services throughout the world.

In-flight telephone service will also be added to its services. "Passengers will be able to make telephone calls while on board to any place worldwide. This service will begin next month," Al-Mutareb noted, among other Yemenia services and future plans.

## Yemeni-Kuwaiti cooperation in control and audit

SANA'A, April 9 — A Kuwaiti audit department delegation, led by department head Brak Al-Razooq, is visiting Yemen to exchange audit and control experiences, as well as discuss other areas of cooperation.

Al-Razooq announced that the two countries' relations will witness more



# New draft law: Yemeni press ordeals

By: Faisal Al-Safwani

During 2004 and 2005, cases filed against journalists and journalism neared 200. Many verdicts of varying sentences were issued and seven newspapers were shut down. Moreover, the government issued a new draft press law; therefore, the following records viewpoints of the journalism community and interested individuals about the new press law.

## History

Yemen's first Press and Publications Law was issued in 1990 and since then, journalism has gone through three stages, explained as follows:

The first stage (1990-1994) witnessed issuance of more than 50 newspapers enjoying freedom of publication, particularly party-affiliated newspapers. Analysts attribute the brilliant press situation during this initial stage to political and military semi-balance Yemen experienced at that time; however, there was no respect for press freedom.

During the second stage (1994-2001), the press worked within restricted scopes, which it could not go beyond.

Following the Sept. 11 events, the third stage was a period of press freedom, as many newspapers began to go beyond the restricted scopes. Others began to play the role of monitoring government apparatuses and revealing their illegal practices. Newspapers began shedding light on corruption



The government issued a new draft press law which was seen by many journalists as a decline in press freedom.

PHOTO BY AMEL AL-ARIQI

cases and illegal practices by government officials.

## Current situation

Due to regional conditions and international moves supporting press freedom, government institutions resorted to the judiciary. Through Press and Publications Prosecution, it took many legal actions against journalists and writers, some of whom served sentences while others still await sentencing.

Concerning newspapers, Al-Shoura

weekly was closed for a year and half, Al-Tajamu for six months and Al-Usbou for three months, while Al-Qabbaita Magazine was shut down last year. Three private newspapers recently were closed and their licenses withdrawn under ministerial decision for republishing the Prophet Mohammed cartoons.

As journalism's relations with official parties exacerbated, the government issued the new draft press law, discussing it in last December's Al-Shoura Council. Regarding the new

law, lawyer Abdulaziz Al-Samawi stated, "Legislation related to journalism and expression issues are merely restrictions helping the ruler enslave the ruled. Abuse of these rights has become permissible and anything permissible requires legislation or a law. Under such legislation in effect in Yemen and other Arab nations, regimes shut the mouths of the public and prevent citizens from claiming their rights or basic needs."

Al-Samawi continued, "The law includes unclear sentences and

ambiguous clauses, e.g., Article No. 13 states that no journalist should be questioned about his opinion writing or any information he publishes *unless his work violates the law*." The secondary clause exposes journalists to interrogation, thereby canceling what was mentioned in the main clause.

Article No. 18 states that no journalist should be dismissed, transferred to another profession, suspended from work, prevented from writing or held to account, *except by limits approved by law and operating systems*.

Here, one notices that violation is considered as legislation permitting journalists' transfer to other professions, suspending them from work and preventing them from writing. These acts are not under law, but under systems in effect and any ministerial or administrative decision by the Ministry of Information is among such systems.

Regarding harmony between Yemen's press law and international conventions, legal writer Yasin Nasher said, "The press law is not in line with international human rights legitimacy and therefore, contravenes it."

For instance, Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article No. 9 states, "Every individual has the right to enjoy freedom of opinion and expression and this includes his/her right to express oneself without harassment." Everyone has the right to pursue, receive and transfer thoughts to others with the help of any means.

It is known that Yemen's Constitution confirms work in compliance with U.N. conventions and Article No. 6 of the declaration. One notices

that Yemen's press law violates international conventions, contravenes the constitution and imposes restrictions on the press and freedom of expression. It employs ambiguous elastic clauses with senseless meanings, coupled with restrictions included in the law's executive bylaws.

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate held a Dec. 14 a mass meeting to discuss the draft press law, with the majority of journalists rejecting it. During the meeting, Abdulbari Taher commented, "I know nothing about the official insistence to issue a new press law. Meanwhile, the government deliberately issued an arms-bearing ban." Mohamed Al-Azizi was of the opinion that the new press law aims to bury alive remaining press freedoms and accused the syndicate of desiring to pass the new draft.

Sami Ghaleb believes the new press law aims to frame journalism within Islamic ideology and constitutional principles of the community, the state and the revolution's achievements. He stated that the journalism community strongly opposes the new draft press law. "We often find official insistence to issue the law while we never are sure of the consequence of the new draft press law. This causes us to expect a future Yemeni press battle for the sake of rectifying laws to cope with international changes and fit the profession's liberties. "For [Yemeni] journalism to advance to the level of journalistic work and have an effective role in society, we must work hard to modify the law first and then put it into effect," he concluded.

## Iran claims nuclear breakthrough

The Iranian president says his country has joined the group of countries possessing nuclear technology by successfully enriching uranium for the first time.

The apparent breakthrough is likely to heighten international tensions over Iran's alleged pursuit of nuclear weapons, with the United States saying the move showed Iran was "moving in the wrong direction."

Making the announcement in a televised address on Tuesday, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also said that Iran was determined to achieve enrichment on an industrial scale.

"I am officially announcing that Iran has joined the group of those countries which have nuclear technology. This is

the result of the Iranian nation's resistance," Ahmadinejad said in the address from the northeastern city of Mashhad.

"Based on international regulations, we will continue our path until we achieve production of industrial-scale enrichment."

The announcement came shortly before Mohamed ElBaradei, the head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, was due to visit Iran for talks aimed at resolving an international standoff over its nuclear programme.

ElBaradei was expected to arrive in Tehran on Wednesday at the earliest.

## 'Peaceful' technology

The UN Security Council has demanded that Iran stop all nuclear enrichment processes by April 28, because of suspicions by several mainly Western countries that the programme is designed to develop nuclear weapons.

Apparently rejecting that call, Ahmadinejad said that the West must respect Iran's right to peaceful atomic technology.

"I am advising them to respect the Iranian nation's right to nuclear technology and not to create an everlasting hatred of themselves among our nation," Ahmadinejad said.

"We have repeatedly said that Iran does not need weapons of mass destruction."

His announcement came only hours after Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a former president, disclosed that Iran was successfully producing enriched uranium.

## Expansion

"We operated the first unit which comprises 164 centrifuges, gas was injected, and we got the industrial output," Rafsanjani told Kuwait's KUNA news agency.

"There needs to be an expansion of operations if we are to have a complete industrial unit; tens of units are required to set up a uranium enrichment plant."

Commenting on the Iranian claims, the Bush administration said the move showed "that Iran is moving in the wrong direction."

"Defiant statements and actions only further isolate the regime from the rest of the world," said Scott McClellan, the White House spokesman.

He added that if it persist-

ed, America would discuss possible next steps with the UN Security Council.

## Western fears

The West fears that Iran could be using its nuclear power programme as a smokescreen to build atomic bombs, but Tehran denies this.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said last month that Iran had started testing 20 centrifuges.

Gholamreza Aghazadeh, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation, said in February that Iran had started work on uranium fuel, but using only a few centrifuges. He said then that Iran was months away from operating a full cascade.

On Tuesday, however, he confirmed the enrichment announcement.

"I am proud to announce that we have started enriching uranium to the 3.5% level," he said in a televised address.

He said that the pilot enrichment plant in Natanz, south of Tehran, had started working on Monday.

Each centrifuge chain contains 164 units. Such cascades refine uranium gas into fuel for power stations, or if highly enriched - to 90% - for bombs.

About 1,500 centrifuges running optimally for a year could yield enough material for a bomb, scientists say.

Source: [www.aljazeera.net](http://www.aljazeera.net)

## RSF "deplores" the decision by the Supreme Court of Pakistan

By: Paul Michaud

PARIS, April 11, 2006 — Reporters sans frontieres (RSF), the Paris-based worldwide press freedom organization, said in the French capital that it was "deploring" the decision by the Supreme Court of Pakistan to uphold life imprisonment for Rehmat Shah Afridi, the former editor of the Frontier Post and Maidan daily newspapers, and this for alleged drug trafficking, although the journalist has been insisting on his innocence ever since his arrest by the Pakistani Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in 1999.

Through its Asia-Pacific spokesman Vincent Brossel, RSF said that the Pakistani police investigation into the initial judicial decisions "was so marred by irregularities, manipulation and harassment that Afridi should be acquitted and released, above all on procedural grounds."

RSF also reiterated its call for the creation of an independent commission that should, in its eyes, "investigate how the authorities of Pakistan have kept a newspaper editor

in prison for nearly seven years."

The two death penalties passed on Afridi in 2001 were commuted to life imprisonment in June 2004 by the Lahore high court, which ruled that hashish trafficking was not a crime punishable by death. Afridi was the first person in Pakistani history to get the death penalty on a hashish trafficking charge.

The courts have themselves on several occasions condemned the police for its mishandling of the investigation, especially for the destruction of evidence.

The Afridi family and RSF have gathered ample evidence showing that Afridi, who is from the Tribal Areas, was the victim of retaliation by the US government-financed ANF for his reports accusing it of abuse of authority and corruption.

Afridi was sentenced to die by hanging in June 2001. He was arrested on Apr. 2, 1999, for trafficking and possession of drugs, with RSF noting that "many members of the Afridi clan are alleged to be involved in drug trafficking."

Paris Newsfile



Foto: DigitalG

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كمال سالم علي عبده

المدير العام لشركة الرويشان للاستثمار والتنمية المحدودة

لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى

أخيه/علي

سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته وأن يلهم

أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان، ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم

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لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى

أخيه/علي

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه

وأن يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

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## Advertisement

### Preparing to issue Tourist Transportation Permissions

The Ministry of Tourism announce that it is necessary for cars owner working in tourists transportation in the Republic of Yemen to prepare complementary insurance for their cars at accredited insurance company in the Republic as soon as possible. The deadline is April 30,2006.

In this respect, it is not allowed for any car working after the deadline period to work without complementary insurance as cars maintaince centers recognized by the Ministry.



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# Motorcyclists deal with oppression

Last June, the government issued a decree banning motorcycles in the capital city of Sana'a, thereby depriving more than 6,000 families of their sole income. Nearly a year later, motorcyclists claim they are blackmailed by police officers and forced to bribe traffic police in order to have an opportunity to provide for their families' daily needs.

By: Hakim Almasmari  
hakim\_almasmari@hotmail.com

Nearly a year ago, outraged by the government's unjust decree against them, motorcyclists held dozens of demonstrations throughout Sana'a. The government cut their only source of income when it banned motorcyclists from driving in the capital. The cyclists demanded the government respect their rights and treat them justly. Following these incidents, motorcyclists

slaughtered a bull at the Yemeni Parliament gates, hoping that members would show respect for their rights and ban what was issued previously. After intensive dialogue, the government made it law that all motorcyclists must wear safety helmets while driving to insure the safety of all drivers. Authorities were forced to take a more lenient stance toward them.

Unfortunately, since the ban's decree, police forces have been seen confiscating motorcycles from drivers for the simplest mistake. Even with most cyclists wearing safety helmets, pressure and injustice still is



Motorcyclists claim that traffic police continuously flocking to them for personal benefits.

witnessed against them, as the government violates international laws. According to local motorcyclists, fines for simple violations reach up to four times the amount of their daily incomes.

Motorcyclists feel that the only obstacle standing in their way toward a decent life is their own government. "Where in the world does a government harm its people more than it helps them?" asked Ibb native Sultan Ali, who has been depending on his motorcycle to feed his family. "What do they want us to do – rob and steal from stores and houses in order to live?" he added.

Authorities claim motorcyclists spread chaos throughout the capital city with their unorganized driving and are at great health risk due to the lack of possessing necessary equipment for driving. "They cause us more trouble than taxi and bus drivers put together. When they have a violation, they don't give it any importance," said Abdullah Nasser, a traffic police officer in the Hasaba

zone of Sana'a. "Many of them don't even have a license plate on the rear of their motorcycles, as if the law does not exist," he added.

Such circumstances arise as poverty quickly spreads in Yemen, with nearly 40 percent of citizens living near the poverty line, while 17 percent already live below it, according to the United Nations annual report. Yemeni unemployment is higher than ever, with those occupying jobs working for an average equivalent of \$3 a day. In a survey taken among dozens of Sana'a motorcyclists, 85 percent put their average daily income between YR 600-1,200 (\$3-6).

Saleh Salem complained of harsh procedures by traffic police toward him and other motorcyclists. According to Salem, police make up violations simply to blackmail cyclists and put them in a position where there is no other option but to bribe them.

"I only make YR 700 (\$4) in a hard

workday and these government thieves want to take what little we possess," said the 46-year-old motorcyclist, who encounters several difficulties in trying to work to meet his family's needs. "If all we possessed was basic life essentials, they still would try to take from us," he added.

It is widely known that Yemeni police forces await any opportunity to hunt for 'prey' that might violate any law. This is considered a positive thing in most countries around the world, but in Yemen, laws are abused by government employees ranging from top officials to regular security guards. Fines and huge violations are given to the weak, not the strong, resulting in an undemocratic way of life.

From citizens' point of view, such regulations against motorcyclists – who are not looking to get rich but only earn enough to live – are unacceptable and outrageous. "These economic sanctions our government is practicing upon cyclists are practiced throughout the country and at different

levels," said Jarullah Abdul Jabbar, a local resident who cleans the shoes of passersby for a living. "Even those selling potatoes or the simplest kind of materials are being stopped from doing so. How do they expect us to live?" he asked.

The situation seems to be worsening nowadays, as traffic police also face poor economic situations and therefore, look for any violation by bus drivers, taxis and motorcyclist. "If we count on the government's income for a living, we all will live on the streets. Government officials working above us give us permission to take from violators and met our needs, as long as they get their share," said a traffic police officer wishing to remain anonymous. "We all suffer in this country, not only motorcyclists," he concluded as he walked back to his post on one of the street corners of Sana'a.



Numerous motorcyclists wait anywhere in street corners waiting for customers.



Traffic police claim that motorcyclists keep breaking the traffic law.

## From Sana'a to Birmingham

The traveling of six Yemeni youths to Birmingham to join other youths in the British project called "citizenship" caused controversy among some Yemenis.

By: Walid Al-Boks

Ghadir Al-Hakimi, Fattah Al-Khameri, Asil Al-Hawi, Malik Al-Amrawi, Mustafa Al-Sufi and Safa'a Al-Amir were six Yemeni youths chosen to participate in a project called "Citizenship" initiated by the British Council. All are secondary school students, ranging in age from 16-20.

They first received training in journalism principles to start their own magazine entitled, "One World, One Voice." After attending the journalism training course, the six Yemeni youths headed to Birmingham, England, to join the other participants. They spent a week there, meeting various individuals and organizations working for community action and youth representation.

Eighteen young people participated in the project, representing Yemen, Oman and Bahrain, as well as five British youths. The project aimed to broaden the international and national prospects of youth cultures and backgrounds. It also aimed to train youths to cope with difficulties prevalent in their societies and help them find effective

solutions to such difficulties within the framework of their rights and responsibilities. It encouraged the youths to further identify and find solutions to problems and then actually implement them hand in hand with their local societies. According to introductory notes, the project claimed it would help dismantle the stereotyped picture of rights among youths.

After their return from Birmingham, some newspapers and individuals tackled the issue from a different perspective, saying, "Projects such as this aim only to deform the Islamic identity and spread foreign secular-like cultures among youths."

The Yemeni youths held a press conference last Wednesday to explain their attitudes toward the project, their experiences in Birmingham and their magazine. Numerous journalists and Sana'a University students attended.

During the press conference, the youths were not in a position to answer questions quietly and confidently. Instead, they appeared confused, especially when it turned into controversy between them and some attendees.

Journalists questioned them about their experiences in Birmingham, such

as mixing openly with society. Seemingly not accepting such questions, the youths answered intensively and uneasily.

A journalist asked about British youths and how they are cared for and while answering, the youth participant criticized the Yemeni Child Parliament. Thereafter, Bilqis Al-Lahabi, secretary of the Yemeni Child Parliament, rose from her seat, turned to attendees and commented on what the youth had said. It turned out to be a controversial meeting more than a press conference, as the youths considered the questions provoking.

British Council director Elizabeth White delivered a speech on the occasion. "There is a tension among youths, as there is neither multiplicity nor views. Yemeni youths have done well through this communication and/or fruitful dialog. As they came back, they said Britain is very good. Also, as they return home, the British youths would say Yemen is very good," she noted.

"Before participating in the Birmingham course, I felt I was unable to participate. But now I feel it is important for me to participate. I regained my self-confidence and feel I can participate in society," Al-Hakimi said. However, he noted, "I saw none of my male friends intending to dispel the distance and get closer to me."

For his part, 12th grade student Al-Sufi said that although short, his participation was valuable. Clenching her hands and smiling, Al-Amir said, "Our

presence in Birmingham coincided with New Year's Eve and we participated in Christmas." Al-Sufi added, "But we really maintained our special traditions."

When asked if their ambition is to publish their "One World, One Voice" magazine continuously, Al-Hawi replied, "We hope to." At approximately 16 pages with photos dominating much of the page space, the magazine illustrates their Birmingham experience. "It looks like reportage illustrated with pictures," one attendee commented.

Attendees had their own views on the youths' participation in the project and the project itself. Some said the British Council was unsuccessful in selecting project participants, entrusting selection to the Civic Democratic Initiatives Support Foundation (CDIS) in Sana'a, which selected unqualified youths. Others criticized the project's secrecy.

"We came to know about the project only after the participants' return," journalist Sagr Al-Sundaiddi said. "There are youths who were qualified enough to represent Yemen. The CDIS should have announced the project via the media, universities and clubs." Another journalist said the project idea was stolen from a U.S. program called "Arabic Civil Life."

"The British Council in Sana'a must have chosen the best," another journalist added sarcastically, meaning the CDIS, which selected the youths arbitrarily and without criteria.

Other attendees considered the project a kernel for cultural disassociation, namely because they are not open to other cultures. For them, the youths' participation in Birmingham seemed no more than fictional, as they noticed a vast difference in their behavior before their going to and returning from Birmingham.

What was more exciting for them was that three males and three females spent seven days together away from their families, which is possibly what their journey to Birmingham will sum up as the most controversial point in Yemeni society. A girl sitting in the back row said, "It's true that girls went with boys to Britain!" with the other girl replying, "What to see and what to hear!"

A documentary film about the youths also lent itself to a bit of controversy, as the Yemeni youths were not as active as compared to other youths. It was

noticed that the Yemeni youths scarcely appeared on-camera, while others talked a lot and appeared as if they had an intimate relationship with the camera. A Yemeni girl appeared for only 10 seconds, as did her colleague Al-Amrawi, who appeared riding a wooden horse.

"Birmingham is a city that can influence a visitor at first sight," one viewer commented, "According to the documentary, the girls were in a position to get rid of their black dress and participate with mates in a course that seemed more entertaining than serious training."



### JOB VACANCY

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The participants answering some questions during a press conference.



# Preliminary reading on presidential elections

In a country like Yemen, it is very difficult to predict how events will be in light of experiences on the political scene. Until now, there have been no well-established democratic traditions to be respected by parties in the political game and the decision still is being made behind the scenes and away from democratic institutions seeming to have a formal role. The upcoming presidential elections are considered a turning point due to interpret the confusion of the ruling party, the opposition and public opinion.

Electing Yemen's president this September is a prominent event due to influence all activities and events thoroughly detected from a tight corner. This event will be interpreted as part of the contenders' electoral campaigns, even if there is no direct or closer relation between the event and these campaigns.

The two players in current political life are: the regime under President Saleh, who has ruled Yemen for 28 years, and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), including opposition parties like the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) and the Islamic Islah Party. Between the two sides is a hall staging logical events. Teachers protesting and demanding the government increase their salaries have been accused of party activities in favor of the opposition, which began its electoral cam-



By: Mustafa Rajeh

paigned in many fields other than education, according to ruling party and official media.

Both parties in the political process seemed to break relations, as the ruling party refused opposition demands to reform the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER).

Now we read the situation by counting the two parties' points following wins and losses and therefore, the situation projects what will happen in coming months.

Authority's stance is reflected in its satisfaction at deciding to form electoral management committees from civil service job applicants instead of involving political parties. The authority works hard to continue dialoguing with the opposition, as it considers dialogue an ideal means to exhaust the opposition without reaching consensus.

Such behavior never will avoid loss. Conducting elections in this manner increases doubt about their credibility and weakens the political process in general. The authority is advised to conduct polls in an atmosphere of harmony with opposition political forces.

According to YSP Secretary-General Yasin Sa'eed Numan, the JMP has two options set by the authority: crisis or bargain. The former will be manifested if the two parties' relations worsen and opposition attracts the public to back its demands. Under the latter (bargain), opposition will obtain private interests

while demonstrating a flexible attitude toward upcoming elections.

Opposition faces two choices: adhere to its stance concerning SCER reshuffling and boycott upcoming presidential polls or participate in the poll, regardless of reservations. Boycotting Yemeni polls, as the YSP did in 1997 parliamentary elections, has proven a negative option. Forces boycotting elections are satisfied to stay at home, neglecting the fact that boycotting polls requires harder and more demanding work than participation. This is important for political forces in order not to find themselves isolated.

The authority prefers opposition's boycotting the polls to its competition. Participating in elections presents two options, one of which is that opposition nominates a weak candidate, considered as part of its bargain with the authority. The other option is that opposition selects a candidate meeting all requirements for a strong racer, in this case gaining street credibility and confidence for being serious, regardless of who wins.

The presidential candidate is expected to meet strong requirements, as the measure on the part of voters will be a referendum of sorts on current situations. With voters realizing that President Saleh's remaining in power will never change the current situation, they will vote for other candidates. At this point, the opposition candidate will be assessed not only by its win, but also by its respectful loss when he or she obtains 30 percent of votes.

It is time we shed light on evidence predicting how upcoming presidential

polls will be conducted:

1. A majority of the public refuses current policies, as manifested in last July's protests, which proved that there are plenty of reasons behind public anger. However, the protests revealed that opposition absented itself from organizing protestors. These facts place the political system with its two poles – the ruling party and the opposition – under a single question mark.

2. Upcoming presidential elections will be conducted with President Saleh losing political allies he has relied on for a long time. Saleh has been set apart with the Islamist current represented by the Islah Party, which joined the JMP. He also broke relations with former South Yemen President Ali Nasser Mohamed, who enjoyed a large number of supporters. The social fissure left by the two-year Sa'ada events tells Hashimi peoples that they are targeted by the authority. The event coincided with a state of animosity and antagonism between the regime on the one hand and opposition, the civil community, journalists and teachers on the other.

3. Increased tension of the opposition abroad includes Ali Nasser Mohamed Abdullah Al-Asbahi, Ahmad Al-Hassani, Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakimi and Abu Baker Al-Attas. These figures have no positive roles unless there is strong opposition presence to bridge the gap left by the authority. All political possibilities remain open until September 23, awaiting the game's two sides to announce their racers.

Mustafa Rajeh is a Yemeni journalist.

# Dancers on "Saint Bush" composing

Three years have passed since the advent of "Saint Bush Junior" into the land of Babylon and his seizure of all its land, people and wealth. The question here is: Do those who propagated his principals and the message with which he was sent to the



By: Atif Awad

Iraqi people still have the same faith and content with his message?

Following the shedding of innocent Iraqi blood in a process similar to the devil's concert, Iraqi women, children and aged men became unsafe even in their bedrooms. It is not safe for a widow to go out looking for food for her children who recently lost their father. Even an aging man is not safe to go look for his wife's body among the dead. Iraqis have lost safety since "Saint Bush," his disciples and followers came to Iraq. They have lost security and all facilities preserving their humanity. Water and electric services have stopped even in Baghdad. Drinking water has mixed with sewage and citizens can find no other alternative to it for their children.

Are the dancers at Saint Bush's ceremony and his disciples who believe in the Western message with which he was sent to the savage Arabs and to the Iraqis in the first place still propagating his message and kneeling at his sacred altar? During these three years, Iraqis have experienced all sorts of abuses and crush of humanitarian values in Abu Ghraib, U.S. and British prisons.

So, we again ask Iraqis who support the U.S. and keep deceiving themselves, as well as all Iraqis and Arabs via their high-tech media and satellite channels: Do you still have the same faith in salvation at the hands of messenger Bush and his European, Zionist and U.S. disciples? Wasn't it

they who said Iraqi people's salvation from their oppressors would not be without the help of peaceful prophet Bush and that Iraqis will get rid of their dictatorial regime and make Iraq a great civilized haven? Wasn't it they who said that at Bush's hands, Iraq will be a model that is going to be envied by all Arab nations?

Do those Arab and non-Arab missionaries still insist on their deception and fear? Iraqi unity has disintegrated. All factions are calling for separation. Each Iraqi ethnicity is calling from the temple and altar of Bush, demanding a separate land. Every sectarian or separatist Iraqi is a result of Western teachings that Bush and his disciples have issued. How long will the West turn a blind eye to the invaders' crimes in Iraq? Civil war in Iraq is the worst scenario that can happen to Iraqis. Thanks to Saint Bush, who made this a feasible possibility, and thanks to Bush's supporters who will not stop their support until they see Iraq totally demolished.

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

# Sun Tzu and his sophisticated analysis of the conflicts

I don't know if those people who are involved in politics in "Somalia" have ever heard about Sun Tzu, but at this moment of "simulated negotiations" we are assisting to, it is perhaps worth to remind an important warning of Master Sun.

First of all, we introduce this important figure. Sun Tzu is the author of the "Art of War", treatise of Chinese military art. Although it is about 2500 years old, it is still read and used in various fields, from politics to economy. Its incredible success is not in the technique itself, but in the philosophy it goes upon. The "Art of the War" is a model of strategy applied by the minorities that choose guerrilla warfare to gain freedom. This success is due to its power of teaching to convert the advantages of more numerous adversaries in disadvantages and one's own limits in strength. It is a treatise that was admired by Napoleone, Mao Zedong, Lin Biao, Ho Chi-minh, Von Nguyen Giap, Laurence of Arabia, Nixon, in C.I.A. and K.G.B circles.

The tactics and the concepts



expressed in this work were incorporated in the modern handbook of the world army, included The Marine Corps. The Japanese companies continuously organize courses in which they teach the concepts of the Master Sun for the conquest of the markets.

A work with this profile could induce to imagine a succession of mortal strategy. On the contrary, with great surprise, Sun Tzu considers that the greatest victory is gained without fight and bloodshed, and gives the possibility to conquer an intact territory. The Cold War that led up to the crash the superpower Soviet Union, had developed its strategy starting from the doctrine of Sun Tzu. USSR was forced to arm itself, more and more, up to drive itself into a ruinous economy that had originated an intolerable social poverty. All this suggests that it would be better to take very seriously Sun Tzu's warning. And when he asserts "I've heard someone who speaks about wars won thanks to the rapidity even if led in a clumsy way. But I have never heard about an army who benefited from a long war. And those who don't realize this mistake are incompetent persons. If people are obliged to supply soldiers and provisions more than twice in succession, will become exhausted and fall in misery." In short, Sun Tzu does not compromise on this aspect. When the conflicts become long, lead people to defeat. Because, in addition to economic problems, the same "leaders" will be contested and many new suitors to leadership will be born.

This is a clear and severe warning for those who for 15 years have drowned the south of "Somalia" in blood and misery. Sun Tzu doesn't have advices about how to get out from disaster for those who become embroiled in pro-

longed conflicts. But we must. I've got to advance some working hypothesis.

And in the case of "Somalia", an alternative which is not to underestimate is to involve the Banaadiri, Digil, Mirifle and Jareer in considerable way at every levels of this phase of transition. For Banaadiri I mean all inhabitants from Banaadiri, the coast belt between Warshiikh and



By: Nureddin Haji Scikei

the boundary with Kenya. For Banaadiri I also mean the hundreds of thousands Muwallidiin who left Banaadir and are spread from the San'a mountains to the Mukalla rivers. I claim this for a simple consideration: southern people are more motivated to bring back peace in the south of the country. They learned the lesson, they know the value of the discipline and all of them are ready: both those who remained in the territory and those who escaped abroad. The ostracism of this base led up to ruin the military regime of Siad Barre, the damage to the disarmed southern people destroyed the credibility and the international image of Somali militias. Going on with the boycott against Banaadiri, Digil, Mirifle and Jareer, with various undertones, will carry out the failure of all the plans to bring back peace in the south of the country. When problems happen the Somali escape to their villages of origin, but southern people are obliged to remain at home and that is why their desire to resolve the problem is ten times bigger than the one of other people.

Next meeting that will take place in Baidoa between the federal government and the contestant factions, even if successful or not, must be the last warning for southern people: the return of the peace in the south of Somalia is not in the hands of Somali, but of Banaadiri, of

Digil, of Mirifle and of Jareer. Southern people have already determined politically aware cadres, have a numerical weight which is enough to let peace bring back and a population which is tired to be mocked by schemers who don't care about peace, because are involved in big affairs. The imbalance between Somali and southern people is founded on the fact that Somali received a strong military help by foreign countries: that is all.

I conclude with a last consideration. Various experts argue that the reasons of every conflict are to be found in the divergence of interests and in the pres-

ence of grudge. These two conditions alone are not enough to spark off a conflict. It is necessary a third element to trigger it, which is "to perceive the available resources like meagre. A conflict about resources considered abundant can hardly happen, except when there is a feeling of unfair distribution". The most interesting reflection of this analysis is the following one: to generate a conflict it is sufficient that scarcity becomes a figment of people's imagination.

It is on this point that those who sincerely work for the peace must concentrate. We have to go ahead with the

demonstration that enormous territories like "Somalia", able to feed more than 100 millions inhabitants without running any risk, cannot find difficulty to give a decent future to just 5 millions inhabitants. But, to give this kind of demonstration, it is necessary to involve the most motivated and creative persons who are available to collaborate.

Nureddin Haji Scikei is author of the book *Banaadiri: The Renewal of a Millenary Identity. The Banaadiri profile and book review were published in Yemen Times issue 728 11th April, 2004.*

## Letter to the Editor

### Khilafah timing

Whenever the issue of reviving the Khilafah is discussed and emphasis is placed on the need to implement Islamic social, economic and ruling systems, education and foreign policies, there are always objections from some circles saying that today's 'ground realities' are very different and hence, it's not "practical" to revive the Khilafah and implement all Islamic laws at present.

One must ask such people, "Were Islamic laws applied in the past due to their practicality or because it was an obligation?"

Obviously, it was the latter, as applying Islamic laws after the Islamic state was formed was not due to its practicality but because it was an obligation.

It would be quite naive for us to sit and wait for the "right time" to implement Islam as a complete system, while expecting present ground realities to change all by

themselves.

Sharique Naeem  
shariq\_n@hotmail.com

### Replacing the corrupt with another corrupt!

I recently read an article about the deputy council's committee findings about corruption at Aden University. Among such findings were accepting a low percentage of students and mishandling university revenues from what is known as parallel education via special payment (in dollar amounts) by some students to enter special faculties and other related matters. As indicated, this happened in 2004 during the era of Dr. Rasse.

As such behavior clearly is documented, I was astonished to see that Rasse became Health Minister in the new government, about which they clearly lie to us, saying it will be a body of correction and amendments. What is happening must be taken account of by international

organizations to defend taxpayers' funds, whether lent or given to a corrupt regime.

Also, it must drive the envy of good reporters to expose such misconduct in good journalism instead of preaching to us about democratic values and untimed articles. Can my comments be heard? I really hope so.

Samir Bajersh  
samibaj@yahoo.com

### Thanks for Damt story

I want to thank you for publishing the article about Damt. I was there in December 2005 and it's amazing. Damt is a great city and it has so much to offer. Unfortunately, it doesn't have government support.

The government cannot rely on its citizens to take all the risks, as it is a joint effort. This area should be known throughout the world and it should be one of the areas on which the government focuses.

Kalid Shajraha  
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**YEMEN TIMES**  
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## Education For All

# Literacy the foundation of learning (Part-I)

## EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 (2/9)

When 164 governments adopted the six Education for All (EFA) goals in 2000, they espoused a holistic vision of education spanning learning from the first years of life through adulthood. In practice, achieving good-quality universal primary education (UPE) and gender parity, two of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, has dominated attention. As the United Nations Literacy Decade unfolds, the *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006* aims to shine a stronger policy spotlight on the more neglected goal of literacy – a foundation not only for achieving EFA but, more broadly, for reaching the overarching goal of reducing human poverty.

Literacy is a foundation of learning. While schooling is the principal route for acquiring reading, writing and numeracy skills, an exclusive focus on formal education for children ignores stark realities: first, too many pupils leave school without acquiring minimum literacy skills; second, one-fifth of the world's adult population – 771 million adults – live without the basic learning tools to make informed decisions and participate fully in the development of their societies. Women form the vast majority, heightening their vulnerability and the chance that their daughters will not benefit from education. Tackling the global literacy challenge is a moral and development imperative. It is rendered all the more urgent by globalization, which is further increasing demand for literacy in multiple languages.

In line with the Report's broad monitoring mandate, Part I of this summary assesses overall progress, including towards quality universal primary education and gender parity, highlighting national strategies for speeding up progress in the decade to 2015.

- Progress was steady but insufficient from 1998 to 2002/2003
- Very rapid progress was made in countries with the lowest indicators
- Access to primary school remains an obstacle
- Fees at primary level are still a major barrier to progress in nearly 90 countries
- Low learning achievement is widespread
- The number of secondary-school students has risen four times faster than the number of primary-school students since 1998

### The EFA Development Index: 4 goals, 123 countries

The Education for All Development Index (EDI), introduced in 2003, provides a summary measure of a country's situation vis-à-vis EFA. It covers four goals:

### UPE, adult literacy, gender and quality of education.

The data are insufficiently standardized to allow inclusion of early childhood care and education (goal 1) and life skills (goal 3). Each goal in the EDI has a proxy indicator: total net enrolment ratio for UPE, the literacy rate among persons age 15 and over for adult literacy, the gender-specific EFA index for gender and the percentage of pupils who reach Grade 5 (survival rate) for education quality. The EDI falls between 0 and 1, with 1 representing EFA achievement. The index for 2002 has been computed for the 123 countries for which data are available on all four components.

### Results show that:

Forty-six countries (more than one-third of those for which data are available) have an EDI above 0.95 and can thus be considered as having achieved EFA or being close to doing so. These countries are mostly located in North America and Europe, where education has been compulsory for decades.

Forty-nine countries, in all regions, have EDI values between 0.80 and 0.94. Quality remains an issue, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the Arab States, low adult literacy rates pull the EDI down.

Twenty-eight countries have EDI values below 0.80. More than half are



In Guizhou province, China, a primary school student listens attentively.

in sub-Saharan Africa. In these countries, all four components of the EDI are at low levels. They are unlikely to achieve EFA by 2015 without dramatically stepped-up efforts, including in international support, though there is very rapid and encouraging change among many of the countries with the lowest indicators.

Changes in the EDI between 1998 and 2002 were moderate. On average, countries increased their index rating by 1.2%, and the ranking of countries was stable.

Significant progress (by more than 10%) was made in Cambodia, Ethiopia and Mozambique. Low-EDI countries registering sharp decreases (by 5% to 11%) include Chad, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Papua New Guinea, where the survival rate to Grade 5 deteriorated. In more than three-quarters of the fifty-eight countries for which all four EDI proxies were available for both 1998 and 2002, at least one indicator moved in the opposite direction to the others.

### Early childhood care and education: a low public policy priority

Early childhood care and education (ECCE), the special theme of the 2007 Report, consists of a range of programmes that are all aimed at the physical, cognitive, emotional and social development of children before they enter primary school. Monitoring the *childhood care* component of ECCE is particularly difficult, owing to the scarcity of data. Current figures focus on participation levels in pre-primary education programmes. Many countries still consider ECCE a domain for private initiative rather than public policy.

Progress was limited between 1998 and 2002, with a few exceptions, including India, where the gross enrolment ratio (GER) increased from 19.5% to 34%. Pre-primary education is well developed across North America and Europe, as well as in several countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and East Asia and the Pacific. In sharp contrast are sub-Saharan Africa (median GER below 10%), the Arab States (close to 18%), Central Asia (29%), and South and West Asia (32%). Gender disparities in pre-primary are less pronounced than at other levels of education and tend to favour girls, except in the Arab States.

### Quality universal primary education: bolder action required on access, fees and teachers

Progress towards UPE has been slow overall since Dakar: the world's net enrolment ratio increased by only one percentage point, from 83.6% in 1998 to 84.6% in 2002. Across sub-Saharan Africa, South and West Asia, and the Arab States, however, enrolment ratios are rising rapidly and the gender gap is slowly closing. Yet, many countries still combine low enrolment ratios with insufficient capacity to accommodate all children, calling for continued policy efforts to expand systems and to improve their quality.

### Access to primary school remains an issue.

Intake rates measure access to the first grade of primary education. Gross intake rates (GIRs) above 100% are

the rule rather than the exception, meaning that many children younger or older than the official entrance age are enrolled in primary school. The GIR can also reflect obstacles to timely enrolment, such as high costs or lack of schools; 40% of sub-Saharan African countries have GIRs below 95%, implying that mere access to primary schools remains an issue, especially for poor rural children and particularly girls. A positive sign is that some of the countries with the lowest intake rates recorded increases of 30% or more between 1998 and 2002 (Guinea, the Niger, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen).

Across sub-Saharan Africa, South and West Asia, and the Arab States, enrolment ratios are rising rapidly and the gender gap is slowly closing.

### Participation in primary school inches up

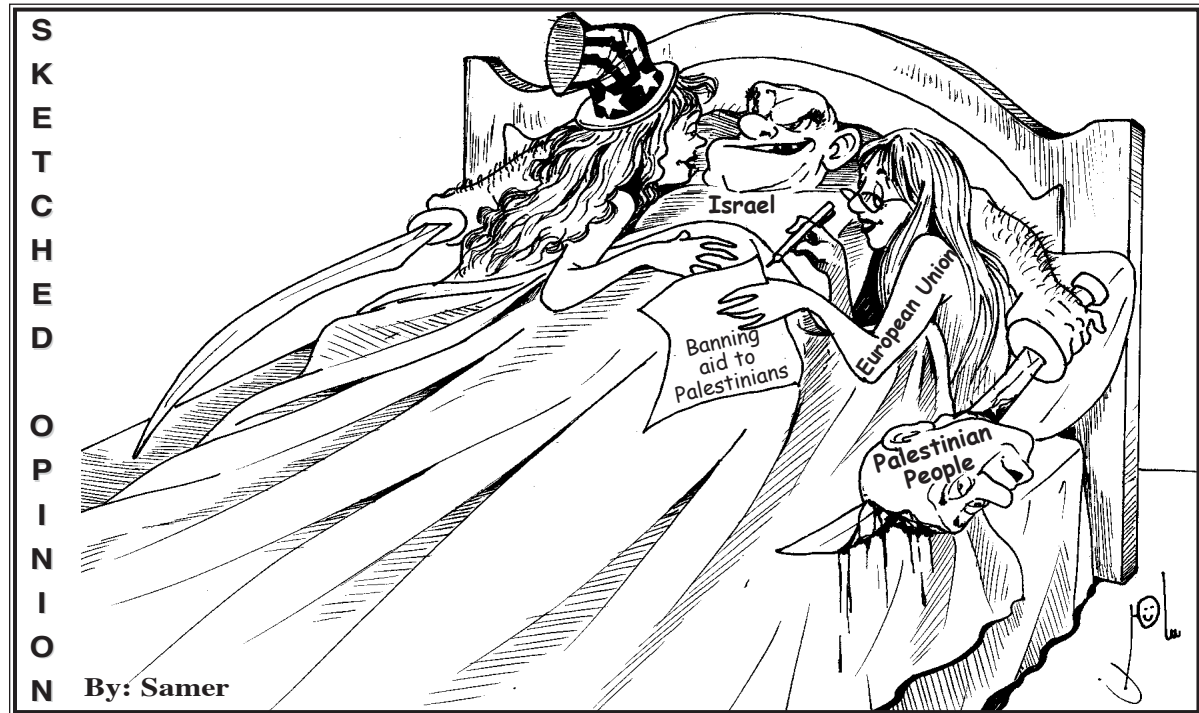
A total of 671 million children were enrolled in primary school in 2002, up from 655 million in 1998. Enrolment increases were particularly significant in sub-Saharan Africa, and South and West Asia: each enrolled nearly 20 million additional children. But high fertility is exacerbating the challenge of getting all children into school: in sub-Saharan Africa, the school-age population is likely to increase by 34 million (32%) over the next decade. The HIV/AIDS epidemic, other diseases and political conflict are expected to leave one-tenth of these children orphaned by 2010, necessitating special interventions. South and West Asia, and the Arab States are likely to witness a 20% increase in their school populations over the period to 2015. In contrast, major decreases are expected in East Asia and the Pacific (reflecting China's falling birth rate), in Central and Eastern Europe (by 17%), and Central Asia (by 23%).

In assessing progress, it is instructive to look at both gross and net enrolment ratios – GER and NER. The first is a measure of overall enrolment capacity of school systems in purely quantitative terms.

The second captures the extent to which children who are in the official age group for a specific level of schooling (e.g. primary) are enrolled. The NER does not take into account enrolled children who are outside a given official age group because of early or delayed enrolment or grade repetition. There is a sharp discrepancy between the GER and the NER in many countries, indicating that enrolled children do not progress at a regular pace through the grades and implying that resources could be used more efficiently.

This discrepancy is pronounced in many sub-Saharan African countries as well as India and Nepal. Several countries are characterized by GERs well below 100% and NERs of 50% or under (e.g. Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali and the Niger).

About two-thirds of the countries with data available registered rises in NERs between 1998 and 2002. Most countries with NERs below 80% in 1998 made substantial (>20%)



progress (seven sub-Saharan African countries plus Morocco and Yemen). In several cases (including Guinea, Lesotho and the United Republic of Tanzania), governments abolished school fees. In others, including the Niger and Benin, they adopted targeted measures to increase girls' participation in rural areas.

### The charging of fees remains a major barrier to progress towards UPE

Despite increased recognition of the gains that result from eliminating fees at the primary level, 89 of the 103 countries with information available on this topic still charge fees, some legal and some illegal. Even when direct fees are eliminated, other household costs can remain high, including for registration, uniforms, transport and learning materials. Making school more affordable, by removing these costs and by providing free or cheap transport and school meals, acts as a powerful incentive for parents to send their children – especially their daughters – to school.

### Out-of-primary-school children concentrated in two regions

Despite rising enrolments, about 100 million children of primary school age were still not enrolled in primary schools in 2002, 1 of whom 55% were girls, down slightly from 58% in 1998. Sub-Saharan Africa, and South and West Asia accounted for 70% of the global total. Nineteen countries are each home to more than 1 million out-of-primary-school children. Ten are in sub-Saharan Africa, where countries with relatively small populations, such as Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger, face huge challenges.

### Not all children reach the last grade of primary school

Several indicators provide information on the quality of schooling and student achievement.<sup>2</sup> Although promotion policies vary, grade repetition is one such indicator: on average, less than 3% of students repeated a primary school grade in 2002.

However, the figure is above 15% in more than half the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, as well as in Brazil, Guatemala, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mauritania, Morocco and Nepal. Initiatives to reduce repetition are under way in several countries (e.g. Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger). Ensuring that children remain in school until the last grade of primary schooling is another major challenge. In about one-third of countries with data, less than two-thirds of the pupils enrolled in primary school reach the last grade. The problem is particularly acute in sub-Saharan Africa, but also severe in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal and a few countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Furthermore, in most countries with data, not all children who reach the last grade of primary school complete it. Low levels of primary completion may in some countries reflect strong selection policies being applied because of the limited number of places available in lower secondary education. Improving the quality of education and expanding access to secondary education are thus conditions for UPE to be fully achieved.

### The need for more and better trained teachers

Addressing teacher shortage and training issues is a top priority for countries that still need to significantly increase the coverage of their primary school systems. Although the number of pupils per teacher declined between 1998 and 2002 in more than two-thirds of the 143 countries with data, there

are exceptions. In sub-Saharan Africa, pupil/teacher ratios (PTRs) typically exceed 40:1 and are as high as 70:1 in some countries (e.g. Chad, the Congo and Mozambique). PTRs have also increased in several countries that have eliminated or reduced school fees (e.g. the United Republic of Tanzania). Projections were made of the number of teachers needed to increase GERs to 100% by 2015 with a target PTR of 40:1 to assure quality. In some West African countries (e.g. Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger), teacher numbers would have to grow dramatically, by 20% per year. The increases in absolute numbers would have to be substantial: 20,000 extra teachers in Cameroon and 167,000 in Bangladesh. Such figures have obvious consequences for salary budgets and for training.

New data confirm that large proportions of primary-school teachers lack adequate qualifications: in only one-quarter of the approximately 100 developing countries with data available in 2002 have all or almost all primary teachers received some pedagogical training. In some cases (e.g. the Niger), the proportion of qualified teachers is dropping as a result of the hiring of volunteer teachers to cope with increased demand for primary education. Several countries are lowering the number of school years required to become a teacher and introducing accelerated preservice training programmes: in Mozambique, such measures raised the proportion of trained teachers from 33% to 60%. Rwanda increased the proportion of trained teachers from 49% to 80% without lowering entrance standards. In regions characterized by low enrolment (South and West Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa), men continue to outnumber women teachers at primary and secondary levels. In these regions, efforts to draw women to the profession can strongly influence girls' learning achievement.<sup>3</sup>

### Secondary and tertiary education: rapid enrolment increases

The global number of secondary school students rose from 430 million in 1998 to almost 500 million in 2002 – more than four times the increase in the number of primary-school students. The global secondary GER jumped from 60% to 65%. OECD countries have almost reached universal secondary education. High secondary GERs are also found in Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Levels of participation are lower in the Arab States (where the regional average is 65%), East Asia and the Pacific (71%), South and West Asia (50%), and sub-Saharan Africa (28%). Nevertheless, the enrolment ratios for secondary school in sub-Saharan Africa grew by more than

15% in more than half the countries, and they doubled in Uganda.

The number of students in tertiary education continued to increase rapidly, from an estimated 90 million in 1998 to 121 million in 2002. Growth rates in developing countries are, on average, more than twice those observed in developed countries.

### Learning achievement remains an overriding concern

Newly published data on learning outcomes suggest that average achievement levels have decreased in recent years in sub-Saharan African countries. The 2003 Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) found that most students surveyed in Botswana, Chile, Ghana, Morocco, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and South Africa did not reach the lowest benchmark in mathematics.

The 2003 results of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) reveals that more than 40% of 15-year-old students in middle-income countries (e.g. Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico and Tunisia) scored at or below level 1 of the mathematics, science and reading scales. In eight of the twenty-six high-income countries and territories participating in the study, 20% or more of the 15 year-old students performed at level 1 or below on the reading scale. In mathematics, the category of low achievers accounted for one-quarter to more than one-third in Greece, Italy, Portugal and the United States. Research also shows that girls perform better than boys in countries where they have equal access to the school system, whatever the country's income level.

### School health and nutrition interventions improve learning

The 2005 Report analysed key factors with a positive impact on student achievement, from qualified teachers, relevant curriculum and appropriate learning materials to enough learning time and pedagogical strategies that encourage interaction. A safe and welcoming learning environment is equally critical.

The evidence is also very strong that good health and nutrition are prerequisites for effective learning. Iron deficiency, caused by malaria and hookworms, occurs among 50% of all children in developing countries, and helminth infections among 25% to 35% of all children. Low-cost interventions can make a major dent in these educational and human losses, improving IQ by four to six points and school attendance by 10%, as well as overall school achievement. The mass delivery of services like deworming and supplements such as vitamin A, iodine and iron can reduce dropout rates, result in an additional 2.5 student-years of primary schooling and thus have a major impact on learning.



At the end of the school day, children leave their classrooms set up in old school buses in Qunu, South Africa.



# Gulf States adopt donors conference to qualify Yemen's economy

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali

The technical committee discussing executive plans and programs to qualify Yemen's economy for incorporation into Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states economies approved setting up a technical team to prepare an international donors conference in Yemen in coming months. The decision was made at the conclusion of technical committee meetings April 9 in Riyadh. The team is composed of the Yemeni side, the GCC general secretariat and some Gulf development funds.

The committee also approved drawing up continued mechanisms to secure holding the conference and work for its success. It also approved holding its next meeting the first week of June and another in September.

Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakil, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation and chairman of the meetings' Yemeni side, said committee recommendations focused on following up measures to implement decisions made by GCC foreign ministers meeting with Yemeni Foreign Minister Dr. Abubakr Al-Qirbi last March in Riyadh, especially regarding preparing the international donors conference by forming a technical

team to convene in May.

He clarified that the committee referred the primary concept presented by Yemen to the team to draw up a mechanism guaranteeing implementing projects to be financed, considering Yemen's relations with GCC states is strong and prosperous.

The committee discussed three papers Yemen presented at its meetings concerning Yemeni economic developments, directions for growth and economic challenges it faces, and financing basic sector needs in view of required investments within Yemen's vision it submitted at last December's GCC summit in Abu Dhabi, as well as the current foreign

assistance situation and its future direction.

Yemeni Minister of Trade and Industry Dr. Khalid Rajih Sheikh earlier revealed preparations to hold a joint investment conference for Yemeni and Saudi businessmen in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, clarifying that the conference would discuss and submit many visions and review investment opportunities in Yemen, listen to businessmen and investors' ideas and opinions, in addition to discussing hindrances and solutions to them.

The minister called on Saudi and Yemeni businessmen and investors to become acquainted with available investment opportunities in Yemen,

saying that such investment opportunities are subjected to detailed studies and presented to all.

He also referred to large facilities Yemeni investment law is offering and tax and customs exemptions for raw materials and industrial components. The minister announced that three industrial zones soon will be formed and launched early next month. Industrial zones are to be built in Aden, Hodeidah and Mukalla, in addition to building an industrial zone in Hardh next year. Yemen will coordinate this zone with Saudi Arabia, the objective of which is to facilitate work of investors and work on both sides to provide services at one site.

## Business In Brief

Yemeni geological authority sources reported that a strategic project to exploit marble and granite will be implemented as a joint transaction with the German private sector. Sources said several German businessmen have shown their willingness to build investment projects to excavate and manufacture marble and granite found abundantly in Yemen.

Sources affirmed that such projects need completed infrastructure and that the authority shortly will begin training and qualifying those working with the rocks.

A delegation of businessmen and members of Parliament left for the Lebanese capital last Thursday to participate in an April 6-9 economic conference on reform.

Chairman of the businessmen's council Abdulsallam Al-Athwari said the Yemeni delegation would present a working paper to the conference on components of wise governance within the framework of Yemen's experiment, adding that there would be a proposal to establish a world forum for wise governance to enhance its role and cause the issue to be discussed within a worldwide framework.

Sayoun Museum received two antiquities dating back to 2500 B.C. The two pieces were discovered by chance during construction work implemented by Canadian oil company Nexon in its concession block in Basheer Al-Khair oilfield block 51.

Saudi Arabia has accepted allocating 30 seats for university studies to female Yemeni students living in the kingdom as part of an executive program of cooperation signed by the two countries in the field of education.

In a meeting with France's ambassador to Yemen, Deputy Premier and Minister of Interior Dr. Rashad Mohammed Al-Aleemi discussed a French-financed project to develop work between legal and judicial institutions.

The project, involving ministries of interior, labor, local administration and the central apparatus for auditing and accountability, will begin operations later this month. It aims to develop a mechanism of joint work and performance integration between the four institutions, including both internal and external training and qualification.

Kuwait and Yemen signed an agreement in Sana'a on Sunday, April 9, to bolster bilateral cooperation in monitoring, training personnel and exchanging expertise, especially in the areas of pre-auditing and revision.

The agreement stipulates enhancing cooperation between Yemen's central apparatus for auditing and accountability and Kuwait's accounting organization in the fields of revising and evaluating performance. The agreement also provides for exchanging documents and plans, as well as coordinating the two countries' stances in auditing activities at Arab, Asian and international levels.

Yemen and China signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) wherein China will offer Yemen \$1 billion to finance various development and production projects.

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi signed for the Yemeni side, while the deputy director of the exports bank signed for the Chinese side. The MOU was signed on the sidelines of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's visit to Beijing, which concluded Sunday, April 9.

### Exchange rate of some currencies

Date: Tuesday, 11/4/2006

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	196.1300	196.3300
Euro	237.7300	237.9700
Sterling Pound	342.1500	342.5000
Saudi Rial	52.2900	52.3500
Kuwaiti Dinar	671.4900	672.1800
UAE Dirham	53.4000	53.4500
Egyptian Pound	34.1300	34.1600
Japanese Yen	1.657623	1.659313

Source: www.centralbank.gov.ye

# Joint Yemeni-Omani oil export company to be formed

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Yemeni Oil Company and Omani Oil Company for Marketing recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to study establishing a project for a joint company to develop oil product marketing, operating according to Yemeni laws.

The MOU included a feasibility study on cooperating and investing to build and manage oil product storage installations for lease, use and investment in fields of transferring, importing, marketing and industrializing oil products. It also provided for investment in building and operating fuel distribution stations, as well as supplying fuel to airplanes and ships at Yemeni airports and seaports.

The two firms agreed to form a joint team to discuss and follow up implementing MOU articles of agreement, as well as fix a renewable time period for the team supervising their accomplishment during the next three months at a maximum and work to facilitate the company's work.

In related news, Yemeni oil sources revealed the existence of positive indicators on commercial oil quantities in Shabwa governorate in



The Yemeni-Omani memorandum of understanding includes building petrol stations.

southeastern Yemen. Chinese oil company CINOPEC said results of key seismographic survey operations it conducted in Ammaqin area's block 1 proved such indicators.

The new announcement coincides a

month after another major oil discovery in Shabwa in Habban area rocks, considered the most important discovery after discovering oil in Marib and Maseela in the early 1980s. Preliminary results indicate a possible

2,552-barrel per day (bpd) oil production in Habban, in addition to a million cubic feet of natural gas.

Commenting on the new Shabwa discoveries, engineer Nabil Al-Qawsi, president of the oil exploration and

production establishment, described the indicators as key to later work and beginning a new and long-awaited exploration stage. He noted that granite rock is available in certain areas of Yemen's sedimentary basins, with studies derived from available geological information showing granite's spread along sedimentary basins.

Al-Qawsi also pointed out that a special study indicates that the discovery will help evaluate former notions about petroleum migration in Shabwa basin, which supposedly contains large oil and gas quantities. He stressed that the new oil discovery widely opens the door for Shabwa to become a great oil area, contradicting international parties' statements that Yemen's oil is on its way to depletion.

Yemen is considered attractive to international firms, especially oil companies. Yemen is developing promotion policies to market large numbers of exploration blocks in other areas like Aden Gulf, in addition to the main areas of Hadramout and Shabwa due to the presence of oil in them.

Yemen's oil production currently is between 300-350,000 bpd. There are approximately 83 oil blocks in Yemen, nine of which are productive and 30 are exploratory, with the remainder open to investment.

## The economic importance of attracting investment (Part 2 of 2)

By: Dr. Ahmed Ismael Al-Bawab

Our banks and financial establishments also must adopt and finance strategic projects serving the national economy effectively, as well as lead and manage issuance and underwriting processes in vital and important projects possessing studied feasibility. Re-attracting migrant capital requires more effort to create an investment climate convenient for such investment work.

Economic stability should be provided represented by stable economic decisions, laws and internal policies. Such laws and legislation especially must include investment guarantee articles and stipulate a clear-cut compensation system in the event of reconsidering any concession for projects under license.

Other requirements include the existence of realistic exchange rates, positive interest rates, granting encouraging tax exemptions, establishing and developing interconnected capital markets in prelude to a unified stock market.

Our banks and financial establishments also must establish

permanent and distinguished relations with Arab banks and financial establishments and their organizations and unions, coordinating with them to create a relationship near to integration. Yemeni commercial banks must expand their work through programs of Arab trade financing.

Additionally, Yemeni banks and investment establishments should play a role in making stocks and bonds and work to involve investors from many Arab countries in Yemeni production projects or common projects by organizing regional stocks and bonds, as well as future enlisting of Yemeni companies' shares in more than one Arab financial market. This could be a means of activating capital movement between Yemen and the Arab world.

Attention should be paid to Yemeni banks and financial establishments' presence abroad and cooperation with Arab banks and financial establishments, as well as the federation of Arab banks. This is considered a factor in helping to gather Yemeni-Arab financial investments.

Re-attracting local, Arab and foreign investment capital has witnessed noticeable progress in recent years under the financial,

administrative and economic reforms program, which especially has focused on building industrial and tourist areas and various investment projects. Focus also was on improving the investment climate, providing financial and investment incentives and customs and tax exemptions. Added to these are encouraging local, Arab and foreign investment inside the country.

Considering the Sept. 11, 2001 events and events following that date, we can see investment dangers in international markets compared to investments in Yemeni markets, where economic and financial dangers very much receded by virtue of the state's wise and sound policies and the great role of Yemen's financial and economic sector. This sector works to mobilize local and Arab savings and attract local and Arab capitals through developed services like investment banking, special banking services and providing funding for existing Yemeni projects for the interest of all parties.

Dr. Al-Bawab is a Yemeni writer specialized in banking and finance affairs. He is the general manager of public relations at the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Post Title: Public Expenditure Management/Planning Advisor (PEMP)

#### Responsibilities

- Contribute in the development and improvement of all DLDSP manuals on public expenditure management and in particular with planning and budgeting procedures.
- Develop an annual work plan and ensure it responds to the field operations of the whole Mobile Team are also meets the requirements of the DLDSP.
- Work closely with the Participatory Planning Advisor to strengthen participatory data collection, verification and updating systems to ensure the accurate conveyance of the nature of conditions at the local level and the articulation of need by all segments of civil society.
- Contribute to the facilitation of training of trainers as well as direct training in districts in all DLDSP produced manuals for district local authorities.
- Produce quarterly reports that describe the experience in the field and report against the annual work plan. These reports should point to specific substantive issues with the goal of informing policy and the strategy for the implementation of decentralization reforms.
- Gradually engage the Information, Administrative Divisions (GIS) and Planning and Budgeting Departments at Ministry of Local Administration (MOLA) with the goal of activating their role in support of Governorates and Districts. Also, engage (or at least inform) the Institutional Development and Training Department during the various capacity building activities at the Governorate and District levels and keep this department fully aware of local level training programs.

#### Qualification

- A university degree in public administration, public and international relations or any other related discipline.
- Minimum five years experience in the field of the implementation of local development, local government reforms as well as capacity development and specific experience in local level planning processes would be of significant value.
- He/she will have strong communication and training skills as well as analytical and writing abilities.
- Fluency in English and Arabic with proven communication and training skills.

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](mailto:registry.ye@undp.org))  
The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 22 April 2006





# 36 contenders compete for 21-member Olympic board

By: Yemen Times Staff

Yemen held its first Olympic elections Wednesday to select a new National Olympic Committee (NOC) board following NOC General Assembly reshuffling according to the new Olympic bylaw approved by sports officials in January in compliance with the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Thirty-six contenders meeting candidacy requirements competed for the 21 NOC board seats, according to the committee's bylaw. The newly elected board is due to elect a chairman, two deputies, an executive secretary-gen-



eral and a financial officer.

The Minister of Youth and Sports used to appoint the NOC chairman and

secretary-general, but last October's NOC General Assembly meeting approved replacing the appointment system with the election process. By the beginning of 2005, the NOC General Assembly had formed a special committee to study the NOC system and modify it to comply with the IOC.

Sports analysts believe Wednesday's Olympic elections constitute a vital step toward completing the structure of Yemen's Olympic activities and improving them by applying NOC programs. According to sports officials, these programs are to interpret IOC goals and content.

## Al-Saqr maintains top place in tourney

Taiz's Al-Saqr football team maintained top place in the Premier League's 12th round competitions after downing Tadamun Shabwa 5-0.

In Abyan, Ahli Al-Hodeidah tied Hassan 1-1 in the away match, while titleholder Al-Telal recovered to score a deserved 3-2 victory over Tawen Ba'adan and Ahli Sana'a drubbed Shabab Al-Jeel 3-1 increasing its points to 18. Shabab Al-Jeel remained in eighth place.

Heavy rains in the "Green City" of Ibb forced the hosts to postpone their meeting with Al-Rashid until Saturday. Sha'ab Ibb won 1-0 over their guests increasing their points up 16 occupying the sixth place while Al-Rashid remained in its tenth place with 13 points.

Sha'ab Ibb striker Majed Mohamed Ablan scored for his side in minute 62 of the game, while forward Ridhwan Abduljabbar received a prize from Al-Amin Typical Hospital for being man of the match.

Competitions kicked off Thursday with Aden's Al-Shulah drawing 2-2 with Al-Yarmouk. The former remained in last place in the tournament, while the latter occupied sixth place with 15 points.

22 May tied 2-2 with Sha'ab Hadramout in an away match in Hadramout.

Teams are ranked according to a system by the Yemeni Football Federation (YFF) temporary committee, as the new YFF cancelled most previous matches following threats by Al-Saqr and Al-Telal to resort to FIFA in tournament-related disputes.



## Al-Telal basketball juniors in the lead

Al-Telal junior basketball team beat Wahdat Aden 68-61 in the 13th round opener to maintain top place in the tourney with 26 points, while Wahdat Aden dropped to seventh place with 17 points. Sha'ab Ibb defeated Al-Shurtah 65-63 in Sana'a to occupy eighth place with 17 points, while Al-Shurtah remained last with 14 points.

Wahdat Sana'a defeated Al-Mukalla basketball juniors in Al-Mukalla city 72-67, jumping to fifth place. Shamsan defeated Sha'ab Hadramout 73-63 and Ahli Sana'a

occupied second place after beating Ahli Al-Ghail 83-70, raising its points to 24.

Team	Points
Al-Telal	26
Ahli Sana'a	24
Shamsan	24
Sha'ab Hadramout	19
Al-Mukalla	19
Ahli Al-Ghail	18
Wahdat Aden	17
Sha'ab Ibb	17
Wahdat Sana'a	17
Al-Shurtah	14

## World Cup winners get golden ball

The World Cup final will be played using a gold-coloured ball - and the winners will use the same design of ball in all their games for four years.

The Times newspaper has revealed that the winners of the tournament will keep the ball until the next World Cup.

Apart from the final - and for the first time since 1994 - a black and white ball will be used in games.

Adidas designed the Teamgeist ball in black and white because they are the traditional colours of hosts Germany.

A martial arts weapon featured on the design of the ball in the 2002 finals to symbolise the energy of hosts Japan and South Korea.

The 1966 tournament - when England triumphed on home soil - was the last World Cup to feature a football without logos.

Story from BBC SPORT:

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# Sport news

## Yemeni Football Association to reinstitute first and second round

SANA'A, April 12 - An expanded meeting of the General Football Association approved the association's decision to reinstitute the league's first and second rounds.

Fourteen representatives from the premier and second class clubs attended the meeting. The association's former interim committee had issued punitive punishments against nine teams that failed to appear in the league's opening competitions.

## Basketball competitions postponed

The General Basketball Association has decided to postpone the 14th week's youth premier basketball competitions, which were scheduled to commence April 13. Postponement will be until the end of the eighth West Asian tournament, which will be held in Jordan in mid-May.

The competitions' committee discussed several problems concerning the game. Final arrangements were approved for beginning adult and youth championships April 23. The committee decided to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the league's halt to start those championships.

## Republic youth Taekwondo championship to be held in Mukalla

The General Taekwondo Association has decided to hold the fifth youth Taekwondo championship April 26 in Mukalla in Hadramout province for the first time, thereby concluding competitions held in each governorate and groupings under General Association sponsorship.

Eleven clubs have qualified for the championship finals. The weight classes in which participants will compete were approved according to the International Taekwondo Association's 10 weights system. Competitors should have earned a blue belt and be under age 19.



## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA Yemen) invites applicants to apply for the position of a **PROJECT ACCOUNTANT** to work under the "Community Development for the Refugees in Basateen and Kharaz Camp Project", funded by UNHCR, based in Aden.

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- Prepare bank transfers, withdrawals and monthly reconciliations.
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- Ensure complete, accurate and timely, weekly and monthly financial reports to the head office.
- Prepare monthly cash projection for the sub-office.
- Record accurately all program activities in the accounting system.
- Maintain close communication and information sharing with project staff.
- Ensure that all procurement follows all aspects of ADRA Yemen's procurement policy, including requirements for competitive bids.
- Maintain an up-to-date asset register.
- Other duties as assigned by the Finance Director.

### Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in accounting.
- A minimum of three years work experience in accounting.
- Strong computer skills; Microsoft Office Suite (MS-Word, Excel).
- Knowledge of accounting software preferred.
- Excellent organizational skills.
- Ability to work well with a team in an intense environment.
- Ability to prioritize among multiple tasks and meet deadlines.
- Sense of humor and good interpersonal skills.
- Experience in not for profit accounting will be an added advantage.
- Good command of English & Arabic.

Please submit your application not later than April 27, 2006 to:  
Human Resource Director, ADRA Yemen, P.O. Box 19404, Sana'a  
Fax: 01-260528, Email: adra@y.net.ye

## CSSW Participates in the 27th Meeting of the NGDO Coordination Group for Onchocerciasis Control

The Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) participated in the 27th Meeting of the NGDO Coordination Group for Onchocerciasis (Sowda) Control held last March in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso. Dr. Akram Al-Saqqaf, CSSW's representative in the meeting, stated that CSSW's annual report for 2005 on Sowda disease control in a number of Yemen's governorates has been submitted.

During the meeting, Dr. Al-Saqqaf made a presentation on the activities



and positive services provided by CSSW to control the prevalence of sowda disease in the Republic of Yemen. The presentation got a welcome boost by the participants who expressed their admiration for the

efforts exerted in this regard. The meeting concluded with a number of recommendations for prevailing over the spread of the disease, according to Al-Saqqaf.

On the other hand, having obtained a full membership in the African organizations union for sowda control (APOC), CSSW will receive several advantages including material and information support from APOC. This support will further enhance CSSW's services and activities on the sowda disease control.





The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

## Effort & patience

By: Syed Rehan Ali  
rehan117@yahoo.com

Truly believe that effort and patience can make a man fortunate because with hard work and devotion one can attain success in life. This world is not the world of dreams; we should be practical and should face the reality of this world. To gain something, effort and devotion are the two main ingredients. To quote Jesse Owens "We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and effort."

In this world nothing is as easy as a pie to eat. We have to put into our efforts and take pains to gain something! To be something! Nothing gets done on its own. We have to put in our effort and hard work, only then will the results be positive. Paul J. Meyer said "Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning and focused effort."

The soldiers of countries put in all their efforts to fight with the enemies and save their countries from enemy aggression. Soldiers made this effort so that the citizens of their country can enjoy freedom. A mountaineer wants to climb a mountain; he will

slowly and patiently make an effort to climb it.

There may come a moment when he will think that it is impossible but a little more persistence, a little more effort and what seemed hopeless failure can turn into glorious success!

Wait! Not only will our hard work and devotion make us reach the sky but also the ability to endure delay - that is patience. Patience is also a very important ingredient in becoming successful. Benjamin Disraeli has said, "Patience is a necessary ingredient of a genius." With patience and effort you can achieve all the luxuries of life. The unreachable thing becomes reachable, the unattainable becomes attainable and the unavailable becomes available.

Take for example a hen. The hen waits for the eggs to hatch and the chick to come out. It has the patience to wait. Had the hen not waited for the eggs to crack and instead would have smash them just to get the chick. The eggs would have spoiled and all of her efforts would have been for nothing! Benjamin Franklin said "He that has patience can have whatever he wills."

I'd like to say that in the end, with effort and patience, anyone can make his fortune. Effort and patience is the secret of winning everything in life.

## One Sip

By: Fuad Noman  
fn\_0012000@yahoo.com

Let my life's shuttle start its trip  
To blend our twin spirit's drip  
To taste your rainy love by one sip  
Set my heart free in your soul  
Let him fly with your eyes' shoal  
My clout faded out by your honey lips  
Trust his spirit and just try to test it  
He is going to be your flushed gift  
You should know from that time  
Your love is old and safe in my blood  
sect  
You are my gold ingot and diamond set  
Do not blame my heart if he would

solicit

I wish I were there where you live  
My heart wishing you be his Eve  
Day by day

Melting the voice of life's angst

To be with you as one twig  
To grow up in love's vale big  
Let me feel my heart can beat  
Just try to touch my soul's heat  
It is so high but it can't blaze my dream  
Since my love makes it as a warm stream

When he christens you  
His veins start to bleed red  
To make your love be green and wet  
To calm down our burst lust  
In your white soul's diamond I bet,  
Only my real bleeding heart I can get.

By: Alawi Abdulla Abu Bakir Taha  
adam\_taha2000@yahoo.com

Life... your life, how much is it worth? Is it worth someone saying to you, "you're worth xyz minimum wage." With a brain mass of 23 billion cells, do you let someone say to you, "your worth is £18,000, or £25,00 or £70,000 a year," and have him or her (the boss) tell you when to get up, when to have a break, what time to leave your home, when to go on holiday and what holiday you can afford to go to? With a body of more than a billion pounds of genetic industry, and a brain that does a trillion calculation per second, do you let someone say, "you will never make it son," or, "I did it a few years back and it didn't work, so it won't work for you?"

With the power that you have to change your life by just changing the way you think; what you read; the way you talk; by having faith in God who only has to say 'BE' and it will happen, do you base your future, your success on the failures the quitters of this life? Do you base your future on those who want so much out of life but they are unwilling to come out of their comfort zone? You know the existence of many examples in life in which people before you and presently in this world today have achieved their dreams. So, do you take advice from someone who can't even make their own decisions; take control of their own family challenges; have their own money problems; who work for someone we call a boss that tells us what to do? That's called, PASSING THE BUCK. After all, it is your life, your future, your family's future.

What price are you willing to pay? Is it: "no matter what it takes!" Or, "I

will have a go and then see what happens in a few months and if it doesn't work for me, I'll quit." What do you think your mind, that 23 billion cells of a brain of yours will do, and what God will think when you half-heartedly work towards your dreams? God will NOT give you nor the people a dream, nor future opportunities if you are not willing to take your life seriously and are willing to take that first step.

It's not your life when someone else makes the decision for you. It's not your life when someone tells you how much you're worth. It's not a life, when you live to work instead of working to live enjoying your life, time with your children and family; making yours and their dreams come true. Life happens only once and some wait for far too long to live it. A man or woman never says on their deathbed, "I wish, I had spent more time at the office."

Instead they will say, "I wish I had spent my life serving the Lord, submitting to Him. I wish I had spent more time with my children, my wife, my husband and had taken that brave decision and step to go the extra mile to learn to live instead of learning to die. Maybe, my children would have swum with dolphins and I would have seen the world. Lord, I wish I took the time to make an impact on the lives of thousands and millions of people around the world, and be the financial warrior, the one who brings hope, the one who reminds them of YOU! What have I done with my youth, time, my money? I learnt the errors of my ways now when it is far too late Lord. Please, give me a second chance."

There are no second chances when death meets us. There is but a reckoning or a joy. Victory or Hell, peace of mind or troubled soul for it knows it has not valued the life God

has given it and nor has it enriched the lives of others.

Some will have failed because they didn't believe in themselves and underestimated the power God has given men and women. Some will fail because they waited for someone else to succeed. Others will fail because they were not proud of who they were. And there will be those who failed because they were busy being busy only to find, another year or 30 years have gone by and they have reached the end of the line.

Some will have worked hard to put football games first and not their dreams. And the ones who put football leisure tournaments, TV, DVD movies, every evening socializing down at the pub, have already said to their brain, to life and to God, "I am not willing to do whatever it takes. I haven't got the time."

Then please don't blame anyone, or anything. Don't blame your mentors or God for your failures. Blame yourself! Why? Success is a Choice! It is but a decision away. And some cannot make decisions to fight for their own dreams. Challenges are exactly what help a man or woman's character grow. Without them we have yet to shape the diamond in us. There are millions to billions of pebbles in the world and that we pick so we can throw them away or skim them across the belly of a river, but when you see a diamond, you will pick it up gently, and hold it with care because you know its value and you WILL treasure it because it's value is very, very high. Yes, then you know what value really means.

People are looking for the diamond in you and in others. They want to be inspired not by words but by action. People don't care what you know but how much you care. That caring must first start at home, from within you. It

comes from respecting your life, your children, your wife, your husband, your sister, your brother, your neighbor. Then the opportunities for you to change, and the opportunities for you to grow will come. That is when God will bring change to you. When you value your life and understand its true purpose; taking it seriously, and accepting and submitting to its divine law and purpose, you will find the great door of opportunity and all it's richness will be open to you! YOU KNOW why you are where you are. LOOK IN THE MIRROR!

Do you want the answers? Then by God, He shall make you walk through fire in this life! You want to be a leader, an inspiration to men and women, to children today, then you shall walk through challenges many are fearful to walk through to make you what you are meant to be! A leader amongst fools. When iron has gone through fire, then you shall find STEEL! Men and women who are strong in faith and do not crumble when God tests them out.

For how can you lead a nation, a community if you cannot lead yourself to success? How can you become a teacher if you are not willing to learn, be accountable and be a student to the laws of God? Remember, Allah the Most High will not put to you any hardship that you cannot carry. He knows your limit so stop grumbling, stop whining like a dog with his tail behind his legs and be the men and women you are shaped to become and be! This is a new age, territories that are not new, and challenges that are not new. They are the same -but are you not man enough, or woman enough to learn from your mistakes now, while you are young to learn how to be what God has intended you to be? Then claim it!

## Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

### ACROSS

- 1 One-time Winter Palace dwellers
- 6 Agrippa's wrap
- 10 Drink without a pause
- 14 Open, as a bottle
- 15 Graven image
- 16 Sprinter's assignment
- 17 Alternative to a towelette
- 19 Word with catch or hang
- 20 Chest thumper
- 21 Terrier type
- 22 Reversed an action
- 23 Lollobrigida of "Hotel Paradiso"
- 24 Increase threefold
- 25 Bordeaux wine
- 28 Kampala is its capital
- 30 Pervasive emanations
- 31 Practices on the canvas
- 32 Greenskeeper's supply
- 35 Exemplar of innocence
- 36 Geographic depression
- 37 Stew pod
- 38 Deal prerequisite
- 39 Backing for an exhibit
- 40 Like Alexander
- 41 Scale's reading
- 43 Bug on the road
- 44 Pipe types

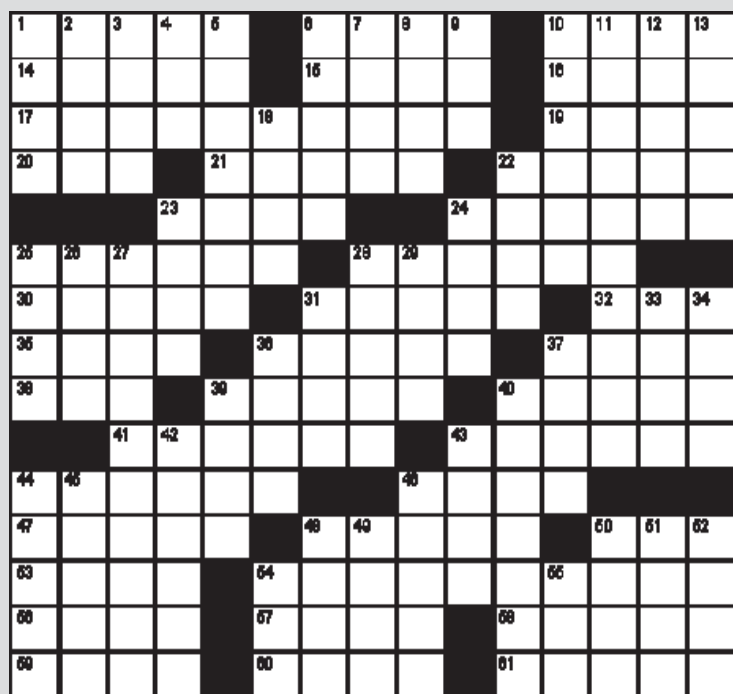
- 46 Presidential power
- 47 Word with charlotte or Ballet
- 48 Field of endeavor
- 50 Cul-de-\_\_\_\_\_
- 53 Climax beginning
- 54 Where to find time on one's hand?
- 56 Point of honor settler, once
- 57 Suggestion
- 58 See ya in Hawaii?
- 59 Agile
- 60 Equalizing allowance
- 61 Went off course

### DOWN

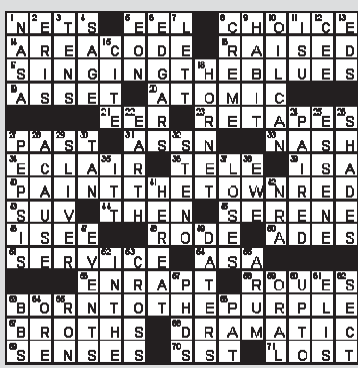
- 1 Porous limestone
- 2 Salon sound
- 3 Teenager's bane
- 4 Newspaper, derogatory
- 5 Biological subdivision
- 6 Fibula neighbor
- 7 Fragrance
- 8 Surgeon's work attire
- 9 Word with thumbs or ears
- 10 Replicated, in a way
- 11 Certain woven container
- 12 Up to such time as
- 13 Crystal-lined stone

- 18 Bombastic speech
- 22 Upscale coffee pots
- 23 Type of bag
- 24 Mountain pool
- 25 Advanced math course
- 26 Island feast
- 27 Supplier of pressure?
- 28 Sports surprise
- 29 Olympic medalist Devers
- 31 Window frame
- 33 Verbalized
- 34 Dinner and a movie, perhaps
- 36 They may be checked
- 37 Nabisco cookie
- 39 Leprechaun land
- 40 Brief vacation
- 42 With little effort
- 43 Misshapen
- 44 Finishing nails
- 45 Accumulate, as a debt
- 46 Bulletproof apparel
- 48 Saharan
- 49 Natural coat
- 50 Place in a hold
- 51 Feel pain
- 52 African republic
- 54 Reporter's question
- 55 In the style of

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### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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## Al-Ma'sarah of Old Sana'a challenge time

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori

“I inherited this press from my father and he also inherited it from his father. It has been a bequest of our family for more than 400 years. I have worked on it since I was a child and it is all the wealth I have,” oil press (ma'sarah) owner Nabil Abdullah Masoud recalled.

“I prefer no work other than my press. I feel happy when I press oil and sell it to people for their different uses. I feel that I'm providing a useful service. Now I teach my children this job because they will work on this press when I grow old.



Nabil Masoud shows a sample of mustard seeds.



Camels are still used in the traditional oil press in Sana'a.

I will tell them to teach it to their sons because I consider it our legacy,” he added.

### The press

Made of a special type of a stone called Al-Habash, the press rises vertically on a three-meter high platform and is carved in the middle to form a container. A 25-centimeter diameter circular piece of wood is

placed in the middle and tied to another stone in the form of a wheel, which is suspended to give the wood extra pressing force. The wheel is tied to another piece of wood which in turn is tied to the camel that walks around the press, thereby also rotating the wheel.

There are seven oil presses in Sana'a pressing oil used for cooking. They also press mustard oil used for treating the bodies of those with rheumatism and

joint inflammation. As for the oil pressing procedure, Masoud explained, saying, “We place the seeds we want to extract oil from into the press. We mix it with little water to moisten them. Then we make the camel move around the press pulling the wheel, which presses the wood inside the press. The wood rotates with the wheel crushing the seeds. The oil then trickles through a small opening at the bottom of the container. We then purify and sell this oil.”

### Growing sesame and mustard

Sesame is grown in Tihama valleys, whereas mustard is grown in village

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## Plants inspire ornamentation of houses in Zabeed

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

The historical city of Zabeed in western Yemen near Hodeidah city embraces distinctive and magnificent architectural sights mainly influenced by the Islamic art of ornamentation and decoration.

This type of architecture is well known in the West as Arabesque. The term is used in reference to illustrations and drawings in the form of plants, tree branches and leaves in the paintings and decorations of the city's buildings.

In Zabeed, there remain fascinating traces of this art, particularly associated with a type of Islamic architecture called Sasani art. Practitioners of this art are called Sasani artists who influenced the overall ornamental scenery of city houses, mosques and palaces.

Sasani architectural style is unique in the sense that it introduced plant elements into decorating buildings. For instance, such amazing illustrations are observed in the form of circular fan-like palm branches, wing-like leaves and pine cones.

Visitors to Zabeed easily can become acquainted with this peculiar and artistic feature of Islamic architecture with its purity and originality that has survived over the ages. Zabeed is one of Yemen's cities influenced by this art, which manifests itself in marvelous and unprecedented drawings and ornamental work decorating the city's historical buildings.

Throughout the city's lanes and zones, one can witness a variety of traces of Arabesque style on ceilings, doors and internal and external walls of homes. Haroon House, named for owner Muhsin Mohamed Haroon, is one of Zabeed's oldest schoolhouses.

The house's main room, typically called a diwan is considered incomparable in the whole Tihama region. Qur'anic ayaat (verses) are inscribed magnificently on the room's door and date back to Hijra year 1367. The drawings are the masterpiece of artist Mohamed Ali Ezaldeen, whose painting style makes one feel as if he is beholding a natural garden with different varieties of flowers, palm trees and triangular and pentagonal-shaped leaves.

A second example of Arabesque architecture is Al-Rabyee House situated west of Zabeed and named for owner



Picture show architectural plants inspire ornamentation of houses in Zabeed.

Ahmed Hussein Al-Rabyee. The door of its diwan also is ornamented with Qur'anic ayaat inscribed in an amazing style and the room's front is well decorated with drawings of such animals as serpents and others.

However, the diwan's ceiling is ornamented exceptionally with drawings of trees, branches, tangled roots and circular flowers with different brilliant colors interwoven together to create a

vivid scene inspiring the whole room with much beauty and color.

A third house capturing attention is Al-Anbari House, named for owner Yousef Al-Anbari. Located in the eastern zone of Zabeed, the house is well known as an ancient school. Its diwan received special care and was privileged much more with amazing embellishments extending from its main door to its front, ceiling and walls.

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