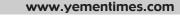






Monday, 8 May 2006 • Issue No. 944 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf



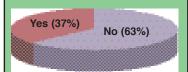
Women sports: Shining

past and stumbling future



Readers' Volge Last edition's question:

Yemeni judiciary closed three newspapers for violating the publication law, however, Prime Minister ended ban on the three papers Tuesday defying judiciary. Do you think Yemeni judiciary will be independent from the executive authority?



This edition's question:

Do you think the economic embargo set on the Palestinian Authority will force Hamas to guit power?

- Yes

- No - I don't know

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





Survey: 57% choose Saleh as president

A first of its kind survey on the candidacy for president in Yemen's upcoming Presidential elections showed interesting results. The survey conducted by the Yemen Polling Center (YPC) and An-Nas newspaper included a sample of 1500 Yemenis around the republic.



From right: Dr. Al-Faqih, Al-Garadi and Al-Bukari.

By: Mustafa Ragih

SANA'A, May 7 — A public opinion survey tacked seven questions about the Yemeni presidency. Voting for Saleh, evaluating his terms, favored presidential candidate, reference of the most preferred candidate, The type of personality preferred as the presidential candidate, the list of personalities, in order, qualified to

run for president as viewed by participants. For the first question the survey revealed that 57 percent of Yemeni people have made up their minds to vote for President Ali Abdullah Saleh if he decides to stand in Yemen's upcoming presidential race. However, 33 percent said they will not vote for him and 10% were neutral.

Continued on page 2 | attac

IPI names Yemen Times "Free Media Pioneer 2006"

and timely news and information on

Yemen and the region, and actively

participates in efforts, outlined in its

mission statement, to support "press

freedom, respect for human rights,

Mr. Raidan Al-Saqqaf, Member of

the newspaper's Board of Directors,

will receive the prize on behalf of the Yemen Times at an award ceremony

on 30 May, during the forthcoming IPI

World Congress in Edinburgh,

The annual Free Media Pioneer

Award was established by IPI, the

Scotland (27-30 May).

political pluralism and democracy."

the rise, making

the practice of

their profession

more dangerous

backdrop, the

Yemen Times

continues to

provide accurate

Against this

than ever.

By: Yemen Times Staff

VIENNA, 5 May — The International Press Institute (IPI) has announced its decision to honor the independent newspaper, Yemen Times, with its 2006 Free Media Pioneer Award. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, a prominent economist and human rights activist, who was also its editor and publisher until his untimely death at age 46 in a traffic accident in 1999, the Yemen Times started publishing on 28 February 1991. Yemen's first and most widely-read Englishlanguage newspaper, its declared aim is "to make Yemen a good world citizen."

Al-Afif Cultural Foundation honors

Hussein Al-Amri

The Yemen Times operates in a part of the world known for harsh government restrictions on the media. The closure of independent and opposition newspapers and the criminal prosecution of journalists for critical coverage of sensitive issues are routine in the Middle East and North Africa and have led to a climate of fear in which self-censorship is common. Violent attacks against journalists are also on



ensure freer and more independent media in their country or region. The Award is cosponsored by the $U \cdot S \cdot - b$ as e d Freedom Forum, a n o n - p art is an, international

foundation dedicated to free press and free speech.

Previous winners of the Free Media Pioneer Award are: SW Radio Africa, UK (2005); the Central Asia and Southern Caucasian Freedom of Expression Network - CASCFEN (2004); the Media Council of Tanzania (2003); the independent daily newspaper Danas, Serbia (2002); the indeon-line pendent newspaper Malaysiakini.com, Malaysia (2001); the Press and Society Institute - IPYS, Peru (2000); the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists' Association - EFJA (1999); Radio B-92, Yugoslavia (1998); the Alliance of Independent Journalists - AJI, Indonesia (1997); and NTV, Russia (1996).

Lawyers confront judicial system officials

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, May 6 — The General Assembly of Yemeni Lawyers' Syndicate (YLS) called for firing the Attorney General and investigating corrupt officials in the judicial apparatus last Wednesday. Leading lawyers called for a press conference to discuss facts and occurrences in support for their demand.

Lawyers affirmed their demand aims



to serve the social interest and protect the constitutional legitimacy.

YLS discussed last Wednesday what it calls " a series of abuses and assaults against lawyers, reasons behind them and means to confront them".

Lawyers briefed attendants that prosecution's leniency and indifference are the primary cause of abuses and assaults against defense-advocates. They said prosecution prolong any procedures related to cases of lawyers' attacks and did not arrest perpetrators, particularly those occupying leading posts or having excellent contacts in the judiciary.

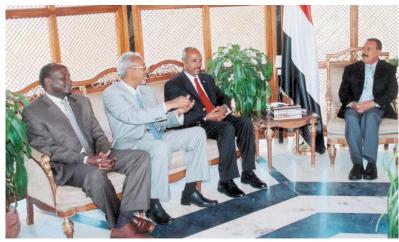
Some YLS members claimed that the majority of judicial officials practice oppression against defense-advocates and prevent them from pursuing their legal actions. They described such acts against defense-advocates as a violation of the constitution and laws placed in effect, as well as an abuse of the rights of citizens who seem to be deprived of the right to appoint legal advocates to defend them. According to YLS, prosecution is lenient toward wrongdoers, a fact making citizens believe that prosecution apparatuses are unable to perform their constitutional and legal duties to stop arbitrary practices against citizens and lawyers as well. Responding to YLS, the Attorney-General Office sent a letter to the syndicate, expressing its sorrow and concern about what he termed as: irresponsible behavior of the YLS Sana'a Branch when following up procedures of colleagues' cases.

Sana'a Ministerial meeting demands lift of arm embargo on Somalia

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

SANA'A, May 7 — The Sana'a Ministerial meeting issued their final communiqué in Sana'a on Thursday May 4. The Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, the Sudanese foreign Minister, the Ethiopian Foreign Minister and Foreign Minister of the Somali interim government attended the meeting. The ministers issued the following decisions at the end of their meetings.

A secretariat that coordinates and organizes the affairs of the Sana'a Ministerial meeting is to be established, with Sana'a as its central base. Yemen will assume presidency of the secretariat and the other countries should send their representatives to work in this secretariat. *Continued on page 2*



Foreign Ministers in a meeting with President Saleh.



iddle East and North Africa and ve led to a climate of fear in which if-censorship is common. Violent acks against journalists are also on iddle East and North Africa and global network of editors, media executives and leading journalists, in 1996 to honour individuals or organisations that have fought against great odds to



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Continued on page 2

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Around the Nation



Five drown in a dam

Al-Mahweet, May 5 - Five persons of the same family, a woman, a small girl, two boys and their father were reported dead on Friday morning, as they drowned in Al-Maqik Dam in Al-Rujum district, Al-Mahweet Governorate. Eye witnesses told the Yemen Times that the victims came with their relatives from Khawlan Al-Tiyal in Sana'a Governorate for outing. For his part, Ali Ahmed Al-Zaikam, a local from the area, said to Saba Net that Local Authority together with people and

security officers in the Governorate pulled out the corpse of the young girl one hour after the incident, while other corpses were pulled out in the evening as the dam was too deep. Colonel Nasser Al-Awash indicated that firsthand information indicates the small girl Fordous was on the edge of the dam, trying to fill a bottle of water from the dam when she fell down. Tides swept her to the deep waters of the dam. Other family members followed when trying to save her. Though people and police men tried to help

them, they could not escape death due to the deepness of the dam.

He added that the members of this family were in a visit for their relative who works as a government officer in Al-Mahweet. It was also reported that they had reached the area before other relatives on another car. They were surprised to see their relatives' car on the side of the road and people were pulling their dead bodies out of the dam. It is worth mentioning that two persons were reported to have drowned there previously.

Shoura Council concludes discussions of Central Audit Control Commission

SANA'A, May 3 - The Shoura Council concluded their discussions of the Central Audit and Control Commission CACC report for the second and third quarters of last year, in Sana'a. They highlighted the role that CACC plays in controlling the financial and administrative performance and its effect in promotion of skills in order to serve development by wise investment

of public funds.

The discussions insisted on appropriate description for the violations that are checked by CACC, asserting in this, respect that the disciplinary boards should be activated. The Units' heads should control the disciplinary boards, and follow up the execution of their decisions. The discussions also confirmed the importance of establishing discipli-

nary councils that look into the appeals against disciplinary boards. These councils will also look into violations, which are beyond the authority of the boards. They also recommended that the public funding courts and prosecutions should be provided with judges and attorneys so that they will do their duties proficiently. Shoura council also recommended activation of internal audit.

PFUP: President and Parties' Affair Committee Held Responsible

SANA'A, May 7 – The Public Forces Unionist Party (PFUF) warned of the bad consequences of the policy of incubating and exterminating followed by the ruling party as it follows the policy of cloning which has distorted the political and partisan life in Yemen.

"The president and parties' Affairs Committee are held responsible for what has happened to the party, its newspaper and headquarters," said the Unionist in a Statement given after a meeting for its general secretariat on May 3.

The party, in another statement distributed last Saturday, condemned "seizing and confiscating the party's headquarters, newspaper, properties and documents. It is done with the support of the concerned authorities which are supposed to be responsible for organizing and protecting the political practices."

"The authorities have made an

improvised conference sealed with the authority and its systems signature. And this is added to serial of practices followed by the ruling party against his opponents. The Union condemns and refuses such practices. The party considers the authority accountable for the consequences. It assures that it will not abandon its constitutional rights and will defend them with all legal means. This includes the prosecution of those involved in what is happening to the party and resorting to the national and international judiciary in according to the constitution and effective laws", said the statement.

"The Unionist added that the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) is the way-out for saving the country from the consequences of irresponsible policies of the ruling party as it pushes the country to a catastrophic end. We call it to give up starvation policies and the waste of resources which should be utilized in helping people and creating job opportunities for thousands of unemployed and to supply real services of educations and health across the country."

The statement goes on: "The party is confident that the political and national reforms program of the Joint Meeting Parties will extend their work to the field and enable people to speak about their problems and concerns. It will also help them defend their rights with a strong collective power. This is in order to change the current situation into a modern state of citizenship. It is important to have a new civil parliamentary system based on a new social contract between free and liberal peers in a country holding all".

"The PFUP renews it warning against the harmful consequences of incubating, sidelining and replacement policies followed by the ruling party. Such policies have distorted the political life in Yemen d thus retreating of natural development experienced by civil community institution."

In brief

• The parliament informed the economic and social development while government through the Parliament affairs minister that Wednesday is destined for the ministers' answers to the MPs 66 investigative enquiries about the performance of various ministries. Some of the 66 issues are

preserving its proper cultural heritage.

Endowments, verbally attacked the and images of the Yemeni environment opposition parties in a mass rally in and coastal sights in Hodeida, Mukha, Amran last Saturday. He said, besides Aden, Mukalla, Mahrah and other areas.

• The First Exhibition for Tourism, Heritage and Culture in Yemen was inaugurated last Sunday. According to · Hamoud Obad, Minister of media the exhibition covers paintings

Hodeida authorities arrest mad people and tramps

HODEIDA, May 7- Authoriies in Hodeida carried out a wide campaign for arresting the mad people, mentally disordered and the beggars who used to spread in the town's streets. Three hundred and fifty persons were arrested during the campaign. They were taken to the Psychiatric hospital.

The capacity of the Dar Al-Salaam psychiatric hospital does not exceed 100 persons. Therefore, the new entrants remain without food and water, while sleeping in a sitting position because there isn't enough room, in addition to the high room temperature due to over crowding.

The campaign which is still ongoing, came 15 days prior to the 22nd May anniversary, which will be held in the town this year.

Yemen's first arabian horse exhibition

Ali Abdulla Saleh, Miss Hend Mohamed Abdulaziz Al-Shaif organizes the First Arabian Horse Exhibition in Sana'a on May-16-30. kind in the country, will host masterpieces at the gallery.

Under the auspices of President different activities in addition to a gallery.

More than two hundred artists from all over the country are expected to contribute to the event The event, which is the first of its by exhibiting many of their

Child protection TOT

SANA'A, May 6 - Islamic Relief worldwide-UK in partnership with Islamic Relief Yemen is organizing today a Child Protection Training for Trainers Workshop for its staff working in Orphans Programs worldwide. The Workshop will take place from the 8th to 18th of May 2006 at the Sheraton Hotel, Sana'a.

The Training aims to equip staff and volunteers working with children in Islamic Relief Worldwide field offices. It aims to recognize and respond appropriately to child protection concerns reflecting organizations policy and procedures. The training shall be carried out by expert trainers from National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children-UK. The goal is to produce qualified trainers who will be able to train staff worldwide in the field of child protection issues.

The workshop will include twenty five participants from various Islamic Relief Worldwide offices including Bangladesh, Bosnia, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Niger, Sri Lanaka, South Africa, Sudan, the United Kingdom and Yemen.

Continued from page1 Survey: 57% choose Saleh as president

Results of the survey, conducted by Temen Polling Center (YPC) in collaboraion with An-Nass Private Newspaper, were announced Wednesday at a press conference attended by reporters of different local and international media.

According to Dr. Mohamed Al-Faqih, esearch supervisor, the survey aimed to measure public opinion about the candidacy for president in Yemen's upcoming presidential poll scheduled this September. Also it aimed to identify citizen's attitudes toward President Saleh's declaration not take part in the upcoming presidential poll, as well as their reaction in case Saleh backs out on his decision.

The survey covered 14 questions about the most prominent personalities qualified enough to compete in Yemen's upcoming presidential race. Dr. Al-Faqih stated YPC postponed announcing the 12 personalities, qualified to stand for president according to the survey, until the coming week upon the request of An-Nass Newspaper, which will

reveal names of these personalities in the next issue.

The survey covered 10 Yemeni governorates with a sample of 1500 male and female participants of different age groups eligible for vote. Percentages of President Saleh's decision opponents appear high in Taiz, the capital, Amran and Sa'ada. The survey disclosed that Saleh's female supporters outnumber the male ones.

The survey explained that Saleh's early declaration not stand in the poll and the absence of an effective role by opposition parties that have not yet named their presidential candidate, lead the majority of citizens to prefer that Saleh backs out on his decision to vote for him. Other factors including the long reign of Saleh, illiteracy among people, monopoly of visual and audible media plus tribal and personal interests make people bear in mind that it is not easy for them to accept any candidate other than Saleh to rule Yemen in the coming presidential term.

Twenty five percent of the survey sample assessed President Saleh's reign as good, 27 percent of them gave a very good assessment while other 27 percent said Saleh's reign was acceptable. 40 percent of the survey sample prefer to vote for the General People's Congress candidate, 16 percent of them favor to vote for the opposition candidate while 43 have undecided attitude. Also 65 percent of the survey sample prefers a civil personality to run for president while 34 percent of them favor a military personality to rule the country in the coming presidential term.

Al-Shumou weekly and Akhbar Al-Youm daily launched a preemptive attack on the YPC survey saying it was funded by Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for doubtable goals. The survey organizers belittled the importance of such accusations and distributed a folder at the press conference explaining the survey was conducted according to internationally approved standards and methodologies.

Lawyers confront judicial system officials

rforms its duties by supervising and

ng respect for the constitution and introduction to the partial strike on next

The letter confirmed that prosecution any legal demands presented in a manner The hanging of the red badges is an

about the spread of agricultural pesticides that cause cancer to 20 thousand people every year, half of which end up dead according to WHO reports. About polluted medical serums, child trafficking and price hikes.

• The Government of Japan has extended a grant to the National Center for Archives in Sana'a, in the framework of "Cultural Grant Aid", which amount to four hundred fifty thousand US dollars (\$450,000), for purchasing equipment such as micro film camera to preserve historical documents. The grant aims to help the Government of Yemen move forward its

other accusation, that the Nasserite, Socialist, Islah and Ba'ath Parties used to be agents to the outside before the multi party system.

• The Yemeni Female Media Forum received a French embassy sponsored capacity building workshop recently. The course aimed at helping the administrative staff of the forum, to be able to formulate development schemes. It also meant to discuss opportunities of empowering women within their scientific institutions, and the latest media women developments locally and internationally

• At least 702 people, from both genders and different age groups were reported killed in traffic accidents in different parts of Yemen over the past four months.

• Security apparatuses at the Aden Free Zone have been reserving for one month the seizure of a freight of internationally banned pesticides, which were import for fast growth and ripeness of plants. Security authorities caught around 1424 cartoons of pesticides shipped from Jordan on board steamer to an unidentified Yemeni trader.

Rainbow Pre-school bazaar launched

SANA'A, April 30 – Rainbow School organized last Thursday a bazaar, partially sponsored by Yemen Times, in its yard covering several products and commodities, merchandized by trade store owners. The event was attended by students enrolled in Rainbow School, students' parents and many visitors.

School Principal Muna Abdullah Rajab said the bazaar aims to introduce the school to the public, with more focus on the quality of functions and activities staged at the school.

Rajab added the bazaar was sponsored by Yemen Times, Mol Group for Oil Services, Teham Tractors & Engineering Co. Ltd., Appolo Center for International Exhibitions, Al-Jandoul Supermarket, Taj Sheba Hotel, Nahel for Advertising and Printing,



Eduteech for Computer & Language Teaching, Magic Park, Green Land Restaurants and Artist Nasser Al-Aswadi. With regard to

revenues of sold commodities, Rajab affirmed they will be spent on a toy garden plus supplying the school with the necessary equipment.

dealing with cases of lawyers and citizens according to the constitution and law.

The Attorney General office warned lawyers of consequences associated with conducts by YLS Sana'a Branch, advising them to abide by the law while raising any demands. It said it is ready to respond to

law.

On a similar front, the judiciary employees continued to wear red badges until Sunday May 7 in protest to their unsettled salaries, despite the wage strategy approved by the government in July 2005.

Wednesday, if the authorities did not respond to the demands of the administrative employees of the judiciary.

Media sources said that the judiciary employees in Hudieda will start their comprehensive strike today in all courts and attorney offices in the different districts.

Sana'a Ministerial meeting demands lift of arm embargo on Somalia

The secretariat should submit their structure and provisions that regulate their activity and budget to the next executive meeting for approval. The countries of the southern Red Sea and the African Horn should be invited to join the group in line with the aims it is established for, which are peace and stability in the area. The Ministers agreed to expand the cooperation scope to include the cultural, educational, scientific and social sectors. They asked the economic committee to finish drafting the agreements, which were submitted to Aden's meeting in December 2005. This is in addition to the activation of programs that will promote scientific, cultural and social cooperation among the countries. They also asked the economic committee to finish establishing the free market agreement between the member countries. The member countries will

abide by the democratic process, human

rights and the fighting terrorism in the

Efforts are to be exerted to protect peace

and stability in the area and to achieve the

sustainable developments in the member

countries and the other countries in the

southern Red Sea area and the African

They confirmed their support to peace-

ful resolve of conflicts among the coun-

tries in the area. The Ministers assured

nember countries.

Horn.

their endeavor to find a permanent resolve to the conflict over borders between Ethiopia and Eritrea. They insisted on adopting peaceful dialogue and diplomacy to resolve it.

The Ministers called on the international community to support the comprehensive security plan that was prepared by Somali interim government. It was also approved by IGAD and the African Union to restore peace and order in Somalia. The meeting called on the donor countries and the international organizations to furnish quick relief to reduce the desertification effects that struck the Somalis. They also asked the donor countries to live up to their commitments by fulfilling their promised supports for rebuilding Somalia. The meeting called the conflicting parties in Mogadishu to give precedence to the country's interests and stop fighting, to enable the international community to support Somalia to rebuild itself. The Ministerial meeting called the Security Council to lift the imposed arm embargo on Somalia in order to enable the interim Somali government, the IGAD and the African Union to restore peace in Somalia. The meeting called for cooperation and coordination between the member countries to stop the piracy and terror activities in Somalia territorial waters and the other member countries, which threaten to destabilize sea

transport and international trade in the area. They called the international community to support the member countries to develop the capacity of their coast guard forces. The Ministers assured their support to the Somali interim government and parliament to build the country's security forces and institutions. They stressed the importance of facing those who try to undermine the efforts of rebuilding. The meeting praised the Sudanese government's efforts to carry out the peace agreement provisions and their interest to come to a final solution to the conflict in Darfur. The Ministers expressed hope that the Abuja peace talks should succeed in reaching a peace deal that leads to a comprehensive peace, which preserves Sudan's unity. The meeting demanded that the international community should live up to their commitments by providing their pledges to rebuild Sudan. They assured that the delay in handing over these pledges contributed to the delay of implementation of the agenda of the reconciliation. They also asked the international community to continue supporting the Palestinians and respect their democratic option. The Ministers declared their insistence on the Arab peace initiative and the related international decisions for the establishment of a Palestinian state, which will restore peace in the Middle East

International News

Annan welcomes Darfur Deal

United Nations - UN chief Kofi Annan on Friday welcomed the landmark deal signed between the Khartoum government and the main rebel faction in Sudan's Darfur region but urged the two other insurgent groups to sign as well.

"I welcomed the agreement and urged the other two parties to seize this historic moment and sign the agreement that will bring this tragic chapter in the history of Sudan to an end," he told reporters.

He spoke here shortly after it was announced that a deal was signed in Abuja, Nigeria by representatives of Khartoum and the main faction of the Sudanese Movement (SLM), in the presence of host Nigerian

President Olusegun Obasanjo and African Union mediators.

But another Darfur rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), and a smaller faction of the divided



Liberation United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

SLM refused to sign, saying they would not accept the United Nationssponsored deal. Senior international envoys,

including US Deputy Secretary of State

Robert Zoellick and British Development Secretary Hilary Benn, had travelled to Abuja warning that failure to reach an agreement could also worsen the fragile humanitarian situation in Sudan.

"Implementation of the agreement once concluded would require that we immediately begin to strengthen the African Union force on the ground," Annan said on his return from a visit to Washington.

"We would also need to ntensify our own humanitarian efforts," he added, citing a lack of sufficient resources to tackle needs in the strife-torn Sudanese region.

On Thursday, UN relief coordinator Jan Egeland, who is heading for Darfur this weekend, said the UN needed 650 million dollars for Darfur this year and had received only 20 percent so far.

Meanwhile US Ambassador John Bolton said the accord was "only a first step"

"What this does for the American perspective is it reinforces our desire to move quickly to move to a transition to a UN-authorized peacekeeping force in Darfur and to speed up assistance for the (African Union force in Darfur) between now and when the UN can take over," he added.

He urged Khartoum to allow a UN assessment team into Darfur to do the preparatory work.

The proposed UN force would retain a strong African component from the AU mission but would be complemented by robust air assets and specialized units from non-African countries, including from NATO, which currently provides air transport for the AU force.

War has been raging since early 2003 in Darfur, a poverty-stricken desert region the size of France, and humanitarian officials estimate that as many as 300,000 civilians have died of disease, hunger and militia attacks. Google Alert

Union of Palestinian government employees set strike for next week

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) - In a new challenge to the Hamas-led government, a union of Palestinian government employees said Friday it would launch an open-ended strike next week to protest non-payment of salaries.

It was not immediately clear how many of the 165,000 government employees the union represents. However, it appears to have ties to Hamas' political rival, the Fatah Party of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

In a statement issued on Fatahlinked websites, the Syndicate of Employees of the Public Sector said it would hold a two-hour warning strike power in late March, and the govern-

Saturday, to be followed by an openended walkout starting Wednesday.

"This protest is intended as a warning to the Palestinian government," the statement said. The union demanded that the government find a quick solution to the growing financial crisis. The West froze aid after Hamas took

ment has been unable to pay its employees, the largest group in the Palestinian labour force. The West has said it would only unblock the aid if Hamas recognizes Israel and renounces violence, but the Islamic militant group has refused to change its position. Google, AP

Lebanese journalist receives **2006 World Press Freedom Award**

COLOMBO, May 5 (YT) -Lebanese journalist Ms May Chidiac, who escaped death after her car was targeted in a bomb attack in September 2005, was awarded the 2006 World Press Freedom Award by UNESCO on May 3rd, which is commemorated annually as World Press Freedom Day.

In a awarding ceremony organized by UNESCO and the Sri Lankan government in Colombo, May Chidiac received the award from UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura in presence of high level dignitaries including the President of Sri Lanka and internationally renowned figures.

This is the largest award received by Chidiac since she survived the car bomb attack, which resulted in the amputation of her left leg. However, the prominent TV anchor vowed to return to screen when her conditions permit to resume her work.

In her address after she received her award, Chidiac recalled the miseries that journalists have gone through in Lebanon and praised their will to continue regardless of the consequences. She also recalled the incidents that took the lives of other Lebanese journalists.

"It is not only my award but it is for all the Lebanese people who believe in freedom, for all those who died and for all those who fight till now in the name of Lebanon." she said.

The decision to give the award to Chidiac was made by a jury representing various countries including Yemen. The UNESCO prize is also known as



May Chidiac

ments around the world realize that press freedom is vital for the economic development of their countries.





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U.S. copter, carrying 10, crashes in Afghanistan



U.S. helicopter involved in an anti-Taliban operation crashed in Afghanistan Friday

merica's lost honor

Columbia.

In another attempt to defend the barbaric policy the U.S. government is pursuing in its so-called "war on terror", the U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, in Vienna for meetings with European Union ministers, told a small group of reporters that U.S. officials "can do a better job" in presenting the U.S. policies.

Gonzales' remarks this time came amidst growing protests that Washington is violating human rights.

Meanwhile, human rights groups began a meeting to hear charges that the United States systematically used torture against detainees it holds.

"I think that the United States has suffered a bit because of the fact that when the war began we were facing such a new and dire threat from Al Qaeda, not knowing whether or not there would be a second wave that the United States took some very aggressive measures," Mr Gonzales said.

"We did not for a period of time get out and explain to our friends and allies and even perhaps to the people in the United States what we were doing and why we did it because of the nature of the threat" and the fear of leaking information, he added.

Almost fives years have passed since the first batch of what the U.S. calls "terror suspects" were detained in the aftermath of September 11 attacks and shipped to Guantanamo Bay prison.

Today, reports say that the U.S. has detained more than 750 suspects and put them in Guantanamo jail, which has been the focus of worldwide controversy

over the crimes committed by the U.S. forces, including sexually and physical abusing detainees held without trial and without guarantees, such as habeas corpus, enshrined in U.S. law.

500 prisoners are still there, but the identities of most of them, like the charges over which they're held, remain a mystery.

Five years ago, the world, shocked at the horrific scenes of 9/11 attacks that were published daily, sort of suspended judging the policies of the Bush Administration, which chose to turn its back on fundamental Western legal conventions; denying suspects held and sent to Guantanamo jail the status and privileges of prisoners of war, and holding them indefinitely without even telling them what are their charge or putting them on trial.

In Geneva, Amnesty International renewed its criticism of brutal and inhuman interrogation techniques and policies used by the U.S. government as part of its war on terror.

"The U.S. government is not only failing to take steps to eradicate torture, it is actually creating a climate in which torture and other ill-treatment can flourish -- including by trying to narrow the definition of torture," said Curt Goering of Amnesty International.

According to a recent study by Human Rights Watch, at least 600 U.S. military and civilian personnel have been involved in cases of abuse of prisoners under U.S. custody in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo.

So far, only 54 military personnel

have been convicted by court martial. Last February, five UN special rapporteurs called for shutting down Guantanamo prison, accusing the U.S. military of engaging in "torture through the use of solitary confinement, holding detainees naked, using excessive force and roughly force-feeding hunger strikers".

conclusion of a three-day UNESCO

celebration of World Press Freedom

Day with the slogan "media, develop-

ment and poverty eradication." The

conference came up with recommenda-

tions ensuring that leaders and govern-

But Gonzales insists that "Guantanamo exists because it is absolutely necessary. I hear some critics say we should close down Guantanamo and yet no one is willing to offer the United States an alternative."

"You capture people on the battlefield fighting against your country. What are we supposed to do with them? Do we simply release them, and have them come back and fight against our soldiers," he argued.

But while he admitted that "mistakes have been made ... The conduct that occurred there was horrific," he rejected charges that military officers, involved in the abuses, were following U.S. policy.

The abuses were "by a group on the night shift at a cell block. Those other soldiers working that same cellblock, working different shifts did not engage in that conduct. They understood what the rules were," he claimed.

What has the U.S., which claims to be the world foremost freedoms protector, achieved from this anti-terror campaign? So far, not one of those "terror suspects" the U.S. holds in Guantanamo prison has faced trial, let alone been convicted. Only 10 of those prisoners, including David Hicks- have been charged with terrorism-related offences and are to be tried by military tribunals set, like Guantanamo jail, to operate beyond the constraints of legal accountability.

The 50-page report released recently by Amnesty International, which described the conditions in Guantanamo and the indefinite detentions as "cruel, inhuman and degrading" punishment that puts the U.S. in breach of the UN Torture Convention, gives disturbing new evidence that not "only that the bulk of the men now in Guantanamo are probably being held on trivial or trumped-up grounds, but also that they continue to be subjected to serious human rights abuses," the Age wrote Saturday.

The report, presented to the United Nations Committee Against Torture, included U.S. Defence Department data relating to 517 Guantanamo detainees that found that 55 per cent of them had "no hostile acts listed against them as the basis for their detention". Only 5 per cent of the detainees had been captured by U.S. forces on the battlefield in Afghanistan - the rest were captured in neighbouring Pakistan "and handed over to the USA by warlords for bounty".

Guantanamo jail, originally established to hold suspects involved in 9/11, has so far failed to bring to account the real architects of attacks or bring justice for the U.S. victims.

What Bush's "war on terror" only achieved was sacrificing U.S. honor, and truth, for the sake of greed and injustice. www.al-Jazeera.net

A military transport helicopter, with 10 personnel aboard, crashed while conducting combat operations in eastern Afghanistan, a U.S. military spokeswoman said Saturday.

"There were various weather factors that could have come into play... there were high winds. We are investigating any possible causes for the accident but there were no enemy actions detected at the scene," said the spokeswoman, U.S. Lieutenant Tamara Lawrence.

There's no information on the fate of those on board of CH-47 Chinook, which crashed late Friday near Asadabad.

The crash of the plane late on Friday evening while on a mission in support of Operation Mountain Lion, an offensive said to be aimed at rooting out remnants Taliban and Al Qaeda members near the mountainous border with Pakistan, the was not as a result of hostile fire, the U.S. military said in a statement.

"The CH-47 was conducting operations on a mountain top landing zone when the crash occurred," the statement added.

"Additional aircraft and crews were also at the landing zone and confirmed that enemy forces did not cause the crash," it said.

But a Taliban commander, Mullah Dadullah, speaking by telephone from an undisclosed location, told Reuters that the group members had shot down the helicopter using a "new weapon."

In April last year, 15 U.S. service members and three American civilians were killed when their Chinook went down in a sandstorm on its way back to the main U.S. base at Bagram.

Another 16 U.S. troops were killed last June when an MH-47 -- a Special Forces version of the CH-47 was shot down in the same region.

Also in September last year, a U.S. military Chinook crashed in the southern province of Zabul killing all five American crew members.

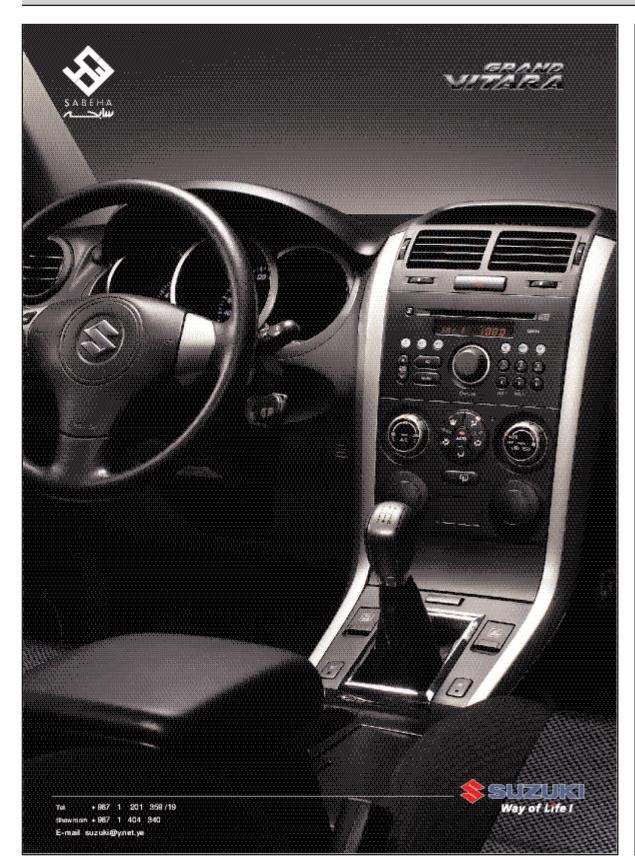
There are more than 19,000 U.S. troops deployed in Afghanistan, but U.S. officials say that the government plans to cut its troop numbers to 16,500 as reinforcements from fellow NATO members take over more responsibilities.

Despite the Bush administration's repetitive claims of great success done by the U.S. forces in Afghanistan to bring stability to the country after ousting what it describes as "the hardline regime" of Taliban, there are still near-daily attacks, all linked by media reports to the ousted Taliban movement.

Widespread violence carried out by "remnants" of the Taliban, Al Qaeda, as well as U.S. soldiers, is endangering the lives of Afghan civilians, already suffering poverty and instability in the country. Last year, violence killed more than 1,500 Afghan civilians. www.al-Jazeera.net

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Report



Education officials and fraud teachers

Some officials in the Education Office of Sana'a governorate share the salaries of some teachers, provided that the teachers could stay at home without going to schools to perform their duties.

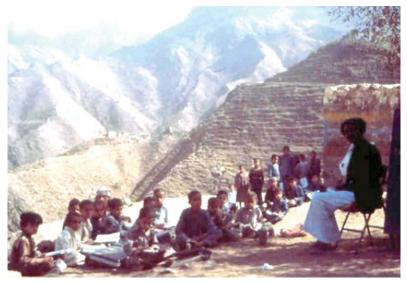
By: Mohammed Al-Jabri and Saddam Al-Ashmouri

alf of my salary goes to the head of the Education al Center in return for my not doing my duty as a teacher. At least this helps me find another work so that I can provide for my family," said teacher Nasser Saleh who belongs to the Education Office of Sana'a governorate.

Many teachers and education officials confess that there are teachers who are excused from fulfilling their jobs with the help of corrupt officials in the Education

Office. They say this phenomenon is still rampant and is not only confined to the educational sector, but to some other sectors, and is similarly applied in the Capital City, Sana'a. In order to be exempted from teaching, a teacher should give half or much of his salary to the head of the educational center in which he is assigned or to some other influential employees in the Education Office.

Mr. Hussein Hazeb, head of the Education Office of Sana'a governorate, attributed this phenomenon to the low standards of living. "Those teachers who give part of their salaries to some employees in order not to teach can find other jobs so that they can improve the status of their lives. We



In some remote areas, schools are not available, and so teachers prefer not to attend to perform their duties.





In some schools, there is only one teacher. He has to bring all the students in one class, even if they do not belong to the same grade.

had discovered some cases and dealt with them legally. When a teacher is reported not doing his job, then he should be fired according to the law." But Hazeb commented that there are no evidences of this phenomenon when reporting such cases.

Dr. Hussein Al-Junaid, Sana'a University, made it clear that this phenomenon has been widespread for a long time, especially in the military sector. He held the Ministry of Education responsible in this regard as it selects unqualified and dishonest headmasters

"This phenomenon has been also found in the educational sector, and consequently education becomes contingent on empty pockets. In a word, it is a threat to Education."

For others local councils are also responsible for the spread of this phenomenon. For one thing, local councils are responsible for selecting teachers in every district. Teacher Khalid, who refused to state his surname, accused both local councils and of helping some teachers escape heads of local councils who share the salaries of teachers who are excused from work. Also, I know of a head of an educational center who shares the salary of twenty teachers."

Ms. Amel Mohammed said she was shocked to know that many teachers are used to receiving their salaries from the Ministry of Education although they do not attend schools to perform their duties. "A friend of mine who is a teacher explains to me that she knows many female teachers who never attend schools as they are busy working in some jobs so that they can improve their low income."

Undoubtedly, the Education Office conducts field visits to schools in order to make sure whether teachers perform their duties or not. Occasionally, a team of observers visits schools in different districts to report cases of such teachers. However, before it arrives a school, the headmaster or other teachers effective role. Teacher Murad Alnotifies any absent teacher to attend school. "It is good that the Education

God the Almighty that I know of unfortunately some times the team members responsible for monitoring teachers are dishonest. As they discover cases of fraud teachers, they are bribed so as not to report them to the Education Office. Also, before they arrive school, teachers are notified by headmasters or heads of educational centers to attend schools or bring others to replace them. Therefore, teachers find it an easy task to share their salaries with some education officials and stay at home without performing their duties," said teacher Adel Mohammed. At times it is difficult for the team to reach some remote districts. "Sometimes the team does not visit remote schools for fear of dangerous mountainous villages. This in turn makes teachers not adhere to attending schools regularly," added Adel Mohammed.

> Perhaps the main reason behind this "unlawful" act is teachers' low salaries and absence of officials' Sultan said the Ministry of Education is mainly responsible for

from attending schools.

"Most of those who do not perform their duties as teachers seek to improve their low income. They work in private schools or somewhere else. Some of them are expatriate in Gulf countries, and some are mere farmers," pointed out Mr. Nasser Al-Hamami.

Mr. Mohammed Hizam, a headmaster, explained there are good job opportunities especially in private schools. "Teachers are living in grim living conditions. Teachers' status should be improved in terms of giving them good salaries and bonuses. Also, inspection campaigns should be organized directly and to cover remote areas, not only the Capital City or other cities."

The consequences of this phenomenon have bad effects on the development of education in the country. For one thing, schools in remote areas still suffer from lack of teachers, which results in bad educational levels on the part of students. "Students themselves are, by and large, a victim to teachers' absenteeism. In some areas, only one teacher is available and has to teach all subjects. The result is this: our students finish their studies while they are yet unable to read and write effectively. You see, most of the teachers prefer to teach in areas where Qat is widespread, and the result is that their mind remains hollow," explained Hajji Hamoud who belongs to Bani Hishaish district in Sana'a.

A recent research paper mentioned that "rates of absenteeism among salaried teachers are very high, and for this reason student teacher ratio are often greater than official figures indicate." Another report states that "Education in Yemen has been transformed from an instrument for a progressive change and advancement to a station for reproducing the backwardness in its various forms. This was a result of the backward nature of the educational philosophy and curriculum, bad governance and widely prevailing corruption, and also because of the inefficient nature

Freedom Day

Press Freedom Day honours sacrifices around the world made for freedom of the press and reminds governments of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression that is enshrined under Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1993, the day is celebrated each year on May 3, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek, a statement of free press principles put together by African newspaper journalists in 1991.

UNESCO marks World Press Freedom Day by conferring the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize on a deserving individual, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and/or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, especially when this has been achieved in the face of danger. Created in 1997, the prize is awarded on the recommendation of an independent jury of 14 news professionals. Names are submitted by regional and international nongovernmental organizations working for press freedom, and by UNESCO Member States.

The Prize is named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian



journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper, El Espectador, in Bogotá, on December 17 1986. Cano's writings had offended Colombia's powerful drug barons.

The 2006 Prize has been awarded to Lebanese journalist May Chidiac, a popular television news presenter who survived an assassination attempt in Beirut on 25 September 2005. She lost her left hand and leg when a bomb strapped to her car detonated minutes after she got in. She has come to be seen as a symbol of freedom of expression in Lebanon, where the assassinations of two colleagues - Lebanese columnist Samir Kassir and newspaper publisher Gebran Tueni - in 2005 shocked the nation. Source: www.wikipedia.com

from doing their jobs. " I swear by Office conducts field visits, but the spread of teachers exempted of public expenditure on education.

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World Bank Group

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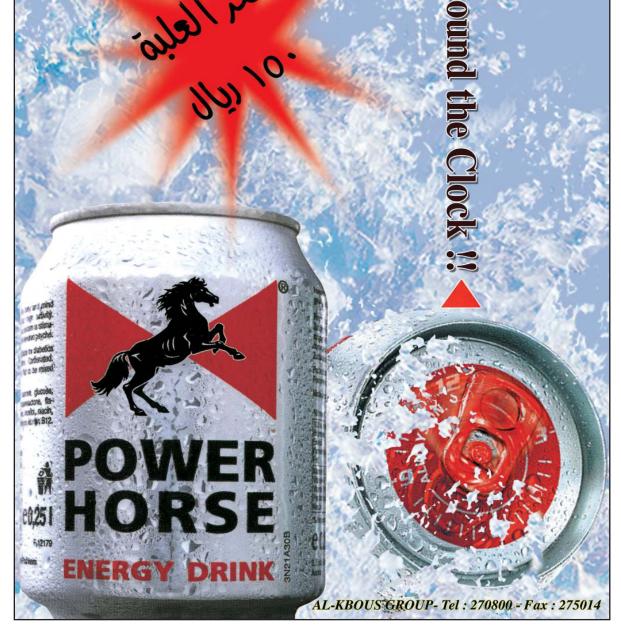
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Opinion



Words of Wisdom These days, people routinely, talk about



TENER Y

TIMES

the relationship between sovereignty and human rights. That is because there is a rising level of world intervention against regimes oppressing their people. Basically, what is happening is that the concepts of territorial integrity and political sovereignty are now given second place to human rights considerations. Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, (1951 - 1999)

Founder of Yemen Times **OUR**

OPINION Yemen Times and press freedom

lmost coinciding with World Press Freedom Day, Yemen Times was awarded the International Press Institute (IPI)'s 2006 Free Media Pioneer Award. The Award was established to honour individuals or organisations that have fought against great odds to ensure freer and more independent media in their country or region. I can not think of a better way to celebrate the World's Press Freedom Day.

In chorus, the letter we received from Paul Kokoski, Yemen Times regular reader summarized it all. Paul argued that freedom of the press is not just about overcoming government oppression and censorship, in fact, he sees it as a service of truth with a duty to foster justice and solidarity in human relationships at all levels of society. This is why we take it upon ourselves not to just report and cover news or publish articles. Our independence gives us the ability to be selective and neutral about the information we provide to our readers. There are consequences for every information delivered and we try as much as possible to provide the reader with true, yet constructive, information that would eventually serve the common good and develop the society.

Receiving this IPI's Free Media Pioneer Award is an honor we pride ourselves for. Earlier this year, late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, founder of the Yemen Times, was honored by the Middle East Publishing Conference with the Lifetime Achievement award.

Every year the Yemen Times flourishes and progresses more and more, and its continuous success in the field of press freedom is being noticed and appreciated by many internationally acknowledged organizations. Yet perhaps the most awarding prize that we got and continue to get is our readers' respect and appreciation. To know that our hard work and late nights are worth spending, because at the end we are who we chose to be, despite the difficult times, fulfilling a promise to deliver the constructive truth no matter what it takes. Thanks to IPI, and thanks to our staff who made it happen and of course thanks to our readers for continuing to make us happen. Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Where are the Arab promises to Palestinians?

ince the conclusion of the last summit, the summit's fans are boasting of the achievements of this summit. On top of these achievements is the decision to stand by the side of the elected Palestinian By: Dr. Abdulaziz government and support it Al-Maqaleh

following the Israeli declaration of confiscating of the restrained Palestinian people's assets. The American administration and European Union followed suit, in restraining aids, which the former Palestinian government used to receive. Some of those who are antagonistic

materially and morally,

to Arab summits are saying that, if the conference is earnest in supporting the Palestinian government, this will be the only privilege for the summit, and justifies the Arab leaders meeting for which they endured the travel and dialogues.

However, days pass by and the Palestinian's sufferings are aggravating with the increased demand for flour, rice, sugar and tea. Yet, supporting the resolution remained ink on paper, as it summits' resolutions. Help to the Palestinians came from the Iranian brothers, who did not attend the summit and did not commit themselves to promises the credibility of which is questioned. The Palestinians are still looking forward to other aids from other Islamic countries as they grew

despaired of their Arab brothers who are the ones to rescue what is left of the remaining Palestinian institutions, which are now on the verge of collapse. It is now clear that the international aids, on which the Palestinians were depending, were given for the sake of the Israelis and not for the Palestinians.

One hopes that the Arab brothers would live to their commitments in the last summit, by providing the Palestinians with their needs to lift them from their worst ever conditions during their history. We only hope that what is believed by the public is untrue; that is, what Arab leaders see in the summits is contradictory to what they see after their departure. In fact, it should be the way around as things

is the case with the other looks different on the ground and among the people, who often remind leaders about the suffering of their brothers in Palestine undergoing starvation and murder.

> On light of the above, and out of the confidence on the Arab leaders whether those attended the Khartoum conference or not, I tend not to believe that these leaders, especially those who have the economic abilities, abstain to help their brothers and their starving children for fear of the White House. I suppose, though suppositions are sometimes wrong, that the White House knows the generous nature of an Arab and his history in relieving needy people. This happened even when this Arab was merely a Bedouin. I think the wise consultants of the American administration have read the story of the indigent Bedouin Arab who intended to slaughter one of his sons to feed a guest after he failed to find anything to offer to this guest, the guest whom he did not know even where he came from or the direction he was going to.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Magaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies.



For Yemen and the Arabs: A cultural void

hat some of the Arabs are crying wolf for Iran achieving the ability to enrich Uranium is really amazing, since there is no way that this can be attributed to fear of Iranian attacks on them. In fact there is reason to believe that the Arabs should be pleased with the significance of this development in enhancing their position in the lopsided current of power equation we are now lining in this region.

Notwithstanding the political ramifications cited above, what is obvious from the Arab position is that they are fearful for their cultural setback as the supposed vanguard of the Islamic nation and that is understandable to a certain extent. On the other hand that should remind the Arabs all across the map that indeed they have fallen and are continuing to fall behind in the cultural development that could make them a nation to take note of. The Arabs are not just behind in enrichment of Uranium, they are behind in all the fields of cultural and human development that would make them a nation to be able to face the challenges of the times.

Despite the combined awesome, though unevenly distributed wealth of the Arab World, it goes without saying that this wealth is not being channeled properly towards enhancing the overall welfare of the Arabs and the cultural development that is essential to their inclusion in the sphere of progressing nations. The Arab World probably suffers the highest rates of illiteracy and considerable depressions in the poverty level that bespeak a horrific future to anyone with any capacity to analyze trends. In terms of cultural output, this observer cannot fail but notice that the cultural outputs of the Arabs thirty years ago was probably more visible, if not in numbers then in quality. The output shown that is seen in most Arab states from a cultural standpoint is boring, lacking in color and spirit. With the most beautiful of all languages, our poets are now producing the weakest form of poetic expression and letters. Our newspapers are boring and our songs are sleazily commercial, making even the most uncultured cry for the likes of Um Kulthoum, Mohammed Abdul Wahhab and the many others that highlighted the Twentieth Century.

What has happened to us? The answer is quite simple. Our governments have solely focused intellectual and cultural achievement towards glorifying the icons of the regimes that have our necks under their feet, and any output is either shrugged off or subjects its producer to punishment. We have lots of talent that is forced to beg or undertake menial tasks not related to their talents just to meet the needs of sustenance.

While all will cry because Iran is able to enrich Uranium, what have we been able to enrich in our pride that will give us hope and determination to stay the way, to ensure that a proper place is left for this nation culturally, economically and politically. Most of the political regimes are so backward and corrupt that it is almost shameful to expect that we deserve any meaningful place in this world. We have distorted the whole concept of government to mean the prosperity and the indefinite power of those that are charged with overseeing the interest of the nation, leaving all other considerations aside.

Yes, the Iranian people have a right to be proud of themselves because they have done what we had the ability (together as a nation) to do long ago. But the problem is that our priorities have been rearranged to placate the wishes and aspirations of the selfish icons that make up the regimes we are forced to accept as our leaders. When these regimes start to understand the moral responsibilities that they shoulder then we can speak to them it another language, other than the language of contempt.

Tepid summit at hot atmospheres

adness had overshadowed the faces of who those attended the Khartoum summit. They have been affected with tedium maybe even from themselves and the futile meetings they attend. The leaders who went to the meeting venue in

Khartoum looked as if they were forced to attend it. The Sudanese president Al-Basheer, chairman of the summit meeting looked morose, and possibly he has the right particularly with absence of many Arab leaders for which one wonders the reason.

The date of the summit is known and fixed a year before and consequently there was no excuse for him to say he had obligations beforehand. The absentees' health is very good and there was no mention that one of them had caught any illness and their states are stable as it did not happen that any domestic troubles forced this leader or that to lag behind for the interest of his people and protection of stability in his country.

They might have felt that their atten-

greetings with their counterparts. It seems that all leaders are absent on purpose and in response to the other's will and the other is in this regards the great Satan that take advantage of any summit meeting to cast on it its reckless adventures.

at Khartoum summit. At the beginning it attempted to prevent its convening in the Sudan, encouraged by the reality of its success in this regard at the African summit which was held in Khartoum last January when it managed to wring out chairmanship of Sudan of the African union and granted its chairmanship to the Congo on the eve of the Arab summit America submitted a draft resolution, passed immediately on the 24th of last month demanding the deployment of international forces in Darfur. America went on in its pressures on the conferees at the Arab summit to encircle Sudan and compel it abide by resolutions of the international legitimacy, i.e. accept internationalization of the issue of Darfur.

cause and this also the Arabs have no relation to it either way. America had dictated on the Arab leaderships to not provide the government of Hamas with any funds. Moreover, convention of the Arab summit had coincided with Israel holding its 17th Knesset elections and Israel alone was given the task of drawing up future scenarios of want would be the Palestinian situation.

The Lebanon and Syria is an issue decided internationally by America and it is not believable the Arabs would be involved in it otherwise they would expose themselves to grave embarrass-

The only thing missed by the leaders who did not attend the Arab summit was the meeting with the Turkish Prime Minister Tayyib Erdogan who was keen on attending a summit whose parties were absent.

There remains the question strongly repeated in the Arab street on what is the avail of those summits whether they were periodic of emergent. What is the way for leaving the vicious circle inside which the official Arab incapability inside it?

As for the Iraqi issue, America has Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist

sake and exchange of **By: Prof. Abdulaziz** Al-Tarb

America had done much ment.

dance was equal to their absence. For what reason? Maybe if they had attended the stand would have nit changed. There Editor-in-Chief may be only photographs shot for keep-

decided beforehand. The Arabs have no effect or say on it after the Bush administration decided to hold talks about it with Iran. Also there is the Palestinian

and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of a number of professional associations, such as the Arab Group for Investment and Development.

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

Letters to the Editor

World Press Freedom Day oday, many view freedom I of the press solely in terms of overcoming government oppression and censorship ...

However, the fundamental moral requirement of all communication is respect for and service of the truth. By accurately reporting events and correctly explaining issues, the media have a strict duty to foster justice and solidarity in human relationships at all levels of society. The media serve freedom by serving truth: they obstruct freedom to the extent that they depart from what is true by disseminating falsehoods or creating a climate of

unsound emotional reaction to events. Only when people have free access to true and sufficient information can they pursue the common good and hold public authority accountable. If the media are to serve freedom, they themselves must be free and correctly use that freedom. Their privileged status obliges the media to rise above purely

ests.

commercial concerns and serve

society's true needs and inter-

media are key actors in today's

world, and they have an

immense role to play in building

that trust. Their power is such

that in a few short days they can

create the positive or negative

The communications

public reaction to events which suits their purposes. Reasonable people will realize that such enormous power calls for the highest standards of commitment to truth and goodness. Paul Kokoski

Was Bin Laden deceived? "But they worked their plan, and their plan was before God, and their plan was such as would move the mountains" (Surat Abraham 14-46)

paulkokoski@mountaincable.net

G od had depicted the extent to which deception may reach at times. Mountains may diminish under its intensity;

leave alone a weak creature like the human being.

We all witnessed on the 11th of September the collapse of one of the buildings of the International Trade Towers in New York, which was followed, by the second one, shortly afterwards. They became just a trace of ruins. They became a rebel that was lately removed. The site of the destroyed towers was given the name 'ground zero'. We also witnessed the direct impact, which rocked the whole world, with the Islamic world, who was immediately accused, on top.

In fact, what happened on that day was a model to which the

conspiracy might amount. What happened was the result of the theory of "civilizations conflict", which was fabricated by the Zionists' mind, whose leaders thought that the opportunity of dominating the world had ripened following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Yet they think that the only obstacle that hiders their plans is Islam. They attribute this to the significant populace, and civilization. They think of the necessity of directing a destructive blow to it.

The American and British decision makers were convinced with the civilizations conflict theory and its advan-

tages was circulated. The Zionist cupidity was not understood. The Al-Qaeda organization was formed, and some Muslim youth were lured to join it, to carry out some operations that were attributed to it. This was accompanied by exaggerated media campaigns of the role of the organization and its leader Bin Laden.

However, President Clinton's hesitation, especially in executing an immense attack inside America, hindered a great part of the Zionist project. He was punished for that with the scandals and the shameful prosecutions. Bush agreed to do what Clinton had rejected. He set out

to take a number of measures, including the provocation of China and the withdrawal from Rights Human Durban Conference and others. He carried out the 11 September attack, and incidents continued. But Gods prodigy was observing their actions. He disclosed their conspiracy and the theory of conflict of civilizations failed. Yet was Bin Laden aware of the Zionist cupidity? There is possibility that he was deceived, like the others, but the fact remains that he is a part in a serious crime, engineered by the Zionism. However, God will hinder their intrigue.

Dr. Abdullateef Al-Adham

YEENENTimeswww.yementimes.comFirst Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-SaqqatTel: +967 (1) 268-661 Fax: +967 (1) 268-276 P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a, YemenE-mail: yementimes@yementimes.com Advertisement: ads@yementimes.com	Publisher & Editor-in-Chief Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf Managing Editor Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammag Head of News Dept. Mohamed bin Sallam Head of Design Dept. Ramzy Alawi Al-Saqqaf	<i>Editorial Staff</i> Al-Ajel, Fatima Al-Ariqi, Amel Al-Ghabri, Ismail Ali, Mohammed Al-Jabri, Mohammed Al-Khawlani, Adel Al-Mayasi, Yasser Al-Molsi, Shaker Khidhr, Mohammed Patterson, Dana	Offices Aden Bureau: Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596 Fax: +967 (2) 347056 Email: ytaden@y.net.ye Taiz Bureau: Imad Ahmed Abdullah Tel: +967 (4) 217-156, Telefax: +967 (4) 217157 P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye	Hodeidah Bureau: Mazen Abdulghani Al-Saqqaf, Mobile: 711404122 Ibb correspondent: Nashwan Dammaj Mobile: (+967) 733840609, Email: naschuan2000@yahoo.com Hadramout Correspondent: Saeed Al-Batati Mobile (+967) 733896986 Email: albatati88@yahoo.com Fax: +967 (05) 360303	 Policies: All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion, Op-Ed and Youth pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences. Letters to the Editor must include your name, address or email. We reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity, style, length and legal contents. Any article or letter submitted cannot be returned to the writer under any circumstances. To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.
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Press - Op / Ed

9 8 May, 2006

service ministry for pensioning

Three JMP members in Aden

Writer Zaid al-Shami says in an

article the ghoul of corruption is

destroying beautiful and sabotages

every good, squander every resource.

Corruption has deprived our country of

Corrupt situations did not help

improve the conditions of people. The

rise in oil prices in the world market

has not even had good effect on the

situation, and the same can be said

We are certain that the state of

weakness that characterizes our life is a

stage that could be overcome even

without extending our hands for the

assistance of others. However.

corruption has always been the factor

preventing us from rising from the

bottom to at least to the mountainside,

about loans and aid offers

if not the summit.

hundreds of them

much of assistance.

arrested





Main headlines

- Officials charged with corruption in Ibb detained

May 2006.

- Tribal revenges in Mareb - Presidential candidate al-Hamdi: The regime fabricates crises to solve its problems
- Nasserite Secretary-General meets head of the National Democratic Institute
- 17 soldiers from Coast Guard fired from service
- Deputy chairman of elections commission: I refused to sign reply to opposition file because of violations
- Al-Haq party does not intend to withdraw from JMP
- Chairman of UN Security Council sanctions committee to vast the region to discuss issues of Zindani and al-Oadi

The newspaper's political editor has written saying the ruling party has jumped over the opposition to all that it wants and opposed by the opposition. It did not respond to or hold dialogue on the JMP initiative for the national and political reform. The ruling part also did not bother itself to respond or hold dialogue about the supreme commission of elections that the JMP accuses of impartiality and violation of the constitution and the laws and not even about guarantees for free and decent elections. It has not dialogued about the letter the JMP handed to the president of the republic in its recent meeting with him.

We don not want here to give a judgment on the ruling party or its intention but out of its responsibility and position of its authority we demand it to explain the situation that the political action has reached on the Yemeni arena and whether that was tense or not, and if has any relation to democratic climates and calculations as a national gain we have accomplished and looking forward to a day we can live completely as protecting the unity and mobilize the people for development as well as building a front of social peace. We want to know if the ruing party does still believe in pluralism and the other opining, giving the opposition a space for movement and keeps bridges and channels open.

The ruling party is now facing a big

weekly, organ of treat especially after it had foiled the Nasserite initiatives and arguments of the Unionist opposition, defeated its role, and has gone ahead dealing with matters solely. **Organization**, 2 In addition, it has stabilized in the people minds their conviction that it is the party that is meant by foiling national initiatives and would not present them. Is it expected with this critical political situation that it would put pressure on itself and change its

> pursuit and thus comes forward with an initiative restoring the national political experiment to its legal legitimacy free from violations?



Main headlines

- Instead of the party leadership, the President meets four of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) secretaries Corruption and recession of freedoms cause suspension of assistance to Yemen
- Qahtan: No deal between the President and the Sheikh
- International emissary to investigate into freezing al-Zindani's assets and properties
- The Egyptian intelligence convey its experiment to Yemen
- International report: Yemen is lagging behind state in easing investment environment Requested PM Bajammal disclosing
- the offenders: Committee on protection of Journalists says Yemen's stand weakening increasingly by
- continued targeting of journalists Fish wealth federation accuses the ministry of fish wealth of destroying
- marine ecology A court sends president of Housing Bank to prosecution for hindering implementation of a verdict

The newspaper's editor in chief says in his editorial article that sometimes he receives calls from some people having a threatening implication claiming that the newspaper should not step beyond the red lines describing that newspaper as has become specialized in targeting the president of the republic. The editor in chief says in this regard, there must be an admission that there some article that may criticize the president the newspaper publishes but they do not target him as a person. Those people should know

more because it is a personal targeting. There must be an explanation that there is nothing between us and the president that dictates targeting his

personality which no one can deny its impact on the modern history and he knows that fully it could not skipped that he is the first one in charge in a country where he bore responsibilities of his government's and party's mistakes without holding them accountable.

The president at any rate as a position will not make him away from criticism, taking into account that this democratic space is his choice and he is still defending it. It is difficult that democracy is tailored according measurement of each official because otherwise the dictatorship would have been better.

There must be a confession that there is still a gap between the president and journalists and intellectuals who have been portrayed as on the hostile side and that has doubled the misunderstanding and remoteness of the distance. The president has not used to be restrictive in his attitudes with journalists and some writers personally, through and after some meetings with the president or telephone conversations I was reaching a conclusion making me reconsider the stances many times and wonder to what extent we do injustice to the president and hold him responsible for things he is not responsible for. That query would soon falls back painfully when we do not a prominent corrupt whose corruption was proved to be sent to prosecution for his corrupt practices, though some of those were sent to Shoura Council as punitive measure. I cite the president's saying that "Nothing worse than democracy but its absence.)

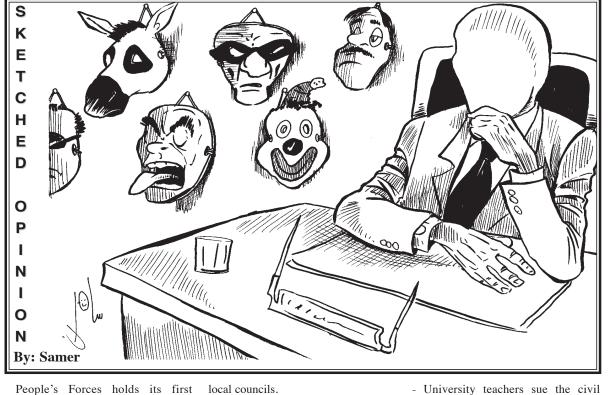


Main headlines

Diplomatic sources: Suspending assistance to Yemen attributed to increased anxiety regarding corruption and recession in freedoms Ali Nasser: We have paid and still paying the price of our stands Palestine foreign minister:

Government of Hamas will not recognize Israel

Shoura Council of the Union of



People's Forces holds its first

session Donor countries increase their

pressures on Yemen Writer Abdullah Ali al-Nassi writes about the local elections in Yemen saving the first elections of the local authority were held in 2001 under the law of the local authority an then the local authorities had assumed their power in the governorates and districts. The law has created a qualitative

leap in the course of the democratic pursuit and since this is a new experiment, it is normal to face some difficulties and impediments. We had expected that those elections would effect a qualitative transfer in all areas of development but regretfully it had failed in that. The failure responsibility is to be blamed on

First, the citizen because he dealt with the experiment of local elections with indifference and nonconcentration in choosing the efficient person qualified for representing him in the local councils.

Second, the political parties that dealt with the elections with the aim of winning the largest possible number of seats.

Third, trade unionist and civil society organizations that were totally absent though it was hoped that they would live to the event because they are more experienced than others in such elections.

Fourth, the media. I think that most of the media do not serve the homeland, in enlightening the citizen about what is good for him and good for the homeland

Fifth, the government by strongly sticking to the centralization that the law of local administration has torpedoed throughout the past five years and thus it did not support the local councils. Sixth. The local councils in the governorates and districts as they did not upgrade their performance and their poor comprehension of the local



return from governance

- One million and a half election tickets leaked and large-scale violations GPC and security leaderships involved in a scandal of kidnapping
- and torture of an Islah activist Political and social forces call for supporting the Palestinian people and break the siege



Underweight children... underweight nation

-t seems our plight in scoring delivered during immunization - a low rates in various aspects of program currently saving around development will continue. 350,000 lives per year by boosting immune systems. And fortifying staple foods with key nutrients like iron and iodine is a proven way to protect millions of children against damaging deficiencies and developmental delays. This means that it is not a matter of financial resources being pocketed by rampant corruption. It is rather of care about the future of the nation.

authority law.

Main headlines

Arrests and violations arouse fears of totalitarian

New alliances for a new century

By: Donald Rumsfeld

n 1970, I traveled to Egypt as part of a delegation representing the United States at the funeral of President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Back then, Egypt was closely aligned with the Soviet Union. When we arrived in Cairo, it seemed that everywhere one looked there was evidence of the Soviet presence - Soviet tanks, missiles, and troops.

During the visit, we were scheduled to meet with Anwar Sadat. No one in our delegation was sure what to expect, given the uneasy relations between our two countries at the time. To our surprise, Sadat told us that he, in fact, had respect for the US. The reason? As a young military officer, he had visited our country and had had an excellent experience.

And, indeed, within two years of taking power, Sadat expelled the Soviets from Egypt and began to build a friendship with the US that, despite challenges and periodic differences, has proven important and valuable ever since.

I mention the importance of these military-to-military relationships because the US in this new century is undergoing a significant transformation of its military arrangements and partnerships around the globe - necesrealities, and new threats, that have emerged since the end of the Cold War. It is important to note that since 2001, the US has probably done more things, with more nations, in more constructive ways, and in more parts of the world, than at any other time in its history.

sary adjustments based on the new

In the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush helped fashion and lead the largest coalition in history -80-plus nations – to fight the global war on terror. Furthermore, roughly 60 nations are currently cooperating in the Proliferation Security Initiative to prevent dangerous weapons and materials from being transported to terrorists or outlaw regimes.

There has been a rethinking of the structure and role of our traditional military alliances, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which is setting up a new NATO Response Force and has moved outside Europe for the first time with the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

The focus of attention today is on Iraq and Afghanistan. But in future decades, priorities will change. And much of what we may be called on to do in the future will likely be determined by choices made by others.

Consider Russia, a nation with vast

natural resources, an educated population, and a rich heritage of scientific and cultural achievements. Like Americans and others around the world, they are threatened by violent extremism. Russia is a partner with the US on some security issues, and our overall relationship is the best it has been in decades. But in other ways Russia has been unhelpful - using energy resources as a political weapon, for example, and in their resistance to positive political changes in neighboring countries.

The same holds true for China. The Chinese people are educated and talented, and their country has great potential, with high economic growth rates and an industrious work force. Nonetheless, some aspects of Chinese behavior remain unsettling and complicate our relationship. Last year, a US Department of Defense report noted that China's defense expenditures appear to be much higher than acknowledged by the Chinese government. Coupled with a notable lack of transparency, this understandably concerns China's neighbors.

In addition to the choices that these and other countries make, America's own choices will be an important factor determining what kind of future it faces. From time to time, US public sentiment has opposed playing an active role in the world and fulfilling

our commitments to allies - and, indeed, to the cause of freedom. In the early 1970's, as US ambassador to NATO, I remember having to fly back from Europe to testify against legislation in our Congress that would have pulled US troops out of Western Europe and NATO, just as the Soviet Union was in the midst of a huge military buildup.

Today, nations that were members of the Soviet Union's Warsaw Pact, as well as some of the former Soviet Republics - countries that we used to call "captive nations" - are valued members of NATO and represent some of our most stalwart allies in the War on Terror.

This did not happen by accident or by chance. Looking forward, I am convinced that if we have the wisdom, courage, and strength to adjust longstanding strategic arrangements, embrace new partners, and, above all, persevere in the face of adversity and difficulty, we will see a similar victory in this "long war" against violence extremism and the other threats that may emerge in an uncertain new centu-

Donald Rumsfeld is US Secretary of Defense.

ry.

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We are backsliding in all aspects of life; in media freedom, transparency, and good governance, poverty....etc. The only field in which we are progressing is the degradation and backsliding. Every now and then, we read scaring reports about the situation in the country, anticipating the breakdown, collapse and even fragmentation of the state by the coming ten years unless a miracle takes place. The scenario is really frightening.

Last Tuesday, the UNICEF released its report on the situation of the children suffering from malnutrition worldwide. According to the report, Yemen still suffers from one of the highest rates in the world for poor nutrition among children under five years old. Around 46 percent or let us say almost half of the children are underweight, being vulnerable to various diseases.

This means that Yemen has made slight progress toward the UN's eight "Millennium Development Goals", aimed at eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. The UNICEF report said the average annual rate of reduction for underweight children in Yemen between 1990 and 2004 was a mere minus 3.6 percent.

Of course, there are several reasons for malnutrition including poverty, disease, and weak maternal health care, lack of diet variety and others.

The UN agency says the solutions can be as simple as a capsule of vitamin A costing just a few cents

But, what does it mean that half of the children of the country are plagued with malnutrition and underweight?

These children of today are the leaders of the country tomorrow; it is they who are going to run the country. Imagine that around three million children are bridled with undernutrition. They are, of course, unhealthy. Unhealthy people can not learn effectively and hence will not be hale and sound to run their country. Unhealthy people can never think smartly and take right decisions. Some might look at the issue in a very simply way. But, it is that serious and needs adequate emergency planning and response. Having physically and intellectually sound and strong people is a must for making a good and healthy nation. Underweight people certainly means underweight nation; diseased and disabled people produces nothing but crippled and handicapped nation. It is unfair to find ourselves obliged to even import human resources to run the country and that the bad governance of today will continue to cripple the country's potentials on the long run.

Health





Minister of Health to YT: There is no bird flu outbreak in Yemen so far, we are prepared to tackle it

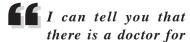
n an exclusive interview with Yemen Times, the Minister of Health Dr. Abdulkarim Yehia Rasae talked about several issues related to the health system in Yemen, the bird flu pandemic, the lack of doctors and their distribution in the country and the ministry's vision and future plans regarding the Millennium Development Goals. He was interviewed by Dr. Hamdan Dammag, Managing Editor, and Amel Al-Ariqi, Health Page Editor.

Q: Is it correct that you asked MPs to ask people to eat chicken as the country is free of Bird Flu?

A: No, it is not like that. In one of the parliament sessions, one MP said that the government provided the Ministry of Health with 2 billon YR to fight bird flu. This MP asked the government to pay farmers and poultry's owners as well. I told him that we can compensate farmers only after the spread of the disease. Our view was that if MPs, who are refusing to eat fowls, want to support the farmers then they should buy and eat chickens as well as convincing people in their constituencies to do so as there is no infection of Bird Flu yet, and we have said that many times.

Q: As we know, the monitoring process is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture whereas the Ministry of Health is responsible for watching the infection among humans. How can you confirm that Yemen is completely free of bird flue among human and poultry?

A: There is a constant collaboration between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture. We receive daily reports from the monitoring department in the Ministry of Agriculture which shows that there is no infection among the poultry yet. Some reports mentioned that some fowls perished in some farms, but these reports also indicated that this was due to other diseases like Newcastle disease. I, as a Minister of Health, confirm to you that there is no infection of Bird Flu in Yemen until this moment, whether among people or birds.





The Minister in Brief

Dr. Abdulkarim Yehia Rasae was born on November 3, 1958, Yemen. He did his M.B., B.Ch in the Faculty of Medicine, Al-Azhar University, Cairo in 1982. He has an MSC in Pediatrics from the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, in 1988 and M.D. in Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Sana'a, Cairo University, in 1993. He was the Rector of Aden University from 2003 until 2006. He was also a Professor of Pediatrics at the Faculty of Medicine, Sana'a University, from 2000 to 2003. From 1997 to 1999, he worked as a Deputy Minister of Health for Medical and Health Services.



Dr. Abdulkarim Rasae (left) showing the Managing Editor the daily reports the Ministry receives on bird flu monitoring in Yemen.

ments that we will buy such as ventilators, as the disease may lead to failure in respiratory system. We also provided medications such as the Tamiflu we prepared 250,000 tablets for adults and 4000 bottles for children. We also provided special uniforms for some workers and doctors who received training courses in many medical establishments around the country. Regarding raising the awareness among people, the Ministry is launching an educative flashes and programs in the national TV and radio.

meet the minimum education criteria so what about the students who graduated from these universities? A: The Ministry is not going to deal with any graduate student from a private university except those graduated from the Science and Technology University, which has a recognition from the Ministry of High Education and the Supreme Universities Council. The other students can be moved to

Q: According to the statistics, there is a doctor for 10,000 people in Yemen and doctors are not equally distributed around the country. How do you deal with this matter? A: In fact we find that most of the doctors are centralizing in three governorates: Sana'a municipality, Aden and Taiz. I can tell you that there is a doctor for 600 people in the city of noted real corruption in these institutions due to the lack of monitoring from the local authorities in these governorates. Thus, in the Ministry we are still studying specifying a unified price for medical treatments in private hospitals. In addition, we are looking at how to classify private hospitals. That is, we will put fees according to the services provided by these hospitals, the cost of the equipments used, the health care quality... etc. At the present, the fees are random as every hospital put prices regardless the quality of the medical services it provides.

Q: What are the main obstacles hindering the implementation of your plans?

A: The Ministry of Health undergoes many obstacles. The Ministry is planning for the next years to work on raising the per-capita share of individuals regarding medical services. In Bahrain, for example, the individual share is 100 US Dollars while in Jordon it is 150 US Dollars per person. In Yemen, it is only 3 US Dollars.

There is also unfair distribution of funds to the medical services. The government allocates 5000 YR (approx. 25.5 US Dollars) per bed in Al-kuwait Hospital, 8000 RY (approx. 40.8 US Dollars) per bed in Al-thawra Hospital while one bed in a hospital in Hajja governorate (supported by Saudi Arabia) is allocated 200,000 US Dollars yearly. We hope to raise the budget of the hospitals to improve the medical services. In this regards, I put this issue in one of the cabinet meetings and I can say that I found an understanding. Talking with donor countries also helps us to finance medical projects and programs. For example, the donors support the polio companies and malaria program.

Q: A month ago, newspapers reported that a monitoring medical committee has found two non-Yemeni doctors with a license to practice medicine although they had no medical knowledge. What is your comment about that?

A: Giving licenses is the responsibility of the local authority in the governorates. Local authorities' role is to watch, supervise and change, whereas the role of the Ministry of Health is to evaluate the performance of the medical institutions there. The Ministry gives a primary licence for practicing medicine in the basis of a letter from the General Authority of Investment. Then the Ministry has no authority at all, even the reconstruction of medical institutions became the responsibility of the local authorities. As a Minister of Health, I can't change a director of a hospital because this is the responsibility of the local authority according to the law.

A: Areas for cooperation are many, but as a priority, the Ministry considers the following:

• Increasing reproductive health services at all district hospital and health centers, as 75% of the deliveries take place at the community level not by trained health personnel.

• Increasing coverage and accessibility to Primary Health Care and that will be through providing affordable health care to minimize incidence and prevalence of communicable disease, which will reduce infant morality rate and maternal mortality rate.

We have here a five-year health plan (2006-2010). Any future cooperation should be according to this plan. Programs include health management system, essential service packages with special focus on Primary Health Care, quality Assurance and blood safety and training.

we are looking at how to classify private hospitals. That is, we will put fees according to the services provided by these hospitals, the cost of the equipments used, the health care quality... etc.

Q: What is your plan concerning Millennium Development Goals?

A: The development process and health should go in line with the government Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan. In this regard, I suggested to the Yemen Development partners many measures that can be taken such as the provision of free contraceptive pills to rural areas where 75% of the population live. I also pointed at the importance of human rights, which should be respected via providing decent Maternal Child Health Family Planning (MCH/FP) services for woman in general and those living in the rural areas in particular.

The condition is terrible with high infant and maternal mortality rate, Malnutrition, low birth weight, high prevalence of diarrhea disease, acute respiratory infections, Malaria, complication of pregnancy and deliveries.

600 people in the city of Sana'a, a doctor for 12,000 people in Dhamar governorate and a doctor for 90,000 people in Otma province.

Q: Can you tell us what did you do to face such pandemic?

A: The Ministry is following plan and precautions that all Arab countries are adopting to face this disease. This plan was prepared with the cooperation of world Health Organization (WHO). We have also the national plan of Ministry of Health and Population to fight this disease. According to this plan, we are working to equip medical institutions and hospitals with equipQ: The prime Minister suggested putting the medical collages under the supervision of the Ministry of Health. What is your opinion on such suggestion?

A: Well, this system of putting Medical colleges under the supervision of the Ministry of Health is adopted in some countries such as Iran, which is known by its distinguished medical heath system. However, while this system is not adopted in any Arab country, Yemen may consider following this system in the future.

Q: Yemeni authorities have ordered the closure of medical faculties in private universities for failing to



The Minister of Health talking to the Health Page Editor.

public universities according to the council's decision.

I call female doctors to undertake their humanitarian duties not only in the cities but also in the rural regions.

Q: Newspapers recently reported many cases related to medical malpractice and doctors' errors. How do you deal with such cases?

A: There is a draft prepared by the Supreme Medical Council. This draft is now in the parliament and the cabinet to adjust it in order to make it a law that defines the penalties and punishments in medical malpractice cases.

However, such issue is related to the existence and need of forensic medicine. We need an authority that examine, improve and define the deficiency sides or malpractices that lead to ambiguous death as an example. Therefore, the Ministry of Health with the cooperation of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice are thinking to establish such a forensic authority.

Q: You directed an investigation over the reasons behind the death of an infant in Al-Sabeen hospital (Sana'a). What is new in this case? A: The Ministry is still investigating the case. The doctor involved in this case is still suspended as it has been found that there was negligence in dealing with the case. Sana'a, a doctor for 12,000 people in Dhamar governorate and a doctor for 90,000 people in Otma province. The Ministry is considering a draft law that forces doctors to work in the rural areas. In my last visit to the University of Sana'a, I spoke about this draft with the Faculty of Medicine's students. I also asked influential people not to interfere and try to prevent the implementation of this law.

Q: Does this usually happen?

A: Yes. When I was a deputy in the Ministry of Health, we began at that time to prevent the centralization of doctors in these governorates. We faced lots of pressure from many personalities who tried to affect our decision. I also call female doctors to undertake their humanitarian duties not only in the cities but also in the rural regions. I really wonder why some parents do refuse sending their daughters to work in other governorates while they accept sending them abroad to get their medical degrees. I want also to confirm that there are orders from the Prime Minister to support and encourage the medical staff by recompenses those who work in the rural regions.

Q: Is it right that the Ministry has decided to set a unified price for medical examinations and treatments in private hospitals?

A: The Ministry carried out many investigations in the private hospitals. We found a lot of malpractices and breaches. I ordered to change many mangers and directors of such medical facilities in many governorates. We **G** Health Management is the weakest point in the health system and I believe more attention must be given to this point.

Q: How do you describe Yemen's health condition?

A: Health situation in Yemen is poor and is categorized number 141 amongst 191 countries around the world. There are diseases and non-diseases problems related to health management, health information system and low coverage and accessibility.

The condition is terrible with high infant and maternal mortality rate, Malnutrition, low birth weight, high prevalence of diarrhea disease, acute respiratory infections, Malaria, complication of pregnancy and deliveries. There is also an increase in the prevalence of communicable and non-communicable disease.

Q: What are the areas of cooperation between the Ministry and its partners? I mentioned the social health insurance that will improve the performance of the health system and provide additional resources for funding good quality of health care. It is the essence of health sector reform .I asked for technical and financial support in this area.

As for Health Management, which is the weakest point in the health system at all, I believe more attention must be given to this point. This can be achieved by using different ways and means like training, planning, utilization, decentralization and accreditation.

I also referred to District Health System, which needs to be core for HSR at the district with more emphasis on simplification of financial procedures, community participation, financial sustainability and transparency. Health care provision must be provided integrated in the district level.

To achieve such goals, the Ministry plans to enhance and strengthen donor harmonization and alignment through agreements on specified 5 to 6 priorities with more emphasis on Primary Health Care, Reproductive Health, Health Management and joint health sector review.



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12 8 May, 2006 Culture Al-Afif Cultural Foundation honors Hussein Al-Amri

By: Yemen Times Staff

I-Afif Cultural Foundation held a celebration Tuesday May 2, 2006, to honor Prof. Hussein Abdullah Al-Amri, member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Al-Amri is a preeminent Yemeni is historian, thinker, politician and researcher who honestly and objectively unveiled historical facts. His scientific efforts covered writing, editing and translating.

At the end of the ceremony, the honored scholar received a memorial, certificate of recognition and a version of the volumes of the Yemeni encyclopedia presented to him by Ahmed Jabir Afif, President of Al-Afif Cultural Foundation.

A number of speeches were delivered on the occasion. One of them was by Prof. Yosuf Mohammed Abdullah who reminisced his first meeting with Prof. Hussein Al-Amri. "That was in the summer of 1980 at Cambridge University," he said. "The meeting opened for me a new world. I knew much about Yemeni antiquities, ancient history and cultural heritage. Yet, I had known little about the history and heritage of Sana'a. I was concentrating on the studies of Yemen and Arabia in Pre-Islamic eras. However, when I met. But it was Hussein Al-Amri who inculcated in me the studies of Yemen under Islam. With his profuse knowledge and smooth talk, he attracted me to the Islamic history of Sana'a."

Despite his young age at the time, Al-Amri had the honor to organize the 1974 Islamic Festival in London which resulted in the memorial book on Sana'a which was supervised by Robert Sergeant, longtime professor of Yemeni and Arabian studies in Cambridge University.



(Left to right) Prof. Yosuf Abdullah, Prof. Hussein Al-Amri and Mr. Ahmed Jabir Afif.

Yosuf also mentioned the common works that joined him and Al-Amri. "We were together in the clique selected by great educator Ahmed Jabir Afif and were resolved to establish Al-Afif Cultural Foundation and author the Yemeni Encyclopedia. We were together when the Islamic Capitals and Cities Organization assigned us to author an architectural historical book on Sana'a."

Both of them also took part in the publication of Sana'a: Civilization and History, published recently by Sana'a University. They also lectured at tens of international conferences and symposia on Yemen, and its civilizations and histo-

As described by his friend Prof. Yosuf, Prof. Al-Amri is trimmed, clear-minded, well-mannered, with delicate taste. "He likes the good types of cuisine, adorns the majestic forms of beauty, has a sense of

humor, writes magnificently, and is eloquent and tactful. He likes people and people like him."

Prof. Al-Amri is a real politician. He was the son of a Prime Minister and he himself was a foreign minister when he was well below the thirties of age. He served as an ambassador to the UK.

In his word, Dr. Hamid Al-Awadhi, Yemen's representative at the UNESCO, said that Prof. Hussein Al-Amri succeeded in combining the study of history, literature, jurisprudence, Quraan interpretation, politics, diplomacy and culture in a gorgeous encyclopedic mould.

"He removed the barriers among the knowledge components and formed one entity crystallized in his multiplicity of edited books and miscellaneous studies. He analyzed that knowledge entity to constitute a new understanding of the main and auxiliary parts." Ahmed Jabir Afif, President of Al-Afif Cultural Foundation, delivered a speech in which he said that he has known Hussein Al-Amri for about 50 years. "My happiness is indescribable," he said, "as we introduce today a scholar and a builder...I cannot describe the journey of a scholar and a historian who could pave his way with difficulty and could secure high degrees from respectable institutions. He is a lofty head in Yemen and in the Arab world. He has exerted much efforts and spent the bloom of his life in seeking knowledge."

Prof. Hussein Al-Amri has got a long record of achievements. He edited poetry collection Aslak Al-Jawahir (Strings of Jewels) of Imam Al-Shawkani. He also has written a number of researches and studies including Yemen's Modern and Contemporary History, Islamic Civilization in Yemen, Ship of Literature and History, Yemeni Cotemporary Historians, Yemeni Issues in History, Culture and Politics.

Dr. Hussein Al-Amri was born in Sana'a on April 28, 1944. He finished his primary education in Yemen and the secondary in Egypt . He graduated from the Faculty of Arts (History Department) of the University of Damascus. He did his M.A. at Cambridge University (Britain) and his PhD at Drum University (Britain). He joined the ministry of foreign affairs in 1964 and in 1975 was appointed as deputy minister of foreign affairs. Later, he occupied ministerial positions such as minister of foreign affairs, minister of education and minister of agriculture.

Presently he is a lecturer at Sana'a University's Faculty of Arts (History Department) and a member of the Shura Council.



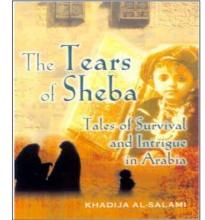
By: Yemen Times Staff

celebration was held on May 3, at Luxembourg Palace, the French Senate Palace, in Paris to honor the Yemeni directress and writer Khadija Al-Salami on the publication of the French version of her "The Tears of Sheba," published by Actes Sud.

Al-Salami was also praised on her outstanding achievement in deepening the Yemen-France relationships.

At the celebration, the Chairman of the Yemen-French Friendship Society, delivered a speech underscoring the role played by Al-Salami in

Short Story



The cover of the English version of "The Tears of Sheba."

introducing her country and her efforts in strengthening the bonds between both countries.

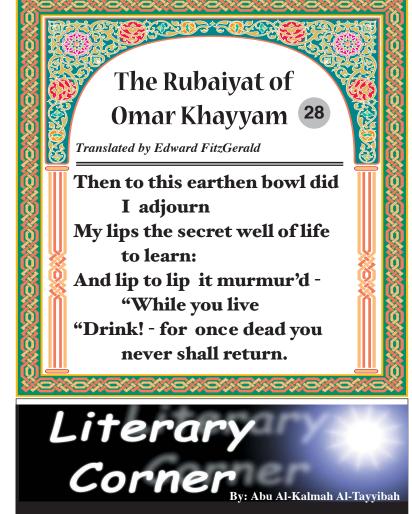
Ameer Al-Aidarous, Yemeni ambassador to France, referred to Al-Salami who is a also a diplomat, as a "model for the contemporary Yemeni woman."

"Tears of Sheba" has proved to be a success story. It has been already published in English, and Irish and the Japanese rendition is expected soon.

The book relates the life of the authoress which was devastated by the impact of civil war. That mentally destroyed her father and made him unable to care for his family. Determined to escape destruction around her, Khadija, at the age of 12, asked the local TV station to let her host a program for children. She later used the money that she received for these broadcasts to travel to the United States to study. She graduated from Mount Vernon College in Washington DC and, after undertaking postgraduate study in Film production, returned to Yemen to continue working at the Yemeni TV station. Al-Salami directed appreciable films

Al-Salami directed appreciable films like "A Stranger in her own City".

Khadija is serving now as a Press and Cultural Attaché and Director of the Yemeni Information Centre in Paris. She lives in Paris with her husband, Charles Hoots.



Yemen: The People and Culture (II)

Author:QadhiAbdullahAbdul-Wahhab Al-ShamahiLanguage:ArabicPublisher:Dar Al-Hana Printing

Year Publisher: Dar Al-Hana Printing Year Published: 1973 No. of Pages: 370

he book starts off by giving a broad anthropological and geographical view of the world, in which he traces the Yemeni people as part of the Semitic Race, within the Caucasoid Group. The other races in the group are the "Hamites1" and "Arians". The other two groups according to the author are the "Negroid" or "Black" and the "Mongoloid" or "Yellow". Then he notes the different sub-races among the Semites (Babylonians, Phoenicians, Arabs, Aramaics, Ethiopians, etc. He classifies the Arabs as being three subclasses: The extinct Arabs, the Qahtanis (Southern Arabs) and Adnanis (Northern Bedouins). The latter He cites his references for these details from Western historians (Wells, Van Ness Meir ?). An interesting presentation is made of how the original Semites were in fact the Arabs and the term Semites was introduced by early Jewish historians, so as to isolate the Arabs from the Semitic race, when in fact they are the original race of all Semites, and accordingly monopolize this classification². Later, the Western orientalists saw this as a good means of the Nation of Thamud and settled in the area between Asir (now in Saudi Arabia) and Hadhramaut. Continuing his dissertation about this sequence of Arabs of prehistoric times as he calls them, the author finally comes to the Yemeni dynasties that do have ample records to depict their existence. These dynasties or kingdoms are: Ma'en, Saba, Himyar, Qataban, Hadhramaut, Awsan, Jaba or Habban, Sama'a Hashid and Arba'a. The most prominent of these kingdoms are the first three.

The Ma'en Kingdom. There were six dynasties for this Kingdom, which the author states existed between 1500 - 800 BC. Twenty eight kings succeeded to the throne and their names were found in some of the stone engravings found in Al-Jouf Governorate. The author points out that Ma'en's prosperity and expansion was not the result of conquest and war, but of trade and commerce. Ma'en's influence extended from the Northern Mediterranean coastal towns in the Levant to the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea ports that it controlled. In addition to control of traffic between the East and West with the Frankincense Trail and other ancient historical trade routes. Ma'en had its own industrial output as well. To some of the historians. who suggest that the Ma'enians were offshoots of the Babylonians (there are some records of Ma'en in Sumerian inscriptions in Babel that go back to 3750 BC), the author notes that the names of the Ma'enian kings were not the same as those of Babylonian kings and other peculiarities that differentiated both nation-states of ancient times. Because of the mentioned inscriptions, the author contends that the Ma'enians existed well back into the Fourth Millennium BC. Although the author mentions the period of the prevalence of the Sabaean Kingdom as from 850 BC to 115 BC, he asserts that they are really emanating from the same ancestral roots and both the Sabaeans and Ma'enians had used names that are normally associated with each respective nations. The author then enters into a discussion of the advent of East-West conflict with the rise of the Roman Empire as an offshoot of Hellenic culture. The highlight of the discussion was the depiction of how Julius Caesar had extended the power of Rome in all directions and gave Rome prominence that only the German barbarians to the North East and the Yemenite Arabs in the South were still independent of. The former were not more than "bandits and nomads", with out a settled culture, whereas the Romans saw the Yemenis as a standing civilization that had to be contended with.



Heir Apparent

By: Ramziya Abbas Al-Iryani

hadija touched her belly anxiously while muttering supplications that this time she would give birth to a boy and make her husband, Masoud, happy.

His words coursed through her body and wounded her.

"How barren your soil is, Khadija! Six girls one after another. If you had given me one son to watch over his sisters in my old age and after my death, then life would have been easier."

She tried to placate him.

"There's no distinction between girls and boys anymore. They all go to school and get jobs."

"Believe me, mother of my daughters, girls cause a lot of worry and trouble."

Then he added with affected calmness and indifference, "You remind me, Khadija, of our land. The only thing it generously bestows on us is qat."

"You baffle me. Is it my fault that I'm just the soil? What you sow, you reap. Take care to sow crops other than qat and you'll see what the land produces for you. But all you care about is hurting me and your daughters."

Khadija moaned from the pain as she tried to forget her sorrows by recalling beautiful memories and by occupying herself with tidying the house. But the pain refused to go away.

She said to herself, "What a pity, Khadija, if you have another girl in your belly. Masoud will remain angry

with you for one or two whole weeks because of his bad luck.

"I pledge a dozen candles and a half a pound of incense for the saints and holy men, a celebration for the Prophet to be held at home, and the recitation of the Koran in the big mosque. The important thing is that Mohammed will arrive."

She had chosen this blessed name for her son. Masoud would surely approve of it, for he only cared about the child being a boy. The name did not matter to him at all.

That sharp pain had persisted in her back since the previous night. Her belly was burning like an oven full of flames. She had been pregnant six times before and had never experienced such pain.

This midwife who assisted the neighborhood women in childbirth always shouted joyfully, "There is no god but God!" when she saw her, declaring that this time her pregnancy was different. Her complexion was pure, her belly round, her voice clear, her eyes bright, and her walk light. And soon the boy would arrive.

How happy it would make her to hear the midwife announce Mohammed's birth! The pains of childbirth would vanish and she would give a celebration deserving of Mohammed. On the day of the boy's circumcision, Masoud would slaughter a big lamb, and they would invite all the family and neighbors. Blessed be her sisters, for they would prepare a feast to honor the boy and present his father favorably.

She could no longer suppress her screams. The labor pains got closer and closer together, and her body convulsed from the excruciating contractions, which felt like they were splitting her body in two.

She screamed in pain. Masoud woke up startled. They awaited time had come, and fate was approaching.

He rushed out of the house to seek help, and returned at once with the midwife. She proceeded to assist Khadija, who had collapsed.

"I've been pregnant six times, Umm Ali, and never before have I experienced this pain."

The more she screamed, the more Masoud feared for her life. He insisted on taking her to the hospital. Perhaps there she would get something to ease the pain.

He felt his limbs stiffening when the doctor informed him that his wife's condition was critical, and that only God, the benevolent, could save her. He waited a long time, his heart pounding.

The nurse came out with a gloomy face.

"Congratulations. It's a boy, and..." He jumped to his feet with childish joy and headed for the operating room. The sound of his son's crying rang out, rising higher and higher.

The nurse grabbed him. "Where are you going?"

"To see my son and his mother. Have you told her? Let me share with her our joy over Mohammed's birth."

"His mother...his mother asked

about the sex of the child before she breathed her last."

At that moment, he wished he had been told that the baby was dead and the mother alive.

"She died? It can't be! How did she die? How could she leave six little girls and a newborn child who hasn't yet opened his eyes to the world...and me? Who will look after them?"

He broke down in tears as he burst into the delivery room utterly incredulous. The doctor led him to her.

Choking his tears back, he held her cold hand with longing.

"Come back to us, Khadija. I don't want a boy. I want you. Your daughters need you. They have no one to look after them but you. Your baby may not survive without your tender breast and merciful hand.

"How will I return to your six children without you? They don't understand the meaning of death and life. All they want is your presence. Will you abandon them? Will you abandon your own flesh and blood?"

The baby's crying grew louder and louder, and Masoud sobbing became more anguished. They all tried to release his hands which were grasping at the body lying prostrate on the table. Meanwhile the nurse approached with the newborn child to put him in his father's trembling arms.

From "Arab Women Writers: An Anthology of Short Stories," published by State University of New York Press. Translated by Dalya Cohen-Mor. facilitating their colonialist ambitions. On the geographical analysis, the

author notes that Yemen during the early history of man in the Glacial Age was the birthplace of civilized human settlement, for the simple reason that its climate then was accommodating to settled human life, whereas most of the Northern human settlements (Asia Minor, Europe, etc, where still under glacial cover. While maintaining Yemen as the point of origin of all the Semites, he then recounts some of the chronology passed down by Arab historians which gives the sequence of ethnic supremacy as follows: The Giants (the likes of Goliath in the Biblical tale of David and Goliath), the first A'ad people, the Second A'ad People, Thamud, Qahtan and Ya'arub, Jurhum I, Jurhum II, Oman and Hadhramaut. For the 'extinct" Arabs, Shamahi notes that there is little historical record of their existence, but here is mention of them in the Scriptures (the Old Testament, Jewish Scriptures and the Qur'an) and there are some locations that bear their names. He states that chroniclers pointed out that the last stronghold of the "Giants" was in Mecca until Ya'arub the Son of Qahtan sent his brother Jurhum to drive them out of the city in prehistoric times. However, the Giants, as well as the Two A'ad nations are still drowned in mystery except what brief mention is made of them in the Qur'an. The A'ad I settled in the Al-Ahqaf area, whereas A'ad II were the descendants of the punishment inflicted upon the A'ad I people, who defied the prophet of God, who sought to remove them from idol worship and turn them to the worship of One God. The former had migrated to other areas of Hadhramaut. These were followed by

¹ I.e., the sons of Ham, son of Shem, son of Noah.

² Wikipedia, the free Internet Encyclopedia notes: "The Proto-Semitic peoples, ancestors of the Semites in the Middle East before the break-up of the hypothesized original proto-Semitic language into various modern Semitic languages, are thought to have been originally from the Arabian Peninsula. Other theories place proto-Semitic in the Ethiopian Highlands.



Youth

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

Scary or lack of confidence?

By: Barkatullah Marwat Kuwait

ur foreign minister, Mr Khurshid Kasuri repeating his complaint said, 'US attitude on civil N-tech is inappropriate.' It took me back to my school days when an inspection team from the office of the regional director had a visit to our school. That day our school looked quite beautiful as it was clean and neat, and properly whitewashed since it was the annual inspection of the educational institutes. Well, the officials came. inspected the classes, served with roasted chickens and drove back to another school.

Next day, I heard two teachers murmuring about something that was perhaps not brought to the notice of the inspection team. I could not make out whether they were afraid of the team,

Consulting - Training - Qualifying

headmaster or they lacked confidence Strange enough when Mr Bush visited Pakistan recently, no body could ever dare to ask him why he was drawing lines between two arch rivals by supporting the one with civilian nuclear arsenal while what's the mistake of the second one?

Interestingly, the said minister [Mr Kasuri] got to receive the American President, but he did not say anything, even a whisper to Mr Bush. Now we have come out to water our field when the flow of water in cannal dried up. Perhaps they are unaware of the English maxim, 'Strike while the iron is hot.

What I am sensing is that our leaders are either scared of Mr Bush or they lack self-confidence that's why we have always happened to lag behind India in almost all fields though both of us got independence on the same day.

My childhood days

By: Syed Rehan Ali

How beautiful were those charming

Worries or tension no, not at all Just watching cartoons and wandering

And ignoring all what the elder says Scoring good marks then show to all

But have to stand first in the race Littering and throwing things here and there

Then shouts of mom "who did this mess?"

Remembering all my childhood days

My heart's color

My heart is still the widest spout gate Love and passion's nubs won't sprout If He doesn't pass through and saturate

or red

Only when his chambers

If he is stabbed, His temperate showers are to be brawny Cascade

In the fullness of time His serenity is grown Only His bashful face is to be brighter

My heart's color that I own

All artists' hands failed to decorate

with the core of time, the purified place



programme delivery.

his/her absence.

interest and impact of action)

implementation.

and share knowledge.

public information events.

supervision of Deputy Representative the Assistant

Representative has a dual role. He/she is the primary

implementer of the Country Programme as well as playing

a leadership role with a programme team in the country

office. The Assistant Representative substantively

contributes to the management of UNFPA activities in the

areas of population and development, reproductive health

and gender. Acting as an analyst/advisor, the Assistant

Representative proactively provides information on

achievement of results in the implementation of UNFPA

programmes. The Assistant Representative establishes

and maintains collaborative relationships with counterparts

in government, multilateral and bi-lateral donor agencies

and civil society to address emerging issues and to facilitate

He/she must effectively influence counterparts from diverse

backgrounds to jointly contribute to advance the ICPD

policy agenda. The Assistant Representative acts on behalf

of the Representative and/or Deputy Representative during

Results-Oriented Functional Statement (focusing on

individual contribution, engagement, communities of

Advises and reports on achievement of programme and

project results, proactively measuring substantive

progress and the effective utilization of financial and

human project resources using appropriate monitoring

and measuring mechanisms and tools. Leads

programme and project implementation guiding and

orienting executing agencies and project personnel

introducing effective modalities and practices of

Creates and documents knowledge by evaluating

programmes, projects and ongoing experience for

lessons learned, best practices and replicable

strategies and approaches and actively shares and

applies this knowledge. Creates mechanisms to collect

Provide substantive inputs to institutional responses

and advocacy strategies taking into account political

and social sensitivities. Takes opportunities to advocate

and advance UNFPA's policy agenda by participating in

Contributes to the resource mobilization strategy by

analyzing info on potential donors, preparing

substantive briefs and project proposals in line with

donor priorities, creating feedback mechanisms and

providing information on progress of donor funded

projects. Identifies opportunities for cost-sharing.

Vacancy Announcement

UNFPA Country Office in Yemen is looking for qualified Yemeni nationals for the position of **Assistant Representative, Reproductive Health**

Under the guidance of the Representative and direct Functional Competencies

- Advocacy/Advancing a policy oriented agenda Results-based programme development and management
- Innovation and marketing of new approaches
- Leveraging the resources of national governments and partners/Building strategic alliances and partners

Corporate Competencies:

- Integrity/Commitment to mandate
- Knowledge sharing/Continuous learning
- Valuing diversity
- Empowerment / Developing people / Performance management

Personal Leadership and Effectiveness:

- Strategic and analytical thinking
- Results orientation/Commitment to excellence
- Appropriate and transparent decision making

Job Requirements:

Academic Requirements: Master's degree in health, population, demography and/or other related social science field.

Experience:

5 to 8 years professional experience preferably in programme/project management in the public or private sector

Languages:

Fluency in oral and written English and Arabic. Additional UN language is an asset.

Computer skills:

Proficiency in current office software applications.

How to apply:

Applicants should submit their applications/CVs in sealed envelopes to UNFPA Office in Sana'a before 20th May 2006

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and invited for the interview

Please send your application to: Reproductive Health Project/UNFPA, Sana'a, P.O. Box 7272

Deadline for application: 20th May 2006

Please note that only candidates who fulfill above requirements will be considered and notified.





days The only grief of the broken toys

alwavs Not to work but play all the time

And getting happy when all they praise

Not to worry for the marks and grades

In angry mood when dad use to call Then say at once "Oh God bless" Sitting alone under the shade of tree

By: Fuad Noman

And no rose can be garnished by pink

Illuminating the deep silhouette

As the emitting of the Greatest

Sports



Women sports: Shining past and stumbling future

By: Aden Bureau

14

8 May, 2006

uring the 70s and 80s of the past century, female sports was thriving in Yemen as the government paid closer attention to different sports and athletic games. The state conducted a study on different types of sport and applied it in real life situation and during primary and secondary school stages. Schoolgirls were involved in sport activities through clubs in Aden governorate. Encouraged by the state, those girls proved skilled enough to partake in several international and local competitions and win numerous titles, reflecting a good impression about their country.

Shining past and stumbling future: At the beginning, we met Nadia Yousef Ahmad, one of the leading sportswomen and volleyball player of Al-Mina Sport Club in Aden.

Emphasizing the importance of women sports in schools first and then in clubs, Nadia Yousef recommended the parties concerned to pay enough attention to women sports and expressed her will to coach ladies interested in volleyball and form strong team in an organized way.



Sprinter Aahd Wadee

Q. Can you please give us a glimpse of your athletic history?

A. I joined the sport field at an early age, in 1973 when I was at Salem Omar School in grade five. At the beginning, I played table tennis and within a short period of time I started playing volleyball. I was so fond of this game that I used to attend matches every day during the break time to watch the school team while playing.

Q. What about your international and local participations? Any won titles?

A. I had many participations in school rounds, the first of which was in Egypt in 1976 when I scored the top place. Later on, I took part in several school rounds in Sudan, Libya, Morocco and Russia. We played well and obtained silver medals surprising other Arab country teams who never expected a Yemeni women's team to play in a modern style and win titles. We won silvers and bronzes in the last international participation and encounter-mated Yemen with Russia in 1988 according to a sport protocol signed by both countries at that time. In 1989 I resigned the volleyball game.

Q. How do you assess the current situation of women sports in Yemen compared to the past?

A. No one can see any more female sport activities in the country today, although, a female team won a medal in the past. Currently women's sports are a fools game due to the random method in selecting girls to participate in school championships. Also there is the lack of sport facilities and physical education classes at schools, as well as the lack of professional female coaches to guide sportswomen.

In the past, different women sport activities flourished, as schools used to organize several games such as volleyball, table tennis and basketball and football matches for both boys and girls. Additionally, track and field games were organized in many stadiums and sport fields nationwide, while physical exercise classes were taught as part of the syllabus in primary and secondary schools.



The community looks down on sportswoman

At Aden Education Office, we met Ms. Hekmat Tarboush, sport and cultural activities officer in Al-Tawahi District and asked her about the following:

Q. Can you tell us about the progress of women sporting activities at school?

A. The Education Office in Al-Tawahi District set a complete plan for different sport and cultural activities commenced about seven months ago. We staged intellectual and sport contests between schools at the district and governorate levels, in which Al-Tawahi won the top place in table tennis, volleyball and chess competitions at the governorate level.

Q. Women sports have been stumbling for a long time now. What is your comment on this?

A. Women sports have been stumbling for many years due to the lack of teachers majoring in physical education, as one can not find qualified teachers in charge of sport activities at schools. So I urge school administrations and education offices in districts and governorates to pay closer attention to school sport activities and provide schools with competent teachers to give classes on physical education.

Ms. Tarboush added that

community has a derogatory look on ladies doing sport activities, and therefore some parents prevent their daughters from playing any games. This is why women sports in Aden declined. Despite all this, we exercise various sport activities according to a plan prepared by the activities department in the district. We reached an agreement with the Mina Sport Club people who cooperated with us and gave ladies and girls the opportunity to join the club and practice different games.

Women sports is a must

At Ibn Sina Primary School, we met school principal Rahima Tarboush who spoke about girl's sports at the school. She said: "girls' sports at school suffer great shortcomings due to the lack of necessary equipment and tools that support sport education.

"Through our personal efforts, we staged numerous championships at district and the governorate levels. Our school won top place many times, particularly in table tennis and volleyball while we failed in track and field competitions due to a lack of training," Ibn Sina Primary School Principal added.

She pointed out that the school won many titles in table tennis, which was the fruit of continued exercises under the supervision of well-experienced teachers who came

from Al-Mina Sport Club. "After we with the club coordinated administration, we advised girls to join the club in order to be coached on table tennis and vollevball," Ms. Tarboush noted.

Ms. Rahima Tarboush urged officials in the governorate and education offices in districts to activate women sports at school, as these activities are part of the school syllabus. She called for these bodies to establish halls for tennis, nets for volleyball, as well as to supply equipment for field and indoor games, to encourage strong competition between schools and build special houses for women sport activities.

Championship but no awards

A 13-year-old Nuha Al-Haidari in 8th grade at Ibn Sina Primary School who is good at table tennis said: "I loved playing tennis when I was in the fourth grade, as my parents, family and school encouraged me to continue practicing the game. This made me insist on participating in many competitions within Aden governorate. I won the first place following a series of games with Al-Shu'alah, Al-Wahdah and Shamsan clubs due to continuous exercises at Al-Mina Sport Club that facilitated my task and gave useful guidelines.

Q. Do you inspire to play the game

on a more professional level and participate in international competitions?

A. I have the ambition to do so and nothing is impossible. If there is enough support given by the government to female sports and encourage girls at primary and secondary schools as well as provide the equipment necessary for the games. I urge the education office in our district to honor talented girls and encourage them to demonstrate strong competition.

Weak sporting activities

An 11th grade school girl Ahd Wade'e described her athletic history saying, "I play many sports well as I was brought up in a family interested in sports and my sisters are basketball players, my mother is a jumbos champ and my father is an educator. My family members played different games and this encouraged me to continue practicing table tennis for a year and a half and then to shift to track and field games. I won many titles and obtained gold medals, silvers and bronzes at the national level."

Ahd added: "we partook in external competitions in Syria but failed to won top places due to a lack of preparation and supervision on the part of the track and field committee. I won gold medals in a 400-meter and silvers in 1500-meter races.

Q. How do you predict the future of women sports?

A. I do not know whether there will be any brilliant future for women sport activities in Aden in the shadow of a lack of sport equipment, coupled with the random selection of schoolgirls to partake in competitions without any prior training. The concerned bodies did not form schoolgirl teams at an early time, nor did they provide specialized teachers to coach girls on different games. Additionally, there is no effective contribution from the parties concerned to activate physical education.

Ahd Wade'e called on the parties concerned to pay closer attention to women sports and award talented girls who won titles in different games.

Ittehad Ibb leads second grade teams' first group

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Team from Aden in last Friday's meeting at home soil to lead the first group of second-grade teams with 12 points while the visiting team remained in the fourth place with four points

In Al-Dhal'e, Al-Nassr downed Sha'ab Sana'a 3-0 to lead the second group with 12 points while the loser stayed in the third place with 7 points. In the same group, Shabab Al-Beidha defeated Fahman 2-1 increasing its points to 10 while Fahman remained in the fourth place with 7 points.

In the third group, Rahban team from Haradh drew its guest Amal Aras in a goalless match that made the former rank sixth with 5 points while the visiting team remained in the

fourth place.

Sayoon team beat Shabab Bajel 2-0 Ittehad Ibb won 2-1 over Shamsan in a first group encounter to jump up to the fourth place with seven points while the latter remained at a single point.

> In another game, Helal Abyan scored a 3-1 victory over Al-Mina from Aden, raising its points to 7 in the sixth place while Al-Mina remained in the last place with a single point.

> Wahdat Sana'a team, a first group mate, won 1-0 over Ahli Taiz advancing to the third position with seven points while the loser went down to the sixth place.

Salam Al-Ghurfah team drew its guest Sharat Lahj in a second group meeting to maintain fifth place with six points while the visiting team declined to the eighth position with 3 points.

gτz **Vacancy Announcement**

The Yemeni –German Project Advisory Services on Conflict Management (GTZ) is looking for a highly motivated

Technical Officer

Main Task(s):

The Technical Officer supports the improvement of conflict management skills of staff and partners of German Development Projects. He/she supports conflict-sensitive approaches and strategies in the Development Sectors Water, Basic Education, and Health. Under the supervision of the team leader he/she is responsible for designing, organizing and implementing trainings and advisory processes. The assignment includes field trips to different areas of Yemen.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- University Degree in Social or Political Sciences
- At least 3 years work experience in conflict management or in related fields
- At least 3 years of work experience working in international development organizations
- Very good and proven training and advisory skills
- Excellent communication skills
- Fluent in English and Arabic
- PC knowledge (MS-Office)
- Should be available soonest

Interested applicants who fulfill the above-mentioned requirements should send their detailed CV (with copies of awards/degrees earned, references, etc...) with a short covering letter referring to the position advertised. Non-Yemeni applicants should have valid and necessary work and residence permits.

All applications are to be submitted in a closed envelope clearly marked as the following:

"Application for Technical Officer- CPAS Project (GTZ)" Human Resources Officer, GTZ Office Sana'a GTZ Office Sana'a P.O. Box 692 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Final date for submission of applications will be the 24stMay 2006.

Only short listed applicants will be contacted and invited for interviews.

Job Opportunity PADZEY

Project to Support Animal Production in Two Zones of Yemen

The PADZEY Project is a four-year project resulting from the cooperation between French and Yemeni governments. The project is implemented and supervised by the General Directorate of Animal Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The project aims to support rural development in animal production areas in order to alleviate poverty in two pilot rural areas of Yemen

- 1- Wadi-Mawr area, with a specific focus on fattening programmes of small ruminants.
- 2- Taiz area, with a specific focus on traditional goat cheese production.

<u>Secretary</u>

The PADZEY Project is looking for a female secretary for headquarter- Sana'a office.

Required Qualifications:

- Fluency in English written and spoken is essential.
- Minimum 3 years experience.
- Computer skills (word. excel)
- Young, dynamic, hardworking, open minded, she will be able to take initiatives and responsibilities and to work in the afternoons.

Driver

Required Qualifications:

- 1- Good in English.
- 2- Minimum 4 years experience
- 3- Driving License
- 4- Young, dynamic, hardworking, open minded, he will be able to take responsibilities and to work in the afternoons, he will have to drive out side Sana'a

Interested applicants please, send resume (C.V) within 10 days of this advertisement:

PADZEY Project, fax: 561913

Tel: 561 914 E-mail - PADZEYPROJECT@YEMEN.NET.YE

15 Classifieds

8 May, 2006



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Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

Queen Arwa's Capital: Wonderful city with two rivers

By: Adel A. Al-Haddad

iblah is a small city, but deeply it has been rooting in history of Yemeni civilization. Jiblah's reputation appeared with Queen Arwa's fame who got the throne of Sulayhi state. She reigned from 477 -532 A.H (1085 - 1138 A.D). Queen Arwa preferred to shift the capital from Sana'a to Jiblah and to be then Jiblah became her capital and the political capital of Yemen in the medieval ages. The Sulayhi State ruled Yemen from 1064 -1138 A.D on behalf of the Fatimid State in Egypt.

Jiblah is called the city of two rivers flowing from right and left sides of Jiblah. It is one of the most beautiful cities in Yemen. It is famous for its natural beauty, green meadows and attractive greenery. It has abundant water resources flowing from mountainous water springs, plants and vegetables. In deed, it is the wonderful city with all beauty factors that can be seen in the city of two rivers.

Jiblah is one of the historical cities of Ibb province. It lies on the westernsouth of Ibb city about six Km. it situated on the middle of Yemen between Sana'a and Aden, acting as a central point for ruling Yemen by the Sulayhi State. It was built by the prince Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Sulayhi in 485 A.H (1066 A.D). Jiblah name was attributable to a Jewish man was a potter worked in Jiblah, his name was Jebilah.

Queen Arwa's historical landmarks: iblah city has many historical landmarks

and rare ruins still remain yet that have witnessed on Queen Arwa's role in



enhancing Yemeni civilization with many wonderful antiquities. Such as, the palace of Al-Mu'ez, Queen Arwa mosque and its library and the old market of Jiblah. It has all facilities in which tourists can enjoy themselves and arouse their admiration. So many tourists visit Jiblah every day in particular in the summery days for seeing wonderful landscapes and architectural landmarks that can be seen everywhere

Queen Arwa mosque:

Queen Arwa was interested in strengthening her state by spreading knowledge, science and information, especially; religious sciences. She built many mosques and small schools for teaching the Holy Qur'an and Arabic language. She built a grand mosque which was named in her name after she passed away and to be as

an evidence of her great role in building Yemen in the medieval ages and a symbol of her wisdom. Queen Arwa mosque still remains till today. It was built in the middle of Jiblah city in order to all locals can join easily for prayers, especially; Friday's prayer. The mosque has two long, decorative minarets, one is called the western minaret and the other is called the southern minaret. There are many verses of the Holy Qur'an inscribed on mosque's walls in beautiful design. Besides, the mosque's door was made of good wood which inlayed with some verses of the Holy Qur'an. Generally speaking, the whole mosque looks like an attractive pearl of the architectural magnificence. It is the most remaining landmark of Quenn Arwa forever. So, locals prefer to prayer Fridays in Oueen Arwa mosque.

Library of Queen Arwa mosque: Queen Arwa mosque contains on wealthy library full of rare manuscript books about Islam and Arabic language. The library contains on a manuscript of the Holy Qur'an was written creatively since more than 700 years ago. She encouraged woman's education; so; we can find many manuscript books were written by educated woman. Therefore; Jiblah city is called the city of knowledge, information and science. It acted as information and knowledge sources for knowledge students and researchers in the medieval ages.

Qaser Al-Mu'ez:

Qaser Al-Mu'ez (Palace of Al-Mu'ez) was the palace in which Queen Arwa settled down and issued her political decisions. The palace was contained of 365 rooms as a number of year days. It is said that Queen Arwa was slept every night in different room in order to avoid any attack, if any, because attackers will not know which a room she will sleep. Most parts of the palace were removed, but its ruins have witnessed on architectural heritage of the Sulayhi State. By the way, the palace had a secret, long hole joined the palace with Al-Ta'ker castle which was used for an emergency.

Charitable lady:

Charitable lady is one of titles which attached to Queen Arwa, however; the most famous title is Al-Saidh Arwa (lady Arwa). Queen Arwa reputed with her love for charity. She bestowed many lands for charity in which its income are sponsored for mosques maintenances and for poor people. For example,

Salbat Al-Saidh Arwa is one of the my and spreading justice throughout largest lands for charity and for helping deprived people. The land lies in Ibb city; it is very large and was used for feeding cows, sheep, etc. But most parts of the land are now replaced with new modern building such as Ibb University. The queen Arwa was born in 444 A.H and died in 532 A.H. She ruled Yemen after her husband died for 55 years full of great achievements and everlasting deeds. So; she deserved to be honored

with a title the "Little Bilguis" (the

Queen of Sheba). She flourished econo-

Sanaa

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E-Mail: cccyemen@y.net.ye

ment sectors had improved especially agriculture and constructions. In fact, the whole city of Jiblah looks like an open museum for all visitors who come from all over the world to see

country. During her rule, most develop-

Yemeni woman's role in human civilizations. He who will see Jiblah city, will not only be impressed with historical sights and green landscapes, but he will also be impressed with Arabian generosity and the most friendly people of Jiblah.



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