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Reunification Day: We wish you a happy anniversary and many happy returns!

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Defaming Lady Arwa Mosque



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Tetanus: The high risk



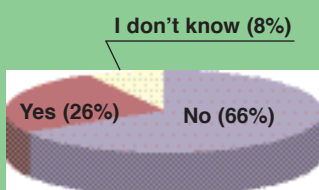
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Zabit: Originality, history and beauty

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Many pro-government research centers conducted surveys on the best presidential candidate eligible to govern the country after the coming election. Do you think these surveys are neutral?



This edition's question:

16 years have elapsed since Yemeni reunification was achieved. Do you think that the reunification has gone on as planned by the parties who achieved it?

Yes
No
I don't know

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

Reunification 16 years on

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, 21 May – Today marks the sixteenth anniversary of the realization of reunification. The Yemeni dream became reality when the leadership of the South and North put aside their differences and decided to cooperate in order to build a united country.

The 1990s witnessed abrupt international and regional change when once large countries collapsed into, often ethnic, subdivisions. Yemenis began to unite at this decisive time. Unity altered Yemeni life, usually for the better. This is because the union of the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen occurred through peaceful dialogue and the desire to leave behind the era of discord and detestation.

Unification was an aspiration of the public and not only of the leadership. The most prominent results of Yemeni unification were the coming of democracy and freedom along with the institutionalization of a multi-party system. The Press and Publication Law 25 of 1990 accompanied these achievements. The law secured the freedom of expression, thought, and communication lead-



Hodeidah embraces the 16th festival of Yemeni reunification anniversary.

ing to the establishment of approximately 200 newspapers and magazines.

Law 66 of 1991 of the political organizations and parties followed. It specified the rights, obligations, and procedures for the formation of political parties. After the enactment of this law, forty-six political parties were recognized. The democratic form of government allowed Yemen to avoid serious

political and economic crisis. Foreign political and economic aid was allocated to Yemen because of the country's respect for democracy and the freedom of press in Yemen.

Clearly, the government's respect for freedom and recognition of rights is the true measure of the Yemeni post-unification experience. Respect for women rights and permitting non-governmental

organizations opportunity to operate in Yemen have gained international respect of Yemen's progress. Women have obtained many rights and continue to struggle for more.

Despite overall popular support for Yemeni unity, some resistance faced Yemeni unification, chiefly the 1994 civil war. It had a negative impact on political development though most of these unconstructive effects were overcome.

The economic crises had their effect as well. The first Gulf War significantly weakened the Yemeni economy; most of the Yemeni expatriates were expelled from Gulf countries due political consequences of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The faulty Yemeni appraisal of how to politically handle the Gulf War had a disruptive effect on Yemeni - Gulf relations. Previously, the Gulf states were a key source of revenue. More than two million Yemenis worked in Saudi Arabia. Yemeni migrants provided a large share of Yemen's hard-currency foreign reserves. Their return to their homeland caused an economic catastrophe, increasing unemployment and aggravating poverty.

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Elections: The only road to the peaceful transfer of power



President Saleh

In his nationally televised address on the 16th anniversary of Yemen's Unification, President Saleh remarked that the reunification of Yemen on 22 May 1990 was a national and historical achievement that occurred at a time when other parts of world were experiencing disintegration and secession.

“What can be considered a source of pride for the Yemeni people is that we have, from the start, committed ourselves to democratic principles and general reforms out of our own national will and desire.

Continued on page 2

Al-Dailami and Miftah pardoned, released

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A — Judge Yahya Al-Dailami and cleric Mohammed Miftah were released May 21 pursuant to directives of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who also ordered full suspension of the court's judgments against them. Both clerics were charged with allegedly inciting sectarian and theological mischief and being agents for Iran.

The president's directives abolished the death penalty against Al-Dailami, instead endorsing a 10-year sentence subject to suspension. The presidential orders also suspended Miftah's imprisonment sentence, thereby freeing him.

On December 3, 2005, the Appeals Penal Court upheld a first-instance judgment against both Al-Dailami and Miftah. According to the judgment, Al-Dailami was sentenced to death while



Yahya Al-Dailami



Mohammed Miftah

Miftah was given an eight-year prison term.

The Sana'a Specialized Penal Court sentenced Al-Dailami to death for his meeting with the former Iranian Ambassador to Yemen over a luncheon, as Al-Dailami stated. The sentence partly was based on Al-Dailami's opposition to the Sa'ada War against Houthi loyal-

ists and his call to change the political regime and form a jihadist movement affiliated with the Believing Youth, an organization formerly led by cleric Hussein Badr Al-Din Al-Houthi, who was killed in clashes between the military and Al-Houthi loyalists in Sa'ada province last September.

The court also sentenced Miftah to eight years in prison for inciting sectarian conflict and calling to change the political regime and form a jihadist movement affiliated with the Believing Youth.

Both Al-Dailami and Miftah absolutely denied the charges imposed against them by Prosecution and the court.

In late April, participants at the Human Rights and Renewal of Religious Discourse conference in Alexandria, Egypt appealed to President Saleh to intervene to cancel the Appeals Court's death penalty against prisoner of opinion Al-Dailami, as well as sentences against Miftah and Judge Mohammed Loqman.

The participants urged President Saleh to release them quickly, along with other prisoners detained in connection with the Sa'ada War, in compliance with presidential amnesty issued September 25, 2005 and its enforcement.

“We are very sure that [their release] will further enhance the human rights record and basic liberties,” participants asserted.

Suspects consider alleged plots Political Security's scandal

By: Adel Al-Khawani

SANA'A, May 21 – During Sunday's hearing at State Security Specialized Penal Court (SSSPC), some of the 19 terrorist suspects shouted that alleged plots against U.S. intelligence and Yemeni officials, which Prosecution attributed to them, are Political Security's scandal.

Suspect No. 4 Abdullah Ubadi blamed Prosecution for not hunting U.S. collab-

orators like it does militants, saying Yemeni intelligence authorities are hesitant to name any U.S. agents.

“If Prosecution claims we committed a mistake by traveling to Iraq, it is advised to form a committee to explain our mistakes,” Ubadi noted. “Prosecution did not provide any new testimony against me.”

Ubadi urged Prosecution to release him, as it can transfer him to Aden Prison if he faces a sentence. Suspect Ali

Al-Qurdi asked the court to transfer him to Aden Prison, while suspect No. 13 Ali Al-Barari pleaded that he was studying at Syria's Halab University on December 1, 2004 and returned to Yemen on January 18, 2005 prior to his capture.

Al-Barari said anyone jailed in Political Security Prison is forced to confess connections with Osama Bin Laden. He claimed compensation for being dismissed from the university where he was attending third-year classes in electronic

engineering.

The suspects' defense team mentioned in their concluding appeals that the indictment against their clients is untrue, insisting the court clear their clients and compensate them for what they lost. They indicated that Prosecution has not added any new evidence to the indictment and that their clients' travel to Iraq to fight U.S. troops was the primary reason for their capture.

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SCER uncovers rampant voter registration fraud

SANA'A, May 21 — The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendums (SCER) announced Sunday that registered voters included 53,000 minors who have not attained the legal voting age.

Dr. Mohamed Al-Sayyani, a SCER member, stated that his commission referred voter registration violations to the prosecutor's office at a news conference held Sunday. Some of the violations were committed as early as 2002 and involved the inclusion into the registry of under-aged minors, in addition to 64,000 cases of repeated names.

When queried about other electoral violations, Al-Sayyani stated that the SCER is still in the process of counting other violations planned to be announced in the coming days. Further, he explained that the SCER has devoted greater time for appeals against alleged election violations and that the SCER will handle any verdicts against electoral violations until September's poll.

Al-Sayyani indicated the SCER received 10,690 requests to add names to voter registration lists and 9,800 requests to delete names from the lists. The result was that voter registration

committees added 10,139 new voters and dropped 1,515 voters from the registration list, he added.

Abdu Mohamed Al-Janadi, Media and Awareness department head at the SCER, said that errors are bound to occur in a process administered by 34,000 voter registration and 34,000 security committees.

On a side note, Al-Janadi praised the electoral awareness of the armed forces. Even though they often transfer from one voting constituency to another due to their line of work, they find the time to register to vote.

WJWC discusses "Women and Civil Community in MEPI"

SANA'A, May 21 — Women Journalists Without Chains (WJWC) held a meeting on "Women and Civil Community in the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)" at the organization's premises last Tuesday. The event involved leading Yemeni women and a MEPI delegation.

The meeting was attended by MEPI delegation head David Mulenix, MEPI Regional Coordinator in Abu Dhabi, Muayad Mehyar, and many women activists from political parties and civil community organizations, plus presidential candidates Rashida Al-Qaili and

Sumaya Ali Raja.

Mulenix briefed attendees on MEPI, the reasons behind its establishment and what it offers women and the civil community in Yemen.

Women participants briefly reviewed Yemeni women's situations and needs, presenting their views on MEPI's seriousness to support WJWC, which contributed 3,500 observers to the voter registration process after completing an electoral awareness program in Hodeidah.

WJWC conducted its awareness program during the early days of the voter registration period, in coopera-

tion with the International Foundation for Election Systems. The United Nations Development Program also supported the 27-day program.

WJWC contributed the 3,500 observers, who voluntarily monitored voter registration and voter registry revision and modification processes. It also participated in monitoring the voter registration process with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) by providing 50 observers.

WJWC trained voter registration observers on how to record violations and complaints and write reports.

ICC workshop planned for June

SANA'A, May 21— As part of its support for the International Criminal Court (ICC), the Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights, in cooperation with No Peace Without Justice, plans to organize a workshop for media personnel on the ICC. It will be held from June 4 - 5 at the Sana'a International

Hotel.

The workshop will focus on developing methods of supporting and promoting the Rome Statute of the ICC, as well as increasing media efforts to influence Yemen to ratify the Rome Statute.

Participants will include thirty-five

trainees from various media organizations, government parties, reporters from satellite channels, and news agencies.

A work strategy supporting the ICC and a strategy for persuading Yemen to ratify the Rome Statute are the goals of the workshop.

Yemen, UN agencies sign Development Assistance Framework

SANA'A, May 17 — The seven United Nations (UN) Agencies in Yemen and the Government of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), signed an agreement that outlines UN support aimed at assisting the country in addressing its development needs over the next five years beginning in 2007. The agreement, known as the "United Nations Development Assistance Framework" (UNDAF) 2007-2011, is the UN's collective response to Yemeni development challenges in four priority areas.

The four key areas outlined in the UNDAF document are: Governance; Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women; Population and Basic Social Services; and Pro-poor Growth. These UNDAF priority areas will serve as the basis for the preparation of UN agency country programmes and projects of cooperation beginning in 2007, and are in-line with the pillars of the national Five-year Development Plan for Poverty Reduction and Reform 2006-2010.

The UNDAF process is undertaken every five years with the aim of coordinating UN activities at the country level. This approach is one component of the UN Reforms being implemented in countries all over the world, including Yemen. As



Minister of Planning and International Cooperation (center) and representatives of UN agencies during the meeting.

Yemen's second UNDAF document, this new framework builds on the achievements and progress made previously and identifies, through a rights-based approach, areas where the UN has a mandate and technical expertise to strengthen the impact of its development assistance.

As a first step to the preparation of the UNDAF, UN agencies working in Yemen completed a "Common

Country Assessment" (CCA) last year, which offers an analysis of the development challenges and opportunities facing Yemen. The CCA was a result of an extended process of consultation and debate within UN agencies and among development partners in government, including discussions with bilateral donors and the wider development community in Yemen.

Armed clashes over land

SANA'A, May 21— Two people reportedly were killed in Sana'a due to clashes between Al-Shahri tribe and a tribal sheik over land situated on Al-Khamseen Street in Hadda district.

A female child going to take her exam also was injured during the

clashes, which occurred early Sunday morning. Security troops arrived late to the district.

"Residents in the area do not sleep well, especially these days, as the sounds of shots are always there," area chief Ahmed Al-Jamrah com-

mented, "Concerned authorities do nothing to stop the armed clashes within the capital and in places that are supposed to be peaceful. I call upon authorities to interfere and prevent such clashes, which have scared people in the area."

AIDS training aims to increase awareness

Taiz, May 20 — The Preliminary Healthcare Society (PHS) held a training course on AIDS precautions under the supervision of National Program for AIDS Combating and in cooperation with Yemeni Society for AIDS Precautions. A foreign aid agency funded the course.

Dr. Abdunnaser Al-Kabab, Manager of Taiz Health Office, said the training

aims to increase health awareness in society. He said that every citizen should promote the awareness of reproductive health issues within their family and community.

Giving a speech on the occasion, Mohamed Arfan, NPAC Coordinator, emphasized the importance of establishing coordination among civil society organizations, public health and

population organizations, and the social affairs and labor ministries as another way of heightening awareness among Yemenis about the risk of AIDS.

According to Arfan, at least five courses on AIDS, other sexually communicable diseases, and general health issues have been held in various Yemeni governorates so far.

Dobas disease kills many palms in Al-Quzah

By: Saeed Al-Batati

HADRAMOUT, May 21 — Eyewitnesses from Hadramout's Al-Quzah region say dozens of palm trees are infected with dobas disease, whose spread is threatening to eradicate all of the area's palm trees. They add that authorities have done nothing to stop it.

Residents and village leaders accuse spray teams of not doing their work properly, causing further spread of the disease into wider areas.

Witnesses add that spray teams spend most of the time chewing qat under the palm trees and gave no attention to vulnerable trees. Enraged villagers protested to the local council and the district's managing director, asking them to stop the farce.

The Dobas insect secretes a glue substance that prevents photosynthesis in palm trees. So far, it has killed numerous trees in areas such as Al-Ain, Saiwn and other Hadramout valleys.

According to locals, the Ministry of

Agriculture did not begin spraying infected areas until late. Not all of the campaigns succeeded due to the wide gap between each spraying and the next, which was attributed to lack of official funds.

There is agreement in Hadramout that palm tree extinction will lead to catastrophic environmental consequences. Loss of palms would lead to desertification and massive immigration because it is the only source of income for Hadramout Valley residents.

Continued from page 1

Reunification 16 years on

In addition, terrorist activity has resulted in financial loss, hitting the tourism sector in Yemen especially hard. Yemen has been active in the war against terrorism, with this action often exhausting the country's budget. Even though Yemen has been helpful in the current international war against terrorism, the country has received little in the way of support from the international community.

The greatest obstacle to unity at the present time is the spread of corruption. It has delayed the progress

of Yemen's unity while at concurrently exacerbating existing defects in most government institutions. Many of these institutions are on the verge of collapse due to the spread of corruption.

With the passing of sixteen years since re-unification, many Yemenis are confident that reunification was a popular aspiration, as well as a result of North Yemen's and South Yemen's respective leaderships. Furthermore, political observers are in general accord that President Saleh was a vital figure in the preservation of

Yemeni unity.

Many political observers of Yemen suggest that Yemeni unity should be furthered with the enhanced development of its founding principles. Achievement of this goal will be a result of battling corruption and limiting its extent, thereby giving the necessary political space for unity to evolve and democracy to expand.

Hudieda plays host to this year's anniversary celebrations and many government officials and foreign delegates are expected to attend the celebrations.

Elections: The only road to the peaceful transfer of power

These reforms should come from within and respond to the demands of the people. The Yemeni people have started to feel the importance of democracy as the final national option," the President added.

The President also declared that this year's anniversary celebrations in Hodidah will coincide with the attainment of many achievements in development. He added that "Yemen will have local and presidential elections and efforts are being exerted to conduct them in an impartial and secure, democratic atmosphere with utter transparency." He called upon parties and political organizations to provide programs and to compete fairly so that voters make it to the polls, as fair election process is the only way

for peacefully transferring of power.

Additionally, he asked the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER) to take full responsibility in respecting all procedures related to the electoral process according to the constitution and Yemeni law. The President renewed his call for civil society organizations to actively participate in monitoring the upcoming presidential and local elections. He mentioned that an international monitoring group has been invited to observe the elections to ensure the impartiality of the elections.

On a different note, the president instructed the government to create new jobs for young Yemenis and distribute more agricultural land for them to develop. The government

will offer loans to invest in small businesses to help achieve greater employment.

The President reconfirmed the Yemeni position towards the Palestinian conflict calling on the international community to respect the will of the Palestinian people and their democratic choice; and to lift the embargo on the Hamas-led government. He also called upon the Iraqi people to stand firm, maintain their national unity, and to participate in creating a better future for Iraq until the American occupation ends. Lastly, the President expressed his sorrow for the latest developments in Somalia and called upon all parties to resort to dialogue in order to enhance the stability and peace in their country.

Suspects consider alleged plots Political Security's scandal

Defense advocates confirmed that fighting the Americans is mandatory for every Muslim, pointing out that Prosecution violated all judicial laws when it referred suspects for trial after one year's imprisonment.

Prosecution stated that the suspects confessed to the charges attributed to them, explaining that top suspect Ali Isyan summoned his accomplices to launch offensives on Western interests in Yemen and assassinate government officials

loyal to the U.S. in retaliation for Abu Ali Al-Harithi's killing in Marib by a U.S. fighter.

Prosecution said it presented all seized explosives previously possessed by the suspects at this month's court trials and in March. It demanded suspects No. 18 and 19, Jalal Al-Qadas and Aqil Al-Quhali, stand trial for new evidence against them.

The SSSPC adjourned the case against Hizam Al-Mas and Khalid

Al-Halilah, convicted of attempting to assassinate former U.S. Ambassador Edmund Hull, until June. Meanwhile, the prosecutor responded to the plea presented by the two convicts' lawyer and upheld the sentence.

In March, the court sentenced Al-Mas to 17 years and Al-Halilah to 18 years in jail after they were convicted of plotting to assassinate the former U.S. envoy while he was shopping on Hadda Street in Sana'a.

Iran, Iraq scenarios: Similarities and dissimilarities

By: Dr. Abbas Bakhtiar

On April 28th, IAEA released its report on Iran. IAEA reported that: "the Agency cannot make a judgment about or reach a conclusion on, future compliance or intentions." The report came as no surprise to those who have been following the ongoing dispute between Iran, the United States and the IAEA.

The United States, for quite some time now, has been accusing Iran of trying to develop Nuclear weapons and Iran has been insisting that its intentions are peaceful and that it is only interested in peaceful use of the nuclear technology. Iran, to allay the international community's fear, froze its enrichment program and started a series of negotiations with UK, Germany, and France. However, without the United States these negotiations were not going to produce any results, since it was only the United States that could address the Iranian's national security concerns.

The Iranians, seeing themselves surrounded by American forces, wanted security guarantees that the United States would not invade Iran, something that United States was not prepared to give. So the negotiations with the European Union failed and Iran resumed its enrichment program. Iran was threatened with Security Council and even invasion without any effect. Now once again there is talk of Security Council resolution under article 7 and continuous threats of invasion.

There have even been talks of tactical nuclear strike on suspected Iranian nuclear facilities.

All these events are reminiscent of the negotiations and threats preceding the invasion of Iraq. The unfolding events are so similar that makes one wonder if the Iraq scenario is not being used as a template for Iran. And with what has come to light since the Iraq invasion, we have to assume that like Iraq, the decision to invade Iran has already been taken, and that the EU big-three negotiations and the International Atomic Energy Agency are being used to prepare the public for that event. There are already reports of increased U.S. provocations along Iranian borders such as flying unmanned surveillance flight over Iran, and insertion of commandos into Iran for intelligence gathering and other activities.

The talk of invasion is also accompanied with war games. For example on April 14th, 'USA Today' reported that "Amid rising tensions between the United States and Iran over the future of Iran's nuclear program, the Pentagon is planning a war game in July so officials can explore options for a crisis involving Iran."

But this war game is not the first of its kind. According to William M. Arkin of The Washington Post;

"In early 2003, even as U.S. forces were on the brink of war with Iraq, the Army had already begun conducting an analysis for a full-scale war with Iran. The analysis, called TIRANNT, for "theatre Iran near term," was coupled with a mock scenario for a Marine Corps invasion and a simulation of the Iranian missile force. U.S. and British planners conducted a Caspian Sea war game around the same time. And Bush directed the U.S. Strategic Command to draw up a global strike war plan for an attack against Iranian 'weapons of mass destruction'. All of this will ultimately feed into a new war plan for 'major combat operations against Iran that military sources confirm now exists in draft form.'"

But why did the United States attack Iraq and why is it so keen on attacking Iran now? We now know that from the beginning, this administration was looking for any excuse to invade Iraq. Washington has, over time, given a number of different reasons for invading Iraq: starting with Iraq's developing banned weapons, to 'war on terror', to spreading democracy in the Middle East. All these reasons have proven to be false.

The former Iraqi regime did not possess any Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD); and did not have any links to Al Qaeda network. And instead of democracy, Iraqis have had to endure Abu Gharib, car bombs, shortage of basic services such as electricity, clean water, and health care. None of the ministries are functioning properly and in addition Iraq has to deal with half a million displaced people. There is also talk of partitioning Iraq. On top of all this, the Iraqis

now face a possible bloody civil war.

After spending over 320 Billion dollars for Iraq war (officially so far) and with no end in sight, why is the Bush administration insisting in starting another catastrophic war in the Middle East?

There have been a number of theories put forward by various groups and individuals.

Crusade

Some Muslim thinkers suggest the United States has started a crusade against Islam and is determined to vanquish any and all countries that stand in its way.

Oil reserves

Some think that with the oil reserves diminishing fast, the United States is trying to corner all the reserves and supplies for itself, thereby ensuring its future dominant economic position in the world.

China

There are others who think that invasion of Iraq and targeting Iran are part of a geo-political move by the United States to block China's emergence as a world power by restricting its access to oil.

Israel

And finally there are those who argue that the United States is doing the bidding for Israel and getting rid-of those that may challenge Israel's hegemony in the Middle East in the future.

The answer probably contains some of all of the above.

Crusade against Islam

Muslims living in Jakarta, Cairo, Karachi, London, or Detroit, every day, hear and see things that seem hostile, if not to them personally, then to other Muslims across the world. They have seen the plight of Palestinians for years without anyone doing anything about it. They are frustrated by the impotence of their leaders in the face of the neo-colonialist encroachment of the west. They hear the West talk about democracy and yet see the West support the very dictators that are oppressing them.

They see that when in exceptional cases, like Palestine, where there has been a democratic election, the West has stepped in to dismiss the results as not acceptable. They look at their past colonial masters and fear their return in disguise. They see the wars like Iraq and the 'war on terror' as excuses for new colonial ambition of the West. And above all they feel that their lives and rights, in the eye of the West, are worthless than non-Muslims. They are appalled by extrajudicial killings in Israel, torture of prisoners by Americans, the treatment of the Guantanamo bay prisoners, and ongoing torture of people at the hands of Western supported dictators as signs that the West in general and America (as the leader) in particular is on a crusade to subjugate them.

Fight for oil reserves

The profits of five oil companies combined (American: ExxonMobil, Chevron, and Conoco, British: Shell and British Petroleum) in 2005 was 111 billion dollars. And these profits are about to go through the roof. The reason? Production can not keep-up with demand, and even if it could, there isn't enough oil to satisfy all, at present prices. Oil companies' valuations are based on those companies' access to oil reserves. Iraq and Iran combined have over 20% of the world's total proven oil reserves.

Imagine what having access to those reserves will do for the valuation of American oil companies, not to mention their profits.

There is also the matter of consumption. United States consumes fully 25 percent of the world oil supplies. China and India are growing rapidly and their economies consume more and more oil. China currently consumes 8.2 percent of the world's oil production. Soon it will increase to 10 or even 14 percent. Where is that oil going to come from? Is the United States willing to reduce its share for China? It is highly improbable.

Recently, President Bush held a television conference where he assured the public that Americans' dependence on Oil soon would be over. He spoke of great new technologies and fuel sources that were just around the corner. What he forgot to mention was that there are 600 million cars in the world today that run on petrol, and it is estimated that if the present trend continues, by 2030, the number of cars in the world will reach

1.2 billion.

Just to change the engines of the existing 600 million cars will take years, not to mention all the petrol stations and the support facilities that have to be modified for this to work. There is also more in a barrel of oil than petrol for our cars. We need such oil derivatives as jet fuel, Kerosene, lubricants, feedstock, asphalt, etc., for our industries to function.

Currently over 60% of the world's oil reserves are in the Middle East. Four countries in the region, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq and Kuwait, have over half of the world's proven oil reserves.

If we keep the world's oil consumption at its current level then the Middle East can theoretically supply the world with oil, at its current production rate, for another 80 years.

But the fact is that in 15 years the North American and Asia Pacific oil reserves will be depleted. This will represent a marked reduction in oil supplies worldwide. In other words within 15 years if we do not increase oil production drastically in the Middle East and elsewhere, world will face tremendous oil shortages. Increasing oil production is not that easy either.

Each Oil field has an optimum production rate. If one tries to go beyond that rate and tries to sustain high production rate, one damages the oil field and thereby substantially reducing the amount of recoverable oil. This problem is well documented by the oil industry.

But what about the new oil discoveries? Well there have been very little new discoveries; the future doesn't seem that bright either. According to Energy Information Administration's (EIA) analysis of the long term world oil supply, we can expect to discover only 10% more oil in the future.

Even this 10% is disputed. The Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas (ASPO) which closely follows the development in the oil industry, Foundation of Economic Sustainability (FEASTA), and others see an alarming trend in the future oil discovery and production.

If one looks at the amount of oil discovered in the years from 1930 to the present, one sees a clear downward trend in new discoveries; this in spite of using more money and better technologies.

In March 2005, HIS energy (an international oil consultancy firm) did a comprehensive analysis of the world oil supply and demand and reached the following conclusion: that even if one includes Natural Gas production and all other liquid fuels in our total available supplies, there will be a shortage anytime from 2011 to 2020.

China

In 1972 Richard Nixon went to China to secure an ally against the Soviet Union and thereby shift the balance of power towards the West. Recently President

Bush made a similar trip to India to enlist it as an ally against China. The United States sees China as its main strategic competitor now and in the near future. The United States is concerned with losing its dominant position in East Asia to China. This concern has been voiced by both political and military authorisation. In 2006 Quadrennial Defence Review Report, China is identified as a major concern.

"Of the major and emerging powers, China has the greatest potential to compete militarily with the United States and field disruptive military technologies that could over time offset traditional U.S. military advantages, absent U.S. counter strategies. China is an emerging world power."

The report goes on to point out that the United States should take all necessary steps to (in case of hostilities) to deny China its strategic and operational objectives.

"The United States will work to ensure that all major and emerging powers are integrated as constructive actors and stakeholders into the international system. It will also seek to ensure that no foreign power can dictate the terms of regional or global security. It will attempt to dissuade any military competitor from developing disruptive or other capabilities that could enable regional hegemony or hostile action against the United States or other friendly countries, and it will seek to deter aggression or coercion. Should deterrence fail, the United States would deny a hostile power its strategic and operational objectives."

To this end United States is restructuring and repositioning its bases to be better able to contain China's growing power. It has also revamped its alliance with Japan and other countries in Southeast Asia. In addition, the United States is transforming Guam into a hub for long-range bombers and is planning to add a sixth aircraft carrier to its pacific group.

All these steps are taken to contain China. On top of all this, United States is positioning itself to control China's access to China. If the United States can control the oil reserves it will be able to determine not only the economic growth of China but also limit its strategic ambitions.

Israel

There is no doubt that Israel has a powerful lobby in the United States. There are currently over 50 Jewish organisations that directly or indirectly lobby for Israel. The Israeli influence is well known, but few are willing to openly talk about it, especially in the United States and Europe. The Israeli dimension is particularly difficult to mention, for if one dares to state the obvious, one is branded as anti-Semite or a terrorist sympathiser. The Jewish lobby can also make life very

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unpleasant for those who dare to mention the extent of its influence in the U.S. and other countries. There are still a few brave souls such as John Mearsheimer (Professor of Political Science and the co-director of the Program on International Security Policy at the University of Chicago) and Stephen Walt (Belfer Professor of International Relations and Academic Dean of Harvard University) in the U.S. that are willing to speak-out.

In March 2006, they wrote an article titled "the Israel Lobby" in which they questioned the United States' policies in the Middle East.

"Israel receives about \$3 billion in direct assistance each year, roughly one-fifth of the foreign aid budget, and worth about \$500 a year for every Israeli. This largesse is especially striking since Israel is now a wealthy industrial state with a per capita income roughly equal to that of South Korea or Spain. Other recipients get their money in quarterly instalments, but Israel receives its entire appropriation at the beginning of each fiscal year and can thus earn interest on it. Most recipients of aid given for military purposes are required to spend all of it in the U.S., but Israel is allowed to use roughly 25 per cent of its allocation to subsidise its own defence industry. It is the only recipient that does not have to account for how the aid is spent, which makes it virtually impossible to prevent the money from being used for purposes the U.S. opposes, such as building settlements on the West Bank. Moreover, the

U.S. has provided Israel with nearly \$3 billion to develop weapons systems, and given it access to such top-drawer weaponry as Blackhawk helicopters and F-16 jets. Finally, the U.S. gives Israel access to intelligence it denies to its Nato allies and has turned a blind eye to Israel's acquisition of nuclear weapons. Washington also provides Israel with consistent diplomatic support. Since 1982, the U.S. has vetoed 32 Security Council resolutions critical of Israel, more than the total number of vetoes cast by all the other Security Council members. It blocks the efforts of Arab states to put Israel's nuclear arsenal on the IAEA's agenda. The U.S. comes to the rescue in wartime and takes Israel's side when negotiating peace. The Nixon administration protected it from the threat of Soviet intervention and resupplied it during the October War. Washington was deeply involved in the negotiations that ended that war, as well as in the lengthy 'step-by-step' process that followed, just as it played a key role in the negotiations that preceded and followed the 1993 Oslo Accords. In each case there was occasional friction between the U.S. and Israeli officials, but the U.S. consistently supported the Israeli position. One American participant at Camp David in 2000 later said: 'Far too often, we functioned . . . as Israel's lawyer.' Finally, the Bush administration's ambition to transform the Middle East is at least partly aimed at improving Israel's strategic situation."

Source: Al-Jazeera



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Defaming Lady Arwa Mosque

One of Jibla's monuments, Lady Arwa Mosque underwent several changes that defamed most of its landmarks.

By: Nashwan Dammaj

Jibla locals recall that 20 years ago they changed Lady Arwa Mosque in an effort to preserve it as a landmark, admitting that they unknowingly made mistakes, especially as there was no authority in charge of preserving the mosque.

The changes effaced and defamed important portions of the mosque's monuments. For example, the pond was reconstructed into a concrete water tank, over which another similar one was built, although many objected to the idea. Additionally, old bath-rooms were modernized and iron doors replaced wooden ones.

Basalt and concrete arches were added to the mosque's southern section, the yard was concreted and new concrete columns were added as well.

Locals maintain that they made such changes only for repair purposes. This was the first phase of defaming the mosque's monuments, for which the Jibla Endowment Office and locals are held responsible.

The second phase began in 2001 and still is ongoing, wherein the mosque is under repair, a process funded by the Endowment Office, supervised by the Monuments Office and implemented by a contractor, all under the supervision of Ibb's local council as an authority to run the repair process.

According to several locals, the repair process began with the roof, as its northern section sprang a leak in the direction of Lady Arwa's shrine. The Endowment Office designated YR 6 million to repair the entire roof, making available a contractor to be supervised by Ibb's branch of the Public Authority for Preserving Historical Cities (PAPHC).

PAPHC head Ahmed Al-Nawa'a said its participation in the repair process was essential, as it knew the Endowment Office would concrete the roof. "We interfered in the matter, as the roof needed simple repairs. We dealt with the matter carefully and carried out repairs according to a study by the Endowment Office's Technical Department, which showed that the mosque would stand for a century and a half after such procedures," Al-Nawa'a added.

However, the Endowment Office denied that its Technical Department conducted such a study. "There is a document stating that the Endowment Office would not take any responsibility other than funding the repair process as a condition," the office clarified.

Jibla local council Secretary-General Dr. Farouq Aqeel said the council enforced itself in the repair process, assigning Al-Nawa'a to fully supervise the process, carry out studies and be in charge of the entire process. Therefore, he added, the local council

dealt only with documents and studies presented by the PAPHC, but said it "had not received any documents or reports on the repair process from either party."

Locals agreed that the repair process was that the roof's old plaster was replaced with new and that wooden boards were pulled out and replaced with new imported ones (which are identical to the old ones, according to Al-Nawa'a).

According to Arwa Historical Association and some other locals, the plaster was pulled out with mattocks, resulting in cracks in the walls, the prayer niche and the mosque's foundations. The PAPHC found that the new plaster was so fragile that a finger could scratch it. "If what they said was true, then the mattocks would have destroyed any decorations. However, they said the decorations were intact, which means they fabricated a lie," the PAPHC stated.

Still, some locals maintain that the decorations were protected by wooden boards so mattocks could not reach them and only the wooden boards were destroyed when pulling out the plaster, so they were replaced. Some decorations were destroyed without reason, although they were in no danger.

The repair process failed to amend the water leaks but resulted in damage all over the mosque. According to the PAPHC, this is because the repair process stopped, whereas according to the Arwa Historical Association and the Monuments Office, supervisors conducted no studies on the repair process. For his part, the contractor claimed the plaster requires 10 years to become solid and effective.

The PAPHC denied that there were decorations in the roof's northwestern portion. "There were only wooden boards, which are modernized and bear no inscriptions," Al-Nawa'a said. "The modern boards decayed due to rain so they were pulled out. The Endowment Office still keeps some samples of them as evidence of the validity of their procedures."

Others think the decorations were ruined when pulled out harshly. "The decorations were supposed to be treated properly, such as providing them with anti-erosion substances. They still were firm and there was no need to pull them out. They had nothing to do with protection, as they were for ornamentation."

Likewise, the mosque's yard with its four porches underwent repair without making due plans, according to the PAPHC. The porches consist of columns and arches representing the architecture of Al-Sulahi state. The eastern, western and southern porches were repaired. Each porch consists of seven columns and seven arches, most of which were replaced with modern ones, giving them another shape. They were made of round stone, with stone



Jibla city used to be the capital of Al-Sulahi State. It includes many famous ancient mosques, most notably Lady Arwa mosque.

replacing red brick, employing cement instead of plaster.

The northern porch (the parlor) is the mosque's main front and consists of seven columns with its upper portion representing the crown of Al-Sulahi state. It was changed into another shape. The eastern portion of the last column cracked and so far has not been repaired.

Al-Nawa'a clarified that the three porches' red brick decayed due to erosion and other weather factors throughout previous centuries, causing the columns to slant. As for any plan or study, Al-Nawa'a said, "There was no need to conduct any study, as the columns were modern and made of cement. There still is one column in the northeastern section of the yard. Whoever says the columns are the same since the mosque was built is an idiot and an enemy of the PAPHC."

However, locals and those in charge of the mosque said the three porches' columns were old and made of semi-circular stones, each two forming one round stone and stuck together with plaster. They were built as such, save one column which cracked 30 years ago and was rebuilt with ordinary stone and cement.

Moreover, Al-Nawa'a affirmed that cement never was used in reconstructing the columns and arches, as only plaster was used. However, he then confessed to using cement, which "was used as a connective substance...and what is important is that it should be noticed." He added that the PAPHC used cement in implementing similar

projects.

Arwa Historical Association head Abdulwahab Al-Khidairy said, "The PAPHC and the contractor destroyed the columns arbitrarily and without justification. They are held responsible along with the Endowment Office. It merely was a matter of money. Most of the columns were intact, save one east of the front porch, although it has not been repaired so far. Instead, it was eliminated totally and its place remains vacant."

Monuments Office head Khalid Al-Ansi said, "Those who wanted to rebuild the column destroyed it, thinking it did not match the rest of the columns after it slanted. They tried to hide their mistake by all means. For that reason, we always say destruction work led to cracks all over the northern porch. Hence, the PAPHC had to fill the middle arch with stone and clay for fear the northern porch would collapse."

That was the second phase of repairing the mosque, carried out by police officer and contractor Ghassan Humran, whose experience is unknown to anyone. Al-Nawa'a and engineer Ismail Shosha, PAPHC representatives, supervised the repair process, along with Endowment Office representative Abdulhamid Al-Ashwal, who Public Funds Prosecution accuses of stealing YR 1.5 billion in four years during the repair process.

Arwa Historical Association holds the contractor, PAPHC and the Endowment Office responsible and demands they be tried. The Monuments Office and the local council hold the PAPHC responsible and accuse it of not conducting studies on damages and mistakes during the repair process, as well as leaving the work without reason.

Al-Thaqafiyya newspaper issue 191 interviewed PAPHC General Director Dr. Abdullah Zaid and PAPHC projects director Khalid Jubari who confessed to the messy measures and lack of studies. Jubari stated, "The PAPHC in Ibb had not enough experience in dealing with repair processes...what happened, happened. More than one committee made a field visit to them and did not agree with what Ibb PAPHC did, as they did not depend on any study."

Ibb Appeals Prosecution saw that the Endowment Office and the PAPHC were responsible for what happened and the case was referred to Ibb's East Court. Moreover, General Prosecution accuses the following individuals:

1- Abdulhamid Al-Ashwal, General Director of the Ibb Endowment Office

2- Ahmed Al-Nawa'a, PAPHC representative

3- Sadiq Hinaish, projects director at the Ibb Endowment Office

4- Khalid Al-Baz, accounting head at the Endowment Office

5- Khalid Al-Najjar, engineer at the Endowment Office

6- Ismail Shosha, engineer at the PAPHC

7- Akram Dhafer, technician at the PAPHC

All have been released on bail. Al-Ashwal exploited his post by signing contracts with two unqualified contractors to repair the mosque. By signing the contracts, he and the other accused wanted to get three percent of the funding as supervision allowances. This led to YR 21.4 million in damages to be paid from the state's budget.

Also, Al-Ashwal assigned the PAPHC the task of supervising the repair process only after making damages. The rest of the accused assisted him in preparing documents and completing contract signing procedures. The second accused was the one who suggested bringing in unqualified contractors.

Many say that perhaps the one who did not face any legal investigation and benefited much is contractor Humran, as he was not involved in signing any of the documents. Even when General Prosecution brought him, he had evidence enough to convict both the PAPHC and the Endowment Office.

Humran still is conducting repairs in the mosque and recently received another project to repair Ibb Mosque as a reward from government leadership, although the Endowment Office objected to dealing with him. Some say Humran has good offices to protect him from any legal investigation, while others say he has the ability to silence the most influential government figures.

For his part, Humran stated, "I am a businessman and I came here to gain. I work according to supervisors' directives, whether to repair or destroy. I cannot do anything without their approval."

Regarding Humran's previous experience, Mr. Humran said, "I am no more than a laborer in market, brought in and hired by the Endowment Office, asking me to this and that. So I am not responsible for what happened to the mosque. The Endowment Office is 80 percent responsible, as it stopped the repair work and refused to pay the dues."

The Monuments Office confessed before Prosecution that the repairs began from the top instead of from the

bottom, which is why cracks occurred in the mosque's walls. The PAPHC also damaged its monuments by using cement. Therefore, the Monuments Office had to interfere via the Ministry of Culture to prevent such wrong repair work.

Due to differing views, the PAPHC officially announced that it will withdraw from supervising the repair process and thereby will not be responsible for what Humran does.

Local council Secretary-General Col. Ameen Al-Worafi played a large role in the repair process and in leaving Humran unchanged. He said, "The Monuments Office's withdrawal is unjustifiable. This authority had to conduct studies and supervise the repair process. It had to take the responsibility, not quit."

Some people say the decision to make the PAPHC participate in supervising the repairs was an indirect insult to the Monuments Office, which decided to withdraw.

In 2003, repairs began from the mosque's foundations, according to the desire of the Monuments Office, which affirmed it would take entire responsibility for the repairs. The foundations are two floors deep in the ground and help remove sewage water via special canals. With the passage of time, house gutters were linked to these canals. Suddenly, gutter water began flowing here and there around the mosque, producing a hateful smell.

"The gutters' waste materials accumulated and decayed the canals' ground," Al-Ansi explained.

Then came the process of repairing the mosque's caravansaries. Arwa Historical Association and the PAPHC accused the Monuments Office of destroying the caravansaries' walls and then rebuilding them, which Al-Ansi denied. On the other hand, the PAPHC accused the Monuments Office of causing cracks in the walls of the northern dome, which remains unrepaired.

In this regard, Al-Ansi said, "The dome was built on a lake of sewage water, so we dug a pit to save the dome. We then discovered an ancient construction under the dome's foundations. This was the area through which sewage waters flow. Afterward, the dome's foundations were separated from the canals by building concrete walls... We did not pull out any stone from the dome... We had asked the local council and the Endowment Office to solve the sewage water problems, remove the water tank and return it to its original shape, i.e., to be a pond. But the Endowment Office has not yet replied to our demand."



Lady Arwa mosque is one of Jibla's monuments. It underwent several changes that defamed most of its landmarks. Now it is under repair.

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Words of Wisdom



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

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

OUR
OPINIONYemeni unity
is here to stay

Today marks the 16th anniversary of Yemeni unity created in 1990. What most people don't know is that such unity is not a recent project only 16 years old. In fact, the first agreement to unite the Yemen Arab Republic (North) and the Popular Democratic Republic of Yemen (South) dates back to 1972. It took 18 years to realize our ambition, but nevertheless, we did it. The unfortunate 1994 event made all Yemenis realize the importance of this achievement and although it took some lives to maintain, most Yemenis feel it was a worthwhile cause.

Since then, there has been growing criticism of the state, mainly against influential northern officials. 2004 highlighted the current regime's wrongs and intensified the urgency for a change. Journalists, intellectuals, human rights advocates and even common citizens continuously demand reform, especially given that living standards keep deteriorating from bad to worse. The change we seek is of the system, of the political structure and national strategies in the whole of Yemen, the united Yemen. Yemeni unity is an achievement that should not be compromised in any way in the process of this acclaimed change. It is the right of all Yemenis and no political organization, opposition or external pressure is allowed to hinder it.

Political systems come and go. Some remain a little longer than others, but they eventually go. On the other hand, societies survive and remember. There has been speculation – mainly by some opposition abroad – that Yemeni unity might not last. However, I firmly believe Yemeni unity will remain because even though it was created through political will, it was and is the people's desire. All Yemenis, whether from the north, south, east or west, want and cherish their unity. They have integrated and merged into each other's communities and lands. From this point, there is no looking back. Yemeni unity is here to stay.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

An astronomer on Arab reality

Contemporary scientists can rarely address issues outside of their specialization with clarity and fluency. Among the rare ones who can, is Dr. Farouk Al-Baz who is currently working within the fields of geology, space and remote warning systems and recently gave a press interview to a gulf magazine. As Arab scientist, Farouk Al-Baz enjoys enormous popularity around the world. A man who refuses to be captive to a lab, he goes beyond them coming out every so often to closely study social reality, particularly the Arab reality. A situation that is worsening and deteriorating quickly, due in part to the carelessness of Arab leaders and its people as well as the prevailing ignorance of their unlimited resources.

I met Dr. Al-Baz twenty five years ago and our friendship has blossomed and grown stronger over the years. What I admire him the most for is his avid interest in Arab social reality and its pervasive problems. Contrary to those who have similar scientific interests, Al-Baz does not mind, when speaking about these problems, to be quite frank and bold. Although his commentary raised many issues in my mind, I will not address them all. He pointed out many things that deserve to be read and reread, demanding we come out of our inattentiveness that has lasted longer than



By: Dr. Abdulaziz
Al-Maqaleh

production of knowledge results in industrial, commercial and economic diversity. Any deficiency in knowledge means deficiency in production and in everything that boosts the economy. We are lagging economically because as we do not add anything new nor provide new commodities...

When it comes to the increasing calls for reform within Arab countries, Dr. Al-Baz believes such calls for reformation need be preceded by knowledge of the kind of reform that Arabs need in order not to transform the process into corruption. From his view point, "all commentaries on the topic are good to whatever extent they have; yet you can not initiate reforms in cases where you do not know what to reform. Arab citizens need to recognize the problems and difficulties that they will face in order to embark on any reform movement. But such movements can not exist in vacuums where only thinkers and scientists exist because they can decide upon a situation in a

expected even by Arab enemies.

I will confine myself to certain points from that interview, the most important point being our cognitive backwardness. We really are backward and I can quote him as saying, "in regards to producing knowledge: we do not read, write, publish or qualify enough number of scientists. The

absence of stable environment pushes Arab minds to migrate, causing movements in development and to come to a halt. He states, "We, as scientists, studied and succeeded abroad. Some preferred to return home and they occupy high posts. At a careful glance, we realize our generation hasn't achieved anything for we haven't added anything correctly. Even with wealth is available our situation in the whole Arab world is deteriorating at all levels. It is even worse than the past when it comes to culture, science: everything. This means we have not done what we need to do..."

I think there are enough signs to know what the non-scientific and non-cognitive reality of our nations is at the moment. The reality is that even though we have resources, minds and opportunities in this modern age, it all goes in vain.

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

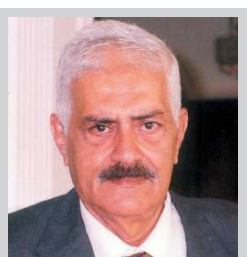
An open letter to His Excellency
the President & the constants

This is my third letter on the occasion of this great event and date in the life of the Yemeni nation, the 16th anniversary of 2 May 1990. The anniversary of this year does, however, differ greatly because it falls while all are prepared for the presidential and local elections that have been established along with the achievement of the Yemeni unity.

Therefore, I undoubtedly say that you, Your Excellency the President, have always been the safety valve for this nation, nevertheless it is conceivable to have some ones to nominate themselves to the presidential contest, be it they are independent, or through the party or parties they are affiliated to. However, the people have the right to appeal to you to back off from nomination and continue the race in the upcoming 2006-2013, as a constitutional right, for two electoral terms.

All in the homeland are presently moving towards the presidential and local elections, within the frame of the pluralist democratic approach that you have laid its foundations. The country had in the past experienced parliamentary elections for more than one session and one presidential and one local election.

The political forces are now, more than anytime before, demanded to coexist and



By: Prof. Abdulaziz
Al-Tarb

avoid whatever that could lead to dishonest competition. They have to face each other reasonably without putting wager on the outside or pour oil on fire, so that we can all live reasonably without fires within the frame of peaceful transfer of power and the respect of the opposite opinion.

Your Excellency the president!

You have, with all the honest patriots achieved the unity without shooting one bullet and thus the masses dream has been realized in depth. You have protected and preserved it when the other attempted to turn the movement of history backwards by declaration of secessionism. Is it possible to dream together that your remaining period, according to the constitutional right, would be devoted to the hot files?

1-Fighting corruption and trying or removing its representatives, given that you Your Excellency the President have said on more than one occasion that you know one by one?

2-Is it possible to see a government capable of translating your trends and plans for transferring Yemen into a contemporary state through:

A-Review of laws and modernization of many of them,

B-Drawing a plan for restoring trust for the citizen and the investor,

C-Reformation of the judiciary system and its institutions to keep pace with the reforms wanted at all levels,

D-Treatment of dysfunctions and encouragement of Arab and foreign investments to assist in curbing rates of unemployment and accommodation of labor?

Tackling the heated files would help, in case of the immediate beginning, if not directly before the elections, after them, to be sure of credibility of the regime in the peaceful transfer of power, respect of the opposite opinion, to enhance the concept of democracy and participation away from bickering and then the opposition parties would form a shadow government for upcoming parliamentary, presidential or local elections.

Would this be realized and demonstrate Yemen as capable continuously of surprising the world as the Yemen of civilization, originality and modernization, as the unity had been declared on 22 May 1990?

I hope that and wish for Your Excellency the president good health and dignity, and stability, development and prosperity for Yemen under this changeable world, who put wager on which are those who do not read history and contradictions thoroughly.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist 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

COMMON
SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

On Yemeni unity
and justice be done

Most of us still remember the joy and the blessings we saw in the achievement of Yemeni unity in May 22, 1990. In retrospect however, we should take a few moments to reflect on this most important event in the history of Yemen. It is clear to many Yemenis that we are to be overjoyed at the achievement of this long-sought after goal and anyone who has any doubts or questions or misgivings would really be traitorous to the national interests of Yemen.

However, it should be borne in mind that Yemeni unification had come with more than just the elimination of borders and the issuance of a uniform ID card for all Yemenis. Thanks to some of the factions that played a major role in this important event (and history should not forget that this was due primarily to the insistence of the Yemeni Socialist Party, which prior to that date ruled in the South), democracy was introduced and even applied to a limited extent in the institution of the new Republic of Yemen. Moreover, unit opened up new horizons for the Yemenis that could never have materialized if it wasn't for Yemeni unity.

These horizons included the sharing of resources, the inclusion of new Yemeni emigrant communities to the roster of Yemeni emigrants that could contribute significantly to the growth and development that Yemen will need in its economy to be able to cope with the major changes in the international arena and to be able to sustain a rapidly growing population. Furthermore the territorial extensions now added to the country will provide for new habitats and economic territories that would cover the needs of the largest population agglomeration in the Arabian Peninsula.

Many will say that because Yemen did not go fully as desired by all those who took part in making this important moment of Yemeni history and some might even say that some parts of the country were better off in pre-unification days. To those we say, no matter what feelings we may have about the current situation in Yemen, there is no way that not being united would make us better off than we are now. The fact is that unity has occurred and it is here to stay for eternity only to be replaced by further Arab cohesion.

Muftah's and Dailami's Release:

One can not help but rejoice at the correction of a major injustice that was done in the cases of Mohammed Muftah and Hussein Al-Dailami, the two Yemeni scholars who were known for their piety and humility and who, for the record, never harmed, or threatened to harm anyone, let alone betrayed their country or their righteous beliefs. These two preachers of a middle and moderate course of Islam were true to the credible missionary genre, who believed in tolerance, universal peace and justice for all and for this reason many people were very displeased with the treatment they were accorded upon arrest and the equally disrespectful undue length of their apprehension, not to mention the unjust trial proceedings they were subjected to. It is indeed to the credit of the mercy and kindness of HE President Ali Abdullah Saleh that this very kind gesture of redirecting justice in its right path that this joyful news is attributed to and for this he will be praised by not only the constituencies that these two pious individuals belonged to, but by all freedom loving and human rights advocates in Yemen and overseas. Indeed this is a rewarding gift to the people of Yemen on their most important National Day and all one can say is we thank you Mr. President. We really counted on you to give this great gesture of mercy and kindness and you did not fail us.

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

Letters to the Editor

A letter of appreciation

Dear Ms. Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the beloved Yemen Times,

I read on the first page of Yemen Times' Monday, May 8 issue an article about the newspaper obtaining the Free Media Pioneer Prize granted annually by the International Press Institute (IPI). The IPI selected the Yemen Times for being a reliable source providing authentic information to its readership.

I was very happy about the award, considering it an honor to every Yemeni and Arab national

and not merely to the newspaper or its publisher.

Along with some of my counterparts, I had been bearing in mind that the newspaper would cease publication following the death of its founder, the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (may Allah have mercy on him). However, the newspaper's proper inception, good upbringing and will, coupled with loyalty in journalistic work, helped the newspaper go beyond institutional presence and creativity based on professionalism, credibility and self-actualization.

The Free Media Pioneer Prize

awarded to the Yemen Times confirms what I say. On this occasion, I warmly congratulate all of the beloved newspaper's editorial staff and employees. I pray that Allah will bless you and help you continue such distinctive performance.

Yahya Abdurraqueeb Al-Jubaihi
Head of the Political
& Media Circle,
Council of Ministers

Cheers for the UN

Three cheers for the United Nations. After all, after a long time, it finally awoke to what's going on in the interna-

tionally ill-reputed lock-up, Gitmo. I don't call it a jail since most inmates have been imprisoned simply on the basis of doubt, which is why they reportedly are being released turn by turn. Just this past Friday, we witnessed 15 Saudi citizens set free.

Everyone knows that the nature of these cells is illegal. Inmates not only are subjected to ill treatment but also denied access to their fundamental rights while to the contrary, the cells' administrator always speaks highly of human rights violations.

Likewise, I experienced a surprising aspect of the situation on Thursday when Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi regretfully said sending troops to Iraq was a "grave mistake" and that he is going to pull his troops from Iraq. This means that the war against terrorism slowly and gradually is losing its validity because it is certain that it's now continuing against Muslims. However, its direction could be diverted to non-Muslim nations already in a Cold War situation with Uncle Sam, like North Korea and some European Union members, in addition to Russia,

which is rising once again.

Afghanistan and Iraq are countries where efforts are ongoing to combat terrorism. However, Afghan President Hamid Karzai's allegation that Pakistan is behind what is going on there is simply baseless and absurd. He should not forget that Afghanistan is behind what is going on in Baluchistan and Waziristan. His allegations sounded like the pot calling the kettle black. Before pointing his finger at Musharraf, he must look down at his own collar. The UK commander also accused Pakistan of the grave situations

in Afghanistan, but Pakistan has no time to poke its nose into their affairs, especially under current circumstances where it is fighting off its own internal uproar.

When I look at Pakistan, not as a citizen but as an observer, it has been complying leniently and in a friendly manner with orders, threats and requests from all directions. But what if it also stands up like North Korea or Iran? Therefore, don't force Pakistan to be like that, otherwise the entire South Asian region will blow up.

Barkatullah Marwat
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YEMEN TIMES

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

22 مايو

تتقدم

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسيل
بتهنئة فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الاخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

و الشعب اليمني بمناسبة الذكرى السادسة عشر من
تحقيق الوحدة اليمنية المباركة

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President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

and the People of Yemen on the occasion of the
16th anniversary of the reunification of Yemen



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أجمل التهاني والتبريكات الأخ /
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 بمناسبة اقترافه المولد الجيد والذي أسماه
 إلياس
 جعله الله قرة عين واليه فائق ألف مبدوك
 جميع آل الشميري
 .. وكل السخية

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أو موزعيننا في جميع أنحاء الجمهورية

Spacetel celebrates its lucky winner Mr. Abdullah Mahdi Al-Shaqa'a who won one kilo gold in the international roaming service draw launched by the company.

For the first time in Yemen and the region:

Unique services to be launched soon by Spacetel

“I would like to keep it as a dear souvenir from Spacetel.” This is what Mr. Abdullah Mahdi Al-Shaqa'a said he would do with the gold he won for using Spacetel's international roaming service. Spacetel celebrated this award giving ceremony at its premises in Sana'a last week.

The international roaming service is offered to all visitors to Yemen which is provided only by the GSM mobile technology worldwide. The GSM mobile technology dominates 75% of the

world's mobile telecom industry, and Spacetel provides the roaming service in more than 101 countries with more than 227 GSM operators around the world.

The International Roaming Award is a part of Spacetel's ongoing strategy that aims at versifying its services and providing its customers with the most updated technology. It is a part of connecting with the customers and appreciation to their choosing to use Spacetel as their mobile service supplier.



The Marketing Director hands winner Abdullah Mahdi Al-Shaqa'a one Kilo gold

From left: Mr. Walid Akkaoui Marketing Director in Spacetel, winner Abdullah Al-Shaqa'a and Mr. Waleed Al-Mawri International Roaming Manager

Walid Akkaoui Marketing Director of Spacetel explained that this is the first initiative of its kind in Yemen. Spacetel has taken up this idea in order to promote tourism to Yemen and encourage people from all around the world to visit the country knowing that they will be provided with modern global services during their stay in Yemen. In the awarding celebration he added:

“Spacetel-Yemen is about to launch a number of unique services provided to its users. We will be the first to provide these services in Yemen and in the region, and we will support all our users with them very soon. This comes in light of Spacetel-Yemen's strategy which aims at providing useful high-tech services with great performance and maintain its leadership in services.”

The international roaming service award offer was launched in late November 2005 and for three months. All visitors to Yemen who chose to use Spacetel as their roaming service provider during that period entered the draw. Mr. Abdullah Al-Shaqa'a was the lucky winner in this offer and won one kilo of pure gold. Mr. Abdullah Mahdi Al-Shaqa'a is a Yemeni national from Abyan

governorate who has been residing in the United Arab Emirates since 1984. Since then he has been visiting Yemen continuously and is considered one of the most active Yemenis abroad who hold their home country in high

esteem and hence always came back visiting. In his most recent visit to Yemen he was in for a surprise as he was contacted by the company and informed that he is the lucky winner in Spacetel's international roaming service

draw.

“I wasn't even aware that I had been a part of the award. Spacetel was my choice anyway. Winning this gold was a very very pleasant surprise.” He said when awarded the gold by Spacetel Yemen.

The international roaming promotion is the first of its kind initiative in Yemen.

Spacetel
YEMEN
دائماً على اتصال

Spacetel is a pioneer in providing the roaming service in more than 101 countries with more than 227 GSM operators around the world.

22 مايو

بمناسبة الذكرى السادسة عشر لعيد الوحدة اليمنية
يتقدم
السيد مراد دميان، مدير عام شركة شلمبرجر في اليمن،
وكافة الموظفين
بأحرار التهنئة القلبية لفخامة الرئيس
علي عبدالله صالح
رئيس الجمهورية
وكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

On the Occasion of the 22nd Of May (Yemen Unification Day)
Mr. Murad Demian, General Manager of Schlumberger in Yemen
and the Schlumberger employees have the pleasure to
congratulate his Excellency President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the
people of Yemen on this memorable occasion and wish Yemen the
best of success and future development headed by his wise
leadership for years to come.

Schlumberger
Oilfield Services - Yemen

Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization (NUO), 16 May 2006.

Main headlines

- Yemen is handed over the border crossing of Al-Tawal
- Saudi Arabia asks Yemen to hand over Al-Reemi, accused by Saudi Arabia of being behind Riyadh blasts
- Pressures for signing homage to the president of the republic
- UN team confirms commitment of violations in the elector register
- Elections Commission affirms continuation in violations
- Yassin Abdulrazzaq amendment did not grant judiciary any independence
- Participants in Al-Ahmar forum: Elector record is full of crimes
- Taiz JMP calls for opening corruption files and elimination of wars sequels
- Fierce confrontations between tribes and military forces in Shabwa
- Yemen departs 20 Egyptian fishermen and Riyadh departs 100 Yemeni prisoners

The newspaper political editor devotes his article to the situation in Iraq

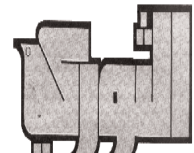
Saying legitimacy of the Iraqi resistance is derived from the people of Iraq and the Arab nation and from all the free and honest of the world, who refuse the wars of aggression and occupation of other peoples by force.

If the authority of aggression and occupation view that resistance is no longer legitimate after fabrication of elections to create parliaments and governments serving the occupation, the resistance is surely the power of action and expression that would punish the aggression and expel occupation out of Iraq.

The astonishing thing is that the American ambassador, while deciding illegitimacy of the Iraqi resistance, calls on the Arab countries to open their embassies in Iraq as if Iraq is living a normal situation and not killed and destroyed because of their aggression and occupation of a part of the Arab nation.

The Iraqi resistance should not negotiate with the occupation unless that negotiation is on one issue of two themes; the first is the full and final withdrawal under a timetable and the second is paying reparations to Iraq for what the occupation has inflicted on it

of killing, destruction, dismemberment and violation of freedom and sovereignty and international legitimacy.



Ath-Thawri weekly, organ of the Yemen Socialist Party, 18 May 2006.

Main headlines

- While Al-Qihali denied his nomination to the elections, The governor of Aden storms the house of Mujahid Al-Qihali
- Al-Attas: Democracy fearful for the authority that fears the change
- Interior Minister admits existence of monitoring of communications
- The government stops observing the bird flue disease
- International report warns of impact of continued violations on elections decency

Ex-prime minister Hayder Abubakr Al-Attas writes an article on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the Yemeni unity. He says our people are bidding farewell to the 16th year of the declaration of the unity and receives the 17th year, and are also to experience the presidential and local councils elections, the success of performing them fully would define the safe course towards the future and the failure of performance has its harms on the course. He queries whether we can look forward to seriousness and sense of responsibility of the authority and the opposition to avoid Yemen from the impasse of collapse and to put it on the right track in safeguarding of the unity, security and development.

He says undertaking of these duties with central responsibility by the authority and the opposition is summarized by: the authority should not interfere in breaking the will of the electors and the opposition must keep away from courtesy, fear and hesitation and to stand for election bravely. We warn both of them against participating in a deal that could frustrate the will of the people.

The presidential and local elections are not the need of the distance. There are very important files the authority and the opposition have to face courageously and with sense of responsibility if they are serious and faithful in reforming the Yemeni house; 1-reformation of the political system constitutionally in a manner preventing monopoly of authority and its concentration in the hands of one person or one body,

- 2-rehabilitation of the unity that was injured by the war of 1994,
- 3-liquidation of consequences of political conflicts,
- 4-comprehensive economic, administrative and financial reform ending centers of corruption,
- 5-reformation of judiciary and respect of its independence and sovereignty of the constitution and the law in the political, general and private life,
- 6-keeping the military and security institutions away from governance and commitment to their clear constitutional tasks,
- 7-enhancement of the civil society organizations in the way consolidating the civilian characteristics of the regime.



As-Sahwa weekly, 18 May 2006.

Main headlines

- Islah Party congratulates the Yemeni people on the Yemeni unity
 - Accusations to the parliament presidency body of violating the law and forgery of voting
 - Parliamentary report discloses stop in monitoring bird flu disease
 - Al-Siyanni and Salah contain crisis of Infantry Brigade 117 camp crisis
 - Educational unions threaten to return to peaceful protests, accuse the government of procrastination
- Writer Zaid Al-Shami says in an article the unity is a blessing and grace and disunity is an evil. Although the Yemenis have lived under different and contradicting regimes, the people remained united feeling the affiliation to one homeland and common history. All artificial barriers had failed to weaken the Yemenis determination to unification and communication and the unity remained a goal for the Yemeni revolutions but the historic opportunity came on 22 May 1990 when the Yemeni republic was declared and all chapters of disunity had been folded.

While we are celebrating the national day of the Yemeni republic we should not stop at the boundaries of what had been achieved, which is no doubt great, the more important is how to preserve this accomplishment and every citizen has to feel that he is partner in making the unity and owns a genuine interest in its continuation.

The grievances under which the citizen is groaning are great dangers threatening this accomplishment but we all know that the unity is not the

cause but they came from the domination of selfishness and deterioration of values dwelling in sick minds that need to be treated. The injustice is a northern or a southern but rather narcissism practiced by some without estimating its consequences.



Annas weekly, 15 May 2006.

Main headlines

- Leaderships of the JMP in Taiz governorate call for opening political corruption files of the ruling party
- Islah leader: Administration of the ruling party of the country would lead to a popular revolt
- Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein Al-Ahmar: Al-Qaeda elements escaped out of hunger
- Nassr Taha, most probable candidates for the post of Yemeni journalists chairman

On the upcoming Yemeni elections writer Ali Al-Surari says legally the stage of electoral propaganda has not begun yet but the fever of elections has already started associated with utmost what it could cause of ill shivers. Up until now the door for presenting presidential nominations is not open and would not be actual nominations until the parliament presidency body receives requests of nominees and accepts to submit them to a joint meeting of the parliament and the shoura council. Moreover the nominee would not be an actual one until he obtains acceptance of 5% of the members of the joint meeting of the parliament and the shoura who are present at the meeting.

More important is that the major political blocs have not discussed and decided their presidential candidates, neither the ruling party nor the opposition bloc (JMP). They are the only two blocs able to provide quorum of recommendation for the nominees, but both of them have not named their candidate and declared it officially.

The early elections fever remains as an unpleasant indicator for the nature of expected political events in the coming days. If such a kind of tension erupts prior to declaration of nominees names and publication of their platforms, what would then happen when the candidates are names and their programs are published? Many citizens wonder if the country is heading for elections or a new intestine war.



By: Samer



SILVER LINING

By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com

From tribal to people coalitions

Nobody can deny the changes and transformations the Yemeni society has been going through since the unification which brought up the multiparty system. If we look at the politics map since the first parliamentary elections in 1993 till that of 2003, we will see a number of changes at the political fabric of coalitions, bringing Islah as the main ally of President Abdullah Saleh's regime in 1993 to top the opposition coalition at the moment.

The circle of interests and coalitions were focused on Saleh and Abdullah Al-Ahmer, leading the Hashid tribe; let us call it the coalition of families. This coalition of families or tribes continued for some time, where the family and the tribe have been the nucleus and power base for the tribal figures in politics making. This tribal dynasty has been the bond linking Saleh and Al-Ahmer for such a long period of time.

But, what is happening now? Following the press statements of Hameed Al-Ahmer one can read between the lines the change taking place. Al-Ahmer, the son, has been ruthlessly criticizing the regime of Saleh, demanding its change for the better of Yemen. Why this change? There are some reasons for that. Hameed Al-Ahmer is no longer the son of Hashid tribe, the influence-generating source; his sense of belonging is to Yemen at large, because he is now an outstanding businessman where interest focus lies all over the country. He is not providing the SabaFon GSM service to the people of his tribe, but all Yemen. And his subscribers in Aden or Taiz might be more than those in Amran, his hometown. His coalition is now with all people of Yemen where his interest lies. In the past, he might have been at ease with corruption and bureaucracy, but now these things hamper and cripple his business and interests. The rampant corruption which is now an economy by itself does not serve the efficiency by which his business should be run.

The other reason is that because his interest with the regime of Saleh has been narrowing to a great extent. The circle of the cronies around Saleh is shrinking to the extent that we find the closest people to the man are his close relatives. This makes Al-Ahmer feels his coalition with the people and with his business will be more profitable. He is now afraid and concerned about the future of the country more than any time for the future of the country means the future of his growing business. This is how we should nurture the devotion to the country, through creating interests for them.

I am not here saying the man has completely left all his tribal bonds behind. However, I just wanted to show

how economic interests can broaden the people sense of belonging and consequently bring about the breakdown and erosion of traditional tribal bonds which acted a stumbling block before building up a modern and civilized society. The US people are of different origins and races but the common factor brining them together is the devotion to the prosperity of the country that brings their interests together. So many migrants have not been born in the US, but they have that sense of belonging to this country.

Here in Yemen, the political regime has failed to create this sense of belonging among the people of different tribes and governors. The people lack of confidence in a powerful state ruled by law and order makes them strengthen their bonds and ties with their tribes, clans and dynasties. If a person is in hot water, he seeks his tribe or family for protection. The sense of belonging to the tribe is stronger than that to the state. In such circumstances, where the role of the tribe has been promoted at the expense of the state, the integral role of the political parties and civil society organizations in promoting democracy and civil life has unfortunately been very much marginalized and weakened, leading into what can be called tribocracy instead of democracy.

In other words, the state leadership has been unsuccessful in creating an atmosphere of interests for such tribesmen. I believe these tribesmen will throw away their guns, if they find better education and better jobs. Tribalism, as one of our major headaches, can vanish, if tribesmen are educated and are busied with work. They will get rid of their guns if they feel there is a state ruled by law and order, where their rights and interested are secured.

Unfortunately, the regime throughout the past decades fueled tribal feuds and disputes to keep these tribes busy; it has not tried to have a political, economic and social program to cultivate and modernize these tribes, pushing them to be positive contributing force to the wellbeing of the whole country. They will then feel they are in alliance with stability and welfare of the state that maintains their comfort. This is how coalition of the people can be created at the expense of familial or tribal coalitions. It is to keep them busy not with guns but work and business.

The people of Oman were not better off than us in the 1990s; some of them were even carrying out low jobs in Saudi Arabia. However, when they had got a leadership with a good vision and clear project, they have developed tremendously. The gap between us now is very big. It is not an issue of resources lacking, but of commitment and strong will.

The great ape debate

By: Peter Singer

In his History of European Morals, published in 1869, the Irish historian and philosopher W.E.H. Lecky wrote:

At one time the benevolent affections embrace merely the family, soon the circle expanding includes first a class, then a nation, then a coalition of nations, then all humanity and finally, its influence is felt in the dealings of man with the animal world...

The expansion of the moral circle could be about to take a significant step forwards. Francisco Garrido, a bioethicist and member of Spain's parliament, has moved a resolution exhorting the government "to declare its adherence to the Great Ape Project and to take any necessary measures in international forums and organizations for the protection of great apes from maltreatment, slavery, torture, death, and extinction." The resolution would not have the force of law, but its approval would mark the first time that a national legislature has recognized the special status of great apes and the need to protect them, not only from extinction, but also from individual abuse.

I founded the Great Ape Project together with Paola Cavalieri, an Italian philosopher and animal advocate, in 1993. Our aim was to grant some basic rights to the nonhuman great apes: life, liberty, and the prohibition of torture.

The Project has proven controversial. Some opponents argue that, in extending rights beyond our own species, it goes too far, while others claim that, in limiting rights to the great apes, it does not go far enough.

We reject the first criticism entirely. There is no sound moral reason why possession of basic rights should be limited to members of a particular species. If we were to meet intelligent, sympathetic extraterrestrials, would we deny them basic rights because they are not members of our own species? At a minimum, we should recognize basic rights in all beings who show intelligence and awareness (including some level of self-awareness) and who have emotional and social needs.

We are more sympathetic to the second criticism. The Great Ape Project does not reject the idea of basic rights for other animals. It merely asserts that the case for such rights is strongest in respect to great apes. The work of researchers like Jane Goodall, Diane Fossey, Birute Galdikas, Frans de Waal, and many others amply demonstrates that the great apes are intelligent beings with strong emotions that in many ways resemble our own.

Chimpanzees, bonobos, and gorillas have long-term relationships, not only between mothers and children, but also between unrelated apes. When a loved one dies, they grieve for a long time. They can solve complex puzzles that stump most two-year-old humans. They can learn hundreds of signs, and put

them together in sentences that obey grammatical rules. They display a sense of justice, resenting others who do not reciprocate a favor.

When we group chimpanzees together with, say, snakes, as "animals," we imply that the gap between us and chimpanzees is greater than the gap between chimpanzees and snakes. But in evolutionary terms this is nonsense. Chimpanzees and bonobos are our closest relatives, and we humans, not gorillas or orangutans, are their closest relatives. Indeed, three years ago, a group of scientists led by Derek Wildman proposed, in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, that chimpanzees have been shown to be so close to humans genetically that they should be included in the genus Homo.

Like any important and novel idea, Garrido's proposal has aroused considerable debate in Spain. Some are concerned that it will interfere with medical research. But the only European biomedical research that has used great apes recently is the Biomedical Primate Research Centre at Rijswijk, in the Netherlands. In 2002, a review by the Dutch Royal Academy of Science found that the chimpanzee colony there was not serving any vital research purposes. The Dutch government subsequently banned biomedical research on chimpanzees. Thus, there is no European medical research currently being conducted on great apes, and one barrier to granting them some basic rights has collapsed.

Some of the opposition stems from misunderstandings. Recognizing the rights of great apes does not mean that they all must be set free, even those born and bred in zoos, who would be unable to survive in the wild. Nor does it rule out euthanasia if that is in the interest of individual apes whose suffering cannot be relieved. Just as some humans are unable to fend for themselves and need others to act as their guardians, so, too, will great apes living in the midst of human communities. What extending basic rights to great apes does mean is that they will cease to be mere things that can be owned and used for our amusement or entertainment.

A final group of opponents recognizes the strength of the case for extending rights to great apes, but worries that this may pave the way for the extension of rights to all primates, or all mammals, or all animals. They could be right. Only time will tell. But that is irrelevant to the merits of the case for granting basic rights to the great apes. We should not be deterred from doing right now by the fear that we may later be persuaded that we should do right again.

Peter Singer is Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. His most recent book, co-authored with Jim Mason, is *The Way We Eat: Why Our Food Choices Matter*. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2006. www.project-syndicate.org



Mr. Wayne Summerhayes, Area Manager,
and all staff of
NABORS DRILLING INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
congratulate President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

On the occasion of 22 May 2006 (Unification Day)
We wish Yemen the best of success and progress
towards building a strong country

يتقدم المدير الأقليمي / واين سومر هايز

وجميع موظفي شركة

نابورس درلنج إنترناشيونال لميتد

بأحر التهنئة وأطيب التبريكات

لأخ الرئيس /

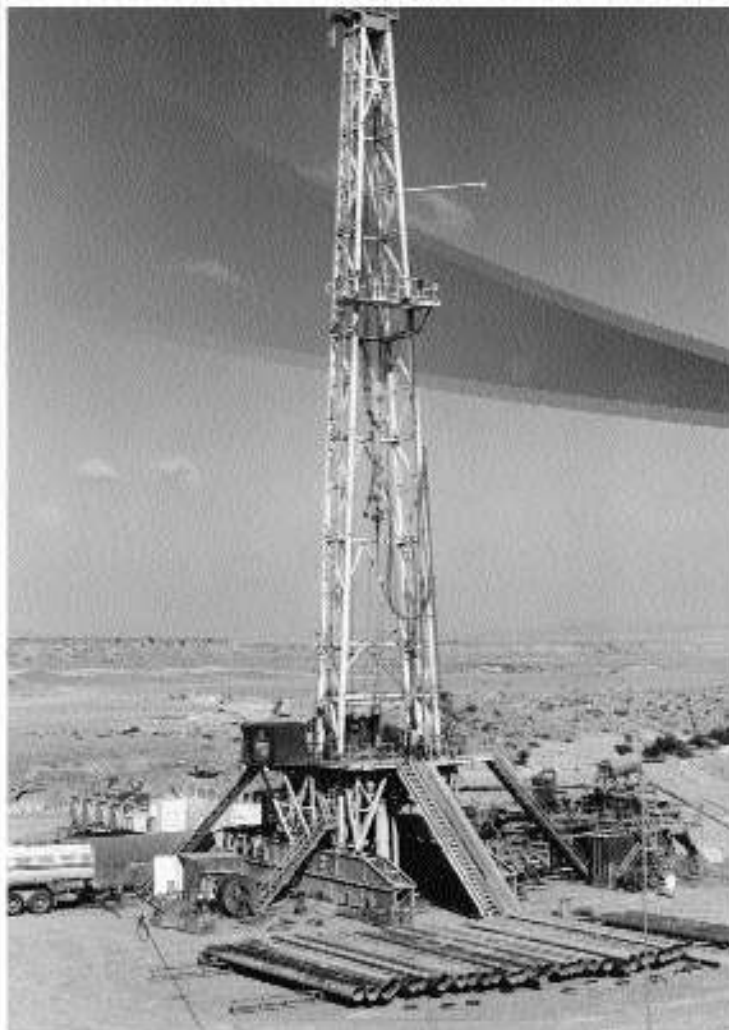
علي عبد الله صالح

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة الذكرى السادسة عشر للوحدة اليمنية

متمنين لليمن السير قدما في طريق التقدم والنجاح والإزدهار

وكل عام و أنتم بخير



مايو
22



**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and Expatriates**

Presents its heartiest
congratulations to the President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

On the occasion of 22 May.
We wish Yemen the best of
success and progress towards
building a strong country headed
by its wise leadership
for years to come.

وزارة الخارجية و المغتربين

تتقدم بأحر التهنئة وأطيب التبريكات

لأخ الرئيس /

علي عبد الله صالح

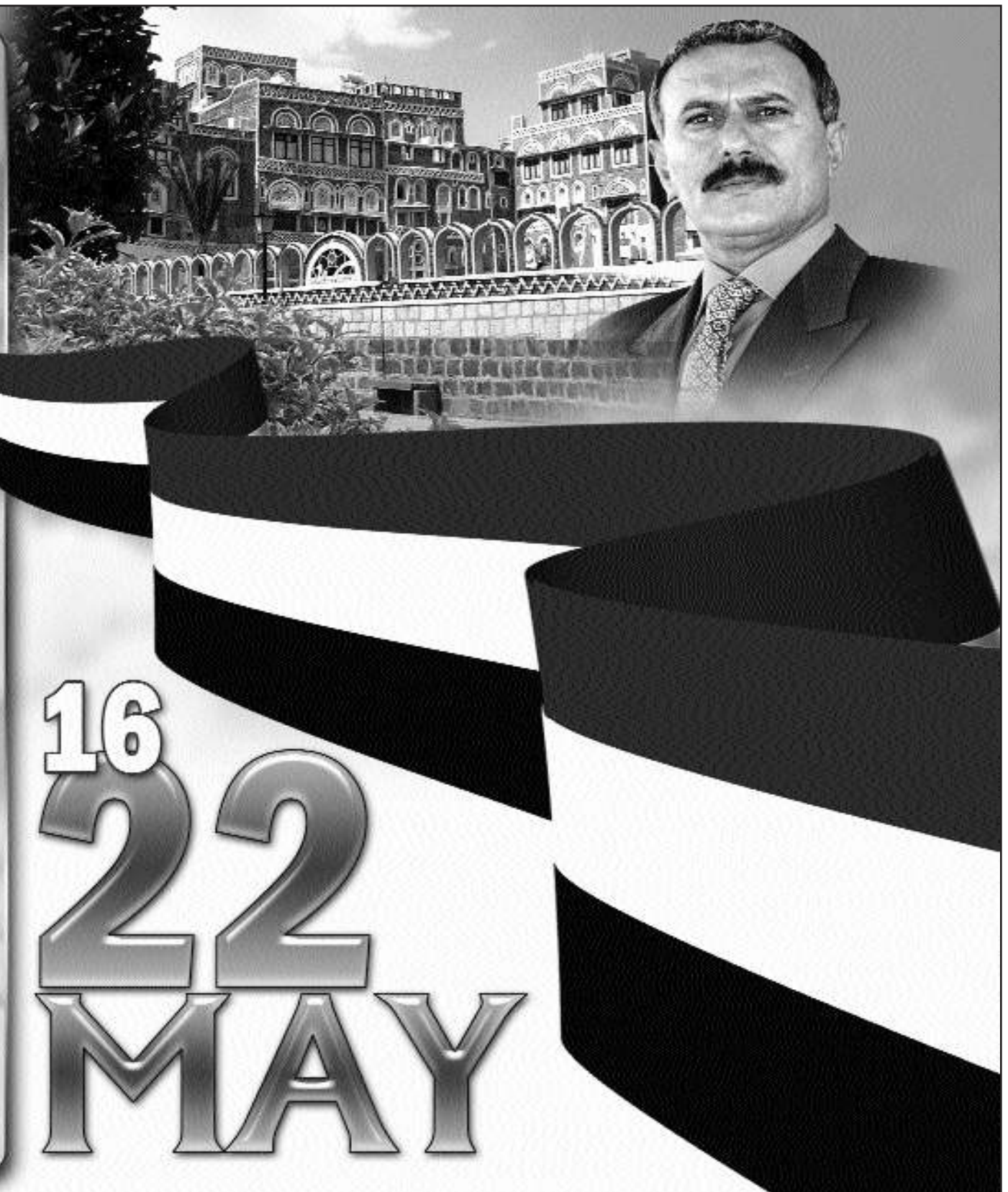
وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة

ذكرى إعادة توحيد اليمن

متمنين لليمن السير قدما في

طريق التقدم والنجاح والإزدهار

وكل عام و أنتم بخير



16
22
MAY

Tetanus: The high risk

By: Dr. Mohammed Ibrahim
Immunization Advisor – PHR plus
(USAID/Yemen)

Neonatal tetanus (NNT) is the second leading cause of death from vaccine-preventable diseases among children worldwide ⁽¹⁾.

“A case of maternal or neonatal tetanus represents a triple failure of public health in terms of routine immunizations, antenatal care and clean delivery/cord care services.”

NNT occurs as a result of unclean delivery practices, most commonly when tetanus spores contaminate the

umbilical cord when it is cut or dressed following delivery. NNT symptoms usually appear the third day after birth. An apparently healthy baby will stop nursing, become progressively more rigid, develop an arching of the whole body and experience painful convulsions. It is a deadly newborn disease with a fatality rate of 70 to 100 percent ⁽²⁾.

Yemen is one of seven EMRO member states (Egypt, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Afghanistan and Pakistan) that have not reached the elimination target. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 3,000 cases occur annually in Yemen, with the mortality rate per 1,000 live

births at 2.9 ⁽³⁾. Nevertheless, NNT causes 20.3 percent of all neonatal deaths and thus is a major cause of neonatal death in Yemen.

Although NNT surveillance in Yemen has improved since 1999 when 133 cases were reported in 12 districts, NNT remains seriously underreported, with many districts and governorates remaining silent despite low Tetanus Toxoid (TT) vaccination and clean delivery coverage. For this reason, Yemen's disease reporting system must be reinforced.

Yemeni TT immunization coverage remains low, lagging behind coverage achieved for childhood immunization



An infant suffers convulsions due to tetanus infection.



Women are immunized with doses of Tetanus Toxoid vaccine in rural regions.

antigens. Moreover, the overall immunization program has declined, with TT coverage appearing to be around 20 percent. TT vaccine is provided in Antenatal Care (ANC) clinics.

The level of antenatal care during pregnancy remains low, not exceeding 35 percent. More than 75 percent of childbirths occur at home and most are not attended by a trained or skilled birth attendant which, along with unhygienic practices during childbirth and umbilical cord care, further adds to Yemen's burden of NNT-related mortality.

Difficult topography, low accessibility to health services, lack of female health workers, lack of awareness, high illiteracy rate and false rumors are among the most commonly identified reasons for low coverage.

Reducing deaths from NNT is one of the simplest and most cost-effective

means to reducing the neonatal mortality rate. NNT can be prevented if women are immunized with at least two doses of TT vaccine before childbirth and clean practices are used during delivery and in caring for the infant's umbilical cord.

The Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) has developed an ambitious plan to reduce NNT incidence by implementing a high risk approach (HRA) to vaccinate women of child bearing age (WCBA) in identified high risk districts (HRD), and further by vaccinating female secondary school students and their teachers.

Using the HRA during the period 2000 to March 2005, TT vaccination rounds were implemented in 113 identified HRDs, targeting more than 1.6 million WCBA (43 percent of total WCBA). These TT rounds resulted in vaccinating approximately 1.32 million WCBA with at least two doses

of TT vaccine (TT2 + coverage = 82.3 percent).

Results and impacts of implementing the HRA strategy in Yemen:

• Protecting approximately 1.32 million women (and their future newborns) from tetanus.

• A more than 60 percent reduction in NNT cases since 2001.

• Detecting and investigating most NNT cases admitted to hospitals through established sentinel surveillance sites in 2002.

(1) WHO, *Weekly Epidemiology Record, Progress toward the global elimination of neonatal tetanus, 1990-1998*. (March 12, 1999, 74th year).

(2) UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA. *Maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination by the year 2005: Strategies for achieving and sustaining elimination*. November 2000 (UNICEF publication).

Wake up! It's breakfast time

By: Dr. Maha Al-Nakkash

Are you one of those busy people who just don't have time for breakfast? If so, you're among millions who regularly deprive their bodies of valuable fuel, and as new research shows, you could be heading for serious heartache.

We've all been there. The alarm beeps; you make a feeble attempt to un-fuse your eyelids, grunt and then go back to sleep. Just 20 more minutes in bed will do the trick.

Forty-five minutes later and with just 15 seconds left to unwind from your duvet, dash through a shower and leap into your clothes, you leave the house without so much as a swig of coffee.

When the snack trolley rolls up around mid-morning, you suddenly realize you're starving. No wonder, you skipped breakfast, didn't you? So, what better excuse to tuck into that calorie-laden chocolate bar and perhaps a slice of sticky cake to go with that long-awaited double mocha cream coffee. Mmmm!

Stop. Rewind. The scenario you've just played out literally could have affected your whole life.

Ok, one morning of indulgence is hardly going to put you on the fast track to the fat farm. But if this situation is a regular part of your life, there are many ways in which it could be damaging your daily performance and health.

According to new research, breakfast has never been so big. Lifestyle habits must change, say regional doctors, who are becoming increasingly concerned at the numbers of super-sized people with super-sized health problems in the Middle East.



All schools in the US should implement breakfast programs.

For example, obesity rates are climbing in the United Arab Emirates. Recent studies show that in Al Ain, school children as young as age 5 are classified as obese and a whopping 50 percent of Gulf citizens are overweight as a result of sedentary lifestyles, lack of exercise and poor eating habits.

A U.A.E. study known as the Emirates National Diabetes study (Endcad) showed that 74 percent of the random group studied was either overweight or obese. In fact, obesity has reached such alarming proportions

in the Middle East, that more than 45 percent of women aged 15-49 are overweight or obese, according to a leading international obesity expert.

People in this region are eating far too much of the wrong foods and not exerting enough. Obesity is a far greater threat in the Middle East region, even compared to developed countries like the United States. Obesity is much higher in native Gulf populations because countries in the region have moved toward a high-fat and high carbohydrate diet.

In North America, experts are so

concerned that they're targeting the younger generation in the hope that lifestyle habits literally can be re-learned. All U.S. schools should implement breakfast programs because breakfast now is officially the most important meal of the day and skipping it not only will make you statistically fatter and less healthy, but statically less intelligent.

Performance food

Eating breakfast can help ward off obesity. According to the American Heart Association (AHA), it not only

affects appetite, but also recognizably benefits metabolism and insulin rates. AHA studies show that those who eat a healthy breakfast every day have a 50 percent lower chance of developing insulin resistance syndrome (a major cause of obesity in the U.S.) and diabetes than those who consistently skipped the meal.

Additionally, it was discovered that those who ate whole grain, complex carbohydrates in the morning fared a further 15 percent better than those who ate breakfast but preferred refined carbohydrate products like pastries, pancakes, white bread and processed cereals.

Local experts blame lifestyle choices as leading to obesity, which is a high risk factor for developing diabetes and causes complications for those already living with the disease. For many obese diabetics, beginning a weight management program may be the most important step they can undertake to keep themselves healthy.

However, the impact of bad eating habits is even more serious for the young, as not eating breakfast affects academic performance and learning. U.A.E. schools that participated in studies showed those students who skipped the first meal of the day were lower achievers, less organized, participated less in classes and struggled more academically to achieve moderate grades. The same children also were involved in more disruptive behavior incidents.

Breaking the habit

You may now be sold on the idea of eating breakfast, but that doesn't alter the fact that you'll have to leave the safe confines of your bed 20 minutes earlier to consume it.

However, like most things in life, a healthy routine is built through habit.

Nutritionists advise that if there is one time when you should eat – even if you don't feel hungry – it's first thing in the morning.

Breakfast enables the body to refuel itself and replenish its exhausted energy reserves. Eating a good breakfast, low in fat and rich in dietary fiber, assists in re-energizing the body's metabolism, providing sufficient amounts of energy and nutrients mentally and physically to survive the earliest part of the day.

Build breakfast into your basic routine every morning and you soon will notice great improvement in your energy and well-being.

Breakfast on the run

Try some of these super fast power breakfasts to boost your performance, including single servings of whole grain, low sugar cereal and skimmed milk.

- Yogurt: Go for the low-fat, bio, fruit or natural varieties rather than those with chocolate or toffee pieces or yogurt drinks containing special bacteria to aid digestion.

- Fresh fruit: Perfect for the weight-conscious breakfast skipper. Choose berries for their super-antioxidant properties or bananas for the ultimate energy boost.

- Fruit cocktails: Can't face raw fruit? Luckily, most cafeterias serve a whole range of delicious fresh fruit juices that can be whizzed up in seconds and will carry you through until lunch time.

- Cheese or zatar (thyme) bread: Packed with energy and available from most bakeries at breakfast. Dieters should stick to zatar for the lower fat content.

- Breakfast cereal bars: Nutritious and handy for those on the go, but check the fat and sugar content.

Al-Kbous Industrial, Trading and Investment Group receives International award



Mr. Mamoon Al-Kbous, manager of coffee and tea factory, spoke in the occasion. He spoke of the importance of the prize for the group. He said that it came because of the efforts exerted by the group to achieve satisfaction for the consumers. It is also an indication of the capability of the group to compete not only internally but also, internationally. Added to this are the government's efforts to join the World Trade. The interest of the group in the Yemeni coffee as a legacy

permanent care for our clients in Yemen and world wide. Our efforts are continuous to obtain their contentment. This is noticed since the commencement of our activities on the hands of the founder Haj Mohamed Hassan Al-Kbous in 1938."

The Prize of ISO 2000-9001 did not come out of nothing. It is a natural result of the observance of our products to the requirements of international specifications and standards. This resulted in the wide spread of our products in the international, local and Arab world, such as (Japan, Russia, Spain, Britain, America, Canada and other markets.) These markets accept only distinctive products that satisfy their consumers.

The group has obtained many local, Arab and international prizes. Examples of these are:

- The prize of the best factory in the Republic of Yemen from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
- The prize of distinctive manufacturing for 2005 from the General Authority for Specifications and Standards.

From the Arab world:

- The best investor in Yemen for 2005, which was granted under the sponsorship of King Abdullah the 2nd of the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan.
- Internationally:
- The International Standard Organization ISO 2000-9001
- The European organization for light food products manufacture in Britain for 2005-2006.
- The grand European Prize for Quality in Paris 1998.

These certificates and prizes played a major role in encouraging our continuous focus to remain on top. It is closely connected with our observation of international standards and the satisfaction of our clients.

A proof of that is our effort to obtain the HACCP international prize. Our objective is to build up good relations with our clients and provide all that satisfies them.

We not only aim at manufacturing products that only affect the client's health, but ones that also give him content and safety. The important objectives we seek to achieve, are that the food security is no longer the important issue that the client is looking for. This is what is meant by quality and implementation of international standards.

Despite the sickness of our founding father/ Haj Mohamed Hassan Al-Kbous, the Chairman, He sent a speech read on behalf of him by / Mr. Hashim Mohamed Al-Kbous, in which he welcomed all the guests. He thanked God for the success they achieved since they start sixty years ago.

Though the founder Haj Mohammed Hassan Al-Kbous is ill, he sent a letter that was read by Hashim Moh'd Al-Kbous on his behalf. In that letter, he welcomed all the attendants and thanked Allah for granting him luck during his long engagement in business which has extended for more than 60 years. He also expressed his apology for being



Minister of trade and Industry Sheikh Al-Kbous's winning of the ISO is a certificate of improved quality for Yemen's industry.

unable to come due to his illness. He added that this certificate is not for Al-Kbous Group but for all Yemeni people.

Mr. Ameen Al-Kbous statement

Mr. Ameen Al-Kbous also expressed his pleasure and optimism of the future. He said "We got this new international award in our way towards continued success, and we are glad to share these pleasurable moments with you." He also thanked the audience for attending the ceremony.

During the celebration we met with many personalities who attended the ceremony, and one of them was Wael Abdullah Hashim, Manager of Limited Quality Company. This company supervises world quality system in Yemen and it is the official representative of QMI, the denoting party. He said, "Al-Kbous Group deserved this certificate of the International Standardization Organization (ISO 9001 – 2000) due to its adherence and integration with wise political moves of the Yemeni government. It is a gift for Yemeni people and government. He added that this is for the interest of Yemeni economy and for readiness to join World Trade Organization (WTO). Furthermore, the company tries to restore the lost status of the Yemeni coffee in world markets."

When asked about the meaning of quality certificate, he said that "quality, as defined in WTO's report for the year 2005, is the powerful tool for developing world standardization. It is also both a passport and identity card for any product or service to go beyond borders not merely for existence but also for competition. It is the central tool to get customer's satisfaction via product or service guaranty and to support our national economy."

Regarding the demands for getting such certificate, Wael Hashim clarified, "There are certain provisions and producers of world quality system to be applied. Yet it is important that board of directors should be convinced with the application of such



Ameen Al-Kbous



Ibrahim Al-Kbous



Mamoon Al-Kbous



Jamal Al-Khawlani



Mohammed Fawaz



Wael Hashim

system. Receiving such certificates by some institutions reflects the administration's awareness and realization of its responsibilities towards customers and country."

In his final comment, he added saying "I congratulate Al-Kbous Group for this great achievement and for the good relations with all society's sectors. This is reflected in the number of attendants in this national ceremony and this is an indication of their moral values and their awareness of the responsibilities laid on their shoulders, being an industrial, commercial and investment institution."

"I ask all institutions in Yemen to imitate Al-Kbous Group and they have to be careful about the coming international competition which means nothing but product or service

quality and customer satisfaction. Once again, we congratulate the Group on this occasion and we are ready to cooperate with all in this respect."

Another participant was Abdu Ali Al-Audi, Director of Ardh Al-Janteen Company for Medicines. He pointed out that "the existence of such specialization in Yemen is something good towards quality and we ask other producers to do as Al-Kbous Group. It is a start in the way for industrial development and this adds to level of quality for Yemeni Commodity and all Yemeni business men are asked to initiate such programs in their institutions."

There was also a diplomatic attendance and among the participants was the Jordanian Ambassador to Yemen, Ahmed Gradat. He

"congratulated the Group on its receipt of ISO 9001 – 2000. This is not new as for the company as it has received a certificate from Jordan and this boosts the national economy."

QMI's expert, Mohamed Fawaz, initiated his speech by congratulating Al-Kbous Group on getting this certificate. He said, "This means that the company has set a quality system that comply with the specifications of ISO requirements and it has been effectively practiced. We, as an accrediting party, have audited and applied quality system to the Group and they have been found to be compatible with our requirements. The certificate is not the goal as quality ultimately means customer satisfaction and this is Al-Kbous Group's aim, so they have deserved this certificate."



Dr. Sheikh Minister of trade and industry

which was about to lose its international distinction was another factor as well. The group's role was clear in supporting this uniqueness in quality, by observing the international export specifications and the local demands, through preservation of the original taste. The group seeks to support coffee farmers to prompt coffee growing.

Mr. Hassan Al-Kbous speech

Mr. Hassan welcomed the guests at the beginning of his word. He expressed his delight for the group's achievement of the International Organization for Standards' prize ISO 2000-9001. "It came because of our



Hasan Al-Kbous



Mr. Alistair John Mooney

President & General Manager

&

Mr. Ali Sohaiki

Executive Director

The management team and all staff of
Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen

and its Masila Block (14) Partners,

Present their heartiest congratulations to

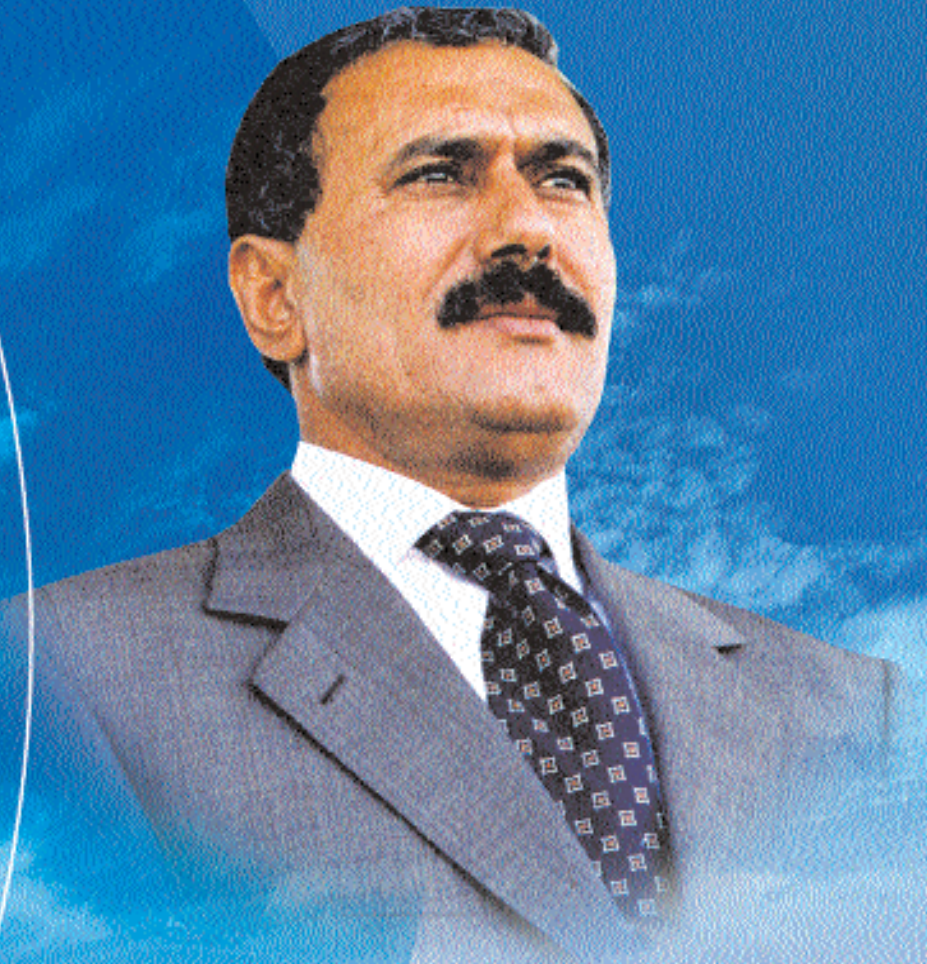
H.E. ALI ABDULLAH SALEH

President of the Republic of Yemen

and the Yemeni people on the occasion of the

16th Anniversary of the Yemeni Reunification Day - (May 22nd)

wishing Yemen and its wise leadership more prosperity,
progress and achievements.



اليوم
22

يتقدم كل من :
السيد / أليستار جون موني

الرئيس - المدير العام

والأستاذ / علي محمد السديقي

المدير التنفيذي

والإدارة العليا وموظفو شركة

كنيديان نكسن بئر وليع يمن

كافة وشركاؤها في قطاع المسيلة (١٤)

بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبد الله صالح

حفظه الله

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

وإلى جميع أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة

العيد السادس عشر لإعادة تحقيق الوحدة اليمنية المباركة

متمنين للجمهورية اليمنية وقيادتها الحكيمة المزيد من الإنجازات

والتقدم والرخاء .



CANADIAN
nexen

May 22



We present our warmest congratulations to the
pioneer of the modern Yemen & maker
of achievements

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen
and to the Yemeni people

On the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of 22 May
Many Happy Returns!

On behalf of the company
Executive Director and vice Executive Director

نتقدم بأجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات إلى باني
نهضة اليمن الحديث وصانع الإنجازات صاحب
الضخامة الرئيس /

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني الكريم
بمناسبة العيد السادس عشر من تحقيق الوحدة
وكل عام والجميع بخير،

عنهم :

المدير التنفيذي ونائبه
وجميع موظفي وعمال الشركة



SAFER

شركة صافر لعمليات الاستكشاف والإنتاج
Safer Exploration and Production
Operations Company (SEPOC)



تتقدم مجموعة آكور الفرنسية
لإدارة الفنادق والمنتجعات السياحية - اليمن
بأحر التهاني وأطيب الأمنيات

لفخامة الرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية

ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني العظيم
بمناسبة العيد الوطني السادس عشر لقيام الوحدة اليمنية المباركة.
وكل عام وأنتم بخير يا فخامة الرئيس والشعب اليمني
و مزيد من التقدم والإزدهار
تحت قيادتكم الحكيمة.

مايو 22 May

عن جميع موظفي ومديري شركة آكور الفرنسية للفنادق باليمن .
السيد / ديديه موريل المدير العام الأقليمي

Mr. Didier Morel

The Area Manager of Accor Hotels Yemen
and all the Management and the Staff are Presenting
their congratulations and sincere wishes to

H.E President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and to all the great population of Yemen

On the occasion of the 16th anniversary of
the reunification day, of 22 nd May
Many Happy Returns



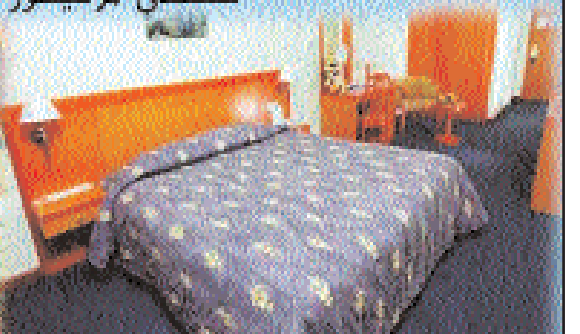
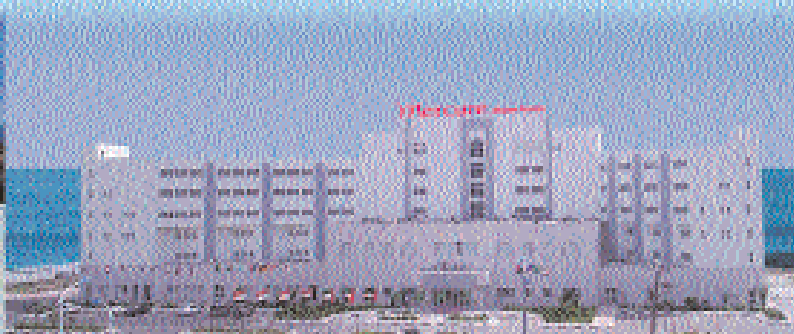
Sofitel Taiz Hotel
فندق سوفيتيل تعز



Mercure Aden Hotel
فندق ميريور عدن



Mercure Sana'a Hotel
فندق ميريور صنعاء



Zabid: Originality, history and beauty

By: Mazin Al-Saqqaf
Hodeidah Bureau

The city of Zabid is considered one of Yemen's most prominent historical cities, playing a significant role in Yemen's Islamic history. It represented a center for knowledge and scholastic activity whose effects reached varying corners of the Muslim world. It achieved such a prestigious status due to its consecutive rulers' interest in knowledge and scholarly pursuits. Without prior written agreement, they concurred to make Zabid a center of interest for students exuding knowledge and culture.

In terms of knowledge, Zabid reached such a level as that reached by Mecca, Cairo-based Al-Azhar University, Al-Zaytoon University in Tunis or Baghdad, the capital of Caliph Al-Rasheed. Thus, Zabid achieved such a high position in terms of civilization and culture which makes it stand out in the crowd of Arab and Muslim cities.

Geography

The city of Zabid lies on Tihama plain, southwest of Al-Hodeidah province with a latitude of 110 meters and situated between Rima' and Zabid valleys. It is bound on its eastern side by Wosab Al-Safil and Ras Mountains, on the west by Al-Bukhaita district, on the north by Bait Al-Faqeeh province and on the south



One of the ancient mosques in the city of Zabid

by Hais province. With this location, Zabid lies midway between the sea and mountainous areas, equidistant between them at 25 kilometers.

There are many opinions regarding the city name's etymology. Some claim it is named for the valley in which it is located, which in turn was derived from the name of the tribe that originally inhabited the valley.

Historical features

Of the most important historical and tourist landmarks and attractions in Zabid are its ancient walls, gates and mosques.

The first wall built around the city was under the reign of Al-Hussein bin Salamah in the fourth century after Hijra. It was later rebuilt in 588 after Hijra (791 A.D.) and rehabilitated many times since until 1222 after Hijra.

Zabid has four gates: the eastern gate called Al-Shabariq Gate, named for Al-Shabariq village; the southern gate called Al-Qartab Gate, named for Al-Qartab area in Zabid Valley; the western gate called Al-Nakheel (palms) Gate in reference to the abundance of palm trees in that area of the city and the northern gate called Siham Gate named for Siham Valley.

The old city wall of Zabid is different from those of the old cities of

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 30

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

For "Is" and "Is-not" though
with rule and line,
And "Up-and-down"
without, I could define,
I yet in all I only cared to
know,
Was never deep in anything
but-wine.

Sana'a and Sa'ada in the sense that Zabid's wall was built in a circular manner out of mud brick. Between each two sections of the wall is a one-meter high rectangular opening and two other openings to the right and left for archers. The wall is three meters high with a tower every 100 meters. A barrack lies between each two gates and a room tops each gate for watching. The room's roof is fenced and used for archers and firing.

increased by approximately 3.5 meters and greatly expanded with a ceiling compelling wonder. It also was decorated with various patterns and had two large domes erected at the front section of its roof – one to the east and one to the west. Following this reconstruction, the mosque had 70 meters of arches, 140 pillars, 190 cylinders, 12 domes, 13 doors, 40 windows, seven cubicles and three water tanks.

Arts bearing witness to the time

Besides being dubbed "the city of scholarship and scholars," Zabid added extra distinction to itself, actu-

Mosques and schools: center of scholarly interest
Since the beginning of Islam, schools



A decorated front of a house in Zabid.

were established in Zabid and rulers kept building them throughout history. Zabid's golden school era was under the reign of the Rasoulid state, namely King Al-Ashraf II whose full name was Ismail bin Al-Abbas (778-803 A.H.). Some 236 schools and mosques were scattered across the city at that time, thus, the city rivaled the Muslim world's most remarkable cities. Since then, this number has reduced and currently has reached as low as 82.

Zabid's numerous schools produced thousands of clerics and religious scholars. These schools were founded at different times, making Zabid the best knowledge-providing center.

Ancient mosques

Zabid enshrines approximately 29 mosques, the most famous and oldest of which is Al-Asha'ir Mosque, reportedly built in the eighth year after Hijra pursuant to directives from the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh). Built by Al-Asha'ir tribesmen who were led by the prophet's companion Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari, it was famed as one of the prophet's blessed mosques. The mosque was rebuilt many times afterward.

The second mosque is the Grand Mosque, one of Yemen's largest ancient mosques – the largest being Sana'a Grand Mosque – and part of Zabid's cherished antiquities collection. Many modifications and changes were introduced to the mosque throughout the ages, which was first founded in 225 A.H. and renewed three times at long intervals by sultans and princes controlling the region.

The mosque was demolished in 897 A.H. during the reign of Sultan Al-Dhafer Amir bin Abdul-Wahab, who rebuilt it into an exquisite piece of architectural art. Its height was

ally excelling in various areas of human civilization such as arts, architecture, castle building, etc. The city exhibited architectural masterpieces during consecutive periods and its houses still preserve original artistic touches and characteristics. Art seen on house fronts, gates and decorations, as well as engravings and scripts on pulpits and imam niches inside mosques and the remains of great historic palaces and similar places all bear witness to the city's original arts.

Moreover, the city's master plan is circular-shaped with a four-gate wall. Whenever danger loomed, the gates closed. Inside the city are narrow lanes and an old market that becomes full of movement every Sunday. The marketplace is divided into different sections based on commodities or industries. The city was famed in the past for weaving different types of textures as well as leather tanning, etc. It also has rich folklore with distinguished dances, songs and customs.

A perennial antiquities source

In addition to its currently seen treasures and antiquities, Zabid still is an inexhaustible fountain of civilization and heritage. Excavations conducted by a 1997 Yemeni-Canadian expedition revealed the presence of prehistoric settlements in Al-Madman area west of Zabid near the Red Sea. The site dates back to Yemen's Bronze Age (2500-1800 B.C.).

The expedition also unearthed other archeological sites scattered across Zabid, the most important of which was in the northern section named Al-Qasr Quarter, wherein ancient earthenware was found dating back to the third century A.H., others to the Himyarite era and others to the Stone Age.

Short Story

Nawal..

By: Hamdan Dammaj

She felt the freezing cold from the hall's air conditioners relentlessly penetrate her bones. She leant her head against his broad shoulder and followed the film's events, unperturbed by his savage hand sneaking through her summer coat to play systematically with her sensitive parts.

"This Negro is nice," she thought. She had known him only for a short time, but he quickly managed to find her a job. He was infatuated with her. She was thinking of the good pay she would earn from the job, smiled and readjusted herself in the seat, letting him caress whatever he wanted.

She removed her veil and sharshaf (black robe) with her friends in the room next door. Her laughter was distinctive. She entered the room with her face slightly disturbed. She greeted them kindly and coyly.

He looked at her bare legs and her prominent bosom and was struck in admiration. How beautiful she is! She resembles commercial ad models to a great extent. He gaped for a long while. His eyes kept scrutinizing her tender body, graceful construct, white arms, bare shoulders and mild soft chest. He hardly believed the veil could obscure such a beauty.

A hidden shiver ran through his body and shook him entirely. Perceiving this, his friends left her to him and busied themselves with the rest. He was infatuated with her thoroughly. She was bashful. Unlike her more professional and experienced companions, she seemed unaccustomed to secret love affairs. She must be a novice.

He dated her many times and eventually fell under her mad love. He knew her real name but continued to call her by the name he learned at their first meeting. Even when Scotland Yard interrogated him several years



later, he referred to her by the same name – Nawal.

He waved to the farewell bidders and rushed into the departure hall as he saw her having her passport checked. The plan was going right. As soon as the plane took off, they joined hands passionately. With the help of a close friend in the airline office, he booked side-by-side seats. She told him she'd like to see the world through the window, which she did.

Overwhelming him with kisses, she told him she wanted a job like her colleagues at the language institute. The job would help them acquire the language. She continued persuading him for a long time. Eventually, he reluctantly gave in despite his terrible anxiety. He knew she no longer was his and his opportunity to possess her was diminishing gradually since the moment he saw her, one week ago, playfully caress her Italian colleague who was maneuvering for a kiss.

Stricken by blind jealousy, he appeared silly. He slapped her fiercely one day. She threatened to call the

police, as his petty threats no longer frightened her. Nay, no one could curb her mind's wild imagination. She felt a sense of tremendous triumph, realizing she could do whatever she liked. She came to have many boyfriends.

Whatever remained of him in her heart was not enough to deter her from deserting him for good. He felt he was a tiny insect trying to climb a slippery wall. Her rebellion was inevitable...but too painful for him. Since that day, he understood that their relationship was over.

She had not contacted him in a considerable period of time. He used to hear about her from mutual friends who later dispersed. He withstood the feeling of defeat for a long time. Afterward, Nawal occupied his memory as the most influential event in his life which, as a human being, he could not have predicted its expiration a few minutes later.

"Why the hell did I remember her now?" he asked himself. "Why does the Peugeot driver insist on buying qat at this very point?" The journey was still at the beginning and they would pass several qat markets on their long

way up to the capital city. The car had pulled off haphazardly on one side of the highway. Despite his passengers' protests, the petulant driver got out and went over to a nearby iron qat stand. Shortly thereafter, other passengers followed him to buy qat.

Jammed in the back seat, he moved his body with difficulty. He was fatigued by travel, congestion and the sun scorching his wet sweaty back. In the same random manner, a luxurious car stopped on the other side of the road. Despite the sunrays' blinding reflection on the car's elegant body, he could discern the features of a beautiful woman inside.

He lit his last cigarette, its smoke mixing with that of the cigarettes of front seat passengers impatiently waiting for the driver. They began sounding the horn restlessly to make him hurry up. His eyes still were observing the beauty inside the car whose number plate showed it was state-owned.

Sellers and busybodies infesting Al-Najd Al-Ahmar market at such a time of day kept peeping at her. That made the lady uneasy. She drew her arm inward, which had been set in a relaxed position on the window edge, and partly raised the glass.

The passengers' bodies once again were packed and the car began to move. He still was observing her. Suddenly, his sleepy senses awakened and a notion quickly jumped to his mind and he took it for granted. He tried to turn around to see the woman one more time but he couldn't easily free his jammed body.

When he had the chance to look backward, he was appalled by the scene of "huge wheels from a gas tanker, in a horrible accident, running over the rear of a Peugeot, killing five passengers," as the news story would appear in small font on the back page of the next morning's newspaper.

Translated by: Shaker Al-Molsi

ترفع

شركة أسماك اليمن المحدودة

أسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

بمناسبة الذكرى السادسة عشر

من تحقيق الوحدة المباركة

في ٢٢ مايو ١٩٩٠م

ولكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني متمنين دوام التقدم والازدهار

للوطن في ظل قيادة الحكيمة

المهندس عبدالله أحمد بقشان

رئيس مجلس الإدارة

شركة أسماك اليمن المحدودة

Yemeni Fish

extends its heart-felt congratulations and
best wishes to His Excellency

Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic

and to the Yemeni people

on the 16th anniversary of 22 MAY.Wishing our homeland continued
advancement and prosperity under its
wise leadership.

Many Happy Returns

Eng. Abdullah Ahmed Baqshan

Chairman of Board of Directors

Yemeni Fish



Yemeni Fish

The quality fresh fishery of Yemen


تتقدم

الشركة العربية اليمنية للأسمنت المحدودة

ممثلة برئيس مجلس إدارتها

المهندس عبدالله أحمد سعيد بقشان

بخالص وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة الرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى كافة أبناء شعبنا اليمني العظيم

بمناسبة إحتفالات الشعب اليمني بحلول الذكرى السادسة عشر

لتحقيق الوحدة اليمنية المباركة

متمنين دوام التقدم وازدهار للوطن اليمني في ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة .

وكل عام والجميع بألف خير

Arabian Yemen Cement Company Ltd.

Represented by the Chairman of the Board of Directors

Eng. Abdullah Ahmed Sa'eed Buqshan

Presents its heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency

President of the Republic

Ali Abdullah Saleh

And to the Yemeni people

On the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of the Reunification

Day, 22nd of May

Wishing our country continued prosperity and advancement
under the wise leadership.

Many happy returns

مايو
22

الشركة العربية اليمنية للأسمنت المحدودة

Arabian Yemen Cement Company Ltd.

Mr. JEAN MICHEL LAVERGNE

General Manager

All staff of TOTAL E&P YEMEN

And their partners kufpec, comeco & Occidental

Present their warmest congratulations and best regards to

His Excellency

PRESIDENT ALI ABDULLA SALEH

AND ALL OF THE YEMEN PEOPLE

*On the occasion of Celebration of the sixteenth Anniversary
of the Yemeni Unification*



TOTAL

May 22

الجامعة الوطنية

تتقدم بأجمل آيات التهاني والتبريكات للثقافت الرمزي ياني اليمين
الحديث وحامي وحدته الاخ /

علي عبد الله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

وذلك بمناسبة الذكرى السادسة عشر لتحقيق الوحدة المباركة
و لكافة أبناء شعبنا العريق .

متمنين مزيداً من التقدم و الازدهار في ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة .
وكل عام و الجميع بألف خير

د. شكيب محمد الخامري - رئيس الجامعة

The National University

Presents Its congratulations to

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of The Republic of Yemen
and all Yemeni people on the Reunification day
22nd May, wishing the country continued success
and prosperity under the wise leadership.

Many happy returns

University President - **Dr. Shakeeb Mohammed Al-Khamery**



The National University is an acting member in Arab Universities Union, Islamic World Universities Union and Arab Scientific Research Councils' Union.

The University was founded according to the resolution of the Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research No. (3) 1994 and issued in 1/12/1994.

The University's name has been changed to the National University according to the university's wish and in accordance with the Prime Minister's resolution no. (558) for the year 1996. The university has agreements and academic relations with a number of accredited universities.

May 22

Mr. David Kimes - President & General Manager

The management team and all staff and Partners of
Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr Ltd.
Block (51)

Present their heartiest congratulations to

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen
and the Yemeni people,
on the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of the Yemeni
Reunification day
wishing the Yemeni leadership many more achievements,
Progress and Prosperity.

يتقدم

السيد / ديفيد كايمز - الرئيس والمدير العام

و الإدارة العليا و كافة موظفي وشركاء شركة كنديان نكسن بتروليم
شرق الحجر المحدودة قطاع ٥١ بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى
فخامة الأخ

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية حفظه الله

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة الذكرى السادسة عشر للوحدة
اليمنية متمنين للقيادة السياسية وللشعب اليمني المزيد من التقدم
و الإزدهار

**CANADIAN
nexen**

مجموعة شركات محمد عبدالرحمن العامري

تتقدم بأرق وأزكى التهاني والتبريكات
إلى الرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة العيد الوطني السادس عشر لتحقيق الوحدة اليمنية
متمنين لليمن السير قدماً في طريق التقدم والنجاح والازدهار
وكل عام و أنتم بخير

محمد عبدالرحمن العامري - المدير العام

Mohd. Abdul Rahman Mohsin Al Amri Group of Co.

Represented by

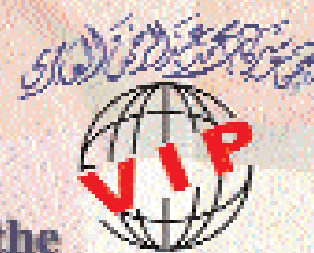
Mohd. Abdul Rahman Mohsin Al Amri - General Manager

Present their congratulations & sincere wishes to

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of The Republic of Yemen

& all Yemeni people on the 16th Anniversary of the
Reunification Day 22nd of May



الإمارات العربية المتحدة - اليمن

What citizens say about Yemeni unity

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

No Yemeni denies that Yemeni unity is the greatest national accomplishment. Yemeni reunification on May 22, 1990 constituted a great unionist project and the unitary accomplishment contributed to the region's stability. As a strategic state, its constituents doubled and many are optimistic that Yemeni unity is brilliant at present with a promising future.

Hussein Fatehallah, a 40-year-old taxi driver: "Yemen's reunification is a great historic achievement reached by the Yemeni people's will and faith. National unity made available party multiplicity for us to enjoy a democratic margin.

"No one can argue that the country makes very slow steps toward political and administrative reforms, but we are optimistic that we will be like the most developed countries in the future. As Yemenis, we must not aspire to live in absolute democracy like other countries, as this may cause rampant corruption."

Mohamed Qasem Al-Nuzeili, a trader: "Yemeni unity is a good thing, as citizens benefited from it through developing the main infrastructure, particularly in the southern parts of the country. However, we suffer many negative aspects, such as the spread of corruption, which impacts everyday life.

"Recurring street diggings result from lack of coordination between concerned bodies such as electricity, water, sewage and telecommunications corporations. Additionally, Yemenis suffer the absence of traffic regulations, a fact responsible for the bad moods of traffic police while dealing with any traffic-related issues, coupled with issuing driving licenses to children."

Adulmajeed Mohamed Ahmad Al-Asnaj, a cook: "All of us in Aden are proud of national unity. After years of separation, we unified to live under the umbrella of peace, brotherhood and love.

"I want to remark regarding the judiciary, which experiences corruption as if we are living in a medieval era where survival is for the fittest and not a place

for the weak. South Yemen was better than the north in terms of enjoying fair judiciary and good management.

"We were of the hope that those positive aspects could be pursued in the northern parts of the country following reunification. Regrettably, since national unity was established, we have been suffering poor management and lack of justice. Good management and justice are the primary elements for Yemeni citizens to live in safety and secure their property."

Basil Saleh Abdullah Al-Zarouqi, a 43-year-old employee at Al-Alamia for Travel and Tourism: "By itself, unity is a great goal accomplished through sacrifice and struggle against British occupation in the formerly separate southern region and against imamate rule in the northern region before unity. Unity is an extraordinary accomplishment and a sublime objective and will remain a great dream in the life of Yemeni people which has come true, regardless of whether there have been some negatives that do not affect the greatness of unity as a goal and its achievements in uniting the nation. Division and fragmentation were factors impeding development and citizens' prosperity."

As for tourism, Zarouqi says there is no way to compare regarding tourism and its development before and after unity. At the level of internal tourism, the average Yemeni citizen's information about his homeland was deficient because he was aware of only the part where he was living and unacquainted with his people's history and their civilization in other parts of the homeland, for instance, the people's civilization extending from Al-Mahara up to Sa'ada.

The tension that was prevailing between the country's northern and



Mohamed Qasem Al-Nuzeili

southern regions was an impeding element and factor regarding tourism and development of any aspects of growth at the levels of industry, agriculture and tourism environment. Post-unity tourism began with progress despite political tensions that existed between the two ruling parties.

Unity is for the people, regardless of the interests of this party or that. Despite occasional bickering we hear among the political parties, the people protect unity by itself. Unity must not be subject to compromises. Yemenis are one fabric and one interest, as it must be one of the national constants.

Shatha Mohammed Nasser, a lawyer: "Unity is a great and important accomplishment for Yemenis, especially in the face of regional and international groups. Nevertheless, some negatives accompanied it, but that doesn't mean that I'm against unity.

The achievements of unity are good and important, the most significant of which are adopting democracy, which was denied under the rule of the former regimes. Many positives accompanied democracy, among them:

- establishing various political parties (they existed in the south under British occupation)
- forming different organizations and societies and NGOs (they were present under British occupation)
- freedom to travel from one governorate to another
- appointing two women ministers in the formation of the new government



Basil Saleh Abdullah Al-Zarouqi

(an honor for Yemeni woman)

There were many negatives as well, including:

- the spread of financial and administrative corruption
- receding rights for Yemeni women. Northern Yemeni constitutions didn't grant Yemeni women any rights and they weren't allowed to practice their political rights. The situation was completely different in the south. The former democratic Yemen's 1978 Constitution granted Yemeni women many rights such as practicing political life (elections to People's Council, encouraged marriage, family law, etc.). The Constitution also stipulated equality between men and women in rights and duties, as well as among all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin, religion or language. It granted equal rights to men and women in all areas of political life.

The 1990 Unity Constitution gave northern women the right to be equal with men and also to political participation, which she was deprived of before unity. The 1994 Constitution was amended immediately after the war. Article 31 was added to it, stipulating that women are sisters of men in rights and duties as guaranteed by Islamic law and stipulated by the law. In the 2001 Constitution, Article 31 was kept as is and Article 126 was added. Accordingly, women were appointed as members of the Shoura Council and won two seats.

Women's situation in the post-unity social status law:

Social status law No. 21 in 1992 and its 1997 and 1998 amendments can-



Adulmajeed Mohamed Al-Asnaj

celed the text of Article 72, which stipulated the right of despotically divorced women to compensation for one year."

Rashida Al-Qaili, female journalist and media activist: "I find the sweetness of unity in my heart like the sweetness of faith because there isn't a greater achievement in our Arab nations' histories than this unity. By all standards, unity is a great achievement and this is an occasion to be grateful to all of the leaderships in the north and south for coming together and creating this unity. We thank them, regardless of the stances taken afterwards, whether for justifiable reasons or not, because it is an insult to unity itself if any leader tries to brand it with his name and claim sole ownership of it. This is what we criticize of the current president.

I would like to take this opportunity also to call on all citizens of the southern governorates to feel the sweetness of unity because it is worth celebrating, regardless of their bitter experience.

I also call on the political leadership represented by President Saleh, the military forces, security apparatus and bias media to fear God in their attitudes toward unity and stop their actions that divide instead of unite.

It could have been possible that Yemeni unity was achieved in a better and faster way than what was agreed upon between the two presidents who made it happen. Instead, they took advantage of our problems and achievements. Not much of this unity's aspiration was achieved and of course,



Shatha Mohammed Nasser



Hussein Fatehallah



Rashida Al-Qaili

this is not the fault of unity. There is still a chance to rectify what is wrong. If not, then a day might come when there is nothing to celebrate because the spirits today are divided more than united. It is true that the land became one now, but the spirits of the people are separated because of foolish politics and policies."

History of the Republic

Although the governments of the PDRY and the YAR declared that they approved a future union in 1972, little progress was made toward unification, and relations were often strained.

In May 1988, the YAR and PDRY governments came to an understanding that considerably reduced tensions including agreement to renew discussions concerning unification, to establish a joint oil exploration area along their undefined border, to demilitarize the border, and to allow Yemenis unrestricted border passage on the basis of only a national identification card.

In November 1989, the leaders of the YAR (Ali Abdullah Saleh) and the PDRY (Ali Salim al-Baidh) agreed on a draft unity constitution originally drawn up in 1981. The Republic of Yemen (ROY) was declared on 22 May 1990 with Saleh becoming President and al-Baidh Vice President. For the first time in centuries, much of Greater Yemen was politically united.

A 30-month transitional period for completing the unification of the two political and economic systems was set. A presidential council was jointly elected by the 26-member YAR advisory council and the 17-member PDRY presidium. The presidential council appointed a Prime Minister, who formed a Cabinet. There was also a 301-seat provisional unified parliament, consisting of 159 members from the north, 111 members from the south, and 31 independent members appointed by the chairman of the council.

A unity constitution was agreed upon in May 1990 and ratified by the populace in May 1991. It affirmed



Yemen's commitment to free elections, a multiparty political system, the right to own private property, equality under the law, and respect of basic human rights. Parliamentary elections were held on 27 April 1993. International groups assisted in the organization of the elections and observed actual balloting. The resulting Parliament included 143 GPC, 69 YSP, 63 Islaah (Yemeni grouping for reform, a party composed of various tribal and religious groups), 6 Baathis, 3 Nasserists, 2 Al Haq, and 15 independents. The head of Islaah, Paramount Hashid Sheikh Abdullah Bin Husayn Al-Ahmar, is the speaker of Parliament.

Islaah was invited into the ruling coalition, and the presidential council was altered to include one Islaah member. Conflicts within the coalition resulted in the self-imposed exile of Vice President Ali Salim Al-Bidh to Aden beginning in August 1993 and a deterioration in the general security situation as political rivals settled scores and tribal elements took advantage of the unsettled situation.

Haydar Abu Bakr Al-Attas, the former PDRY Prime Minister continued to serve as the ROY Prime Minister, but his government was ineffective due to political infighting. Continuous negotiations between northern and southern leaders resulted in the signing of the document of pledge and accord in Amman, Jordan on 20 February 1994. Despite this, clashes intensified until civil war broke out in early May 1994.

Almost all of the actual fighting in the 1994 civil war occurred in the southern part of the country despite air and missile attacks against cities and major installations in the north. Southerners sought support from neighboring states and received billions of dollars of equipment and financial assistance, mostly from Saudi Arabia, which felt threatened by a united Yemen. The United States strongly supported Yemeni unity, but repeatedly called for a cease-fire and a return to the negotiating table. Various attempts, including by a UN special envoy, were unsuccessful to effect a

cease-fire.

Southern leaders declared secession and the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Yemen (DRY) on 21 May 1994, but the DRY was not recognized by the international community. Ali Nasir Muhammad supporters greatly assisted military operations against the secessionists and Aden was captured on 7 July 1994. Other resistance quickly collapsed and thousands of southern leaders and military went into exile.

Early during the fighting, President Ali Abdallah Salih announced a general amnesty which applied to everyone except a list of 16 persons. Most southerners returned to Yemen after a short exile.

An armed opposition was announced from Saudi Arabia, but no significant incidents within Yemen materialized. The government prepared legal cases against four southern leaders—Ali Salim al-Baidh, Haydar Abu Bakr Al-Attas, Abd Al-Rahman Ali Al-Jifri, and Salih Munassar Al-Siyali — for misappropriation of official funds. Others on the list of 16 were told informally they could return to take advantage of the amnesty, but most remained outside Yemen. Although many of Ali Nasir Muhammad's followers were appointed to senior governmental positions (including Vice President, Chief of Staff, and Governor of Aden), Ali Nasir Muhammad himself remained abroad in Syria.

In the aftermath of the civil war, YSP leaders within Yemen reorganized the party and elected a new politburo in July 1994. However, the party remained disheartened and without its

former influence. Islaah held a party convention in September 1994. The GPC did the same in June 1995.

In 1994, amendments to the unity constitution eliminated the presidential council. President Ali Abdallah Salih was elected by Parliament on 1 October 1994 to a 5-year term. The constitution provides that henceforth the President will be elected by popular vote from at least two candidates selected by the legislature. Yemen held its first direct presidential elections in September 1999, electing President Ali Abdallah Salih to a 5-year term in what were generally considered free and fair elections. Yemen held its sec-

ond multiparty parliamentary elections in April 1997. Constitutional amendments adopted in the summer of 2000 extended the presidential term by 2 years, thus moving the next presidential elections to 2006. The amendments also extended the parliamentary term of office to a 6-year term, thus moving elections for these seats to 2003. On 20 February 2001, a new constitutional amendment created a bicameral legislature consisting of a Shura Council (111 seats; members appointed by the president) and a House of Representatives (301 seats; members elected by popular vote).

Source: www.wikipedia.org

I Amr Basheer, a bachelor of the following address:

42 Sutton Hall Road Heston Middlesex,
tw5 OPY UK,
Tel. 00 44 776 859 0076,

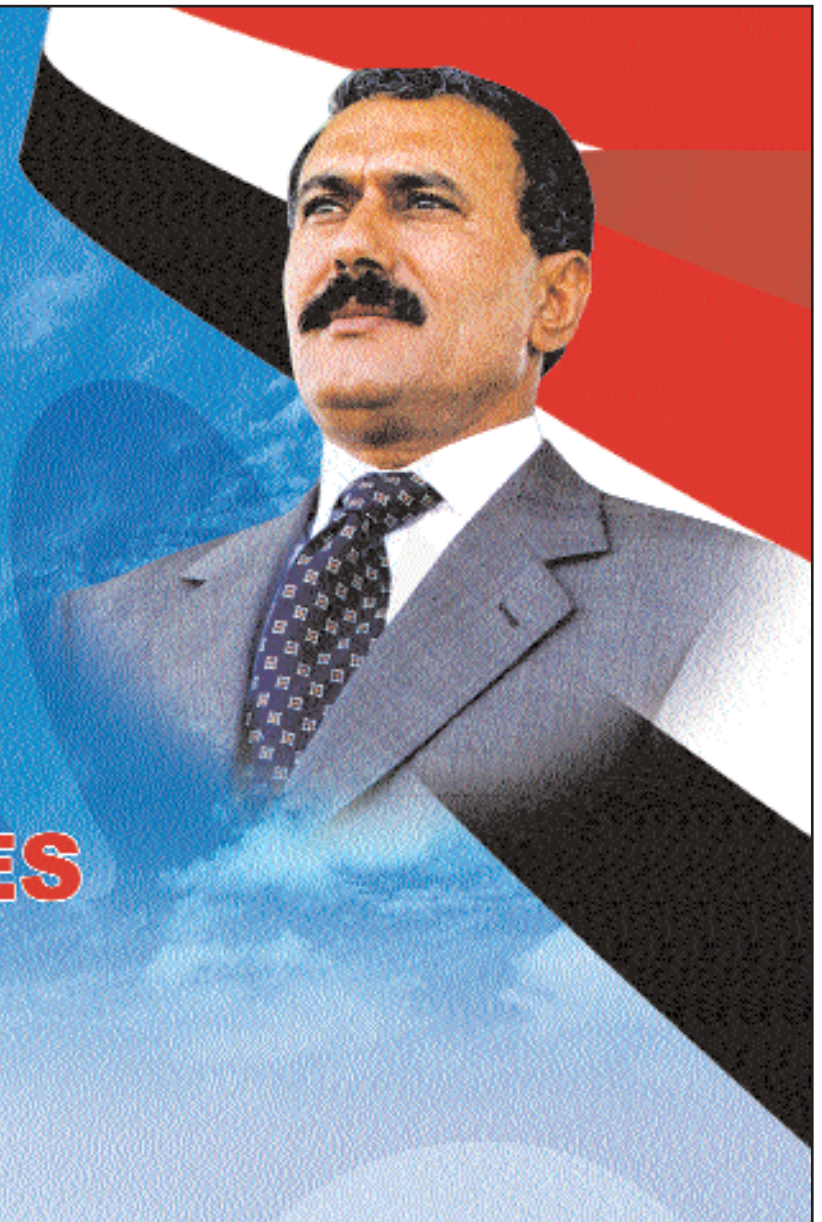
Intend to marry Ms. Najla Talal Salim, a spinster of the following address:

Al Asbahi Al Jadid,
Makha Street Sana'a,
Villa No. 41 Tel: 01 620 908
Where the marriage rituals will be solemnized at her parent's house, address as above on the 22nd of June 2006.

Any person knowing of any lawful impediment to the marriage should without delay notify:

British Embassy Sana'a
129 Abu Al Hasan Al Hamadani Street
Hadda, P.O.Box 1287 Sana'a.

May 22

**ARABIAN GROUP OF COMPANIES**

Present its heartiest congratulations to
H.E. ALI ABDULLAH SALEH

President of the Republic of Yemen

and the Yemeni people

on the occasion of the 16th Anniversary of the
Yemeni Reunification Day - (May 22nd)

Wishing Yemen and its wise leadership more
prosperity, progress and achievements.

تتقدم

مجموعة شركات العربية

بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبد الله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

وإلى جميع أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة

العيد السادس عشر لإعادة تحقيق الوحدة اليمنية المباركة
متمنين للجمهورية اليمنية وقيادتها الحكيمة المزيد من
الإنجازات والتقدم والرخاء .



Unity Day in the eyes of Yemeni children

Most primary level schoolchildren today were born after Yemeni unification. The Yemen Times investigated how children view Yemeni unification and discovered some amusing, innocent, yet intelligent thoughts.

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori

It must be the president's eid

Farouq Munasar Al-Hazmi, age 12
Unity is the day when Yemen became united because there was North Yemen and South Yemen and we had two presidents. Then we united and got just one president. When the day comes, people celebrate and parade and the president comes and watches. I see on TV some students also parading and marching in front of the president. He looks at them and smiles and talks to those next to him. During this celebration, they say they will create schools, electricity and hospitals for the ill. But we mostly see soldiers on TV parading for the president to watch. He looks on from his place and waves. It must be the president's eid, right?

Now we are one family

Imad Al-Din Ali, age 11
When we united, we became one country. We travel to Aden and then travel to Sana'a. We became one family. On May 22, we don't go to school because we celebrate this occasion. I went to Aden last year with my father and brothers and sisters and we found out that Aden people are kind.

10 riyals were good enough for school allowance

Khlood Mansour Hizam, age 9

Unity is when Yemen became one so long ago. There were two Yemens and today there is only one. But my brothers tell me that when there was no unity, their school pocket money was 10 or 20 Riyals and it was good enough because things were cheap. Now, even 100 Riyals wouldn't do. Maybe the people became more now.

I wasn't born then

Nabil Ali Ghalib, age 10
I know Unity Day is the day when Yemen became one, but I have no idea how. Our president united us. Maybe he said, "Let's unite," and so it became united. I'm not sure. But I remember when I was in second grade, our teacher said not to come to school on this day because it's Unity Day. When I asked her what is Unity Day, she said it's the day when the two Yemens became one. Now, I've read in my school books that it was on May 22, 1990, but I wasn't born then so I don't know how they did it or what it was all about.

They don't give us money on this eid

Abdu Al-Raimi, age 8
Unity is the celebration when soldiers become happy and go and start parading. But we don't like this kind of eid because people don't give us money like they do on the other eids. Also, on this eid, people don't wear new clothes



Abdulsalam Al-Ajil



Ahmed Ali



Imad Al-Din Ali



Abdu Al-Raimi



Nahla Fadhil



Khlood Mansour Hizam



Abdulaziz Mohammed



Farouq Munasar Al-Hazmi



Khalid Hazib



Nabil Ali Ghalib



Zaid Abdullah Al-Tawili



Talal Al-Harazi

or anything like that. We don't go to the park to play on this eid and neither do our neighbors.

Colored lights at night

Talal Al-Harazi, age 8
Unity is good. Nobody could go to the sea, but after unity, we can go to Aden and swim in the sea. On Unity Day, we don't go to school. People are happy and light torches and colored lights in the streets. We go out in our car at night and look around the decorated streets and see the colored lights.

We don't have to go to school

Zaid Abdullah Al-Tawili, age 12
May 22 is eid day when people celebrate and parade. We don't go anywhere and don't have to go to school. Maybe it is the eid of those in authori-

ty because they wear new suits and celebrate with the president. I really don't know what this eid is for, but I see them on TV celebrating. However, they don't pray like they do in every other eid.

Don't forget those who sacrificed for unity's sake

Abdulsalam Al-Ajil, age 12
It was by God's grace and then the efforts of our fathers and grandfathers that unity was achieved. Citizens sacrificed their children and money for the sake of Yemeni unity and we as Yemenis should make this day a celebration for all. We are the future generation and should not forget those who sacrificed for the sake of this precious country.

Thanks to President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Ahmed Ali, age 11
May 22 is the greatest celebration for me and for others because Yemen was separate but now it is together and has remained united. We thank President Ali Abdullah Saleh for that. Now I can go to Aden and make many new friends like Faris and Ahd. Thank God that now I can go to them and they can come to me in Sana'a.

No parade in our eid

Abdulaziz Mohammed, age 10
Unity is celebrated in May when the presidents united and created an eid. When this eid comes, they are happy, they parade and have marches. But our eid is different because in our eid, the president doesn't parade or make us

march on TV. But in their eid, they light street lamps and colored lights.

Daddy will buy me a unity too

Khalid Hazib, age 7
I have no idea what unity is, but when I go to the market with daddy, He will buy me a unity too. I hope it tastes good.

Unity allowed us to visit my aunt in Aden

Nahla Fadhil, age 10
Unity allowed us to visit my aunt in Aden and sit with her there. My aunt takes us to the sea to walk on the beach. My mom told me when there was no unity, soldiers on the road would not let her or anyone, not even dad, go visit my aunt. But now, unity allows us to go there. Mom said when the eid comes, we will go there again.

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فرع: صنعاء - تلفون: ٢٨١١١٥ - عدن: ٢٦٠٩٥١ - الحديدة: ٢٠١٣٩٤ - المكلا: ٣١٧٠٦٠

May 22

نتقدم بخالص وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات
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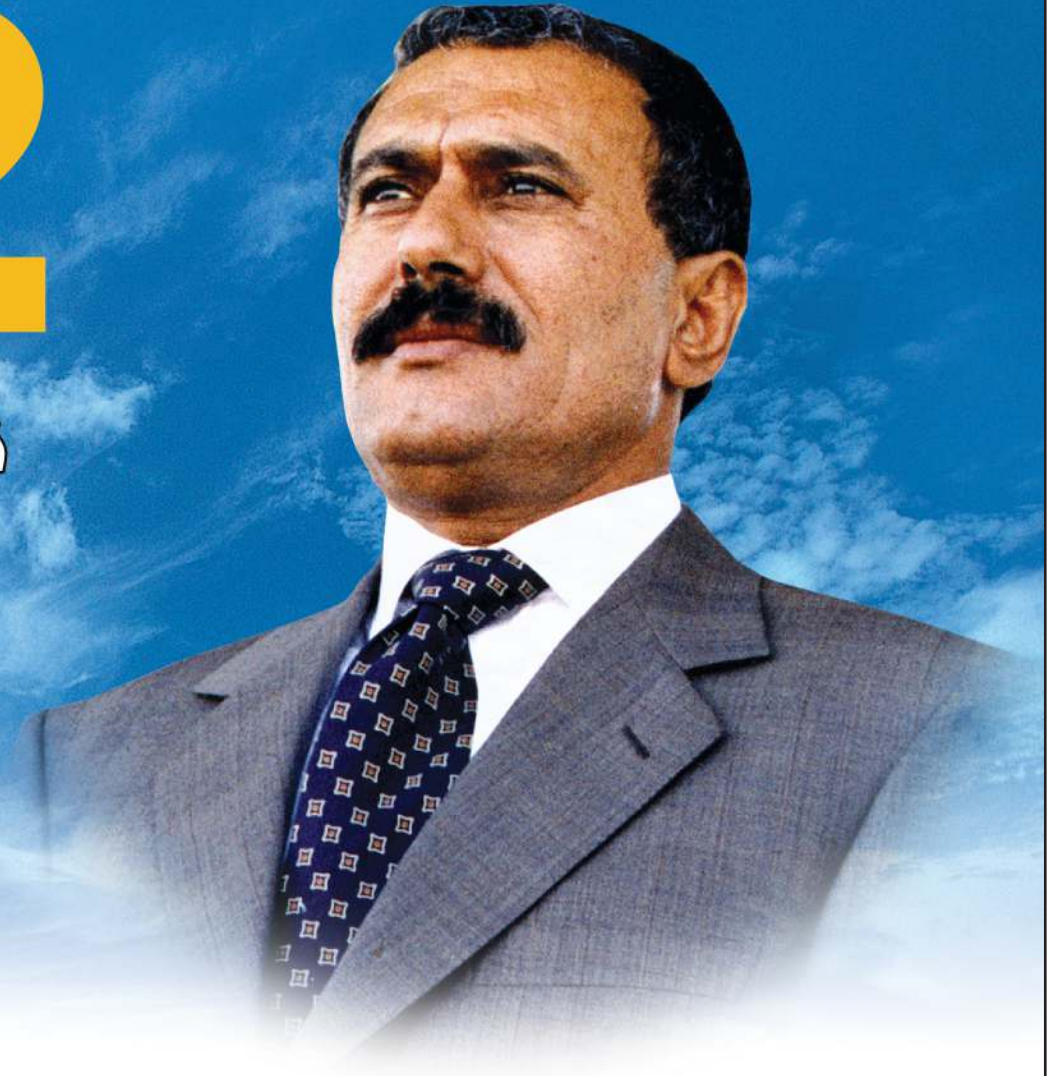
علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

بمناسبة الذكرى السادسة عشر من تحقيق

الوحدة المباركة

وكل عام وأنتم بخير



We Congratulate His Excellency President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

**On the occasion of the 16th Anniversary
of 22 MAY**

Many Happy Returns



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CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORE INTERNATIONAL COMPANY - SAL

22 مايو

CGG Yemen Branch

Present their heartiest congratulations to President

Ali Abdullah Saleh

We wish Yemen the best of success and progress towards building a strong country headed by its wise leadership for years to come

سي جي جي فرع اليمن

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علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

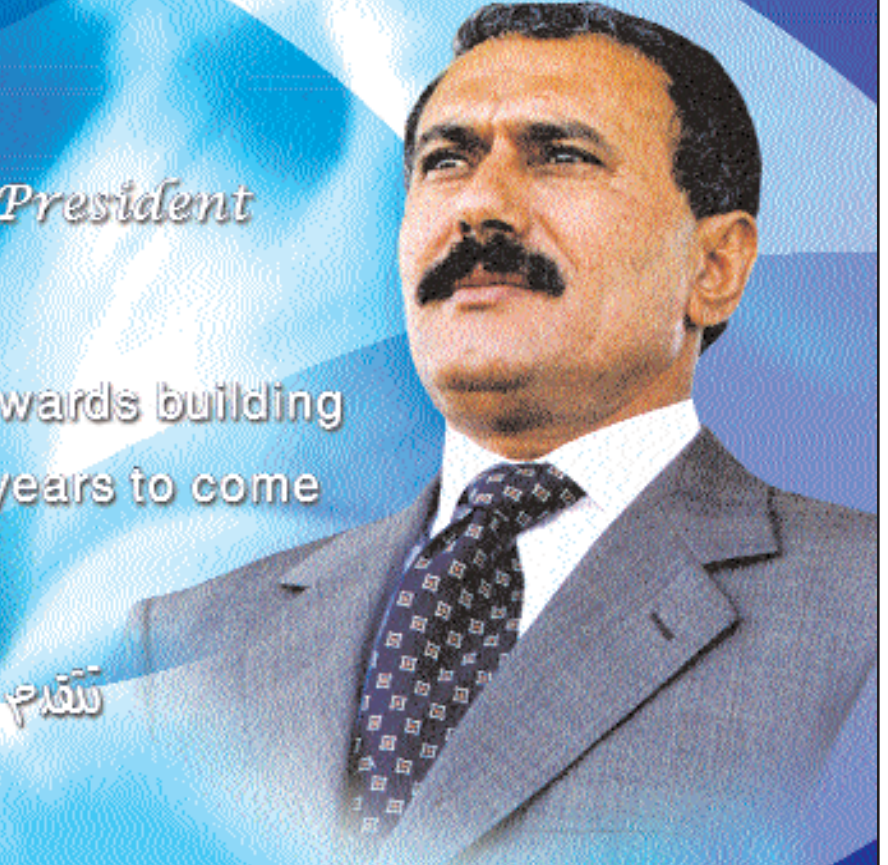
بمناسبة الأول من مايو عيد العمال العالمي والذكرى السادسة عشر من تحقيق الوحدة ٢٢ مايو

وكل عام وأنتم بخير



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نتقدم بأسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات

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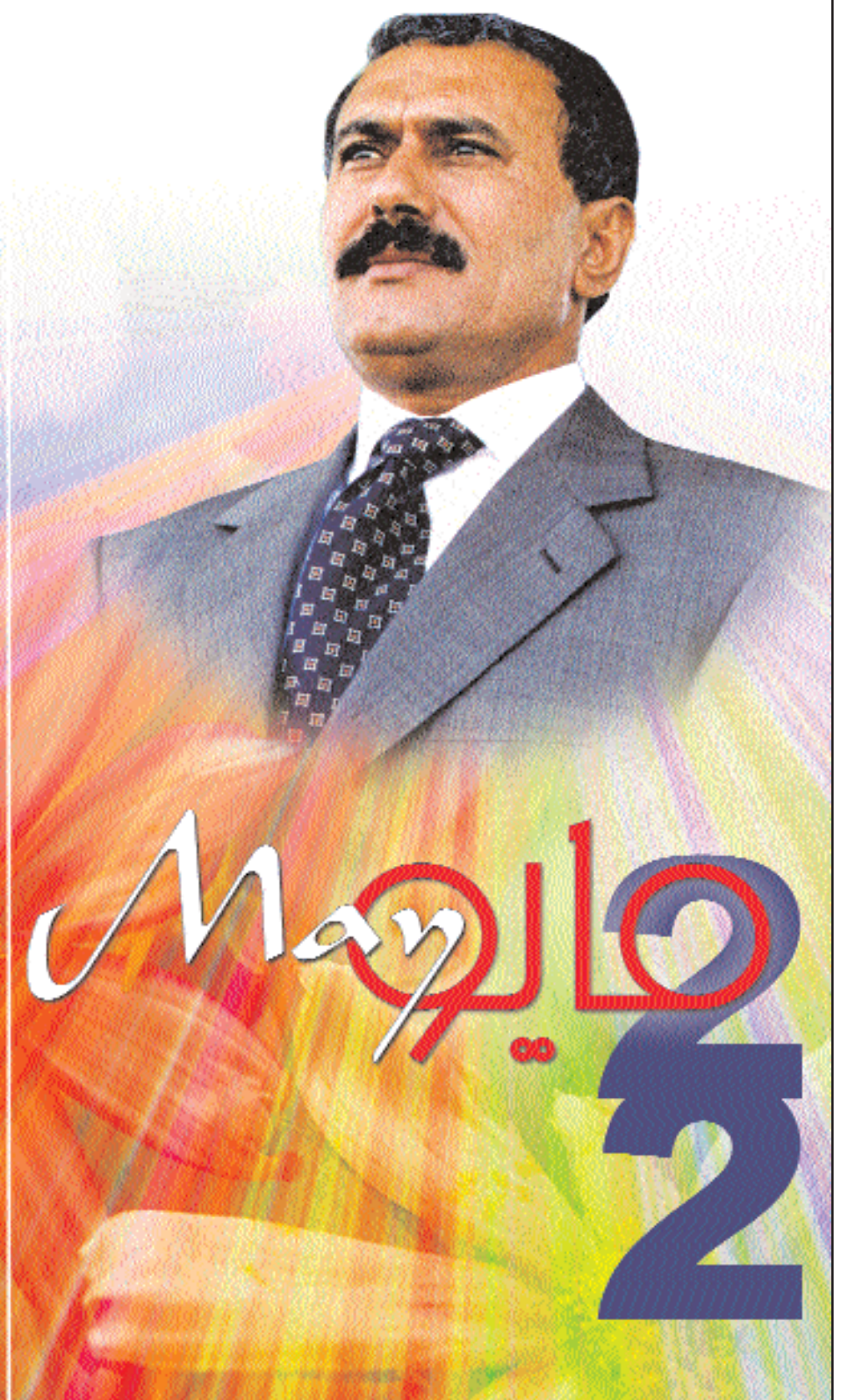
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Yemen's leisurely beaches require development

Ismail Al-Ghabri

During the appropriate season, tourists race to vacation-spots pursuing rest and relaxation at the beach, by the banks of a river, or on the mountain slopes, which all have scenic landscapes that captivate the senses and allow the vacationer to benefit from the fresh air and tranquility.

Marine tourism is a priority for many states. To attract tourists, and the cash inflows that accompany them, governments often set-up tourist centers, beach-houses, and villages so that thousands of vacationers will spend their holidays there, sometimes staying for weeks at a time.

Few tourists packs his bags before becoming familiar with the country

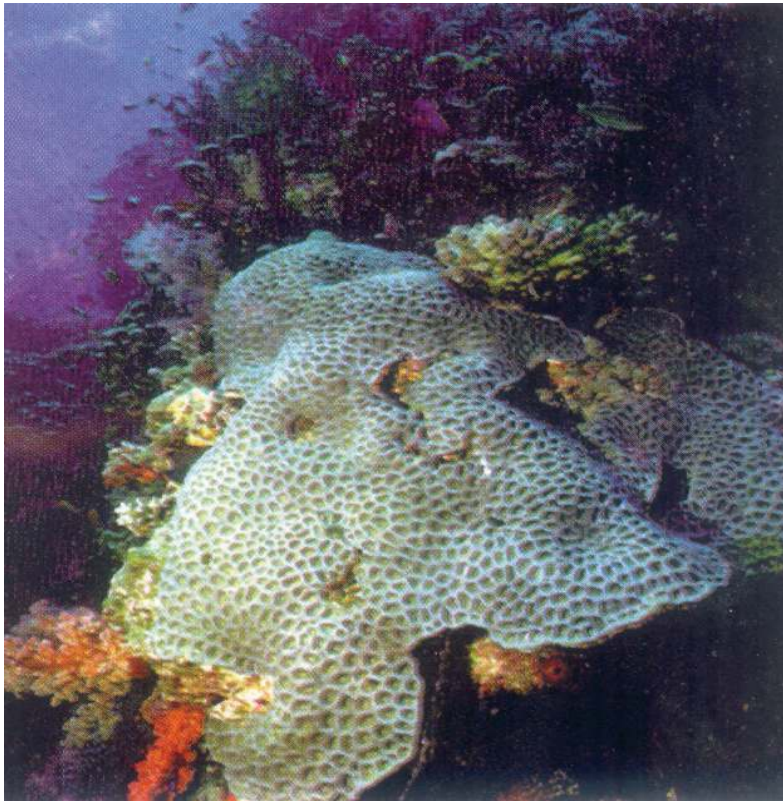
they plan to visit. Tourists who come to Yemen from across the globe know in advance that Yemen still follows many customs and traditions that are of very ancient origins and are in many ways pre-modern. They also know that Yemen has of mountain ranges, plateaus, valleys, plains, deserts, and seashores. They will be sure to bring the appropriate clothing in accordance with weather conditions, time of year, and the region they plan to visit. The general climate is typically accommodating without extreme temperatures. Overall, the climate is moderate and wonderful.

Though marine tourism in Yemen is still in its infancy, its future promises to be prosperous after construction of tourist centers and other tourist-related projects by the seashore are completed.

Yemen's coasts are long in mileage and diverse due to the fact that Yemen lies next to two vital seas; the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea. Besides abutting these two seas, there are many Yemeni islands situated in them inhabited by both man and animal life. In addition, some of these islands remain volcanically active.

Al-Tair Island (Island of the Bird)

Choosing one of these islands out of the tens of islands that skilled fishermen and travelers visit, or, at the very least, get acquainted all the fascinating sea-life, can be a difficult prospect. Yet, let us choose Al-Tair Island, or the



Marine life could be a major tourist attraction

Island of the Bird. Ancient sailors knew of the importance of this island more than we do now.

All that we know from our sea journey or from the existing literature is that the island of Jabal Al-Tair an important stopping point in the past. This was due to its strategic location overlooking the shipping lanes that passed by the island.

Al-Tair Island is located 47 nautical miles from the east coast of the Red Sea and 82 km, or 40 nautical miles, from the Kamaran Islands and 150 km from the Eritrean coast.

Even now, the Al-Tair Island has two

watchtowers for control and observation; since the large warships, cargo ships, and oil tankers all pass by it. The Island lacks a settled population, but some parts of the island allow for the seasonal presence of fishermen.

It is known, that Britain used to administer the island on behalf of its naval value. Yemen now has this advantage. In order that we might learn more about the sea, our ship takes us out to the depths to see what is there. All around us are marine life of different sorts and kinds, coming and going with all their myriad colors, shapes and sizes.

This is just a quick glimpse of marine tourism and its significance. What a superb tourist attraction Yemen's coasts would make with the appropriate services that make internal and international tourism grow and prosper.

We will find it difficult to traverse all of the sea, even if we continue sailing the Red and Arabian seas for months. There are areas of these seas still unknown to common folks or experts of the sea.

What concerns us, however, are some of the sites on the coastline of the two seas, especially those most suited for rest and vacationing. Mention must be made of the Tihama coast where one finds cities like Hodeida and Mocha, or

Khobha (Abu Zahr), Al Irj, Yakhard, and Moshy.

In Aden, the coast at Al-Tawahi, like Al-Arousa (the bride) Khaliq Alfiel (the gulf of the elephant) and the Gold Mohur all stun the senses with their great beauty. In little Aden, we have Buraika, where the soft sands abound, some never touched before.

In Crater we have the pleasant beaches of Huggat, Sira, Ma'ashiq, and Abu Al-Wadi. How one craves to see these places with all the tourist services already in place. As it stands now, these beaches can compete with all the beaches of the Arabian Peninsula. What would be their competition if modern tourist facilities existed?



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