

# YEMEN TIMES TIMES



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**Inside:** 



The increasing and developing styles of beggars in Yemeni cities



The concept of the ruler in the folklore legacy



Dr. Yassin Al-Qubati: Modern medicine isn't regulated, let alone alternative medicine

### Readers' Voice Last edition's question: Yemen Times just celebrated

its 1000 issue. Do you think so far we have lived up to our mission in promoting democracy, human rights and freedoms?

No, because of contraints on the Not at all (3%) press (14%)

Yes, to a great extent (45%) modestly(43%)

This edition's question:

Is it right to jail Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper's editor-in-chief for republishing the **Prophet Mohammed** cartoons?

- Yes
- No · I don't know
- Go to our website at:

yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

# Al-Rai Al-Aam editor receives jail time for republishing Prophet Mohammed cartoons

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Nov. 26 - The Capital's West Court sentenced Kamal Ali Al-Aalafi, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Rai Al-Aam weekly, to one year in jail and shut down his newspaper for republishing the Prophet Mohammed cartoons, which were first published by a Danish newspaper, thus arousing tensions and rage among Muslims worldwide.

Under the verdict, Al-Aalafi also is banned from writing for six months. The court justified its verdict against the newspaper and its editor for disgracing the prophet by republishing the cartoons.

Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) president Nasr Taha Mustafa denounced the verdict, saying the Supreme Court must reconsider the verdict as soon as possible. He noted that the court should have examined the newspaper's writings, which defended the prophet, and that republishing the cartoons was meant to show

them to Muslims, not insult the prophet.

Mustafa regretted the issuance of a verdict of this kind, particularly after the Yemeni government has taken serious measures to abolish imprisoning journalists for opinion writing.

YJS council member Ali Al-Jaradi agrees that the verdict is unjust. "It's a violation against journalists and public opinion. Other newspapers, such as the Yemen Observer and Al-Hurriya, are anticipating oppressive rulings," he

He commented that the verdict pushes Yemen and press freedoms backward, especially after imprisoning journalists was abolished by presidential directive. However, such directives weren't made into law or legislation.

According to Al-Jaradi, today's Yemeni judiciary behaved like the inspection courts of medieval times. Both Al-Rai Al-Aam and the Yemen Observer sought to defend the Prophet Mohammed, whereas penalties seem to be imposed upon those who defend

The union head went on to say that

Tamim thereafter would hold university security responsible if the pop singer

managed to attend the celebration,

demanding strict measures be taken.

"Upon hearing Tamim's orders, a secu-

rity official named Yahya Al-Azaki told

me he'd kill Al-Adhroei', repeating that

sentiment three times," Masoud pointed

the hall where hundreds of students

were awaiting the celebration. There, he

was surprised to see approximately 40

heavily-armed soldiers with grenades

and guns spread around the hall. "I

asked the reason for their presence and

one soldier replied that they were ready

to fire should Al-Adhroei' attend,"

Seeking to avoid such a clash, the

student union head telephoned Al-

Adhroei' and asked him not to attend

Masoud now is calling for an investi-

gation of Al-Azaki and demands that

university president Tamim apologize

for his behavior. "Otherwise, we will

resort to the judiciary system," he con-

Known for songs lampooning official

corruption in Yemen, Al-Adhroei' was

invited to perform a sketch during the

university's celebration to receive a

new batch of students, as well as reward

Masoud added.

cluded.

Taking no action, Masoud headed for

attend, then we will fight."







Nasr Taha Mustafa



Ali Al-Jaradi



Jamal Amer

their prophet.

Regarding Yemeni laws and how they violate press freedoms, Al-Jaradi affirmed that Yemeni legislation restricts the nation's press freedom, noting that such laws contain clauses banning talk about heritage, civilization and the concept of national unity.

"A judge can interpret the legal clauses as he wishes in order to restrict press freedom and impose penalties

upon journalists," Al-Jaradi opined, "Yemen has committed itself to expanding the scope of press freedom and democracy, but none of this has happened."

Al-Jaradi ascertained that the syndicate called on its members to stage a sit-in at its premises in order to express solidarity with journalists who face penalties and protest unfair legal rulings against the press.

Al-Aalafi commented, "The verdict is a scandal. It harms the reputation of Yemen and its judiciary. By all means, the verdict is unjust. It contains three sentences: the first jails the editor and the second suspends the newspaper for six months, while the third bans the editor from writing for six months, beginning from when he leaves prison."

He added, "I appealed against the verdict, since it's the climax of fighting the newspaper, which criticizes corruption and corrupt officials. The verdict contradicts the state's moves toward expanding the democratic scope and is a massive crime against journalism and press freedom."

Al-Aalafi confirmed that he invited his colleagues to hold a sit-in at the YJS to support abolishing the verdict. He noted that his life has become endangered, as extremists consider the verdict a condemnation, as well as a legitimacy for them to exercise misdeeds against press freedom.

Mohammed Naji Allaw, the newspaper's defence advocate, agrees, "The verdict is wrong and part of a series of violations against press freedoms."

Yemen's Ministry of Information filed suit against the Yemen Observer. Al-Hurriya and Al-Rai Al-Aam newspapers and suspended them last February for republishing the Prophet Mohammed cartoons. Additionally, the newspapers faced harsh criticism from official newspapers and mosque preachers for republishing the images. Some religious scholars even conducted fundraising campaigns, collecting YR 5 million in donations to sue the three newspapers.

As a side note, the state-run Al-Thori daily attacked Al-Wasat independent weekly and its Editor-in-Chief, Jamal Amer, accusing him of hindering development of Yemen's ties with Saudi Arabia and working for U.S. intelligence agencies. The independent newspaper published an article insulting Yemeni relations with Saudi

Al-Thori charged Amer with receiving support from U.S. parties and said the articles Al-Wasat published about Saudi Arabia reflect the newspaper's unwise and irresponsible policies.

The government-affiliated daily reported that Yemenis denounce Al-Wasat's articles, as well as its editor's behavior, saying his conduct is expected to expose both him and his newspaper to questioning because they violated the Press Law and harmed national interests and press freedoms.

Al-Wasat published several articles and stories criticizing Saudi Arabia, including an article by a U.S. writer attacking and criticizing the Saudi royal family.

Student union calls for investigating death threat against pop singer

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

SANA'A, Nov. 26 – Sana'a University's General Union for Yemeni Students is calling for investigations into a death threat leveled at Yemeni pop singer Mohammed Al-Adhroei' during a reception last week at the university's Faculty of Commerce.

Head of the union, Ridhwan Masoud, said Al-Adhroei' was threatened to be

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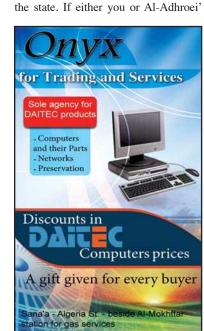
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killed if he attended the celebration, to which the student union had invited him to perform a sketch. Masoud recounted, "At the directive

of Sana'a University President Khalid Tamim, several soldiers stopped me at the university gate and took me to Doctor Tamim, who refused the idea of hosting the pop singer." Although surprised by Tamim's position, he noted, "He is the president of the largest Middle Eastern university."

According to Masoud, Tamim's response was, "Al-Adhroei' isn't allowed to attend because he criticizes









Mohammed Al-Adhroei'.

YT PHOTO ARCHIVE

security, Masoud asked me not to attend, telling me that if I did, they would kill me," Al-Adhroei' stated. The pop singer explains that he does-

n't know why state officials fear his songs. "I tackle corruption issues. We should call for reforms and see improvements in our country," he says.

The Yemeni government recently has shown concern over the pop songs of Al-Adhroei' and fellow pop singer Fahd Al-Qarni because the two artists tackle themes related to disclosing corruption and their work appeals to the Yemeni 'everyman.' Hundreds of their cassettes and CDs were confiscated during the

most recent elections. Members of the political security apparatus detained Al-Adhroei' June 13, reportedly for mimicking President Ali Abdullah Saleh in one of his songs,



### Finance Minister apologizes for government accounting delay

**By: Yemen Times Staff** 

SANA'A, Nov. 25 — Parliament held a session last Wednesday to discuss the delay in the state budget's final statements, emphasizing the importance of making the Finance Ministry and the Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA) submit their reports on the state budget's final accounting to Parliament in due time and according to law.

Addressing the members of Parliament, Minister of Finance Saif Al-Asali declared his ministry's intention to meet the deadline and not delay the final statements, promising to avoid such a shortcoming in the future.

He also declared that dealing honestly and objectively is an important condition for success in any work, particularly when that work relates to Parliament and the government. According to Al-Asali, such work is necessary to ensure trust between both sides because a low estimation of any party neither favors that party nor the nation.

Additionally, Al-Asali apologized to MPs for the final accounting's delay,



Minister Al-Asali

noting that it occurred for reasons outside of his ministry's control. According to him, the principal reason for the delay is partially due to delay by other parties, who failed to provide their accounting at the due time, in addition to adopting a new technique to prepare the accounting.

Both Al-Asali and the chairman of COCA attended last Wednesday's session by parliamentary request to explain the reason for the final statements' delay.

# In brief

Workshop for managing time Nov. 26 — The Yemeni germane

office for the private sectors arranged a two-day workshop in how to manage time on Sunday. About 18 Employees from Sana'a, Aden and Taiz governorates participated in the workshop. "The workshop aims to increase the awareness for the employees on the importance of time and the benefits of achieving work on time," said Tawfig Al-Thiabhani, the office manager in Aden governorate for the private

### Training course on violent cases against women

Nov. 26 — The National Women Committee arranged a training course to oppose violence against women on Saturday. About 30 trainees from the local councils, mosques, shieks and some members of the national women committee staff in Amran participated in the course. Yemeni women play an important role in the developing process in Yemen and it is important to increase the public social and cultural awareness about the women rights and duties according to Amat-Al-Salam Al-Babli, chief manager of the National Women Committee branch in Amran.

### Dhamar

### **Dhamar University establishes** academic developing section

Nov. 26 — The Dhamar University authority arranged a meeting on Saturday to discuss constructing a section for academic researchers in the university and assign assistance professors in the university's collages. The meeting discussed the results of the chief of the university's visit to Malaysia and the cooperation between the Yemeni and Malaysian universities in the arranging programs for scientific researches and students and technician staffs in uni-

### Courses on agricultural and rural developing fields

Nov. 26 — The national center for rural training started activities on Saturday in the animal nutrition coordinated with the general session for sowing researchers. The courses are supported by the vocational training fund. The courses will be continued for ten days. The general session for sowing researchers launched a group of technical tools which will help to improve the research activities in the agricultural fields and solve the problems of the agricultural producing process.

Project to decrease begging Nov. 26 — The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor is about to complete buildings for physical challenged people in Mukala. One project is an orphanage which will hold about 400 orphans, another building is an old age hospital which will inhabit more than 70 homeless old people. The ministry is hoping to eliminate the phenomena of begging in Hadramont by cooperating with the local council and the security sections in the governorate according to Darwish Sawid, the general manger for the ministry.

### Mahweet

### **Increasing tourism**

Nov. 26 — The general manger for the tourism office, Ali Bahajan, said more than 12,000 tourists from different countries have visited Mahweet Governorate in the first 10 months of 2006. The increase in tourists is as a result to the new roads that were opened in the governorate. There are more than 800 heritage and tourism locations around the governorate. Additionally there are many recreation grounds and health resorts and natural protections.

### Sana'a

### Arab forum holds the 5th session for Arab views

Nov. 26 — The Middle East office for the International Criminal Court represented by sisters Arab forum held the 5th session for Arab views on ratifying Rome Statute and planning for future activities. The meeting was held in the presence of representatives of Arab delegations and the delegation of civil society organizations and attended by the head of legal office at Parliament, Ghaleb Al-Adoofi.

# **Islamic Courts force Somalis afloat**

SANA'A, Nov. 26 — Hundreds of remote, 300 km stretch of tribal-ruled Somali refugees who crossed the Gulf of Aden in smugglers' overcrowded boats said they had fled to Yemen from the extremist policies of the Islamic Courts movement that controls much of Somalia, a UN agency said Friday.

"More than 22,000 people have crossed the Gulf of Aden from Somalia to Yemen this year in smugglers' boats. At least 355 died making the perilous voyage and more than 150 are missing. About half of those arriving on the coast of Yemen eventually sought and received assistance from UNHCR upon arrival," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees spokesperson Ron Redmond at a news briefing in Geneva.

He confirmed that only over the past eight days, nearly 1,500 Somalis and Ethiopians arrived in 12 boats. At least 18 people aboard those boats died and 17 are considered missing. The boats from Somalia usually land along a

coastline. UNHCR, which has only limited access to the often insecure coast, was able over the past eight days to transport 853 Somalis and Ethiopians to the May'fa reception centre, providing them with food, water, medical care and other assis-

"Most new arrivals told our teams that they were from southern and central Somalia, where they claim their freedom has been significantly curtailed since the region came under the control earlier this year of the Islamic Courts Union. They also cite an increase in inter-tribal and inter-clan conflict and say they fear for their lives," explained Redmond. "They say the Islamic Courts ruled that men must be the sole family breadwinners and that women are expected to stay at home. Some of the arrivals said they came from the Ethiopian and Somali border where they say there had been

recent military activity."

UNHCR has repeatedly warned of atrocities committed by people smugglers, last month reporting the case of five Ethiopians who were beaten by the smugglers, thrown overboard and attacked by sharks in view of the others on the vessel.

The UN has called for international action and donor support to tackle the root causes of the smuggling and to give protection for victims and prosecution of smugglers. The migrants are mostly men who cite insecurity, drought and economic hardship for their homeland.

Yemen is one of the few countries in the region that signed the 1951 Refugee Convention and according to this convention Somalis entering Yemen are automatically granted refugee status by the government. There are currently more than 88,000 registered refugees in Yemen of whom 84.000 are Somalis.

# Coast guard not on alert

SANA'A, NO. 25 — Securities in Arrault has called for more collabora-Yemeni areas near the African coasts are not in high alert, said Yemeni authorities.

"What media means have reported about deploying more coast guards forces in Bab Al-Mandab and Gulf of Aden due to threats of terrorist attacks is baseless," according to News Yemen website quoting a security source. He confirmed that the Yemeni coast guards, which carried out exercises this week under the supervision of French central forces in the African Horn, make periodical precautionary measures in accordance with constant exer-

Commander of the French Central Forces in Djibouti, Michel Arrault, who is on an official visit to Yemen, also denied any "current" threats against French interests in Yemeni coasts. But

tion along the coast by regional countries.

Local and international press reported that Yemeni authorities stepped up security at the port in Aden on Thursday, after receiving a foreign intelligence tip-off that Al-Qaeda might strike at the harbor. They said authorities received an intelligence alert from a foreign government saying Al-Qaeda was planning to carry out attacks at the

Aden Port was the scene of a suicide attack on the U.S. destroyer USS Cole in October 2000, in which 17 U.S. sailors were killed. A French oil supertanker was hit by a similar attack at an oil exporting facility in Mukalla in October 2002.

In the other news, a security official confirmed the recapture of 9 prisoners who had escaped from a prison in the Hajja governorate, some 130 km north east of the capital. The chief of security department in Hajja governorate, Ali Mohammed, said the nine escapees were not detained over terror-related charges. He said the detainees are seven Saudis, a Yemeni and an Ethiopian.

It was the second jailbreak in Yemen this year after 23 Al-Qaeda operatives escaped from an intelligence jail in Sana'a on Feb. 3.

Among the February escapees were 13 convicts in the 2000 bombing of USS Cole and the bombing of the French oil tanker.

Nine of the escapees have been recaptured or gave themselves up to the authorities, including six convicted in the oil tanker attack, and two were killed during confrontations with secu-

# Hood demands judicial reforms

SANA'A, Nov. 22 — The National Committee for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as Hood, called religious scholars, civil society organizations, political forces in the ruling party and opposition and public sector as well as educated elite to form a wide national stream for supporting the judiciary's upgrading and independence, considering it at the top of priorities.

Hood's statement asked the Supreme

Judiciary Council to do justice to the judicial authority affiliates, who previously demoted, apply seniority criteria and introduce new technologies in all works of judiciary and prosecution.

The statement also called upon civil society organizations and political forces to take part in the efforts aiming to support the judicial authority and also reexamine the judicial authority's law, leading to judiciary independence.

It also asked to abolish the Justice Ministry, activating the judicial forum and reformulating its basic system to cope with the achieved judicial reforms.

Additionally, Hood asked to set a time frame to hire a sufficient numbers of judges and attorneys in order to fill the existing shortage.

Hood finally demanded to re-qualify the existing cadre and buildings and supply transport means to all judges and

# Sana'a University launches business management master's program

SANA'A, Nov. 22 — Sana'a University's Faculty of Commerce launched a master's program in business management last Tuesday.

The program was launched in collaboration with the Master's of Science in Management (MSM), a faculty that enjoys a vast web of branches involving educational institutions worldwide, according to Faculty of Commerce Deputy Dean Sa'ab Sallam.

He also noted that MSM, which exists in more than 20 countries around the world, provides all specializations related to management sciences, including doctoral and master's programs, together with training and consulting programs.

Established by a group of Yemeni and foreign experts, the Master's of Business Administration program is designed to upgrade business management skills.

For his part, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Saleh Basura, noted that the program falls under a larger project aimed at developing higher education. It also will serve as a launching pad for similar programs involving higher studies in the

# Yemen honors 300 top students

Organization for Developing Society honored top students from the past educational year in Taiz Governorate.

The awards included high school graduates from the scientific, literary and English sections, the ten top students of primary school, top students from different faculties in Taiz University and the top students of technical, health and administrative education and teaching institutes.

Anisa Doukam, the program manager said there is an attempt to get enough support to honor the top high school students nationwide and expand the awarding scope to reach different governorates.

She urged trade companies and institutions to support the program, which, according to Doukam, is a real investment program.

Shawqi Al-Qadhi, MP, who chairs the organization, invited the concerned parties to pay closer attention to the talented students, whom he considered as the main pillar



300 outstanding students were awarded for their academic achievements in

to developing the society and improving its situations.

Al-Qadhi pointed out that many students feel frustrated, particularly after the spread of exam cheating around the nation. He urged all civil community organizations to care for the talented students via their programs and called on businesses to support these activities and programs,

saying "the door of donating to these activities is ever open.'

The developing society held the first awarding ceremony for outstanding students in December 2004. Over the past two years, the organization staged many training courses on computer, English and human development for the talented

### Gang of thieves arrested in Sana'a

SANA'A, Nov. 26 - An official The thieves committed their crimes source at the capital's criminal investigations board announced the arrest last Tuesday of a large gang involved in various thefts."The 10-person gang, ages 20 to 40, were divided into two groups and specialized in thefts at money exchange houses, commercial shops and opening new and modern treasuries," noted Gen. Rizk Al-Jawfi, chairman of the capital's investigation board.

He added that the gang admitted robbing more than 150 money exchange and commercial shops and watttter pumps within the capital, Taiz, Hodeidah, Aden and Hadramout. Furthermore, they were involved in attacking on-duty security personnel.

when people were busy, such as at the magrib prayer time or during the Ramadan iftar meal, while conducting their criminal activities at 5 a.m. during other months. Furthermore, according to Al-Jawfi, they sometimes used women to carry out their tasks. He concluded his remarks by affirming

that the gang was arrested at approximately 5 a.m. Tuesday as they headed to do some robberies armed with tools used for such crimes, including cutters used on electrical locks. The gang was led by a major criminal

who is responsible for a string of thefts. Investigators hunted them for months until finally managing to arrest

### New oil and gas discovery by Safer Exploration and **Production Operations Company**



Floating terminal.

Sana'a, Nov. 26 — 2006. The Minister of oil and minerals H.E. Mr. Khaled Bahah, today announced a new oil and gas discovery in Yemen by SEPOC (Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company), the Operator of Block 18 in less than a year of its assuming the operations in the Marib Block 18

After remapping the central area of Marib Block 18, a new structure discovery was made in the area southwest of Alif Field. The new discovery field is named Wadi Saba.

The first exploration well (Wadi Saba Well No. 1) in this field was drilled by SEPOC in October 2006 to a total depth of 7115 feet and encountered three different pay zones:

The first zone, Sean Sand, encountered 20 ft of net oil pay column, and was tested at 700 Stock Tank Barrels per day of oil on a 32/64 inch choke at 900 psi flowing wellhead pressure with 42 API gravity. The second zone, Alif Sand, encountered 60 ft of net gas condensate pay column, and was tested at 430 Stock Tank Barrels of condensate per day with a condensate yield of 29 Stock Tank Barrels per MMSCF. The third zone, Intra Salt Clastics Sand, encountered 20 ft of net oil column, this zone is still under testing.

As of 15th November 2005, SEPOC did not inherit proper development plans of Block 18 producing fields. For that reason, SEPOC is conducting due diligence for Block 18 fields and facilities. SEPOC has also signed a contract with reputed companies to carry out a full field development study for Alif field. Similar studies will be conducted for other fields in Block 18 in order to evaluate the oil and gas reserves and to properly plan future drilling and production operations in the Marib Block 18.

### Writing contest for International **Human Rights Day 2006**

SANA'A, Nov. 27 — The United Nations Global Learning and Teaching Project, Cyber School Bus, has launched a contest on human rights and poverty for children and youth between ages 8 and 18.

Human Rights Day 2006 will focus on fighting poverty as a matter of obligation, not out of charity, because poverty frequently is a consequence as well as a cause of human rights abuses.

Entrants will choose an article from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and use a real-life example to illustrate how violating this right is a consequence of living in poverty,

including either suggestions on how poverty can be reduced so that this right isn't violated or suggestions on what can be done to protect this right so that it doesn't lead to poverty.

Entries for the 2006 Human Rights

and Poverty Writing Contest must be received by email no later than International Human Rights Day, Dec.

For additional guidelines and contest rules, please refer to the following web site, which was the source for this arti-

http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/h umanrightsday2006/guidelines1.asp.

# Scripted ties with **Netherlands in focus**

TAIZ, Nov. 19 - Al-Sa'eed Foundation for Science and Culture held a symposium on the historic trade ties between Netherlands and Yemen.

At the event, the Dutch historian, Cayef Browar, reviewed historic books on Yemen's economic history with the Dutch including the new book he published three weeks ago. The new book dealt with the historic events in the 17th and 18th century, during which the Dutch constituted a fixed trade station in the port city of Makha.

At that time, the Dutch visited Sana'a and presented gifts to the Ottoman ruler. The Netherlands established with Yemen strong trade ties thanks to activities at the Makha Port, supervised by the Dutch.

The Dutch historian visited Al-Sa'eed Library and said it is large and rich with ancient scripts containing information on different countries.

"In the Netherlands, we have a library for Yemeni scripts in the city of Laizen and there are many Dutch nationals specializing in Yemeni history," said Browar. "These historians buy the ancient scripts and take it to the city of Laizen to then put them in special libraries containing scripts about Arab countries."

# Baghdad enters day three of curfew

By: Claudia Parsons

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Baghdad endured a third day under curfew on Sunday as the government sought to keep on a lid on seething anger that has killed hundreds in the past three days.

A U.N. envoy urged the government on Saturday to stop the "cancer" of sectarianism from destroying the country.

As a curfew on Baghdad was extended until Monday, derailing a trip to Iran by Iraqi President Jalal Talabani, the United Nations' representative said car bombs on Thursday that killed more than 200 Shi'ites and "blind acts of revenge" were "tearing apart the very political and social fab-

"No country could tolerate such a cancer in its body politic," Ashraf Qazi said in a statement.

Talabani was to have flown to Tehran on Sunday, but his spokesman, Hiwa Othman, said it was now hoped the trip could go ahead on Monday.

The president met government leaders again on Saturday evening to discuss how to resolve the current crisis and avert a worsening of violence. An official said a joint statement on security measures would be made on Sunday.

Talabani's visit to anti-American President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad, whom Washington accuses of backing militant fellow Shi'ites in Iraq, is part of efforts to involve Iraq's neighbours in efforts to prevent civil war. Othman said that contrary to some speculation, Syria's president would not join the meeting.

### Stability in the region

U.S. President George W. Bush appears sceptical of what his adversaries Iran and Syria are willing to do. However, U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney made a brief visit to Saudi Arabia on Saturday to discuss security in the Middle East.

A Western diplomat said the United States wanted to counter the threat from Iran and Syria by co-opting moderate Arab nations on both Iraq and the Palestinian-Israeli issue and the current diplomatic push was proof of this.

Bush is expected to meet Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki in Jordan on Wednesday, despite a threat by a key Maliki ally, radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, to boycott the government if it goes ahead.

The Shi'ite-led government has called for calm. But mortar rounds hit Sadr City and other districts after dark on Saturday, causing a number of casualties, police said, and several blasts echoed around the city early on



A woman carries her wounded baby for treatment in a hospital in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Nov. 25, 2006. A baby and four other women were wounded by crossfire during clashes between soldiers and insurgents in central Baquba, police said.

An Interior Ministry source said the bodies of 30 victims of violence were picked up in Baghdad on Friday and 17 on Saturday. Yarmouk hospital in west Baghdad said it took in 33 in the two days. Hakim al-Zamily, a deputy health minister from Sadr's faction, said 33 Shi'ites were killed in west Baghdad in sectarian attacks. Police and the hospital could not confirm it.

Police found the bodies of 21 men

ily on Saturday in a mainly Sunni Arab village in Diyala province northeast of Baghdad, security sources said.

and boys from an extended Shi'ite fam-

The U.S. military said a suicide car bomber killed three Iraqi civilians, including two children, and one coalition soldier at a checkpoint in Khaldiya, 83 km west of Baghdad on Saturday. Nine more civilians were

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# Cheney returning to U.S. after talks with Saudis

By: Patricia Zengerle

SHANNON (Reuters)- U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney met on Saturday with Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, who expressed concern about the security situation in the Middle East, but neither side gave specifics about their discussions.

The two men were together for about three hours during Cheney's brief visit to the Saudi capital Riyadh.

Cheney made no comment after the meeting before boarding his plane and flying back to the United States, stopping over briefly in Ireland.

"They covered a range of regional issues," said Cheney's spokeswoman Lea Anne McBride. "It was a good visit with someone the vice president has known for going on 17 years and is a great friend and ally of the United

Cheney and the Saudi monarch put in an appearance for reporters before their private session. "Now truly the security situation is really becoming very serious," King Abdullah said through a translator.

Cheney has visited Saudi Arabia at least three times before, most recently in January, when he met King Abdullah to discuss Iraq, Iran's



U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney, left, is greeted by Saudi Crown Prince Sultan upon his arrival in Riyadh.

Palestinian conflict and Lebanon.

With Iraq on the brink of all-out civil war, the Bush administration has begun a new push to break the cycle of violence by enlisting the help of moderate Arab nations while also tackling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In what is shaping up to be a crisis summit, President George W. Bush nuclear ambitions, Syria, the Israeli- will meet Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri single attack since Saddam Hussein cuss Arab-Israeli issues.

al-Maliki in Jordan on Wednesday and Thursday to discuss the security situation in Iraq.

killed in a Shi'ite stronghold near Baghdad on Thursday in the worst

The United States wants Saudi Arabia to use its influence with Iraq's Sunni minority to help stabilise the country after more 200 people were was overthrown in April 2003.

The Bush administration has also stepped up its efforts to seek help from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan in breaking a deadlock in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

"All of these issues of the Middle East are interrelated and you can't solve any of them without looking at others," said one Arab diplomat.

There is strong pressure for the United States to meet with Iran and Syria over Iraq but Bush administration officials have said there are no such plans yet.

A Western diplomat said the United States wanted to counter the threat from Iran and Syria by co-opting moderate Arab nations on both Iraq and the Palestinian-Israeli issue and the current diplomatic push was proof of

"They also want to allay regional fears that the United States is going to leave Iraq too soon. The big concern is about stability in the region," said the

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will be with Bush for the Maliki meeting, and go on to attend an annual Middle East democracy conference at the Dead Sea where key Arab players may meet in the sidelines to dis-

### China coal mine gas explosions kill dozens

BEIJING (Reuters) — Gas explosions in two different regions of China have killed more than 50 coalminers, the Xinhua news agency reported on Sunday, the latest fatalities to hit the world's deadliest mining industry. An explosion on Saturday in a pri-

vately owned mine in Fuyuan, in the southwestern province of Yunnan, killed 32 men and injured 28, local officials told the news agency. Earlier that day, at least 21 died in a

blast at the Yuanhua mine in Jixi, in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang. Four miners managed to escape and

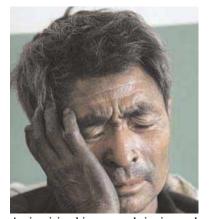
rescuers were searching for six who were still missing, the reports said. The Yuanhua mine is privately owned with an annual production capacity of

30,000 tons, Xinhua said. It said the causes of the explosions were being investigated.

A total of 3,726 miners died in more than 2,300 floods, blasts and other accidents in the nation's coal mines in the first 10 months of 2006.

The cold statistics highlight China's struggle to clean up the industry while trying to meet booming demand and high prices for coal, which fuels about 70 percent of its energy consumption.

An official Communist Party report



A miner injured in a gas explosion in a coal mine in Fuyuan county receives medical treatment at a local hospital in Fuyuan, southwest China's Yunnan province, Nov. 26, 2006. An explosion on Saturday in a privately owned mine in Fuyuan, killed 32 men and injured 28.

ing safety had worsened since the beginning of the winter heating season. It said the sharp increase in demand for coal often caused mine managers to breach safety laws.

Xinhua said on Friday that authorities had sacked two local government chiefs and their deputies after a series of coal mine accidents in the northern province of Shanxi in the past month that killed 55

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- Inter-personal qualities are needed.

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**International Labour Organization IPEC Project in Yemen** 

## **VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT SECRETARY**

The International Programme on the Elimination of Child labour (IPEC/ILO) Sana'a has a vacancy for a Secretary-GS.4. The candidate should possess excellent knowledge of (English/Arabic), and knowledge of modern office procedures, secretarial practices and procedures, and will have the duties of arranging appointments for the NPM.maintain the NPM's calendar, receive visitors, place and screen telephone calls, and respond to routine requests for information. He/She should have Completion of secondary school education, secretarial training, three years of experience and successful completion of the typing and standard office computer applications test is compulsory.

Please address your CV to:

IPEC Office Hadda St. Al-Nuzaily Apartment #23-4th E-mail adress:Raja@ilo.org P.O.Box:551 Sana'a -Yemen



**British Embassy** Sana'a

# Vacancy

A full time post is now available in the British Embassy - Sana'a. We are looking to fill the role of An Entry Clearance Assistant with a specific role of Risk Assessment, to work as part of a team in the busy Visa Section in the Embassy.

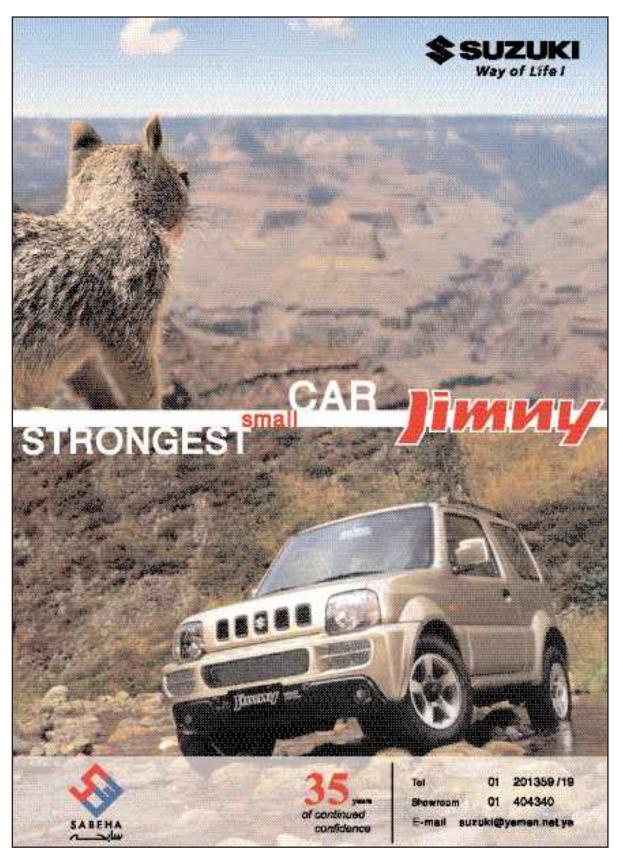
- Excellent command of written and spoken English and Arabic
- Ability to work with limited supervision
- Good IT and typing skills
- Ability to work as part of a team in an often pressurized, busy environment
- Attention to detail, particularly important in the role of risk assessment, which involves detecting areas of visa abuse such as forgery and fraud in liaison with our Embassy in Dubai.

Previous experience in the field would be an advantage, but training will be provided by the embassy.

Please send your CV with a covering letter in English explaining why you are suited to the job, addressed to the Consul, British Embassy, Hadda Road, PO Box: 1287, Sana'a or to the front reception office, or send an e-mail to visaenquiries.Sanaa@fco.gov.uk, quoting "ELA vacancy" in the

Deadline: 6 December, 2006





കേരളത്തിലുള്ള നിങ്ങളുടെ പ്രിയപ്പെട്ടവർക്കു മിനിട്ടുക∞ക്കുള്ളിൽ് പണമയക്കു.



akaka alioo akegiiri raam iqalqana agaaka amana. ++1/5\$ 2500 maangiga saanoo aarga bed 1/58 / agaa aked amana. ga ന്ഷുള്ള പണം മാത്രൂട്ട് തുന്നിൽ വിവേശത്തുവയി ശ്വാത്താവം വെസ്റ്റൂൽ വൃത്തുൻ പണ്ടുതാക്കുന്നു. നിക്കുകാം അടിയിച്ച് കൂട്ടായ വിവ്യാസ്കൂളത്താണ്



# IOB VACANCIES

بتلوالتمت الحولت INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMER



Total E&P Yemen invites Yemeni Nationals only to apply for the following positions within its organization. All TOTAL applicants must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English is essential.

Services, has the following responsibilities:

- Carry out administrative duties in connection with preparation of tenders and contracts for the subsidiary. Receive new tenders/contracts requests from the Head of Department and process them within the framework of policies and procedures of the subsidiary and under the guidelines and direction of the Technical Services Manager. Receive and save custody of tenders until the bid openings. Participate in official bid openings, evaluation of tenders and recommendations. Maintain complete files regarding the tendering process (for audits). Prepare contractual documents and follow-up until final issuance and signature. Follow-up of the validity of contracts and their extension/termination.
- All this to be performed with respect to Company HSE rules.
- Legal background + minimum of 5 years experience in similar jobs required
- Good understanding of contractual English

### **PROCUREMENT OFFICER:** (position based in Sana'a)

- Receive from the head of department a number of requests of purchase for the Subsidiary and process them. Perform the purchasing activity as per set Company rules. Have complete files properly documented and auditable at time of submission for commitment approval. Prepare contractual part of Subsidiary Contracts based on Standard Group Contracts and participate on the official bids opening and recommendations.
- Perform other activities as and when requested by head of department.
- Understand the need, request for quotation, evaluate, clarify and recommend to hierarchy the supply of material/service based on a valid requisition.
- Promote local vendors whenever possible as per Company policy & the
- Build the purchasing file in a manner to retrieve all documents required and to justify final commitment before transferring the file to the Expeditor.
- Process related invoices without delay to maintain a good business relation
- Prepare official Call for Tenders based on head of department guidance and technical departments requirements as per the internal procedures
- Monitor reception and keep tenders in safe custody until the bids opening.
- Participate in the evaluation of tenders and recommendation.
- Prepare the contractual document and follow-up the file till final issuance and signature.

Make sure that no operations are stopped or delayed due to errors in the procurement side.

- To keep purchase files auditable at all times.
- Proper and on time reporting to the Head of Department of any unusual / critical issues that may affect the Department performance/image.

### **Minimum Requirements**

- Mechanical, Petroleum or electrical engineer
- Good computer knowledge in general and Excel in particular.
- Able to work under pressure.
- A good communication skill is a plus.

### TELECOM ENGINEER: (position based in Sana'a)

Reports to the Telecom supervisor, the job holder is responsible for responding to all IS/IT Users requests and to monitor the international leased circuits (Main Links and VSAT back up links) between Total E&P Yemen offices in Sana'a, Head Quarter in Paris & Pau and Production site (Kharir). The job holder is responsible for ensuring the continuous operation of PABX, PSTN Lines, ISDN lines, mobile Telephone systems including GSM, internet Access lines(ADSL), VPN encrypted links, videoconferencing systems, VHF/ UHF radio systems, multiplexers, Routers, Firewalls in the Total E&P Yemen LAN / Wan. He/She will also be responsible for liaison with Government agencies on the provision and maintenance of frequency licenses, design, implement and maintain local area cabling from IS/IT equipment rooms up to and including office outlets. The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge of the following technologies: optical Fiber Transmission Systems, Very Small Aperture Satellite Transmission Systems (VSAT), Microwave, VHF, UHF and HF radio systems, ALCATEL OmniPCX PBX, VPN encryption, videoconferencing, dynamic routing protocols (RIP or OSPF), Cisco Catalyst switches, Cisco Router 2600 series, Cisco PIX Firewall. The job holder must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems as they call and must be able to clearly specify any new requirements and negotiate the supply of these needs effectively with our suppliers. He/She must be able to ensure that services provided by external suppliers are supplied as per the agreed contracts and that any deficiencies are rectified or reconciled. The successful candidate will have a University degree (B.Sc or M.Sc) in Telecommunications or Electronic Engineering and minimum of 5 years experience on Telecommunication Operations.

### **IST USER SUPPORT ENGINEER:**

(position based in Sana'a)

Reports to the IS supervisor and is responsible for Installing and supervising external services with the installation of personal computers (PC's) and or peripheral devices for Total E&P Yemen users and ensures that inventories of

**CONTRACT SENIOR OFFICER**: (position based in Sana'a) In the Operations Division, the job holder, under the Head of Technical maintenance of personal computers (PC's) and or peripheral devices for Total E&P Yemen users, installation of software on PC's when software is not distributed by GPO, he ensures that inventories of such software are kept fully up to date at all times. He/She will provide support of common office software. technical systems software, business applications software. The job holder must have detailed up to date knowledge of the following common office software such as Windows XP Professional & IE 6.0, MS Office 2003 Inc Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, MS Visio 2003, MS Project 2003. In addition, the job holder should have detailed up to date knowledge of the Networking system MS Win2K3 administration, Win2K3 directory services (Active directory). The job holder must be able to communicate easily with a wide variety of users and be able to clarify and understand their problems as they call. He/She must be able to clearly specify any new requirements and negotiate the supply of these needs effectively with our suppliers and ensure that services provided by external suppliers are supplied as per the agreed contracts and that any deficiencies are rectified or reconciled. The successful candidate will have university degree (B.Sc or M.Sc) in Computer Science and minimum of 5 years experience on Information Systems user's support.

> All applicants for these positions must be fluent in written and spoken Arabic and English. Candidates will be tested to assess their current level and training needs.

### **EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES**: (position based in Sana'a)

- The job holders will assist the Managers in the current secretarial tasks. organization of meetings, and preparation of missions.
- Applicants must have good computer skills, with particular emphasis in word, Excel and Power Point, and a minimum of 5 years experience as Secretary.
- Used to confidentiality, applicants must be very good in English, spoken and written, well organized, rigorous and be able to work within a team.

- Applications must be submitted no later than 15th December 2006
- Handed-in CVs will not be considered
- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Total E&P Yemen
- If you meet the above requirements, please send your CV in English with a short covering letter explaining your qualification and motivation only to

Recruitment.ep-ye@total.com

# The Yemen Times through its readers' eyes

By: Fatima Al-Ajel fatimafnfr@yahoo.com

he Yemen Times took its 1,000th issue celebration to its readership, finding out what they think of the newspaper after 15 years of achievement and what they want to read in its future pages. Many congratulated the Yemen Times and wished the best for its staff as they expressed their viewpoints for this report.

YALI level 5B student readers' com-



Jamal Mohammad Al-Ajel, a level 5B student at the Yemen American Language Institute (YALI), comments, "Firstly, I congratulate Yemen Times on its achievements - keep

up the success. I consider the Yemen Times a guide for those who want to improve their reading skills because it's the easiest way to take topics and discuss them with friends, as well as learn different styles of writing."

He adds, "I hope to write opinion articles for the Yemen Times and publish them on the Youth page, which is especially for youth.



Ismail Yahya Taj Al-Deew hopes for more such successes in the future. "I consider the Yemen Times one of the trustworthy newspapers. I read every issue because they're rich in on the same path for a long time. vocabulary, which provides us many advantages and improves our English speaking skills. Because I like to read about sports in English, I wish the Yemen Times would report weekly



Ibrahim Al-Mahbishi sends his best wishes to all Yemen Times employees, have achieved this amazing work. "I sometimes find interesting topics and use them in our

presentations and studies. However, some topics are untouched in Yemen Times articles, such as news about technology and software programs, so I hope you'll publish something about these in the future. Also, I hope there's a chance for us as teenaged readers to express ourselves in your newspaper regarding political issues." [Ed. note – Youth readers and writers may do so on the Yemen Times' Youth page.]

Sana'a University Faculty of Languages, English department stu-

Khalidoun Al-Sharjabi, a fourthyear English language student at Sana'a University. says, "The Yemen Times is my favorite English newspaper. I think it's a good source for those interested in reading it. As a reader, I'd like to see more about sports and poli-

Fellow seniors Na'eem Ahmad and Salem Hatim highlight that the Yemen Times helps increase students' vocabulary and knowledge of English and hoped the newspaper would continue

Senior Lu'ay Zahaeh says of the newspaper, "It's not a bad attempt at creating a new order in the Yemeni press because it's one of the main references in the current Yemeni English press. Frankly, the Yemen Times is one source to read English; however, there are several newspapers, so it's hard to make a real contrast among them because they're similar.

"The Yemen Times absolutely gives a clear way of writing the English language and, in general, newspapers are useful to those concerned. Many topics are interesting to read. I'm concerned about international political news and I always search for European sports, especially football."

Zahaeh adds, "I wish this outstanding newspaper would be more objective toward those affairs regarding Yemen's domestic circumstances because your newspaper is more concerned about presidential news than other important affairs. I mean, let's not waste newspaper space by showing the president's picture all the

Sana'a University Faculty of Education, English department student

Third-year student Aisha Al-Bashiri considers the Yemen Times her source for information, noting, "You present various topics, which are good for us as students and from which we can benefit."

Fellow junior Khouloud Saleh congratulates the newspaper on celebrating issue No. 1,000. "I consider the Yemen Times my teacher and it teaches me a lot. I read it to improve my reading skills, as well as for entertain-

Shahama Zedan, another junior, wishes the best for the Yemen Times and expresses, "The Yemen Times is an important friend to me that I can't live without. It has a lot of information and its writing styles are simple so that all students from different levels can read and benefit from it.'

Junior Raghda Jameel comments that she always depends on the Yemen Times when researching information or new topics, noting, "I turn to Yemen Times subjects whenever I must research."



Ahmad Al-Qiyadi, assistant professor of applied sociolinguistics in the department, emphasizes the Yemen Times' importance as an information source for Yemeni students

because it helps them develop their reading and writing skills. "The Yemen Times should keep the same level of development and progress and always try to be as close to the people as possible," he adds.

Sana'a University Faculty of Arts, English department student readers

While sophomore Nashwa Al-Laithi congratulates the Yemen Times, she also criticizes its staff members, who don't make field visits to observe student problems or cover their activities. "We have many activities, but no one cares about our problems or activities," she laments.

She suggests the newspaper publish a series for issues relating to the Yemeni community, such as Yemeni proverbs and phrases used on special occasions, which she notes, "will help us as students to practice real English communication in society."

Fellow second-level student Lina AbdulRahman wishes the newspaper the best, but notes, "The Yemen Times' language is difficult for beginner students studying English. I also hope you will publish horoscopes, which are entertaining and funny."

Yusra Al-Mutawakil considers the Yemen Times is an ideal newspaper, commenting, "Its topics are varied and



Beside being a source of news and information, youngsters find Yemen Times a great help in learning English. YT PHOTO BY JAMAL AL-AJEL

interesting. Generally, it's attractive and famous to its readers.'

### Other readers' comments

Sana'a University engineering graduate Rafeeq Ali is interested in reading national and world news. "I like the news writing style and I always follow Al-Qaeda news," he states, adding, "I wish the Yemen Times was a daily



Al-Kuwait Secondary School student Ali Aziz is proud of the Yemen Times newspaper for being Yemen's first English newspaper. He often visits the online version to

search for topics, especially those related to the Yemeni community.

"I select most of my research topics from the Yemen Times online. Also, if one of my friends can't find a Yemen Times issue, I help him find what he's looking for. I hope the Yemen Times will develop its web site further," he

Foreign readers' comments

Sana'a resident Abu Daoud says, "I really enjoy the online version, since it's so easy to open up things and save them for reference later. When the Yemen Times started up, it was really great to start getting news in English."

An American mother whose son proofread the Yemen Times several years ago notes, "Our son really enjoyed working with Dr. Saqqaf as

Sana'a resident Umm Yahya says, "I've read the Yemen Times on a semiregular basis since 1993. I used to like the paper, but I felt it took a nosedive after Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf died. I always appreciated his bravery in presenting government corruption. Since his death, the Yemen Times has been much more cautious in publishing what's really happening in the govern-

She adds, "The quality of the paper also has taken a down-turn in the past several years. Before your recent proofreaders, the English was pretty pathetic as well, but it's now much better. I still buy the paper because I like to read the front page, as well as the health section, but the opinion section isn't worth reading."

# The increasing and developing styles of beggars in Yemeni cities

By: Mahmoud Al-Harazi mahmoud 22@hotmail.com

eggars can be seen flowing into cities around Yemen. Such cities appear to be occupied by these beggars, who walk the streets passing every business and amid the city's endless rounds of traffic on crowded streets. Various types of beggars have become numerous and doubled in Yemen's cities, most noticeably during special months of the year.

Nowadays, begging has taken various organized methods and styles to the extent of organized professionalism. Beggars often do so by reading the Qur'an in public places or using girls to beg in an effort to arouse greater sympathy. Additionally, beggars sometimes present documents signed by a judge or an area leader attesting that they need

One neighborhood leader confirmed that such people suffer poverty. Some women use children to attract sympathizers in public places by carrying one or more sometimes visibly impaired children. Some beggars also have been observed using a blood bag to show that they left the hospital because they couldn't pay expensive hospital costs." Shopkeeper Mohammed Abu Rijal says beggars of both genders sit near mosque

doors before and after each prayer time. A Sana'a University study found that begging increased 40 percent in Sana'a during Ramadan, whereas approximately 3 percent of beggars in Yemen are employees forced to take unpaid leave from their jobs.

Some studies also estimate that Yemen has more than 1.2 million beggars, while other researchers confirm that the nation's high begging rate is increasing steadily due to continually deteriorating living allocations for the majority of disadvantaged citizens, as well as the widespread problems of poverty unemployment, illiteracy.

Some countries are famous for a particular characteristic, such as Algeria, the nation of a million martyrs, or Mauritania, the nation of a million poets. Likewise, Yemen can be considered the nation of a million beggars.

For some, begging has become a career and an easy path to wealth. "It's not surprising to hear of a beggar instituting legal proceedings against a bankrupt national bank before the Sana'a commercial court, claiming something like YR 6 million from the bank," Maisa



greater sympathy.

Shuja'a Adeen says.

Researchers have classified today's beggars into two types: the first do so because of poverty, inability to work or lack of adequate sources of income. Thirty-year-old Ammar Abdullah Omar, who has been disabled since birth, is an

"We're six brothers who beg in Sana'a because we receive just YR 1,000 from the Ministry of Social Affairs, which isn't enough for us," he explains, "This is my big brother and you can see that he can't move." Originally from Hajjah governorate, younger brother Mohammed, 15, notes that they now live in Sana'a.

Mohammed Saleh Al-Nehmi of Taiz has been begging in Sana'a for more than four years. "My parents died two years ago. I don't receive any aid from the Ministry of Social Affairs," he adds. However, a generous man has given him a room to sleep in while his meals come from any restaurant.

The second type involves seasonal begging, which is a new phenomenon appearing among Yemen's middle class. Some middle class citizens beg seasonally and then gradually disappear. Yemen's financial situation has deteriorated in recent years due to low income levels and devaluation of the local cur-

Sa'adia Hamoud sometimes begs with two of her daughters. "I beg when I don't have money to pay the rent. My husband is a military soldier in the army, but he never sends us any money, I don't want to ask people for money, but what can I do and how can I feed my children when the house rent is YR 10,000 per

month?'

Many of those seasonally begging seek money to pay electric bills or treat sick patients. Among Yemeni beggars are those who do so upon request of the head of the family - the father or husband. "Some husbands force their wives to beg to cover the family's needs, but often to cover his personal needs or his fun day, which involves abusing qat or alcoholism," Sana'a University sociology professor Abdul Rahman Al-Khatib notes.

A nationwide government project will be implemented on a group of beggars to study their situations and their motives for begging. Undoubtedly, there are many poor people who obtain money by begging, but don't renounce the profession because

it's fun, often doing it because they've become accustomed to it, even though they no longer need the money. How can they renounce the profession when they collect a lot of money?

There's a close link between where cars stop and where beggars collect money, as well as between banks and beggars, who may go so far as to take legal action against the financial institution. An additional connection exists between apartment buildings and beggars, who seek only YR 5 from each person, working hard to raise YR 5,000 to pay their rent. There's also a close connection between beggars and rounds of traffic, public squares, streets and shops.

Are these beggars hard workers, standing on the street - rain or shine and in various climatic conditions, cruising the streets' length and breadth, weaving between pedestrians and cars, asking this and that, often troubling people?

Sheikh Taha, imam of Zahra Mosque, describes begging as a bad habit, especially in mosques, because it bothers those who are praying and has given Yemen a bad reputation abroad. "It's immoral and ignorant of religion, especially in the mosques. We tried to prevent begging in mosques, but many people criticized us, saying we don't have to prevent them. However, we no longer know whether the beggar is honest or a liar," he explained.

According to Taha, begging has become a trade behind which are invisible hands teaching others how to beg; therefore, "I ask the Ministry of Social Affairs to put an end to this phenomenon, especially in mosques," the sheikh



# TIMES

# Specialists Required

For the execution of the project "Support of Yemen's Accession to the WTO" funded by the European Commission, GTZ International Services (Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, International Services) will hire two additional specialists up to the end of 2008. The posts are described as follows:

1. Expert Specialised in International Trade Issues – Trade in Goods, with a focus on agricultural goods as well as sanitary and phytosanitary measures

### **Qualifications and Profile:**

- University graduate, ideally with a post-graduate degree in MBA, Economics, Foreign Trade, International Law or related field;
- Ideally practical and/or theoretical experience n Yemen's import and/or export trade, with a distinct focus on agricultural production and related topics;
- Proven understanding of Yemen's import/export regime (laws, regulations, policy, economics);
- Understanding of WTO agreements relating to trade in goods (GATT1994), in particular the Agreement on Agriculture, The Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, and
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both Arabic and English.

### **Description of Work**

The candidate will assist the key experts and short-term international and local experts in al activities related to trade in agricultural goods (law, economics, policy) covering virtually all related sub-activities of the project. The work will in particular involve research, analysis and editing activities, as well as low-level communications with government agencies and other stakeholders, especially private sector representatives. Focus on the work will be the agriculture-related TWO-Agreements, especially the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) and the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and related tasks stemming from the accession process to WTO. The candidate will prepare briefs and training materials, assist in and supervise translation activities and liaise with various parties.

2. Expert specialized in target-specific research and the fast and reliable provision of requested background material pertaining to Yemen's WTO accession

### **Qualifications and Profile:**

- University graduate, ideally with post-graduate degree in MBA, Economics, Foreign Trade, International Law or related field;
- Ideally practical and/or theoretical experience in Yemen's import and/or export trade;
- Proven understanding of Yemen's import/export regime (laws, regulations, policy, economics);
- Understanding of the multilateral trading system of the WTO;
- Proven record of conducting independent research in a short time period;
- Proven record of compiling and aggregating diverse data and their analysis and solidification into a presentable form;
- Ability to investigate multi-layered economic interrelationships and to extract viable policy conclusions from aggregated data and findings;
- Ability to translate the findings into easy-to-read briefings for key government officials;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in both Arabic and English;
- Proven excellent research skills in both Arabic and English; and
- High Level of Self-Organization and Self-Management

### **Description of Work:**

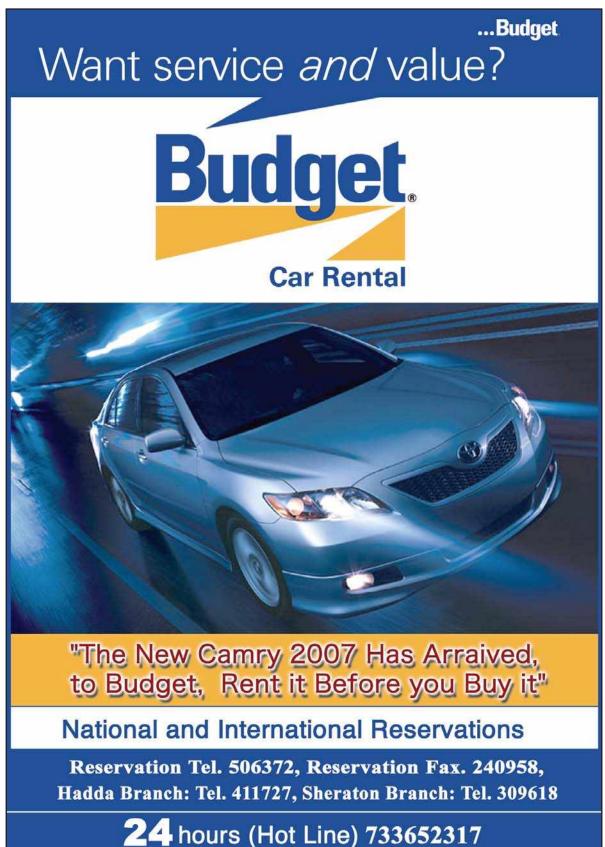
The candidate will assist the PMU-Director and Chief of the Office by providing him with specific ad hoc research results and the presentation of the evaluated findings on an aggregate level. Research activities will cover any topic related to Yemen's accession to WTO, but might also cover interfaces between the accession process and Yemen's involvement in bilateral or regional trade agreements. The work will focus on highly target-oriented research, analysis and the appropriate presentation of the results of the office. The candidate will also be tasked with the preparation of briefs and training materials.

- Employments will start 1 February 2007 (or earlier), depending on ongoing procedures.
- Yemeni Nationals of suitable qualification are invited to present their meaningful applications in English (not Arabic) prior to 15th December 2006 to:

Coordination and Communication Office with the World Trade Organization / Project Management Unit, c/o Dr. Achim Seiler, GTZ, P.O. Box 8278, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen Tel: (01) 561 114 118, Mobile: 733 777 398, Fax: (01) 252456

• Shortlisted applicants will be invited for interviews in early January







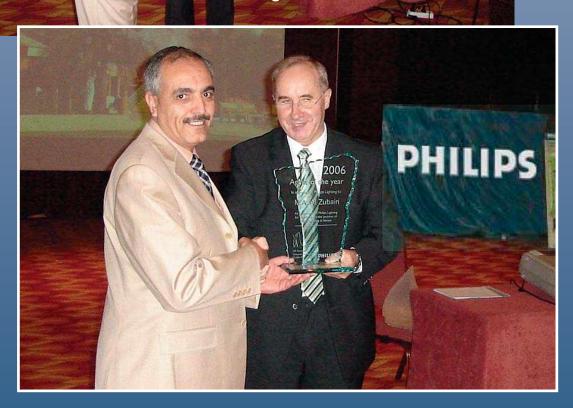
# AL-ZUBAIRI FOR TRADE: Best Agent of the Year 2006

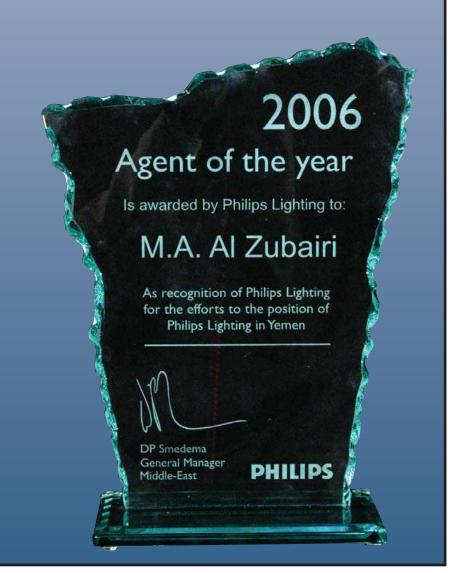
Mohamr ent of Philips Company Bro., th the Philips in Yem the Best Agent. Interna Al-Zuba d honored in a of the Philips Lighting B.V. confer of Lyon from 13th-15th in the 006. Mohamed Abdulwahab Novem Al-Zuba nonored as the best agent of

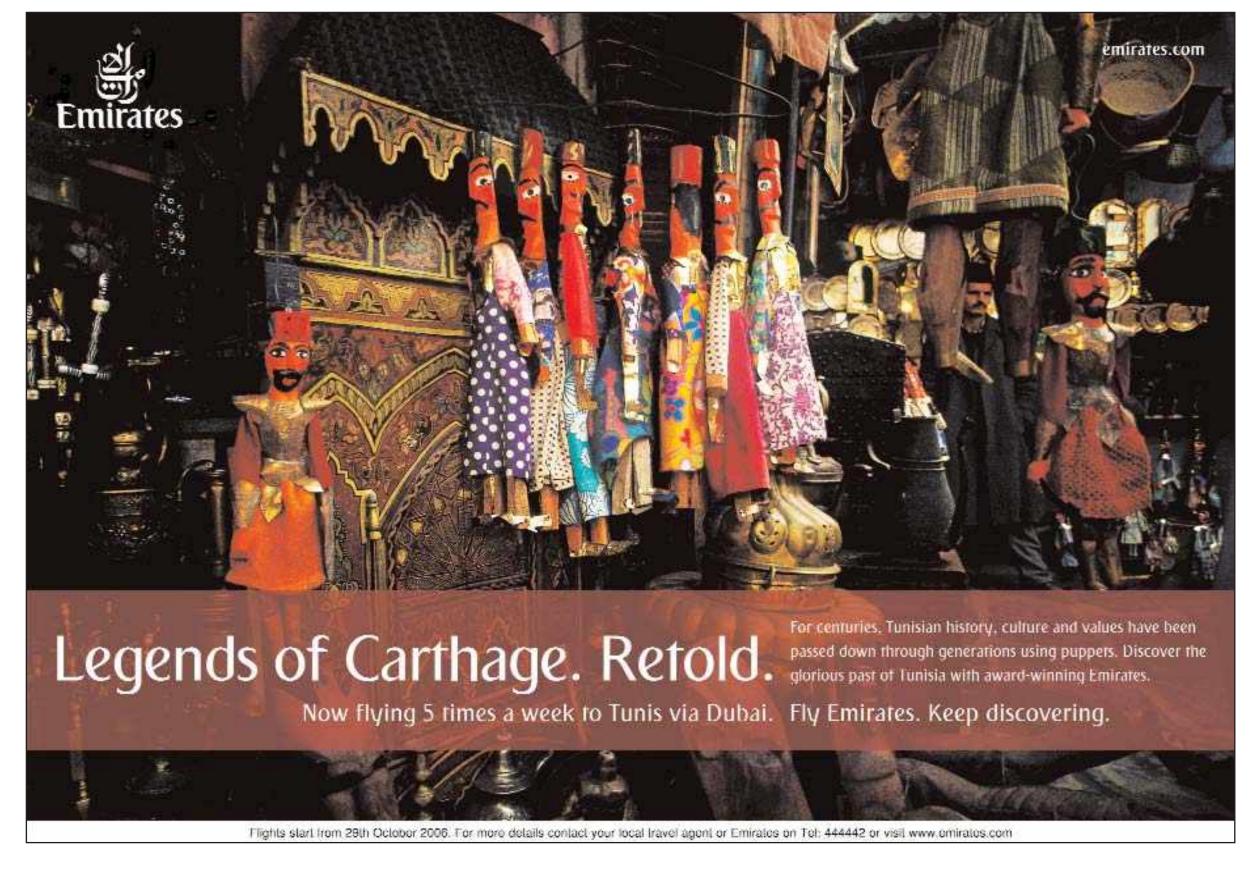
dulwahab Al-Zubairi & LIPS the year 2006, was awarded by Mr. gent of Philips Company Stanislaw Kozlowski, Executive Director of Philips International Sales. It is not the first time that Philips agent

for the Best Agent. It is not the first time that Philips agent in Yemen wins the company award, as Al-Zubairi had already received similar award in 1997 in Dubai

Philips Lighting B.V. holds a conference every two years during which best agent worldwide is honored and awarded.







### Words of Wisdom



Parents and family elders are not providing good role models, either. Many adults spend their time chewing qat and watching satellite TV programs that represent the lowest common denominator, the children's recreational needs are mostly neglected, leaving them to wander off into the streets and mix with bad company.

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



### **OUR OPINION**

### Human rights are everybody's business

hese days, people routinely talk about the relationship between national sovereignty and human rights. That is because there is a rising level of world intervention against regimes oppressing their people. Basically, what is happening is that the concepts of territorial integrity and political sovereignty are now given second place to human rights considera-

As the world moves into the 21st century, the rules of the game are changing. It will be noted that following World War II, the victorious nations sanctified an old concept - the integrity of the nation state. Relations between nations were the cornerstone of the United Nations system. A nation could not attack another, and if did, the world community would have the right to exact punishment. But a nation was more or less free to treat its own citizens as it wanted.

Today, that is changing. A new concept is taking over, and we can call it the integrity of the individual. What this means is that a nation is no longer free to treat its own citizens, or any other human being, as it wants. There are now rules to safeguard human

This development - and a new attitude in the way we collectively manage our affairs - reflects a certain level of maturity and growth on our part as human beings. Countries of the world have a moral right to stop ruthless leaders when they suppress their own people. There is no reason to find excuses in the name of territorial integrity and national sovereignty to protect repressive dictators.

Another point often presented to shield dictators concerns who in the world community has the right to exact the punishment. Preferably, this should be done on a collective basis. But if that does not work, there is no reason why a solid bloc of humanity cannot act. This is the case with the NATO action against Serbia today. Yes, it is American-led. So what? After all, human rights are the business of everybody, and repressive regimes better watch out!

I believe that as humanity evolves and matures even further, we shall come to a time when the world works on the basis of the integrity of life as a cornerstone to our civilization. In other words, the world community would have the right to stop nations and regimes that engage in destruction of the environment, in chemical warfare, in senseless deforestation, or other forms of destruction.

These are important milestones in the maturity and growth of humanity.

# Real victory and natural loss

ictory of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his General People's Congress in the presidential and local council elections was a real win without any doubt. If some violations and breaches have happened they are a normal matter taking place in any elections in more experienced democratic countries, let alone in a state of the emerging democracies and a state from the third world.

Now that the electoral battle has been decided so what should be done and how can the opposition parties derive lessons and watch performance of the ruling party as well as prepare for the upcoming

parliamentary elections? For the ruling party and the president, there must be an activation of the financial and administrative reform, also the reform of judiciary, separation between powers and translation of words into actions through the executive program the government is to adopt and it is accountable in

the light of the results. Thus the people can sleep with optimism in a bright tomorrow and new Yemen and better future, in dependence of the president's statements since the announcement of his victory in the presidential elections and the



By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

Many observers of the Yemeni intersituation emphasize that the great and qualitapeople's tive weight the ruling party has gained would push it to

miracles,

GPC's victory in

the local elections.

especially that there are no excuses or hindrances before the process of construction, reform and comprehensive economic and development renascence. In the past some there were some impediments, as others have alleged.

make

The Yemenis, with all their seg-

ments, have put wager on the present authority and made it the way for continuation. Will the authority put an end to corruption, rises in prices of many goods and products, begin changing leading posts in state institutions and choose experienced and new talent, account leadership in the light of reports by the central apparatus for audit and monitoring, put an end to exploitation of the public property and public service, speed up formation of a body for tenders, decide upon the Free Zone in Aden and begin in partnership through the stock

It will all be revealed for us in the coming days. The upcoming stage, as much as it is a one of individual-

exchange market?

ity and success, is a stage of a real and difficult test.

We have been late for too long, but instead of crying over spilt milk or make sterile arguments over reforms and change and results of the elections and the extent of their legitimacy, let us depart from biddings and give them no attention. Let us go on in our way, the way of progress and construction and the firm start after the elections and their results towards the future. Is this possible?

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science. He is the head of the Arab Group for Investment and Development

# Yemen Times, difficult start and continual success

ast week coincided with issuance of edition 1.000 of the Yemen Times newspaper. A beautiful feeling has overcome me mingled with an indefinite happiness at the time I was searching through my memory and going back to the very beginnings of the newspaper and the anxieties.

Many tasks and duties accompanied the first moments of launching the newspaper. We joined forces with the pioneer of the Yemeni press Dr. Abdulaziz al-Saggaf in the task of hardships and pains, during which we lived very difficult days, but we learnt that inevitability action develops into progress and service of the homeland and the people. His belief was that the value of the human is measured with what he affects of positive change in the society and the homeland and the amount of service he offers to humanity.

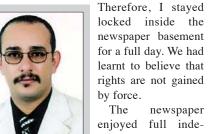
The newspaper started in an instable situation and difficult economic and political circumstances and a limited horizon of democratic margin. As the press had not been granted its rights concerning human rights and the right to expression, the newspaper went on while facing painful obstacles precluding it from performing its role. At first there were problems covering news stories and free movement to the government practicing of various types of censorship; chains, prevention of printing and distribution and threats and

Sometimes founder of the newspaper was taken away with his eyes covered and left alone in a far deserted place.

The newspaper founder had sowed courage in our souls by those challenges

and the characteristics the founder possessed. He deepened in us the fight for the sake of rights and democracy.

I remember that in 1995 the newspaper published a frontpaged news story reporting that the political security kidnapped and tortured a prominent writer and politician. The news story was supported with a picture and its headline was written in Arabic. The editor-in-chief had expected we would be prevented from printing that edition and he left for Taiz for an urgent task and thus he entrusted me with being in charge of printing and distribution of the issue. After the printing was finished I was prevented from distributing copies. I had given the editor-in-chief a promise the issue would be on newsstands for people to read. I used all possible ways to get the copies and distribute them and to send them to all governorates. But the political security organization detained the editor-in-chief in Taiz and threats began to be sent to me that I would "physically liquidated."



By: Emad Al-Saqqaf

The newspaper enjoyed full independence and never put itself under the umbrella of any polit-

ical party or side, unlike many of independent newspapers that were linked to a certain political current or party. It was the policy of its founder: Full independence, preferring his affiliation to the homeland and refusing all temptations of authority and allurements of the left and the right.

I still remember his words, "Yemen Times will not be one of the voices of the authority or an instrument in the hands of the opposition." The Yemen Times represents the voice of fact and creates a high fortress of freedom and justice.

When the newspaper lost its founder it didn't replace its principles or the national project. He remains dwelling inside us and his ambitions are torches illuminating the paths of the coming life. It quite sufficient that he has left for us the love for all the civil society.

Yemen Times has remained a message of the homeland's renascence and promoter of positive change in society. It has worked for laying foundations of democracy and freedom and

exposed corruption in addition to criticizing the negatives courageously and with credibility and clarity. It calls for building the state of modern Yemen. The newspaper carried on its shoulders the concerns of human rights in Yemen and helped to create an awareness of rights. It was the first publication to disclose the existence of prisons owned by sheikhs and worked for the release of many prisoners and moving juvenile prisoners to reformatories and orphanages. The newspaper plays a great role in educating on the rights of the woman and her participation in the political life. As part of its support in that field the newspaper announced, in 1997, its willingness to finance any woman who needs funding for her electoral campaign on condition she

With Nadia Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf's assumption of the post of editor-in-chief, the Yemen Times presents a good example on progress of the Yemeni woman with her capability of leading an

was independent.

Improving life

important establishment. This move is a pride for the newspaper's staff and Yemeni woman.

No doubt the newspaper has contributed to serving Yemen's cultural action as Vemen's window on the world and the world window on Yemen. Through it the others have known about our history, heritage, culture and civilization. And through it the world knew how the Yemenis live and how they think.

Today Yemen Times remains a pioneering newspaper possessing all components of free press and it is taking confident steps forward and taking the lead so strongly.

We have the right to be proud and entertain the taste of success that we have wrung out of concern during the nights and fatigued of days and years. It is also a pride for the reader, wherever he or she is, who forms the more spectacular extension of this glory.

Emad Al-Saggaf is a Yemeni journalist and Yemen Times' Taiz buearu chief

# standards Total reforms S K E T C Н E 0 International

A building of complaints

e have a complaint regarding our building in Mukalla which was handed over to Yemen Economic Corporation without any legal judgment. Therefore, we appeal through your esteemed newspaper to President Ali Abdullah Saleh to compact the corruption with the terms of London Donors Conference and to return our building after the law said its word, but Yemen Economic Corporation does not recognize with the law.

The following is excerpts from the initial complaint published in Al-Ayyam Newspaper in Arabic on Sept. 19, but unfortunately up to date there is no response from the officials:

The inheritances of the late expatriate Saeed Ahmed Bahaj appeal to H.E Ali Abdullah Saleh the President of the Republic to return their nationalized building from the General Corporation for Textiles and Electrical Products before the unification and afterwards hand over to Yemen Economic

Corporation in Mukalla, Hadhramout.

We appeal to the president to return our Economic Corporation in Mukalla instead of the legal owner.

The court treated us with justice, but

The inheritances appeal to the president of Republic to issue his instructions to execute the judgments and to return the

Mohamed Saeed Bahaj

In response to "Supposed Nasrallah victory"

In the issue 999 of Thursday, Nov. 16, I read an article written by S.A. Abdul Wahab titled "Supposed Nasrallah victory " in the letters to the editor. I was so shocked and astounded to see such bizarre and unacceptable opinion talking about Nasrallah and Hezbollah militants. For this reason, I want to direct some questions to this person and to others, if there are any, having the same

Why doesn't he acknowledge Nasrallah's victory? Why does he have such ignorant and malicious misconceptions about Hezbollah? Doesn't he feel ashamed of himself saying so about those devoted and brave people? Does he think that he has hit the nail on the head by writing this misled article? I recommend this person to review his frozen opinions and thoughts, I want to say that what Hezbollah has achieved,

in their fighting with the Zionist enemy,

what has never been done by all Arabs and Muslim people in the recent era. In their confrontations with Hezbollah fighters, the Israeli troops sustained many losses in souls and weapons, unless Hezbollah was existent in south Lebanon, it would have been captured and conquered completely by Israel. What if such people were existent in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan?

What Israel achieved was killing innocent civilians, committing massacres and destroying infrastructure. So who are the cowards, the Israelis, killers of innocent civilians, or Hezballah fighters who stepped on the unconquerable Legend of Israel.

The defeated Israel face brought about internal splits and divisions among its war generals. So, concluding my article, I strongly say that Hezbollah's achievements are a source of pride for Arabs and Muslims all over the world.

# Letters to the Editor

building of our testator, the late Saeed Ahmed Bahaj, from Yemen Economic Corporation whereas this building built during the time of Quaiti State. It was a workshop for assembly British vehicles i.e. Bedford and Land Rover because the late Saeed Ahmed Bahaj was an agent for Mitchell Cotts & Co., Ltd., London in Hadhramout. Then the building nationalized during the socialism regime in the South and controlled by General Corporation for Textiles & Electrical Products for more than 30 years without any rent. Then it was delivered to Yemen

YEC rejects the judicial decision.

property.

mowafaq2000@hotmail.com

By: Aref Al-Shaqhdri. Aref\_alshaghdri@hotmail.com

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By Samer A.

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Al-Sahwa weekly, 23 Nov.2006.

### Main headlines

- Sheikh al-Ahmar: Arab countries participate in the blockade against the Palestinian people
- Islah party secretary general meets with delegation of the European Commission
- Dr al-Zindani chairs Arab parliamentary committee to Darfur
- Considering European assistance to Yemen as a risk, director of the European Commission confirms the necessity of correcting electoral legislations
- Local council members file lawsuit against Abu Ras
- Al-Thawri newspaper editor in chief tell of attempted assassination as the cause of his seeking political asylum in London

Writer Zaid al-Shami says in an article the donors at London conference have offered around \$ 5 billion to be paid in installments. The donors have not reached yet to the stage of confidence in Yemen's ability to properly use that aid. We have rather heard from them severe advices making us ask them that they should themselves implement development projects in our country so that to assure them that the hand of corruption will not be able to touch what they would pay. That acknowledgement, though it is an expression of transparency, it does not honor us to be in such a position that we have put ourselves in. this should rather push us to lead a comprehensive revolution against corruption and incompetence

Yemen's budget this year amounted to more than \$ 8 billion including what has been spent of differences in oil prices. This is an amount of money that should have helped us against asking others to give us. Therefore our problem does not lie in scarcity of resources but rather in the mismanagement of them. Is it believable that \$ 2 billion revenues resulting from oil prices differences to go in vain and comes in the form of an additional corrupting in chapters of the state budget and repeated expenditures? That amount could have been towards infrastructures. For instance half of the additional appropriation could have been spent on generating double the amount of electric power that we have now and thus we can solve our electricity problem for the coming ten years.

There are failures that are difficult to deny and unclear priorities and we have not felt seriousness on part of the of the authority corrupt. Unemployment is increasing, incomes are getting less and the space of poverty is expanding while our country is experiencing circumstances in which we can come out of the bottleneck and to build a strong economy to depend upon. Assistance cannot create the aspired for renascence. From its name assistance can help but not carry out development and construction instead of the country's sons. There cannot be an example of a country in the world that managed to stand up again and got rid of its backwardness without depending on its own capabilities, resources and sons. The assistance of others comes as complementary.

If totalitarian policies, admiration of ones opinion, marginalizing talents and

stopping energies and thinking only of winning elections continue no loans and grants will give any benefit.



AL-Thawri weekly, organ of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), 23 Nov. 2006.

### Main headlines

- Hysterical rise in prices of food stuffs
- Al-Attas: The elections have put democracy on its proper track
- He took his decision without knowledge of party organizations, the YSP general secretariat: Salman was subject to pressures for many years, prevented from writing and judiciary was used as a trap for imprisoning
- Penal court decides death penalty against one of the accused and imprisonment for the rest of the accused of their membership of Sana'a Cell
- Corruption suspicion behind the fire in the higher education ministry
- Conflict between the economic establishment and merchants on monopolizing importation of wheat
- Gunmen steal citizens' houses in Reema

The newspaper's political editor wrote in his article that the parliament is discussing in its present session a draft law on fighting corruption the government has submitted. The draft law stipulates the formation of an 11-member national; body for fighting corruption. The body's members are to

be from those possessing efficiency and decency and among them representatives of the woman and civil society organizations to be elected in secret ballot by members of the parliament. This move has been considered by observers as a forward step in withdrawing authorities of appointment by the president in that it makes the body more independent and neutral in practicing its constitutional tasks.

In the context of the exaggerated talk since the end of the presidential elections on seriousness of the authority and the ruling party in fighting financial corruption and stopping the policy of plundering the wealth of the country focus is only put on the legal and legislative aspect. Besides the talk on combating corruption there also the talk about the law of tenders and biddings, the law of public service rotation, amendment of the law of judicial and local power and other tens of laws and draft law on the government and parliament agenda.

Some ascribe the authority and the ruling party flood of talk about fighting corruption by reproductive legislations to two major factors. the first one is the attempt to appease and convince the public opinion and Yemeni electors that the ruling party is serious in implementing the president's election program and promises after the authority has noticed that the presidential elections have made the people for the first time in the Yemeni emerging democracy as a major part in the political process and one of the factors of making the policy and its directions which is an important matter that could not have happened unless the opposition took part in it and its competition for the first post in the state. The second matter is related to pressures of the donor countries that put the condition that the Yemeni government has to hasten in introducing a group of political reforms and measures named beforehand.



Al-Wasat weekly, 22 Nov.2006,

### Main headlines

- Undersecretary of US State Department calls Yemen to pass laws supporting freedoms, elections and consolidation of sovereignty of the law
- The YSP holds Saleh responsible for Salman's staying behind in London
   Al-Tahreer party ascribes the donor conference to failure of Salerh's regime
- Parliament prevents broadcasting of its sessions
- Egyptian authorities arrest al-Awadhi, the Yemeni opponent
- Commander of the French forces in Djibouti does not know of any threats against TOTAL, the Yemeni government is concerned with protecting it

Writer Khalid Andulhadi says in his article on the donor conference recently ended up in London maybe most of the citizens who followed up campaigns of the presidential elections two months ago remember that the president of the republic told his supporters in Saada while at the same time telling the people that the country was to obtain \$45 billion from the donor conference. He added that the amount of money would help solve the problem of unemployment within two years.

If those were aspirations of the president, though he had revealed them amidst political pressures, they are also aspirations of millions of Yemeni citizens who thought the donor conference as an opportunity to attain those aspirations. What stages do those reached? The answer to this question and the comparison of aspirations and promises and what has been realized and what is in the way of realization could be part of the conference evaluation in its first batch for bridging the economic gap in Yemen and a herald of what to come.

The president's speech at the conference as a kind of begging and message of distress of a drowning one admitting the burdens of his administration and promising to get rid of them. He wanted to tempt the donors to increase their assistance and to leave for the mechanisms of spending it in the way they want.

It is a good thing that the president admits the mistakes of his team and his governments and his talk in this direction serves the truth and transparency but he has soon bruised its credibility when he waved with the bugbear of terror and that the region's countries and other donors have to pump more assistance so that there will be no increase in the number of terrorists who blast themselves. The president did not forget to deny that he meant a kind of threat while he was talking about terror which he seems to ascribe it to poverty.

The regime has in the coming few days pass a difficult test in truthfulness and investment of the political will to deliver the floundering economy of the country and it will not succeed in that unless it departs by itself from its old barricades and dismantle its complicated composition.

# A selective memory

avid Brooks, one of the most ardent advocates of the war against Iraq, has turned into a history buff. In a recent column in *The New York Times* (2 November 2006) he argues that if American policies in Iraq fail, Iraq will not hold together as a state.

Iraq just has too many old and endemic demons. He has at hand a recently republished essay (originally appeared in 2004) by his currently favourite historian, Elie Kadourie, whom he proudly introduces as "an Iraqi Jew who was born and grew up in Baghdad", and he advises decision-makers in Washington to read it before taking any radical actions on Iraq.

By: Azmi Bishara

Kadourie, and the author of the essay's preface, David Percy, happen to believe that Arab and Islamic culture are inimical to democracy. But it is pointless to tell Brooks that such studies are a dime a dozen and that Kadourie is not alone in his views. In fact, this historian's tedious and all-too-familiar theories regarding British colonial policies in Iraq, which Brooks considers such a new and miraculous find, began appearing long ago in periodicals only to be collated into book form in 1970. Brooks, though, is set in his contempt for Arab societies.

Beleaguered neo-conservatives are undoubtedly going to start accusing Bush of having been naive and simpleminded in applying their theories interesting, when it was qualities like these that inspired them to sing Ronald Reagan's praises, because were it not for these qualities Reagan might have heeded his advisors and not have "done the right thing against Communism". Some of these neo-cons might even admit that the aim of invading Iraq was not originally to spread democracy but to occupy the country, after which it was just "rollback", as Israel referred to its shifting aims in its war on Lebanon. As for the aim behind dragging out and dusting off Kadourie's essay, it is not difficult to sniff out. British efforts, in the first half of the last century, to forge an Iraqi state and identity were, he argues, that doomed from the outset because the British were trying to piece together something out of diverse and antagonistic groups — the Shia, Sunnis, Kurds

and Arabs. He further points to the Shia and tribal uprisings under the British as evidence that tribal and sectarian affiliations are the only ones feasible in Iraq and as evidence of these groups endemic hostility towards statehood due to "what they imagined to be their interests".

Everyone calling for the dissolution of the Iraqi state, as though it were some philanthropic society or political party or joint-stock company, dredges up this study on Iraqi history. Needless to say, Israeli scholars hit upon it well before American journalists. Asher Susser referred to it in substantiation of his prediction that the Iraqi state would disintegrate after the war and that its people would revert to pre-state allegiances. He also expects the same of other Arab states. ( *Middle East Quarterly*, Autumn 2003)

The identity crisis in the eastern Arab world is a modern phenomenon, not the extension of a condition with deep historical roots. Nor are nationalism and state- and nation-building concepts that conflict with the existence of tribal and sectarian affiliations; they are answers to the challenges of building a modern society. The problem in Iraq, today, is that the country's tribal and sectarian structure is being forced on Iraqis as a mold for political affiliation. People aren't born as a nation; nations are built. And in order to build a nation you don't go delving into history, when there was no state or nation and when all that existed were tribes and sects, as some Orientalists do.

Proponents of the modern Arab nationalist project, by contrast, hoped to forge a sense of Arab nationalist identity as a basis for a political entity and citizenship and, perhaps, democratic government at a later stage.

ernment at a later stage.

In Iraq, as they and other colonial powers did elsewhere in the Levant, the British set about constructing a regional state, not as a means for superseding tribal and sectarian affiliations but as a structure that deliberately entrenched these divisions and aimed them against Arab nationalism. Colonial authorities, we recall, depended primarily on minorities — or those they classified as minorities — to build the "national" army. Now, nearly a century after the

Sykes-Picot agreement, people are wringing their hands over the failure of that state, while throughout the colonial powers and their successors fought the only serious and feasible alternative, Arab nationalism. And now they are scrambling for solutions, such as a loose federation or increasing the number of troops in Iraq, as a last ditch attempt to preserve the unity of the country before "bringing Iraq to an end". This is how Brooks put it, and he was not speaking figuratively, like former US presidential candidate John Kerry who called for the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq in order to end that chapter in American history; he was being literal.

The remedies that Brooks, who supported the war, has to offer in his 2 November article are to get rid of Rumsfeld, to increase troop numbers in Baghdad alone to 30,000 and to do whatever it takes to restore security. How curious. Contrary to what we had thought, Rumsfeld's resignation or dismissal may herald a greater military involvement and a tightening of the American grip in Iraq. Nor is this regarded at odds with the appeal to talk to Syria and Iran over Iraq. But then, the intelligent reader will recall that one of the most common criticisms levied against Rumsfeld in the first week of the war was that he had not committed enough ground forces to Iraq and that he was too slapdash and overconfident, overly dependent on America's powerful stateof-the art, high-tech military equipment, and the belief that with this equipment America could intervene in several places in the world at once at the press of a couple of buttons. Now the theory on Iraq is do whatever it takes to win and impose a federal solution or let the country fall apart.

Arab nationalists came under attack in the West, and in conservative and neoconservative circles in particular, because they believed that the subregional states into which the colonial powers had carved up the eastern Arab world would not fill the identity vacuum and serve to build a nation in the proper sense. The result of this onslaught was that the Arab nationalist movement was marginalised and increasingly radicalised the more the Arab world fell into disunity and fragmentation, especially following the 1967 war. By the time that the Saddam regime had renamed its official gazette Babylon and begun to stress a discrete Iraq identity and distinct Iraqi

history, the sub-regional state had come under the crosshairs of the very groups that had formerly attacked Arab nationalism. Now, they proclaim, the state has to be turned into a sectarian and denominationally based federation, ie the state has to be deconstructed, or terminated. The idea that Arab identity can serve as an overarching bond for the people and simultaneously accommodate non-Arab minorities simply does not occur to them.

After having identified Arab nationalism as enemy number one, they co-opted Arab nationalist criticisms of the subregional state and its dependence on tribal and sectarian groupings and then distorted and turned these criticisms against both the state and Arab nationalism. Now the Arabs are required to recognise tribal and sectarian divisions as the only structural basis for a pluralistic society and to stop thinking of these pre- modern allegiances as possible impediments to statehood and nationalism, as Europeans in the 18th and 19th centuries concluded.

Today's Iraqi occupation ideologues have concocted three super-simplistic myths to which they have reduced contemporary Iraq history: a Sunni- based Baathist regime ruled over the Shia, the oppressed Shia appealed to the US and Britain for help, and the resistance to the occupation is really a sectarian war between the Sunni and Shia. Their need to invent a fiction in order to cover up their failure and to suggest that Iraq either has to go the way they say or else, is not all that different from the fiction of weapons of mass destruction, the major difference being that they are now producing a real weapon of mass destruction aimed at Iraq and the eastern Arab world.

The Arab nationalist and leftist parties were not sectarian or ethnic allegiances. Iraq, together with its political elites and general public, passed through periods in which non-sectarian ideas and affiliations prevailed. Nor were previous Iraqi governments sectarian in nature: they didn't even allow religious affiliations to appear on identity papers and other official documents, and the use or exploitation of sectarian allegiances was regarded as shameful, perhaps criminal and certainly politically incorrect. If anything, it is the suppression of sectarianism that is contributing to the vehemence of today's sectarian chauvinists who are avenging past ills perpetrated by the Saddam regime. But this regime was not "Sunni"; it was a monolithic state apparatus shored up by a single party and state police and intelligence agencies, all of which consisted of both Sunnis and Shias. The same applied to the various opposition movements, which did not begin with the Shaaban uprising following the war to liberate Kuwait. Certainly, during the Iraq-Iran war, the regime concentrated its oppressive practices more heavily on predominantly Shia areas and Shia religious figures, operating on the assumption that any emphasis of Shia identity was an expression of disloyalty to the state. However, apart from some well-known exceptions, it was not discriminatory pressure that made hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Shia soldiers fight in the ranks of their national army against Iran.

Under previous Iraqi governments, officials did not like to have sectarian tags affixed to them. Only now has this become the rule, which is applied retroactively even to those who lived and died without an ounce of sectarianism in their blood. Abdel Karim Qasem is now labelled "Shia", Abdel-Salam Aref "Sunni": the "Shia" Naji Taleb was prime minister under Aref; the founder of the Baath Party was originally "Christian", as was one of its most prominent members, Tareq Aziz, while Fouad Al-Rukabi, the first national chief of the Baath Party, was Shia. In 1963, in fact, all the civilian members of the Regional Command were Shia. Over the period of Baath Party rule there were three prime ministers: Ahmed Hussein Khudeir "Sunni", Saadoun Hamadi 'Shia" and Mohamed Hamza Al-Zubeidi "Shia" and of the two speakers of the National Assembly, one - Naim Haddad - was Sunni and the other -Saadoun Hamadi — was Shia.

It is no coincidence that people are now overlooking the fact that former foreign minister and the last minister of information under Saddam, Mohamed Said Al-Sahhaf, was Shia. Nor do those who are talking of the Sunni-Shia political divide today care to be reminded of the names of the many Shia political, intellectual and religious leaders who dedicated their lives to realising Arab unity, such as the Independence Party leader Sheikh Mohamed Mahdi Kubba. Taleb Shubeib, Shamseddin Kazem, Hazem Jawwad, Muaz Abdul-Rahim, Ahmed Hububi, Ali Abdul-Hussein, Amir Al-Halw, Rasem Al-Awadi, Mahmoud Al-Sheikh Radi, Fadel Al-Ansari, Moussa Al-Husseini and Abdulillah Al-Nasrawi. But it is pointless to cite this long list of names, not only because it will do nothing to alter the current poisonous sectarian mood, nor because it falls into the trap of imposing sectarian divisions on history, but also because sectarian partisans, these days, will simply discard the information on the grounds that the government official or political leader of his sect did not have real authority.

It is probably also futile to point out that things weren't always as monolithic and centralised as they were under Saddam Hussein, either in the government or the Baath Party, and that even under Saddam the monopoly on power was not a Sunni one wielded against the Shia but rather a monopoly by a military junta whose sway in the party and the state intersected with the regional and kinship ties of its constituents.

Iraqi governments have clamped down brutally on all opposition and everyone whose allegiance was suspect. The victims of repression are legion, and of all sects. Mohamed Ayish, Adnan Hussein, General Mohamed Mazloum Al-Dulaimi, Shaker Faza and Raji Al-Takriti were all Sunni.

The first religious figure to have died as the result of torture was Sheikh Abdul-Aziz Al-Badri Al-Samaraai, a Sunni. Mohamed Bagir Al-Sadr was executed ten years later. Moreover, for those who care to remember, the Sunni and Shia fundamentalist offensive was directed against the "secularist regime" in Iraq and the Iranian media constantly reminded its public that the two assassinations were connected and proof of the Baathist regime's war against Islam, both Sunni and Shia. But does anybody in the Iranian media mention Al-Badri today? Similarly forgotten are the armed confrontations against the government in Falluja in the 1970s (The so-called "Dervish Uprising") and the Ramadi uprising during the funeral of Mohamed Mazloum.

Evidently, the rule of political sectarianism and the preparation of the Arab world for the latest colonialist weapon, requires partial collective memory alongside partial collective amnesia.

Azmi Bishara: is an Israeli Arab politician and an elected member of the Knesset.

Source: www.ahram.org.eg

# The concept of the ruler in the folklore legacy

By: Nisreen Shadad hurteagle8@hotmail.com Ebtehal AlAghbay missebtehal@yahoo.com

o comprehend the concept of the ruler in the folklore, we have to know the ruler's concepts and symbols manifested in the proverbs, fables, tales and folkloric expressions and believes," said Arwa Othman, the director of Folklore House.

The two-day symposium on the "Concept of the ruler in the folklore" was launched Nov. 19 in the Studies and Research centre to discuss the research papers. It set up by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation, a German organization managing numerous projects and programs inside and outside Germany in several fields such as the politics, international co-operation, scientific research, social development, and social equality.

The symposium aimed to dig up the relationship between these two forces; ruler and citizen, responsible man and subject, father and son, man and woman, as well as the core of folklore culture and the successive and hierarchy theories that illustrate figures in the folkloric mind.

Participated researchers recommended at the end of the symposium to establish an official centre interested in collecting, documenting and archiving verbal folklore and to bring together heritage material from all Yemeni regions.

From the symposium research

Beginning with Abdul Qareem Qasim who introduced his research entitled, "The country in the Yemeni folkloric proverbs." He said fables, tales and proverbs are one of the most powerful folkloric arts that affectively shape our thoughts and concepts.

"The rulers and the opponents use fables, tales and proverbs as a sword for their individual interests. In the contrary, subjects and citizens found them an outlet to express the oppression and persecution they live in. The folkloric proverbs, however, were out of the ruler's influence because they are short and plain linguistic expressions can be easily memorized and circulated. What made proverbs more expressive to the citizens' feelings and thoughts and the simplicity of creating them, aside from the poems and the prose that need more talented people," Qasim

At the end on the country policy Qasim wondered why the masters always forget to deal with people with justice in comparison to the rules. The real effective way to keep adopted rules going on systematically is achieved through oppression.



Arwa Othman was the originator of such symposium and Abdulazeez Al-Maqaleh, Director for the Yemen Center fo Studies and Research, lent a hand to make the image of the ruler lucid.

The same topic is dealt with in the book "The dominator's image in the folkloric songs" by Huda Alatas. She presents poetry complaining about the unfair dominators.

For the same purpose Abdulqadeer Alshaibani comments on Huda's book presenting more lines taken from Yemeni poetry with men praying to Allah to end their suffering their ruler cause them including their soldiers and followers.

A different topic is discussed in "Heem Altegan," by Abulqaw Galib.

"Destiny plays an impressive rule on Wahabi kings and on their way of life. The fate and destiny were mentioned a lot on their tongues or on the ones who act their characters. And while Hemiar kings are chasing things, destiny chases them," Galib added.

From "Obeying masters" by Abdulbary Taher "The one who teaches me a letter, I shall serve for ever."

He assures the holiness of knowledge and the one who sakes for. Then he explains the great meaning of slavery here which differs from the black bad one known before. And he explains the meaning of being a servant because it is the only way to repay a teacher. He explained the meaning of obedience from the perspective of Sunni and Shiism, Though the big difference of these two groups in believes, they have meetings on mind of being obedient to the ruler. And there is a folkloric proverb that said "An oppressed Imam is better than a lasting ordeal," he said

A parental topic is discussed in "Genealogy" by Mansour Alhaj about family disconnection. He explains how femininity could be an ethical dilemma and how to help solving it.

Muhammad Alhadad writes about limited cultural people who put a lot of obstacles in front of their girls what

to wear when to get out and not to discuss matters related to her future and destiny. The subject in details is offered in his book titled "Social Domination and leadership through the cultural and social prospective."

Al-Haddad used Hadramount as an example before being independent. To prove his hypothesis; the existence of social domination and leadership, he used the Cultural theory that is based on the postulate that there is a theoretical and realistic relationship between culture and society. Culture as he said can't exist unless there is a society. Culture is the distinctive way for the society and a complete way to its members' lives; it introduces human features to human race.

Women are mentioned in the folkloric songs side by side with politicians, farmers and ordinary people. While ordinary people especially farmers complain about others in authority including the wardens and masters for their injustice, injury and unfairness; For women, they are used to make up poetry addressing birds to send a massage for their husbands in jails or those who get abroad escaping the warden's oppression and searching for a better life.

a better life.

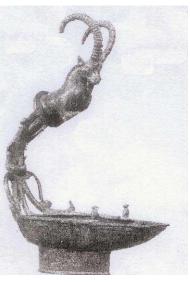
"The Immolations; Reading in gods' power Culture," by Mohammed Baslama shows how people in old civilizations in Arab Peninsula worship gods and their rulers as they are equal, to that extant they keep worshiping the rulers even after they stop real pagans.

In the paper titled "Reading in Gods' power culture," Ameda Sha'alan considers many points to deal with starting with the relation between gods and the ancestors lived in Old Yemen, viewing the gods lived in the south of Arab Peninsula regarding gods' vows found in Yemen old remains. Such gods worshiped in Yemen including statues of "Ma'd Karb," "Lady Bara't" and another marble tablet with a woman pictured in.

The researcher Baslama offers a detailed explanation about some antiquarian models and the "musnad" carved handwriting. He moved to the second point talking about the relation between gods and people living in Old Iraq. He mentions famous King Hamorabi's obelisk in order to prove his reflections. The paper is concluded with the relation between gods and old ancestors in Egypt. Although no pictures were shown about the last two civilizations many Arab and foreign references are mentioned.

Though, what we know about old

Yemeni religious culture is considered to be nothing compared with other old civilizations in the east. The old Yemeni remains and traces tell us a lot. In pre-Islamic history remain deep ideas about the religious thoughts, life and ceremonies. Those old Yemeni inscriptions clarify worshiping, ritual activities and the concept of sins, iniquities and expiation. But prayers and invocations are not revealed. The same with gods' legends, though we



Deer was the god old Yemenis worshiped during hunting rituals for the sake of guaranteeing fertility.

know gods and goddesses were married.

The oldest form Yemen has as a country is the theocratic one shaped in three elements; "The god, the king and people." The king is the son of the God, and he practices his well known religious authority under the title of "Makrab." So he is the one who determine the relation between gods and the groups he protects. Furthermore, the king establishes and builds temples, and conducts the ritual hunting ceremonials.

In a later period, the vicar would run the temple affairs. He is considered to be the official speaker of the prophecy. In addition, he offers the oblations and immolations, besides, activating the needed ceremonies. He also supervises the management of temple's commercial affairs including lands, farms and cattle.

According to Ameeda Sha'alan, the first known worship of idols in Yemen began around 1000 BC when Yemeni gods were of an astronomical nature. The trinity planetary is as follow; the moon is the father, the sun is the mother and Venus is the son. For each

kingdom, there were basic gods and local ones.

Gods were symbolized by different animals. And deer is the holy symbol that refers to the main god Athtar as he is the building keeper against any kind of damage. The ox is the moon god's symbol which is responsible for watering, life and fertilizing. And the snake is the Weed god's symbol. What is noticeable is that the ox and the deer is the most frequent animal to decorate thrones, buildings and immolations credence. The deer is associated with hunting rituals which was practiced for god's honor for the sake of assuring and guaranteeing the fertility of both human and cattle.

New discoveries in Sada's temple in Al-Jawf give new conceptions and knowledge about the gods' world in this governorate. There are some views carved on one of the temple's poles picturing immolations given to gods. These immolations include the fauna and flora along with two people; one of them is carrying two deer and the second one is presenting an ear. That is believed to be related to the agricultural life the people lived at that time. Both the old east and Alrafidain lowland are known for the same rituals. But no human scarifies are mentioned. Nothing more than devoting somebody to serve there; under a temple or a god's protection through serving the holy place, it is a common behavior even for those who want dreams to come true by serving the god. And sometimes it is a duty to accomplish because of a prior sin. Small statues are meant to be for gods, and most of the time it is of the same person or a holy animal. And there are some paintings found with names carved on; they are the names of people who offer these staff to some gods or temples.

Starting from the second half of the 4th century, the effects of religious teaching start to appear calling for worshiping of one god, as in Christianity and Judaism. In this period, the inscriptions express the idea of having one god, though the pagan and ethnic ideologies were still there in the folk beliefs. The last Sabian inscription related to the first half of the 6th century show them embracing Christians and Jews.

At the end Arwa Othman, the director of Folklore House, illustrated the picture of the ruler in the folkloric fables; one of the valuable verbal heritage as she described. She related a fable of King Al-Dandaki who had supernatural abilities to control and own everything including mankind and whatever he commanded the subjects must obey.

# A Yemeni fable An old man who was better than all youths

Othman related Al-Dandaki fable to paint a picture of the ruler in our minds.

Al-Dandaki was a king who had supernatural abilities. Because his power was believed equal to God's, whenever he commanded, all had to obey and come under his power. Since the ruler had supernatural powers, whenever he commanded, humanity, the mountains and even the forts obeyed.

Al-Janat village, where Al-Dandaki lived, was attached to Selo Mountain. A huge fort called Al-Mansoura overshadowed the village like a huge pair of bird wings. Al-Mansoura Fort was about to fly away when Al-Dandaki asked it to stop, calling out, "Mansoura Fort – stop flying!" It did so, however, its wings opened wide upon the lovely village.

Al-Dandaki once asked the villagers to carry long timbers to Al-Mansoura Fort. The villagers wondered at their king's command, since he knew very well that the fort was located on a high mountain. They were at a loss and faced a dilemma as to whether to obey or disobey because while it was too dangerous to climb the mountain with such long timbers, at the same time, it was too risky to be disobedient.

The villagers began to ponder deeply about the consequences of being disobedient. A good number agreed with a common folk proverb saying, "Obey authority, but don't advocate it." Others decided not to obey the king because he would become used to commanding and having others obey him and then it would become a habit and very difficult to get rid of it. The remainder were concerned about the penalty they may face for disobeying, declaring, "If we disobey, he'll burn our village like Taqm Kabbas village and maim us!"

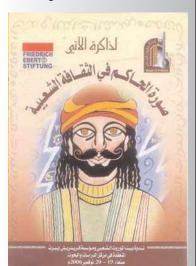
The villagers faced a violent dictator and a mad tyrant who feared no one and cared about nothing. While arguing about what to do, an old man came up with a good solution: "The only thing that can save our lives if we disobey him is to exhibit stupid behavior."

All of the villagers agreed with him, so when the time came to carry the long timbers to Mansoura Fort, the old man asked them to cut the timbers into small pieces and put them in baskets to carry them more easily. Doing so, they consequently carried the timbers up to the fort.

It was a risky action; however, the old man bravely faced the king when asked, "Are those the timbers I asked you to bring?"

"Yes, sir...and they are selective," the old man responded.

"But they're short," the king observed, to which the old man replied, "You have the power to connect them to make them longer."



Al-Dandaki was surprised at such behavior, struggling to believe that they were so stupid. He passed among them, looking at their faces and hoping to read deception and craftiness in their eyes. In order to ascertain whether the villagers were stupid or sane, he prepared a trick to reveal the truth.

He invited them to lunch on a main meal of hulba (a traditional Yemeni dish). However, the king placed 1,000 gold dinars inside the hulba to test their ability to differentiate between dinars and sorrel (some Yemenis add sorrel to hulba).

The old man was sure the king wouldn't believe them immediately, so he exhorted the villagers to beware. "The dinars are but a trick to test us, so take don't take even one gold dinar!" he warned. Therefore, the villagers made themselves appear stupid, raving as they ate, "This hulba is delicious, but it has a lot of sorrel!" When they left, not even one gold dinar was missing.

Al-Dandaki suspected them even more, so he thought of another trick to test them. However, this time was different. He took them to a high mountain summit filled with heavy clouds that made sight impossible.

"What do you think of riding my god's camel, since it walks steadily among the clouds? My god's camel will carry you back to the village so that you won't run into difficulty," he said.

Such a trick would put the villagers to death. It got the better of them, so they were undecided about what to say or do. All of a sudden, the old man jumped from the high mountain to ride the clouds and return to his lovely village.

"An old man is better than all of the youths!" was the last sentence the old man uttered.

The old man's death shocked Al-Dandaki and assured him that he had only stupid people; therefore, he prevented the rest from following their leader.

Stupidity and death sometimes are the only choices for oppressed people to get rid of unfair rules, causing them to disobey commands like Al-Dandaki's.



### National Islam Awareness Week in London Nov. 20-26

In a later period, archeologist found men's statues as gods instead of

London's Royal Geographic Society hosted the Nov. 20 launch of the 13th Islam Awareness Week under the 2006 theme: One World – The Myth of the Clash

On the same day, 20 prominent world leaders submitted the Alliance of Civilizations report to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan in Istanbul. The report dismissed the notion that a clash of civilizations is inevitable, but noted that swift action is needed, arguing that the need to build bridges never has been greater.

One key contributor to the report, John Esposito, professor of International Affairs and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University in the United States, flew in from Istanbul to deliver the launch's keynote speech entitled, "The Myth of the Clash, exploring humanity's common thread that binds people together.

"Our message is that the things we have in common are much more significant than our differences, whether those differences are real or in our minds. Talk of a great clash is the talk of mongers, but we mustn't stand still and just watch either," says Julie Siddiqi, the national coordinator of Islam Awareness Week.

"The time is right now, so that's why we're taking our message as far and wide as we can to more towns and people than ever and to every MP in the country. The clash is imaginary, but our one world isn't. We have to come

together and own the concerns and problems in our world," she added.

Islam Awareness Week witnessed a range of local activities across Britain, highlighting the many values bringing us together: truth, justice and equality, as well as freedom, dignity and respect

A commissioned exhibition promoting the "One World" message was displayed at events and schools. Popular Canadian Muslim folksinger Daoud Wharnsby also gave a special performance at the launch.

# The role of research in expanding Yemeni transcription

SANA'A, Nov. 21 — Al-Afif Cultural Foundation recently held a lecture entitled, "Academic research and its

role in expanding Yemeni transcription."

Speaker Amat Al-Malik Al-Thur, assistant history professor at Sana'a University's Faculty of Art, mentioned the major role researchers have in bringing forth entire contents of transcription from real events, characters and numerous social affairs, but such transforming must be based on objectivity, validity and accuracy.

Al-Thur explained the role of transcription as drawing a map of Yemeni political, social and economical life. Such a map can be a historical resource for new researchers to study all aspects of economic, political, social, cultural and intellectual fields. Further, it plays a significant role in terms of discovering and protecting Yemen's heritage.





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# LANDERUISER



# Dr. Yassin Al-Qubati:

# Modern medicine isn't regulated, let alone alternative medicine

By: Salem Al-Majeedi

e's a doctor different from all others. He's a warrior, but on the medical front rather than the battlefield, having fought and defeated leprosy through his personal efforts.

He has represented Yemen at numerous international medical conferences and received both national and international honors and awards in return for his efforts and distinction.

He's Dr. Yassin Abdulaleem Al-Qubati, one of Yemen's most famous dermatologists. Our dialogue at his clinic yielded good news for dermatology patients, as can be seen in the following:

How did it happen that Yemen, specifically Taiz, was selected from among many famous Arab towns to host the Arab dermatologists conference?

Yemen has been an active member in the Arab Dermatologists Association since it was formed in 1983. The association is for all Arab doctorate and master's degree holders in dermatology and skin-related diseases. It launched its activities in Damascus in 1982 and held its second meeting in Amman in 1986. I've been a member of its administrative board up until now.

### There are no constraints on modern medicine, so how can we speak about alternative medicine?

So far, the association has held nine conferences, the last of which was in Morocco. At that time, I took brochures of Taiz. Many Arab towns applied to host the conference; nonetheless, Taiz won the competition.

What's new in dermatology is hair transplants, liposuction, fat injections, facelifts and other cosmetic surgeries employing modern techniques. The aim is to help Arab dermatologists cope with new techniques in the field worldwide. For the first time in Yemen, there have been leprosy surgeries involving transferring cells from black spots to

### What are Yemen's most common skin diseases and have some diseases started fading away?

The most common skin diseases involve allergies, which are the body's reaction to anything entering it. The immune system reacts violently to this foreign thing, thereby leading to psychological and physical damage inflicted upon the via extracting substances that cause itching. Scratching causes more



Dr. Yassin Abdulaleem Al-Qubati

histamine to excrete and increases the itchiness. Further, there are diseases like leprosy, scabies and psoriasis in Yemen; however, diseases like leprosy and scabies have begun waning.

### Do you think psychological and genetic factors play a role in the spread of skin diseases?

Genetic factors undoubtedly play an important role because skin diseases transfer from parents to their children. Continuous sun exposure is another

### Are there statistics about the number of skin disease patients in Yemen?

Unfortunately, we've been asking the Ministry of Health for a long time to establish a database for all skin-afflicted patients, as is the case throughout the world, but it's been in vain because they only excel at speaking.

### What role does the environment play in increasing or decreasing skin

As for the natural environment, we have a very beautiful environment, but the problem exists within the society itself. Backwardness is still dominating and it seems we are content with it and we need not to look for the better. The citizen is the cause of environmental problems he lacks in environmental

For the first time, there have been leprosy surgeries in Yemen.

### Do certain foodstuffs cause skin diseases and if so, what are they?

Not all foodstuffs cause skin diseases. For example, certain foods like bananas, mangos, carrots, eggs or milk may aggravate an allergic person; however, we shouldn't randomly prevent people from eating certain foods because a

patient may avoid all of them and still suffer allergies. Everyone should observe his or her eating habits carefully in order to know what items cause allergies and then avoid them.

You've been running the National Program to Fight Leprosy in Al-Noor city (for lepers) for more than 20 years and at a time when lepers were outcasts. How do you see public awareness and views about this disease today?

Mother Teresa initiated this program in Yemen in 1974, but it was so limited then. Citizens' view of leprosy was distorted, so patients were isolated in special locations. The same view was dominant worldwide as lepers were isolated on islands or in churches because there was no medicine for them at that time.

The program's organized work began

### I advise all colleagues to treat their patients honestly because they can profit more via such treatment.

in 1989, as prior to this date, it was only by personal efforts. Between 1982 and 1988, I sought support from international charitable organizations because governments didn't provide any support for lepers. Leprosy wasn't so common and further, it wasn't considered a fatal disease.

I found a German charitable society specialized in combating leprosy, which has been providing support until now. Moreover, we've received support from the World Health Organization and the Yemeni Society to Eliminate Tuberculosis and Leprosy.

### What causes leprosy and what are its

Leprosy is caused by a special type of bacteria and its symptoms include loss of sensitivity in a small area of skin, but without itchiness. Unless otherwise listed, any spot colored differently than skin color is leprosy.

### Some skin diseases like psoriasis aren't infectious; however, they require lengthy treatment. What's new in this regard?

Leprosy involving loss of the skin's black color isn't infectious and there are many medicines for it. Treating it is a bit difficult; however, there are special operations for leprosy, some of which were performed during the Taiz conference, involving transferring chromosomal cells from the body to the affected areas



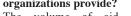
In principle, there's no rug to be removed. Modern medicine itself isn't governed by medical laws. Further, there are no Ministry of Health regulations to determine who's a specialist and who isn't. Some may put up a sign to be an abdominal, surgical or heart specialist and no one prevents them from doing so. There's no control over laboratories, pharmacies or X-ray departments, nor any quality control.

under modern medicine because

patients no longer trust the latter?

Moreover, a license issued in Taiz in different than a license issued in Sana'a or Aden. What can we say about alternative medicine when there are no regulations for modern medicine? Now anyone can practice sorcery in the name of herbal medicine, but there should be regulations and laws to prevent exploiting citizens.

How do you assess the volume of governments



The volume of aid granted by international organizations is too low. Some organizations provide more aid to developed countries other than Yemen because we're unable to specify our demands in order to express them to such organizations.

I advised the Ministry of Health to establish an information database; however, they haven't listened to me.

### What's your evaluation of the Ministry of Health's role, as the party responsible for public health?

All hope is pinned on the present Minister of Health, Dr. Abdulkarim Rasa'. Yemeni health care witnessed no improvement at the hands of former ministers of health, except under Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Kabab and Dr. Abdullah Nasher.

You've received many appreciation international and honorary awards and prizes from love and respect.

### national, Arab and international parties in recognition of your efforts. What do these mean to you?

What do they mean to me?! They mean many efforts, sleeplessness and exhaustion, as well as more hard work until life comes to an end.

### What's your advice for dermatology patients?

I'd like to tell patients not to worry about skin diseases because they're visible, as opposed to internal diseases, which can't be seen. Dermatological diseases can be treated and some may disappear without medication.

### Any final comments? My final words are directed at my

colleagues. I exhort them to exert further efforts to acquire more knowledge and catch up with new discoveries in the medical field. Further, I ask them to deal honestly with people, particularly their patients, because with honesty, they can profit more, whether materially or spiritually, by acting within the public's





# Global warming is a grave threat

By: Imran Khan mimraan.khaan@gmail.com

enya recently hosted the Nov. 6-17, 2006 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNCCC), wherein the main issue was global warming, its impacts on the world and how to battle it.

"Global warming" is a term used to describe climate change caused by human influences, which results in raising the earth's average temperature. Global warming not only is associated with warming the earth, but also is a climate change that could cause it to be hotter or colder than normal. Global warming is caused partly by greenhouse gas emissions produced by deforestation and burning fossil fuels. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, hydro fluorocarbons, per fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride.

Today's atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are the highest in 650,000 years, as the earth's temperature has climbed 1 degree Fahrenheit (0.6 degrees Celsius) over the past century. Thus, global warming is leading toward serious destruction of the earth.

Finally realizing this, world leaders agreed to reduce greenhouse gas affects while meeting in Kyoto, Japan's ancient capital, in 1997. Named the "Kyoto Protocol," the deal pledged industrialized nations to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 5 percent by 2012, with each country having its own target according to pollution.

However, the treaty could come into force only if ratified by countries accounting for at least 55 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. It took seven years to fulfill the requirement as Russia finally ratified it in 2004.

The world's largest polluting nations for carbon dioxide emissions are: the United States - 24 percent, Europe -14 percent, China – 13 percent, Russia - 6.2 percent, Japan - 5 percent and India – 3.2 percent.

The biggest problem is that the U.S. - by far the world's most polluting country - pulled out of the treaty in 2001 saying that implementing the Kyoto Protocol would damage its economy severely. Because China and India are developing countries, they aren't bound by any targets, which means three of the six largest polluting countries are out of the treaty. Australia is the only other industrialized nation that also hasn't ratified the Kyoto Protocol.

A few scientists still don't believe that humans have caused global warming, saying it's a natural phenomenon. However, in examining the hottest years in history, 10 have been recorded since 1983 and seven after 1990. A

summer 2003 heat wave in Europe killed more than 25,000 people, while 2005 was the second warmest year on record behind 1998.

Malaria, which kills more than a million people annually, is spreading to higher altitudes due to higher temperatures. The Sahara Desert is expanding, thus turning farmland into deserts. There are regular droughts, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, reductions in the ozone layer and the list goes on.

Such events must serve as an eyeopener to all. Whether one believes in global warming or not, it's absolutely clear that something very bad is happening on the earth. Scientists say that if we don't reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the next 10 years, the world will be damaged very badly, which hasn't happened in millions of years. While not affecting any single country, the whole world will face very dangerous consequences.

Thousands of environmental experts (including government officials and activist groups) gather annually for a conference on how to fight global warming. The 2005 meeting was in Montreal, Canada. Such meetings are useful and provide a good platform to discuss issues in more depth as delegates from 189 countries present new and better ideas.

The outcome of these meetings so

far isn't what the United Nations had hoped, as Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed in an address: "While the Kyoto Protocol is a crucial step forward, that step is far too small. As we consider how to go further still, there remains a frightening lack of leadership." He added, "Climate change also is a threat to peace and security.

If global warming is such a big threat to the world and someone at such a top level in an organization which represents the whole world can say something like that, then it clearly shows lack of action. The reason could be that either nations don't take the global warming threat very seriously or they remain far from thinking that global protection is their first priority.

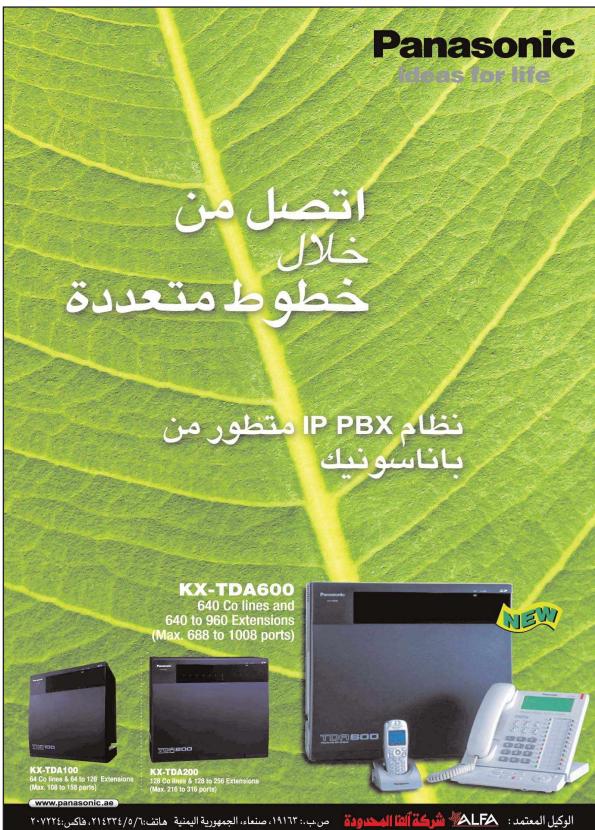
Another thing is that, unfortunately, countries like the U.S., which don't consider the Kyoto Protocol the best solution, in as many years still haven't produced any alternative or better solution. Therefore, it makes sense to follow the Kyoto Protocol because it's the best possible solution at hand.

The world still has time to heal the earth's wounds but swift action is required. While the economy of any nation is very important, the world's future is even more so. Some risks must be taken for the betterment of all humanity; it certainly requires thinking big and outside the boundaries.



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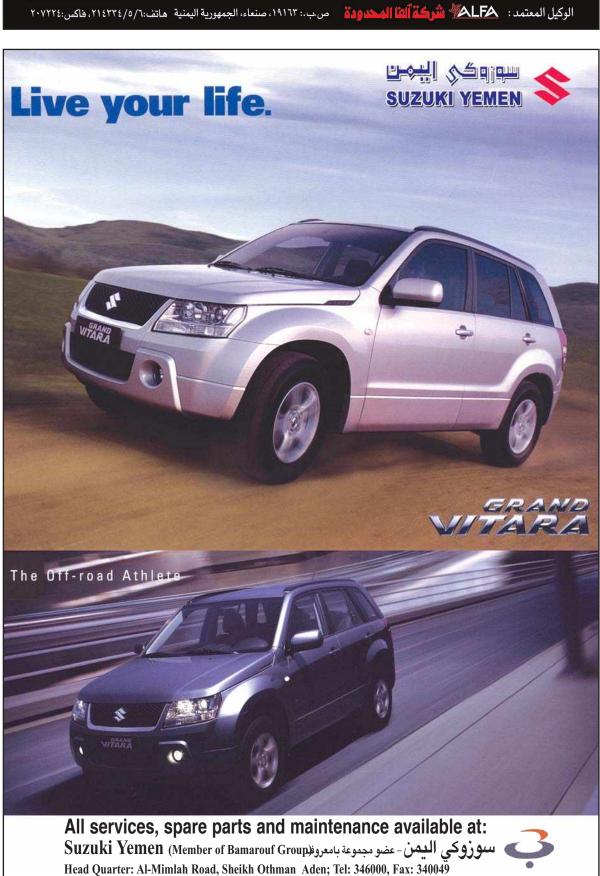


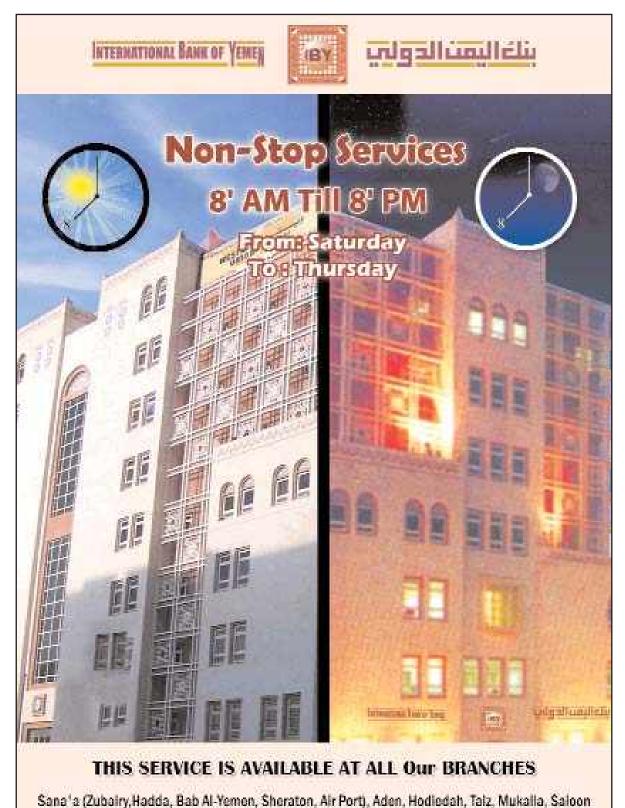
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# Qat keeps athletes at home

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

SANA'A, Nov. 25 — Many Yemeni athletes will not be competing in the Asian Olympic Games and most notably the football team is staying

The Yemen Football Federation decided to excuse the Olympic team from participating in the upcoming Asian Olympic Games in the Qatari capital of Doha.

The decision came after Olympics officials in Doha banned Yemeni athletes from participating in the event after the medical check-ups revealed some chew qat, considered a performance-enhancing drug prohibited by the International Olympic Committee.

The National Olympic Committee says there are not enough facilities to conduct check-ups on all the athletes to examine whether they chewed qat during the preparation period.

The committee says athletes must

undergo drug testing and it includes tests for qat.

"Fear of qat effects is the primary reason behind excluding Yemeni athletes from participating in the Asian Olympic Games," said Mohamed Al-Ahjiri, Olympic committee secretary general. "The International Olympic Committee labels qat among the prohibited stimulants and imposes sanctions on consumers of this substance."

The football federation's decision to excuse its athletes from participating in the Doha games enraged sport fans nationwide. Fans and critics held the Ministry of Youth, the National Olympic Committee, and the football federation accountable for denying Yemen the right to take part in the Asian Olympic Games.

The sport critics said authorities have to be serious in dealing with the problem of qat, which hinders the country from international sport participations. They said the problem

is persistent and is responsible for Yemeni athlete's failure to participate in other international events.

Observers believed the current highprofile of the issue will lead to firm procedures to deal with qat use among athletes. By doing so, the Yemeni football and participation in international competitions can improve.

The minister of Youth and Sports, Abdurrahman Al-Akwa'a, met the Yemen Football Federation Head and National Olympic Committee Secretary General and discussed with subjects related to qat chewing and Yemen's exclusion from the Doha

Al-Akwa'a blamed the football federation for the issue since the Olympic committee told it to prevent footballers from chewing qat. However, the football federation said there was no contact or correspondence between his federation and the Olympic committee.

# Yemen prepares for Arab Cup

SANA'A, Nov. 25 - The football tion to play in Group A of the Arab Cup. current formation in Aden before the team's new coach, Mohamed Saleh, created the preliminary formation for the national football team. Saleh narrowed down the group to 38 players from which he'll select the main forma-

Yemen is hosting the games for Group A and all matches will take place in Sana'a.

The national team is scheduled to start an internal training camp with the

team shifts to Sana'a for two practice matches. Those final friendly matches will lead the new coach to his decisions for the main formation to play in the

# **Covering disqualifies** women from judo

SANA'A, Nov 25 — The General Federation for Women Sports prevented Yemeni women from participating in the Sharm Al-Sheikh judo competitions that began on Nov. 24 because they wear hijabs.

The athletes were asked to take off their scarves by the organizing

was jointly organized by both federations of women sports in Yemen and Egypt.

"The Islamic hijab, which female athletes wear during the games, led the International Judo Federation to ban Yemeni athletes from participating in the event," said Nadhmia Abdussalam, The competition, taking place in the Head of the General Federation for

Egyptian city of Sharm Al-Sheikh, Women Sports. "We contacted with the head of the referees committee, who clarified that the hijab is banned under the International Judo Federation's bylaw.'

Abdussalam said Yemeni women wouldn't compete without wearing the hijab and banning them from competing was the only option for the federation

# Rose breaks drought with Australian Masters title

By: Miles Evans

MELBOURNE (Reuters) - Britain's Justin Rose won his first European Tour event for four years with a two-shot triumph in the Australian Masters at Huntingdale on Sunday.

The 26-year-old Englishman broke a title drought dating back to the 2002 British Masters by firing a final round one-over 73 to finish on 12-under-par 276, two ahead of Australia's Richard Green and Greg Chalmers in the event co-sanctioned with the Australasian Tour.

"I can't believe it's been four years," the world number 69, who became the first overseas winner of the title since Scotland's Colin Montgomerie in 2001, told reporters.

"It's been a big week confidence wise for me. I've had a few close calls this season but to win a tournament like this is great for my confidence.'

Green and Chalmers finished on 10-

under, one ahead of Australian amateur Aaron Pike and two clear of compatriot Aaron Baddeley, who was on his own in fifth after a closing 71.

Rose, who led overnight by two, reached the sixth quietly at one-under for the day at 14-under when disaster

His tee shot found the sand and his second squirted off the face of the trap into an unplayable lie in the bushes. He chipped out before finding the back of the green and three-putting.

He shook off the disappointment straight away with a birdie at the eighth before reaching the turn in one-over 37.

He was joined in the lead by Pike on 11-under when the burly Aussie holed his bunker shot for eagle at the par-five 14th, but birdies at 14 and 16 gave Rose breathing space.

He took an iron for safety at the 18th but found trouble on the right but a brilliant recovery allowed the Briton to par and secure his third European Tour title.

Green, the 2004 champion, had surged through the pack as the gusting wind and quickening greens made life difficult on the course in Melbourne's southern suburbs.CLUBHOUSE TAR-

He fired a rare bogey-free 69 to set the clubhouse target as Rose and Pike battled for the advantage.

Pike's eagle at the 14th brought him back into it but he finished bogey-bogey, the latter after his 50-foot putt for birdie trickled into a greenside bunker, as the 21-year-old amateur secured an admirable fourth.

Chalmers would have got closer to Rose but for his own nightmare at the par-four ninth, when he five putted -four from less than six feet -- for triple

The challenge of England's Paul Casey, who started the day five behind Rose, collapsed after opening with a double-bogey six before completing a five-over-par 77 to finish on three under.

# **Bolton 3-1 Arsenal**

Arsenal's poor record at Bolton continued as a brace from Nicolas Anelka

helped consign them to defeat. Abdoulaye Faye headed Bolton ahead before team-mate Kevin Davies escaped a red card for pushing Emmanuel

By: Mandeep Sanghera

Anelka powered in a 25-yard screamer against his ex-club, who then pulled one back with a Gilberto Silva header.

Arsenal hit the woodwork three times in the course of the second half but their hopes were ended when Anelka raced clear and clinically angled in a shot.

Arsenal had promised to be more of a match for Bolton's physical approach ahead of the game following their recent struggles to combat the power of the Reebok Stadium side.

The visitors made a promising start as they seemed ready to back up their claims.

Theo Walcott's pace on the right-wing unsettled the Bolton backline and Cesc Fabregas crossed for Emmanuel Adebayor, who could only shoot straight at keeper Jussi Jaaskelainen after failing to make proper contact from six yards

But Faye was allowed to make a run to the near post and head the home side into the lead from El-Hadji Diouf's corner as Bolton quickly asserted a stranglehold on the game.

In a familiar scenario between these two sides, Arsenal were being denied space and time while Bolton's main threat came from set-pieces.

The match developed into a fractious affair and Davies was fortunate to escape being sent off.

He followed up a rash challenge on Eboue with a push when the Arsenal right-back squared up to him to complain about the tackle

Jaaskelainen twice beat Adebayor to the ball as Arsenal attempted to level but Bolton had rattled their opponents and carried the greater threat as they matched their hard-working game with a quality that is sometimes overlooked.

Diouf was Arsenal's chief tormentor and, after Quinton Fortune limped off injured for the hosts, Bolton extended their lead in an action-packed end to the first-half.

Anelka picked up the ball with his back to goal just outside the corner of the area before turning and powering in a stunning strike past stranded keeper Jens Lehmann.

Almost immediately, Silva headed in a corner at the other end to give Arsenal hope of a comeback.

The Gunners started the second half with a strong sense of determination as their stylish football began to have an effect.

Fabregas had a 20-yard shot scrambled away by Jaaskelainen before Walcott burst clear on the right and found Ljungberg with his cross.

The Swede stooped to head home only to see his effort crash off the cross-Bolton were still a danger on the

counter-attack and Anelka had an effort scrambled to safety off the post by Lehmann before adding his second.

The French striker ran on to a slide rule Ivan Campo pass and finished with aplomb, despite a suspicion of offside about the goal, to all-but secure Bolton's fourth home win in five games against the Gunners.

Adebayor and Fabregas struck the woodwork as Arsenal continued to battle on but their efforts proved to be in vain.

# Vacancy

Improved Education Especially for Women and Girls (EQUIP1 Yemen), a USAID funded project working in the field of Basic Educational Development has the following position opening for Yemeni candidates only:

### **Educational Management** and Information Systems Coordinator

She/he will be responsible for the following:

- Overall support and coordination of the educational management and information systems (EMIS) component of the project
  - Liaising technical assistance between and among project staff, as well as with the Ministry of Education staff, partners from other supporting organizations, and vendors
- Supervising full-time staff and short-term consultants for the EMIS component Facilitating the implementation of and monitoring component activities
- Reporting on component activities in project documents
- Technical assistance for specific EMIS activities
- Improving access to and use of school records among school, district (DOE), and governorate (GOE) administrators
- Enhancing quality control for the collection and analysis of school data
- Training staff in governorate office of education in data analysis and interpretation
- Helping to develop data reporting formats to inform decision-making at different levels of the educational system
- Training educational planners and policy-makers at the central, governorate, and district levels in the use of information for decision-making

### **Qualifications required:**

- Minimum of a masters degree in education, public administration, statistics, information communication technology, or a related field
- Minimum of seven years working in projects related to the management of large data systems Working knowledge of computer technologies, particularly the functioning of relational database systems, local area network systems, and statistical software packages
- Experience working with government ministries, non-governmental organizations, or donor
- Experience in conducting rapid appraisals, generating and interpreting statistical analysis, and facilitating workshops Excellent writing and oral communication skills, including good written and spoken English

All interested candidates are urged to send their CV's with supporting documents of experience to the following address:

**Attn: EMIS Coordinator** Fax: +9671 304109 P.O Box 22377 Sana'a - Yemen

(Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.)

# Vacancy

Improved Education Especially for Women and Girls (EQUIP1 Yemen), a USAID funded project working in the field of Basic Educational Development has the following position opening for Yemeni candidates only:

# **Computer Database Specialist**

She/he will be responsible for the following:

- Supporting governorate offices of education (GOEs) in identifying linkages among existing databases
- Identifying an appropriate platform for integrating disparate data sources
- Developing procedures for integrating data to conduct analysis using disparate data sources
- Advising in the procurement of software to support a user interface for integrated data systems
- Developing a user interface for data analysis
- Developing formats for the auto-generation of statistical and map-based reports for planners and policy-makers at different levels of the educational system
- Conducting workshops for database administrators, data analysts, and educational planners and policy-makers about the maintenance and use of the analysis system
- Monitoring the use of the integrated database system and supporting the development of a more comprehensive longer-term educational management and information system

### **Qualifications required:**

- Minimum of a masters degree in computer engineering or a related field
- Minimum of seven years experience in programming large-scale relational database systems
- Advanced proficiency in the use of complex database development software using systems such as SQL server and Oracle
- Experience developing internet-based interfaces for database systems a plus
- Experience in training users to generate statistical reports and using information for decision-
- Experience working with government ministries, non-governmental organizations, or donor organizations a plus
- Good writing and oral communication skills, including working knowledge of English

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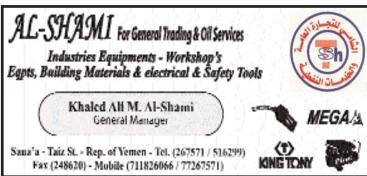


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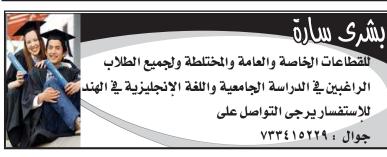
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Hodeidah:219643, Ibb:406882 Indian Restaurant (home delivery available) Contact: Mr. Sunny Joseph Chilli House Rest, for brost, Cabab etc 7356807

Rainbow Pre-School 414-026/424-433 International Turkish Schools

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Ienshams Modern school 671275, 671140 Supermarket

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### **Translations** Urwa Wautqa Int. Auth. Trans. Arabic-English-French

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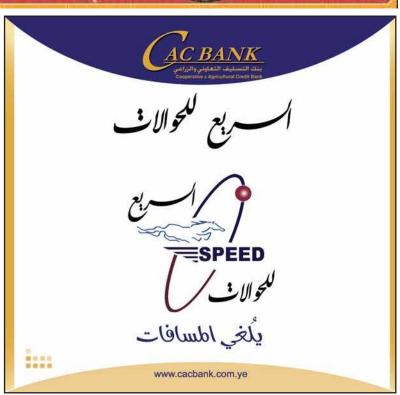
Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper.

# The first stationary in Yemen opens the first-largest shopping center

# The people who make it happen



Founded in 1990, the first edition of the Yemen Times newspaper came out on February 28, 1991. It was Yemen's first English language newspaper, and continues to be the country's only English newspaper. The paper pursues vigorously information gathering, and therefore, has offices and stringers all over the country. It supports press freedom, respect for human rights, political pluralism and democracy. It promotes Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and other forms of civil society organizations. At the economic front, it supports liberalization and open interaction with other nations. As its publisher and chief editor, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, says, "We use the Yemen Times to make Yemen a good world citizen." Given its visible contribution, the Yemen Times in general, and its editor in particular, were awarded the NPC's International Award for Freedom of the Press for 1995. As the only source of current information on Yemen in English, the newspaper serves as a vital contact point for foreigners interested in Yemen. And these are the people that make it happen today.





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### Some of the important awards acclaimed by Yemen Times



IPI Media Pioneer was awarded to the Yemen Times for its distinguished coverage and bravery especially in human rights and democracy issues. The International Press Institute handed Award in February



Al-Saqqaf established the Yemen Times, unimost widely-read **English-language** independent newspaper, in 1991, and was the winner of the N.P.C.'s International Award for Freedom of the Press for 1995. He was awarded this because of his report-1994 among other



ate Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf won the Middle East Publishing Conference Lifetime which was handed over to his son Walid Al-Saggaf in an official ceremony in Dubai. The awarding event was part of the second annual regional Middle East conference ocusing on magazine. newspaper and online publishing held in Dubai during 5-6 March.



