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## At least 14 persons injured in overall successful elections

# Opposition gains ground

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANAA, April 28 - Initial results coming out from polling centers of the nationwide parliamentary elections held on April 27 suggest a significant increase in the number of seats to be won by the opposition parties com-

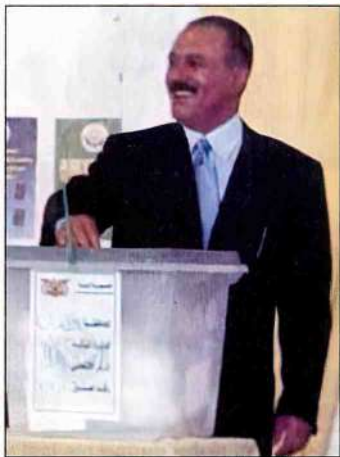
pared to the elections in 1997. As votes were still being counted at the time of going to the press, the opposition bloc led by Islah, the Yemeni Socialist Party, and the Nasserite Party, has shown progress on many fronts. Islah seems to have made a big surprise in winning around half of the seats of Sanaa's capital secretariat, while gaining many seats in Hadramout, Ibb, Dhamar, Mareb, Amran, and other governorates than earlier elections. "We feel that triumph is coming our way," said a leading Islah figure.

According to Islah sources, the party was able to snatch five seats in Hadramout, seven in Ibb, three in Dhamar, two in Amran, two in Aden, nine in Sanaa City, one in

Sanaa governorate. While the YSP was able to gain six seats overall and two were gained by the Nasserite Party, and the numbers were still rising. This indicates that the possibility of forming a coalition government is also gaining momentum. Opposition's share of seats is expected to increase even though official results are expected to be announced soon.

Unless the GPC gets a comfortable majority in the parliament like it did in the 1997 elections, the new Yemeni government will probably be a coalition government including representatives for at least one opposition party, most likely the Islah.

Up-to-date results can be found on at (yementimes.com).



President Ali Abdullah Saleh voting on April 27

The Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum

(SCER) had announced 14 casualties because of violence throughout the country. One person was reported dead and others injured in the governorate of Amran's polling center (283), however, the SCER had denied this report. The other reported incidents were as follows: five injuries in Dhamar's centers (203) and (205), two in Hajja's center (246), one in Ibb's center (114), and one in Mareb's center (278).

On the other hand, there were reports of some angry voters in Sharaab district in the governorate of Taiz damaged and set fire to a number of ballot boxes in centers (36) and (37) because of insecurity and due to claimed attempted fraud. *Cont'd on P3*

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Would the president instruct the investigation of the underage voting violations?

## Children voters



Boys as young as 7 years old waiting to vote in Amran, April 27. Photo by Saddam Al-Ashmoori

By SADDAM AL-ASHMOORI  
YT AMRAN CORRESPONDENT

In a time international observers and election monitors have been busy monitoring elections in main cities, outrageous violations did occur in large numbers in remote areas. As can be seen in the photo, tens of voters of ineligible age were given election cards and allowed to vote not only once, but multiple times on Sunday.

Children between 7 and 15

years old were forming long queues at the polling center (290) in Ashmoor district in Amran governorate. The violations seemed to be taking place with the collaboration of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) as many security men and official representatives of the SCER allowed this to take place.

When one of the citizens in the area demanded this mockery to stop, he was silenced and taken away by tribesmen in the area.

Those children were given their election cards just before elections started perhaps as a precautionary measure not to be discovered before elections. All those students were threatened that they would be punished severely by their teachers if they did not show up to vote for the ruling party (GPC). Absent students were replaced by others who were allowed to vote sometimes twice. There were two types of ink to mark the voters' fingers. The type of ink used for

those children was easily removable so as to allow multiple votes to occur.

Officials in the center refused to comment on those violations and demanded that those practices not be published in the press.

It is hoped that those violations along with others that took place in remote areas in the country be investigated by the authorities and hope those responsible in the SCER be accountable.

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Marib Governorate...

New projects launched

By MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The US Ambassador to Yemen Edmund Hull held a press conference at Balqaes Hotel in Marib on April 20 in which he reviewed the American assistance being offered to the Yemeni people at the present time.

He said that the US specialized sides would in future draw up studies for implementation of a number of projects particularly in the field of marketing agricultural products.

At the health level, Mr. Hull indicated that his country had allotted \$ 5.3 million to furnish and equip the New Presidential Hospital in Marib.

It is to be mentioned that the 200-bed Presidential Hospital in Marib, expected to be officially inaugurated at the end of

2003, is built at a cost of more than YR 500 million funded by the oil companies operating in the governorate in compensation of the citizens for detrimental environmental damage caused by the burning of oil and gas in their governorate.

On the Yemeni-US security cooperation, the US ambassador said we believe Yemen was able individually to shoulder its security responsibility and that tangible results have been indeed felt by the American side.

As for the US interest in Marib governorate in particular, Mr. Hull said that after his coming to Yemen a year and a half ago he had become convinced of the relationship between development and security and that there could not be a development without security and no security without development.



US Ambassador (second from right) during his last visit to Marib along with officials and sheikhs in Marib

suspects of the USS Cole explosion are three and the other 7 are al-Qaeda suspects, hoping that they would be brought to court to be tried and judged.

Terrorism, according to the US ambassador has caused a lot of damage for Yemen, particularly economically and politically.

On his part, Mr. Abdullah Ali Annasi the governor of Marib acquainted the ambassador with the difficulties faced in the governorate such as its lacking of a factory for canning agricultural products and absence of investments in exporting marble of Marib.

An agreement on establishment of a \$ 100,000 worth agricultural experimental project was signed on the same day by Marib governor and the ambassador as part of the US Development projects program.

number of tourist and historical sites accompanied by Director of Projects and Development Saeed Abduh Ahmed, Agriculture Ministry representative, and the US development project coordinator.

In conclusion of his tour of Marib, the ambassador visited the Agricultural Research Station and got acquainted with its role in conducting agricultural research and development and improvement of seeds, promising to offer help in this field.

Readers' Voice

Yemen Times is reintroducing a popular feature "Readers' Voice" - formerly known as YT Opinion Poll.

This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will any involvement of the Islah party in a new Yemeni government benefit the country?

- Yes, it will lead to better performance by the government.
• No, it will have no difference.
• No, it will lead to worse performance by the government.
• I do not know.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

What do you expect as a result of the upcoming elections on April 27?

- A surprise will take place and Islah party will get much more seats than expected. 36.6%
• Total domination by the ruling party, which will increase its seats in parliament. 28.3%
• The results will be relatively similar to those of 1997's elections. 18.5%
• Let's just wait and see! 16.4%

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

Trial of 12 Islamist fanatics to continue Wednesday:

Jarallah's assassin faced with charges

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The court of Sana'a decided Saturday to hold the fourth session of the trial of the assassin of Jarallah Omar and other 11 defendants next Wednesday, while journalists were denied access to the court hall, except the journalists of the government-run media.

During the hearing, the prosecutors, Saeed al-Akel faced Ali Ahmad Jarallah, assassin of Jarallah Omar and other defendants with their charges.

according to law, they should not be tried. However, advocate Hussein Ali Nasr told the Yemen Times that he was not allowed to talk to two of his clients; their relatives also complained they could not see their prisoners.

The trial of Abed al-Kamil, killer of three US doctors in Jiblah, Ibb, started April 20th simultaneously with the trial of Ali Jarallah in Sana'a.

While the murderer of the US doctors confessed his crime, his friend refused to comment on the charges of the prosecution that he killed the Yemeni Socialist Party Assistant Secretary General while participating in the inaugural ceremony of the Islah party December 28, 2002.



Ali Jarallah

the missionaries and his friend and others would kill the secular-minded politicians and intellectuals. The court judge in Jiblah, Abdulraheeb al-Nabhani appointed an advocate for the defendant and postponed the next hearing till next Wednesday.

After hearing the charges of killing Jarallah Omar and attempting to kill Saeed Shmasan of Islah and setting up

an armed gang to kill the so-called secular-minded politicians and intellectuals, Ali Jarallah in the first two hearings refused to comment and demand that he should have the right in having an advocate, appointed by him after coordination with his relatives.

might reveal many secrets behind the assassination and take more time.

The family of Jarallah Omar refused to attend the trial as the socialist and other opposition parties denounced the trial and said it was an electoral propaganda and that the investigation into the assassination has not yet completed; they accused the government to trying to bury the compliance behind this political crime.

In the second hearing of the trial of Ali Jarallah, the court presented 11 other suspects, most of them being

school and university students. They were charged with being members of this gang that was planning to carry out terrorist operations against a number of people. However, they strongly denied such charges and some of them said they did not know Ali Jarallah.

- 1- Maymoun Mojahid al-Sihdad (17)
2- Hisham al-Sane'a(29)
3- Yahya Naser Malik(27)
4- Mohammed Lutuf Amer(21)
5- Naser Ali Ahmad Hamza(30)
6- Ahmad Ali Hussein(20)
7- Abdulkareem Ali Al-Qaefi(20)
8- Mohammed Yahia Saleh Allwan(25)
9- Lutf Mohammed Al-Hanbasy(20)
10- Nabeel Ali Hussein(17)
11- Mohammed Ahmad al-Nihmi(18)

Al-Moatasem School celebrates Teacher's Day

By AKRAM AL-SAQQAF YEMEN TIMES STAFF

On the occasion of the teacher's day, an honoring ceremony was organized by the al-Moatasem School in Sana'a on April 23.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Mohammed Dawaid, the Alwafa Charitable Association Chairman, Mr. Hamed Ahmed Faraj, the 10 Constituency Chairman, Mr. Nabeel Hael Saeed Ana'am, Mr. Zaid Ashatebi, the Educational Unit Zone Director, Mr. Abdulaziz al-Kumaim, the Education Syndicate Chairman, Dr. Mohammed Assayani, the Alwafa Charitable Association Secretary-General, Mr. Abdullah Ashawoosh, the GPC member of the Permanent Committee and a number local council members.

Students desks, school water network and leveling the school yard are among of the main services rendered



Attendees during Teacher's Day celebration

Arab finance ministers meet in Dhabi

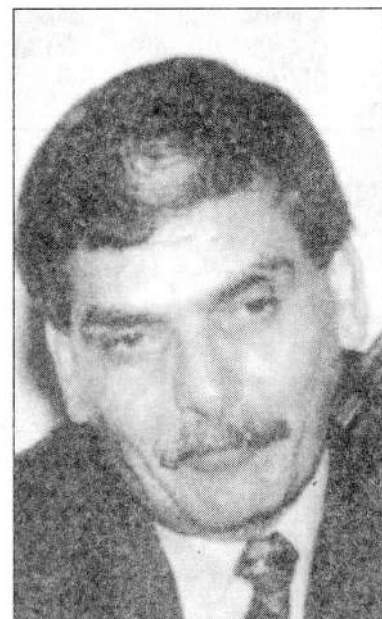
By MOHAMMED AL-MASANI YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni delegation presided by the Mr. Alawi Saleh Assalami, the finance minister, and a host of Yemeni officials represented different Yemeni institutions attended the Arab Monetary Institutions meetings for the Arab finance and commerce ministries held in Dhabi on April 23.

The meeting was attended by Arab Monetary Fund governors for social and economic development, the Arab Bank council, Arab shareholders corporation for agriculture and investment development.

Last year annual reports were discussed and reviewed along with concentrating on the coming fiscal year. The Yemeni delegation in its joint meeting with the Arab counterparts reviewed the policy of integrating foreign trade within the development programs and plans in the Arab countries.

It is expected that three sessions are to be held during the joint Arab meeting which is to be sponsored by the Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashed Aal Maktoom, the Dhabi Deputy Ruler, and the UAE finance minister.



Mr. Alawi Saleh Assalami

Those sessions will focus on reviewing international and regional issues in the context of the Arab capability of building trade and development.

Alarabia Satellite Channel to focus on Yemen: "Latest Edition" on Alarabia TV

Alarabia Satellite Channel revealed to Yemen Times that its new daily program entitled "Latest Edition" will start broadcasting soon and will give great emphasis on the voices coming from Yemen.

The program will be produced by produced by Dr. Abdelfattah Toukan the well known television star who worked previously for Dubai TV, Jordan TV, PBC Palestine. The program will also be co-produced by Osama Mustafa who worked for Abu Dhabi TV, Sudan TV and Ajman TV.



Dr. Abdelfattah Toukan

Nakhle Alhaj, Head of current affairs at MBC & Alarabia will shadow the program, while Toukan will present it.

The program will provide excerpts from headlines and editorials of several newspapers from Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan,

USA, UK, and many other countries. "Our program will be aired 11.30 GMT daily for half an hour and will talk about newspapers from all corners of the world before going to print and will host chief editors and famous article writers." Dr. Toukan told Yemen Times.

Continued from page 1

## Coalition government?

This comes after millions of people took to the polling centers yesterday to vote for their representatives in the next parliament made up of 301 seats. There were 1,396 nominees, 405 independents and 11 women, competing to win the election which is the third of its kind since the Yemeni unification in May 1990. Participation was reported at more than 75% as voters were seen flowing to the voting centers since the early morning and showed great interest in taking part in it. Voting was extended until 8 last night to give chance for all voters to participate. The election was run amid heated competition between the ruling party and opposition, mainly Islah, Socialist and Nasserite.

According to law, the SCER has to announce the results of the election within 72 hours after completion of voting. Various violations were reported by political parties, mainly the opposition. A ballot box was snatched for two hours in al-Jawaf, according to the election committee, it was then returned and then voting was continued. Voting also was suspended in some voting centers like in the constituency 37 where centers were suspended and opposition complained that some of their activists were arrested. It is expected that election would be called off in some constituencies. Mr. Abdulmalik al-Mikhlafi, Secretary General of Nasserite party told Yemen Times that the ruling party has violated the code of agreement between all the political parties to ensure a peaceful, free and non-violent election. He said that the ruling party used all sorts of violence against opposition nominees. He said that a violent counterfeiting has been committed in some areas. Mikhlafi also said that the opposition will file a case against such violations and demand that election should be done again in such constituencies.

The election committee tried to belittle such violent incidents and said they were normal in a democracy and showed that people were much interested in the process. But the opposition accused the committee of being biased and working in favor of the ruling party.

President Ali Saleh denied in a press conference after voting yesterday that his party has used the power and budget of the state for its interest. Rather he said, he gave the opposition parties over YR 400 million to help them run their electoral propaganda. He also denied that the ruling party has used the military to vote for his party's candidates. However, he praised the achievements of his party and said that it has saved Yemen after the September 11 incidents, Cole bombing and in other events and he wished it won the majority in the election. He added that he did not want a result of 99%. The opposition, however, criticized this statement of the president and said it aimed to make a propaganda for his party. A statement issued by the opposition described it an illegal act.

The GPC has announced that it aims to win a majority that enables it to set up a

government without the need for a coalition, but president Saleh said Saturday that any party which will win in election will form a government. However, he did not dismiss the idea that his party will join a coalition government with any other party and expected that over 70% of the eligible voters would participate in the election.

Political observers speculate that the ruling party will get around 170 of the seats and that the opposition will score 40% of them. Political analyst Sami Ghalib told Yemen Times that Islah might make a surprise if the elections run smoothly not because the people like it but they want to teach the ruling party a hard lesson owing to its wrong policies.

He warned against any violence and threatened that all people and parties which will violate the law will be held accountable. Islah, and other opposition parties, however, said they aimed to win the election and set up a government. Mohammed al-Yadoumi, Islah Secretary General said Saturday that his party will refuse any coalition government with any party that will not admit Islah's platform. It promised to raise the wages of the public civil and military workers, stop corruption, encourage investments and stop the lifting of subsidies on foodstuff. It also pledged that the Yemeni-US relationship will be better than its current situation.

What characterized this election is coalition of the opposition parties, mainly Islah, Socialist and Nasserite. These parties and others agreed to nominate one candidate for them in over 100 constituencies which has represented a threat to the ruling party. This raised the competition between the two sides and the fear of possible violence.

Islah and other opposition parties said that the ruling party would forge election, making use of state power, influencing military and exercising pressure on people to vote for its candidates. The Nasserite party announced Saturday evening that the security director of Al-Mansuriyah district arrested five of its and opposition members. The GPC, however, accused the opposition and mainly Islah of extremism and terrorism as well as corruption; it even said that Islah is the "Taliban of Yemen", trying to establish a Taliban state in Yemen.

Political observer expected that GPC would win just over half of the seats and then comes Islah, the Socialist and other parties. However, they also expected a good progress for the opposition if they adhere to their coalition till the end.

This heated competition which is the first of its kind led to some violence in some areas. The SCER suspended earlier election at 281 after an armed confrontation between the scouts of governor of Amran and those of the elder son of Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar, Sadiq who is the candidate of Islah in that constituency. However election process was eventually allowed to continue.

## Yemen bans travelers from SARS-hit countries

SANAA, April 23 (Reuters) - Yemen said on Wednesday it was banning entry to people coming from countries with reported cases of the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus.

The official Saba news agency said a health committee would also take preventive measures to protect against SARS in the Arab state.

"The measures include quarantines when a case is identified, preventive

measures at all land, sea and air crossings...and temporary suspension of travel into Yemen from countries where the disease exists," Saba said, without naming the countries.

The flu-like lethal disease, for which there is no known cure and has claimed the lives of 251 people around the world, has been reported in countries such as China, India, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Canada.

## YR 1.5 million for information on Cole bomb suspects

The Yemeni government declared in an advertisement published in a newspaper Thursday that it is offering a reward of YR 1.5 million for information leading to the arrest of 10 fugitives wanted for their involvement in the bombing of the USS Cole in October 2000.

The fugitives are al-Qaeda suspects who fled their prison in Aden on April 11, embarrassing the Yemeni govern-

ment and setting back the investigation of the suicide attack. Seventeen American sailors were killed when a small boat laden with explosives was detonated alongside the Cole as it refueled in Aden port.

The Yemeni government had suspended three Aden police officers responsible for security at the prison and questioned them about the escape of the 10 suspects.

## Two refugee boats sink offshore Yemen, 27 feared dead

MOGADISHU, April 24 (Reuters) - At least 27 people were feared dead after two boats which had set out from Somalia sank off the coast of Yemen, survivors said on Thursday.

The boats carrying more than 200 Somali and Ethiopian refugees had left the coastal Somali village of Marera for Yemen on April 17, people in Marera said.

"We were close to the Yemeni shore when we saw water filling from a hole at the bottom of the boat," Mohamed Haji, a survivor told Reuters.

"The boat toppled when passengers moved to the side."

Some of the survivors swam a kilometer to safety. The rest were rescued by Yemeni villagers living near the shore where the boats capsized.

Survivors said 17 of the dead were Ethiopians and the rest were Somali

nationals.

The cause of the other boat's sinking was not immediately known.

Port authorities at Aden said they had not heard of the incident.

In January, more than 80 Somalia refugees were feared dead after their boat caught fire and sank off Yemen. Yemen is a key route for Somalis fleeing their war-torn Horn of Africa nation to Arab states in the oil-rich Gulf region.

Officials in Mogadishu said lately many Ethiopians had also been trying to travel illegally through neighboring Somalia to Gulf states.

Somalia descended into chaos in 1991 following the ousting of Mohammed Siad Barre, and is now split between rival warlords and a transitional government in the capital Mogadishu.

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## Murder of the three nuns executed

SANAA, April 23 (Reuters) - Authorities have executed on Wednesday a Yemeni man convicted of killing three Asian Roman Catholic nuns in this Arab state in 1999.

The state-run Saba news agency said suspected Islamist militant Abdullah Ali al-Nashiri was executed in the Red Sea city of Hodeidah, 225 km (140 miles) from the capital Sanaa, after President Ali Abdullah Saleh endorsed the death sentence.

The agency gave no further details. Nashiri was charged with shooting dead Sisters Zilia, 35, and Elita, 40 - both from India - and Michaela, 36, from the Philippines. He was captured

shortly after the 1999 shooting and confessed to the crime.

Government officials say that Nashiri was at least the third inmate to be executed in the last four years. The government has arrested hundreds of people suspected of belonging to Islamist groups such as Osama bin Laden's Qaeda network.

In December, a suspected Islamist shot dead an American doctor, her two colleagues and wounded an American pharmacist in an attack on a Baptist mission hospital in the southern town of Jibla. The gunman's trial opened in Yemen last week with the prosecution calling for the death sentence.

# Announcement

The Public Telecommunication Corporation (PTC) invites national and international Tenderers for the supply of (5,000) five thousand computers [Tender No. 06/2003], as part of the introductory First Phase of the project of his Excellency the President, for the promotion of Computers.

Interested bidders may obtain the tender documents priced at Twenty Thousand (20,000) Yemeni Rials (on a non-refundable basis) from the Tenders Committee Secretariat at the PTC, Al-Jiraff, Airport Road, during normal working hours (8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.).

The tender offer should be accompanied with the following:

1. A Bid Bond or check payable for 2.5% of the bid offer valid for three months and issued from a local bank in Yemen.
2. A copy of valid Tax Card with regard to local companies.
3. Copy of valid Insurance Card.
4. A copy of certificate of qualification from manufacturer.
5. A copy of the Agency document from authorized agent in Yemen representing foreign company and certified by the concerned authorities.
6. The offer must be technically, financially, and commercially complete, to be submitted in one original and three copies.
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8. Payment terms:  
Payment shall be made in equal monthly installments within a period of three years. Ten installments will be made in each year
9. The bid must be subjected to tax, which is mentioned in Yemeni law.
10. The offer must be sealed by red wax.

Completed offers are to be addressed to the Tenders Committee Secretariat, Public Telecommunication Corporation, Al-Jiraff, Airport Road, Sana'a, P. O. Box 17045, Republic of Yemen, and should reach PTC not later than 10:30 a.m. on 01/06/2003.

Tenders will be opened in public at 11:00 a.m. of the same day, in PTC in the presence of tenderers or their representatives who may wish to attend.

The PTC is not bound to accept the lowest prices of any offer.

# اعلان

تعلم المؤسسة العامة للإتصالات السلكية واللاسلكية عن انزال المناقصة العامة رقم (٢٠٠٣/٦) لتدشين المرحلة الأولى من مشروع فخامة الأخ / رئيس الجمهورية لتعميم الحاسوب وذلك لتوريد (٥٠٠٠) خمسة ألف جهاز كمبيوتر كدفعة أولى.

فعلى الشركات الراغبة الدخول في هذه المناقصة التقدم إلى المؤسسة العامة للإتصالات السلكية واللاسلكية - سكرتارية لجنة المناقصات بالجراف - شارع المطار لأخذ نسخة من وثائق المناقصة مقابل رسم وقدره (٢٠٠٠٠) عشرون الف ريال لا ترد، ويشترط الآتي:

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١٠. ختم العطاء بالشمع الأحمر

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# صافي

## ضمان الجودة

**البنات شيف الثمرية الطابع بالما**

### علامة .. تضم عائلة عريقة

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# البركة

## مياه صحية نقية

أنت مياه صحية في اليمن

إنتاج الشركة التضامنية اليمنية للمشروبات الغازية (بيكو)

أول شركة يمنية تقوم بنعشة المياه في قارورة صحية من مادة (بي.إي.تي)

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10213	رائد الماجد/ علي من تعنها	10294	محمد عيدهم/ الفجر العبد
10331	نبيل شعبل/ ما روتك	10374	محمد عدهم/ ليه حبل
10055	ريم العمودي/ اهلوت ليامي	10329	نبيل شعبل/ طبعاً غير
10068	صلاح خليله/ بعني شقكم	10680	جود/ بيجك يوم
10028	نور/ يا مصر الموعود	10031	خالد عبد الرحمن/ تكفكر
10382	راج صقر/ مثل القمر	10243	عبد الله الرويشد/ لني نسمك
10396	حسن الجسمي/ فكر لله	10128	عبد لله بالخير/ او قوم
10503	ريدا المحرقلي/ سونها	10683	لادن/ فخر فوكت
10080	سد القهد/ عرتني	10261	عبد الكريم عبد القدر/ غيب
10238	طلال سلامه/ هذه بت	10556	عقبة بن ظنفا/ فشب فلاحني

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33017	كظم الساهر/ لا تتندب (2)	33001	سعادون جابر/ ليش باجاعة
33025	مهذ مصن/ تلك جانيبة	33006	علي العيسوي/ من أغني ناس
33034	كظم الساهر/ كان صديقي	33008	كظم الساهر/ قرلي لحك
33035	فهام مطهر/ انظر بشله	33014	كظم الساهر/ ازيني شلعا
33037	رضا العبد لله/ ملح والزه	33015	مهذ مصن/ اليوم الي يومين

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15050	محمد محي/ بيبك	15060	خشار عيسى/ بالليل
15078	ليهاب توفيق/ كلتمين	15070	حكيم/ الكلام ده كبير
15092	مصطفى قمر/ لني شخني	15105	خديجة/ الهبت
15080	ليهاب توفيق/ لنع قنقر	15121	خلد عجاج/ الحب
15093	مصطفى قمر/ لرمي المنديل	15028	ورداء/ حرمت لحك
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15141	عمرو دنيا/ تقدر تتكلم	15139	حماده هلال/ سنة
15146	عمرو دنيا/ لقا عيش (2)	15049	محمد فؤاد/ لله لو ترضي

#### Lebanese Ringtones

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13120	وائل فقور/ لياك كيف	13113	عصبي/ الحاتي/ احلي عيون
13201	ريدا حلقني (1)	13205	فهد شاهر/ اغني الحبيب (2)
13215	نعمسي عجرم/ احلي جو	13207 (1)	عزرا حبيب/ عز علي قنوم
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13180	نبلي مقسي/ شخني	13063	كلوبيا شمالي/ بتطلع فيك

### 2- Logos

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50054	مفروره	50061	جسدك
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50004	الخيالي	50044	لا لأبني
50052	تو سنة	50034	يا حلو
50007	وينك حبيبي	50041	أه بالقلبي
50038	تفكرني	50040	أحبك حبيبي
50087	حانك	50006	أحبك حبيبي
50084	والله أميك	50046	الدعوة
50001	أفدك بعمري	50062	إسماعيل/ ما بعمري
50047	ساجو	50060	ساجو
50058	إنت صابا ل	50049	ساجو
52070	Sageo	52013	Sageo
52159	Habibi	52190	Sageo
52095	Danger	52043	Danger
58021	Laurel	58009	Superman
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78030	الطغراء	78027	الجوزاء
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Parliament Election 2003

# 2003

## Parliamentary Election

# SCER accused of bias to ruling party, Islah optimist

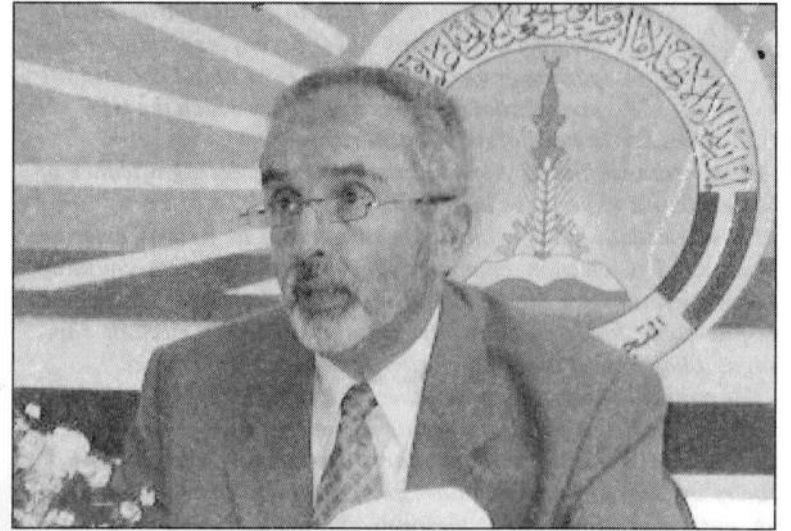
BY: MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sana'a, 26 Apr. President Ali Abdulla Saleh on Saturday delivered a speech to a host of Yemeni and foreign journalists and observers at the headquarters of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum in Sana'a, requesting political parties and organisations and all candidates to display transparency in election competition. The president urged them to accept loss before winning and to avoid as much as possible nervousness that leads to regrettable confrontation. President Saleh also warned against

any violations or disturbance of peace. The president concluded his address by expressing his optimism that the elections would be calm, good and secure, especially with the laid strict controls preventing excesses and one hundred soldiers entrusted with keeping security at the nationwide constituencies. The SCER had Saturday held a press conference during which the chairman of the Commission Khalid al-Shareef stressed its neutrality clarifying that it was an independent body having no tendency towards the ruling party nor to any other party. This confirmation comes in response to what he described as rumors and press campaigns by some non-gov-

ernmental newspapers in that the SCER is leaning to the ruling party during the whole period following its formation till the final stages of preparations for the parliamentary elections on 27 April. Mr al-Shareef had also reviewed the stages the Commission had passed through among which proportion of participants in administration and supervision of the election process, saying the opposition parties in general have participated in the Commission's work as follows:  
- The national council of opposition 8 per cent,  
-The JMP by 40 per cent,  
- The General People's Congress

by 42 per cent.  
- The SCER by 8 per cent. Mr al-Shareef added that there were 5620 constituencies supplied with 25528 ballot boxes distributed among all regions of Yemen. Working at those constituencies are 77547 men and women from all political parties and about 66848 security men. The number of candidates for the parliamentary elections topped to around 1396, 991 representing political parties and 405 independents. Secretary-General of the Islah party Mohammed Abdulla al-Yadoumi, in a later press conference had assailed the SCER, accusing it of partiality and that it could not resist the authority pressures. He said that position made it to throw all its weight against the opposition and side with the authority, adding that the SCER excluded many candidates from elections competition to appease the authority, although all required conditions set by the SCER were met by them. Mr al-Yadoumi also attacked the ruling party accusing it of trying to exclude other forces and deforming their electoral programs. He said it was regrettable that the authority had on purpose deleted parts of the parties' election programs when broadcast on radio and television in order to prove that the ruling party was superior and answers the public aspirations. Mr al-Yadoumi added that the government did not



Mr. Mohammed A.al-Yadoumi



A scene from the SCER press conference

allow the citizens to choose their candidates and published illusion among the simple people, by claiming that the country is clear of injustice and terrorism through using the official media and the policy of stick and carrot. He also criticized the authority of using state property to serve for election propaganda such as horses taken from the military academies.

On the other hand Mr al-Yadoumi expressed his optimism that the Islah party would win enough parliamentary seats to form the new government and in cooperation with parties of the JMP in case it could not achieve that alone. He confirmed that his party would not seek coalition

with the GPC in any new government unless the GPC accepted the Islah electoral program. On avoiding nomination of women to the parliament, Mr al-Yadoumi said his party had not yet decided that matter in his party for many reasons such as the social situation that do not accept the woman to assume some position. He, nevertheless, said that the woman occupies 11 seats at the Islah Shoura Council. On Sheikh al-Mouayad detained in Germany on charges of having links to al-Qaeda, Al-Yadoumi said they are confident of fairness of the German judiciary and he could be released soon.

## Aden's prominent figures and businessmen stress:

# 27 April 2003: A historic day for Yemen

BY RIDHWAN AL-SAQQAF  
YT ADEN BUREAU CHIEF

No doubt, the 27th of April parliamentary elections were quite different than those that were held earlier. The growing competition and the increasing public's awareness of these elections have been clearly demonstrated in various parts of the country, including the economic capital Aden. To shed light on the business community's impressions on the elections, a mini-survey on the 27th of April elections has been conducted by the Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief, Ridhwan al-Saqqaf with a number of businessmen and other prominent figures.

**Excerpts:**  
**Mr. Abdulkareem Shaef, Aden Vice Governor**  
The 27th of April elections are quite significant in Yemen's democratic experience, and will signal a historic event for all Yemenis.

It is clear that every year, tolerance and democratic values are being enhanced throughout the country. This is why I do believe that these elections will go very smoothly.

In particular, people in Aden demonstrated their high level of awareness of

their rights in voting for their candidates freely. Efforts have been exerted by Aden governorate throughout the election centers in Aden's constituencies in order to make this event as free and successful as possible. This has come in a time in which the city witnessed massive and well-organized election campaigns and rallies for all candidates in the city.

**Mr. Ibrahim Khalaf, Aden Refinery's Relation Manager**

The 27th of April elections resemble an important event to emphasize our insistence to continue on the path towards more democracy and to show the world that we are heading forward in consolidating our democratic experience.

Yemenis have the right to choose their representatives in the parliament this year, just like they had their right in earlier elections in 1993 and 1997.

People are quite aware of the significance of practicing their democratic rights throughout the country, in villages and cities.

I can confidently tell you that the increase in number of eligible voters in these elections compared to earlier ones is a good sign for our country.

**Shiekh Saleh Bathowab, Chairman of the Board of Directors**

at the National Industry for Matches & Cigarettes Company Ltd.

The 27th of April elections characterize the will of Yemen to practice democracy and enable the citizen to freely choose his/her representatives in the parliament. This right is guaranteed by the constitution and is now shaping up in our country.

This experience will further enhance the public's understanding of democratic values and encourage them to vote again in future elections.

Yemenis have shown an adherence to the laws that regulate the voting and election process. This will definitely yield free elections with no pressure on voters.

The fact that all political parties are participating in those elections is a clear example of the legitimacy and high standards of this year's elections. Women's role as voters in these elections has proven to be greater than that of the 1997 elections.

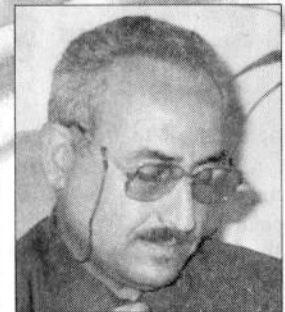
**Hisham Abdullah al-Saqqaf, General Manager of Gulf Navigation Agency-Yemen**

These elections demonstrate that Yemen's is now has a strong and solid foundation as a country based on democracy and freedom.

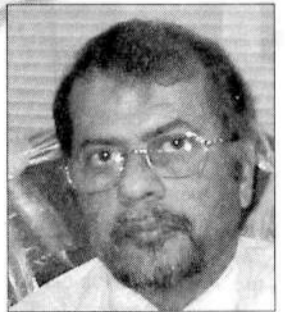
The participation of so many political parties in these elections is clear evidence that Yemen is on the irre-



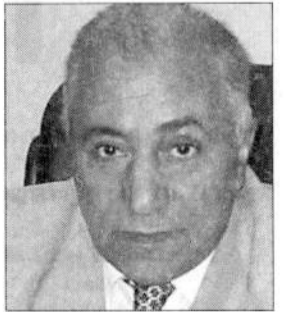
Mr. Abdulkareem Shaef



Mr. Ibrahim Khalaf



Barakat Ali Darweesh



Abdurahman al-Kuhali

versible path towards more freedom and democracy. The competition that can be noticed in the press is also a demonstration that the freedom of the press is also exhibited by publishing various opinions.

Those who look at our ancient history will realize that democracy is deeply rooted in our society and today, democracy is appearing in its glorious pictures.

**Captain Barakat Ali Darweesh, Director of Yemen-Green Navigation Co.**

The twenty seventh of April will definitely be a great day in Yemen's recent history. This is the day we, Yemenis, have freely practiced our rights in voting in one of the most vital elections ever held in our democratizing country.

Yemenis realize that their rights are being preserved and guaranteed by the constitution and have become acquainted with democracy ever since the 22nd of May, 1990.

Democracy has always been one of the desires of all nations on our planet. We are glad that Yemen is now slowly becoming an example for other countries in the developing world in terms of dedication towards perfect democracy, which is the only way to secure true freedom, development, and prosperity for Yemen.

**Abdurahman al-Kuhali, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of Yemen**

What has been accomplished on the 27th of April 2003 is a consolidation of the democratic experience of Yemen and a clear confirmation of our peo-

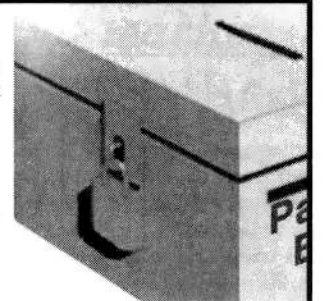
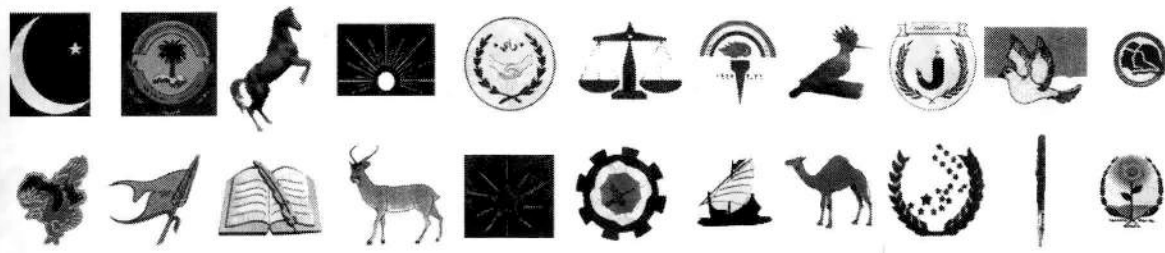
ple's awareness of the importance of elections. This day is one of the fruits of the blessed re-unification achieved on May 22, 1990.

Through these elections, Yemenis were able to freely choose their representative in the parliament under no pressure whatsoever.

Yemen has witnessed considerable growth in terms of allowed freedoms in all levels including the freedom of speech and expression and human rights.

The pre-elections registrations and the elections campaign were both quite successful and went very smoothly. There were no political battles and tensions among the different parties, meaning that we are on the right path towards completing Yemen's most successful parliamentary elections.

# 2003 Parliamentary Election



*Dr. Mohammed Abdulmajeed al-Qubati, the Chairman of the GPC Political Office*

## “GPC has taken a keen interest on including women in development,”

**Y**emenis have gone to polls to choose parliamentary members. Yemenis have already experienced two parliamentary elections in 1993 and 1997 and the presidential elections in 1999, in which the GPC got a head of all political rivals.

In this context, the 27 April elections are of great significance of the democratic experience in Yemen.

Those elections have coincided with internal as well as external incidents. The election campaign has passed and vote counting process to announce the results of the 27 April election has begun. Despite some breaches that have accompanied the election campaign, it has proved itself to be better than the previous ones.

The political observers say that there is a significant factor in those elections, that is, a political meeting has already been held with an agreement of sharing parliamentary seats among political parties. Others say that those parties have committed themselves to the election agreement control to be performed honestly.

To shed light on this topic, Yemen Times reporter Hassan al-Zaidi met interviewed Dr. Mohammed Abdulmajeed al-Qubati, Chairman of the GPC Political Office and filed this report:



Dr. Mohammed A. al-Qubati

**Q: To what extent the political parties have showed a commitment to running a honest elections, and what are the reasons behind enacting the agreement of election control?**

A: The main reasons behind this agreement is that all political parties work collectively to ensure that the present parliamentary election has to be honest and transparent and away from violence or the use of force. An emphasis has been placed to seek arbitration of the constitution and the law.

We have all the same tendencies to show a strong adherence to the law and all of us have agreed to settle disputes which may occur during elections. In addition to this, the call for the national alignment has stemmed from a far-sighted understanding of

the region's current circumstances and out of the extraordinary of our reality, especially the incidents such as the assassination of some political figures like Jarallah Omar and killing of some foreigners. All those negative aspects might be reflected on the election process. The agreement has basically centered on that the election has to be conducted distinguishably.

**Q: But some opposition parties are skeptical about extent of the GPC's commitment to what has been signed, how do you comment on that?**

A: We are at the GPC keen to reach such an agreement regarding the election control. There is already an initiative taken by an international organization for development of the election system. We were about to

reach an agreement consisting of 25 articles. But, the Islah Party opposed the agreement and at last moment before signing it. Before signing the agreement we issued a circulation for our members calling them to avoid whatever could arouse disturbance. We are in not in a position nor want to exchange accusatory remarks.

**Q: Woman's role in the 27 April election has been marginalized by political parties and she is not given the right to compete, why have you backed off allocation of specific constituencies for woman, what is the ruling party's stand in this regard?**

A: Our initiative for allocating election constituencies only for woman has been taken by the GPC. We are as a political parties have to

enhance this initiative within the framework of election control agreement.

But, the Islah members say that they weren't well-prepared for this purpose and what is needed is years to approve such proposal.

The joint meeting parties have also quashed this right.

Perhaps the 27 April election is of great importance due to the strong competition among parties.

**Q: But where does the GPC's stance stand?**

A: We at the GPC see that woman's participation is related to the development and that women are an integral part of it.

The GPC has taken a keen interest to include women in development.

**Q: Would the national alignment solve problems that might result after the elections? Is there a secret agreement reached on sharing posts in the upcoming government?**

A: We want to confirm here that the initiative of the national alignment agreement has been taken by the president of the republic. This has been done with the view of enhancing the political democratic practice for parties on the basis of deepening law and constitution. The new government has nothing to do with dividing the seats or coalition. The main objective is to come out with an overall strategy of the Yemeni constitution through enhancing the political pluralism and the peaceful transfer of power. The main objective of the national alignment is to determine strategic tasks that should be implemented by the parties towards building and completing the modern Yemen.

As politicians, we have to take into consideration the stiff changes that should be applied to reality.

**Q: How do you view the Yemeni upcoming government?**

A: It is widely known that Yemen has been featured by a strategic location at the international level. It has coasts overlooking the most important waters for marine transport and more than half of world maritime transport traffic frequent it. This state unless governed by law and order, it will die and can not perform its roles properly. So, in this case, the national alignment is the means to enhance the democratic experience towards civil orientation.

**Q: How do you perceive the coming government if the GPC has won the majority and what future awaits the government after it failed to achieve former programs?**

A: We are seeking to win the majority of seats in order to achieve objectives of our election platform. Undoubtedly, what has been said earlier will be one of the goals of the GPC government. The next government has to show an adherence towards development and maintaining security. Without security, nationwide development can not be achieved and that the states' modern institutions have to be built.

The issue of development was related to the Yemeni-Saudi issue. After settling the border dispute with our brothers in Saudi Arabia, the USS Cole incident, along with the September 11 attacks in the US and the attack on the French tanker Limburg have created a certain climate that hindered greatly the govern-

ment's capability.

**Q: Will the GPC achieve a sweeping majority?**

A: We don't seek a sweeping majority and this has been fabricated by some parties' media. We comprehend that there would not be a powerful authority without a powerful opposition for it is the other side of the authority. The GPC has been seeking to win 180 seats of the parliament while the opposition wins 120 seats. We aim at achieving a balance between the legislative authority and the executive authority. In order to perform its role properly, the upcoming parliament will perform its monitoring task and issue the required legislation on the basis of taking interests of the people's into consideration.

**Q: What is the difference between the 27 April 2003 elections and the previous ones?**

A: The most significant aspect that haunts our minds is to make Yemen more distinguished for being one of the emerging democracies. The democratic experience during this stage has been greatly enhanced. This is clearly shown when 8 million male registrants and around 3 million female ones have practiced their democratic rights. I hope that the GPC will achieve a majority of seats in order to achieve the desired balance.

**Q: Any last comment?**

A: Finally, we thank the Yemen Times for its capability to read the events. It is by no means one of the best newspapers in Yemen and that is a clear testimony for good successes made by its editor-in-chief and the staff.

## Universities' role in elections

BY: ABDULLAH MOHAMMED AL-MUJHED  
DHAMAR UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

**A**pril 27 is the democracy day. It is the embodiment of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's call for the national alignment following a series of political and economic reforms and social changes. Yemen considers the elections as a forward step on the road of political reforms in the country towards democracy, healing the rift and enhancement of its unity. Elections are an opportunity for the people's participation and providing opportunity to various political trends representing the political spectrum to practice their role in line with the Yemeni constitution.

Yemen is an important country in the region characterized by its distinguished political experiment in this field especially in its model of political action and civil society organizations. It has prominent political cadres and therefore the candidates for the

parliamentary elections include prominent intellectual and political personalities who would render the Yemeni society more politically, economically and socially interactive with development changes the country is experiencing. The Yemeni government is looking forward to the success of the parliamentary experiment through the executive and legislative cooperation and aspiration towards future.

Yemen has allowed all political parties to take part in electoral process and democratic practice and that has led to uprooting social conflict and erasing resentment in the society.

Universities have been used to that democratic practice as a source of radiation for the electoral process and they effectively participate in bringing to success their role in this field. Universities, with all their staff seek to show the electoral process in a proper image by participation and cooperation with candidates for specifying electoral places and headquarters besides using all available media for preparing convenient atmospheres to

candidates so that the elections are conducted in a proper manner.

The university has prepared for candidates all requirements of candidature such as distributing election cards, filling candidates' forms, holding training courses for committees supervising elections in the governorate, holding awareness symposiums for villagers and countryside inhabitants to inform them on significance of elections in the governorate.

All transport facilities have been provided for all people working in this field to carry them to election areas. The aim is to ensure success of the electoral process as a most important democratic practice in our country basically adopted by our political leadership to guarantee the right of all. Besides, there are awareness programs conducted for the purpose of making them understand the way of election and polling.

Democratic atmospheres provide for all the people knowledge on how to play their essential role in life and deeming it an approach and behavior followed by all sectors of the people

from all political spectra. Democracy would thus open the road for all segments of the people to follow in their quest for building themselves and achieving their aspired goals, especially in the educational aspect. The educated sector of the people is the main factor in the aim of eradicating illiteracy, its negative effects and curbing its spread in society. By eradicating illiteracy all democratic practices the Yemeni government is pursuing will be enhanced.

So the number of schools, universities and technical institutes has been increased due to public demands and legitimate competition by members of parliament who seek continuously to develop the educational process and the call for educational upgrading all over Yemen. Thus, investment plans set up by the leadership focused on expanding and improving the educational process. There is positive connection between democracy practice and educational progress. The more successful the democratic practice, the more important development is accomplished in the education sector.

*Election results should not be a result of pressure:*

## Why not have true democracy?

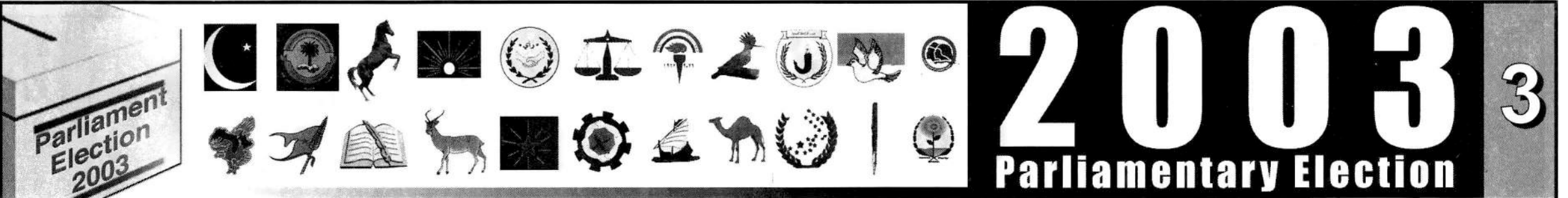
BY: MARIA AHMED

**A**s a Yemeni, I watched with great care the parliament elections that took place on 27/4/2003 and I wonder why can't we be like other democratic countries in this world? Why is democracy in Yemen upside down? Why is the ruling party (GPC) taking advantage of poverty suffered by the majority of the Yemeni people so as to force them to vote for it? Why do some principals of public schools threaten secondary students of being failed or suspended if they don't vote for the GPC? Why are soldiers and government employees being threat-

ened that they will not get their salaries unless they vote for the GPC? Why are voting ballots taken away from by force or bought in for exchange of little money offered by the GPC? Why is Yemen foreseen as the second US target after Iraq if people don't vote for the GPC?

Is this true democracy? I call all Yemeni people to open their eyes and see what's going on around the world and not believe away from the nonsense about threats and pressure. Yemenis should only vote for those whom they believe would represent them best in the upcoming parliament. They need to choose the right men/women who will do what is best for Yemen and its people.





*NDI's Mideast director Leslie Campbell:*

# Elections this year "much better"

In a meeting with Yemen Times' Editor Walid Al-Saqqaf, Mr. Leslie Campbell, director of NDI's programs in the Middle East and North Africa said that he believes that the parliamentary elections held on April 27th were far better than those held earlier in 1993 and 1997. "Despite a few violations in terms of underage voting, etc., the elections this year seem to be much better than those held in the past. The well-prepared lists of voters and candidates, and the overall good preparations for elections this year show the commitment by the government and political parties to make this event a success," he said.

Mr. Campbell noted that the more elections are held, the more successful they seem to become. "Another positive aspect of these elections seems to be in the cooperation among all political parties. This has never happened since 1996. I can see that the YSP is participating in these elections, and that joint blocs were formed - such as that between TSP and Islah... Even though there was some stagnancy in the democratic experience of Yemen between 1997 and 2001, the period that followed the local council elections was somewhat

rich with good democratic achievements for Yemen." He added. When asked about how the democratic experience in Yemen is going, Mr. Campbell responded by indicating that Yemen seems to be going two steps forward and one step back. "The process seems to go through ups and downs, but these elections indicate that Yemen is in a positive phase, which reflects a bright picture."

**NDI's involvement: instrumental**

The NDI has been every much involved in the various processes of the elections including the registration, campaigning, and voting stages. NDI along with the UNDP and other organizations have been in full and steady cooperation with the Yemeni government and the Supreme Commission for Election (SCER).

On its involvement in monitoring the voting process, the NDI issued last Wednesday a press release mentioning that on April 22, an NDI-sponsored international delegation arrived in Sana'a, Yemen, to

observe the country's third parliamentary elections. The delegation, composed of political leaders, civic activists, and elections and human rights experts from nine different countries, met with Yemeni political party leaders, civil society groups and

journalists to assess the environment leading up to the polls. The delegation was deployed around the country to observe voting and vote counting on elections' day.

"NDI believes that these elections represent an important step in the country's political development. The delegation's purposes are to demonstrate interest in and support for democratic elections and to provide an accurate and impartial report on the election process. NDI does not seek to interfere in the election process and recognizes that the citizens of Yemen will ultimately determine the legitimacy of these polls." The statement said.

Upon the conclusion of the mission, the delegation will release a report on its findings which will be made available to the public following the elections. The statement will also be available on the NDI's website at [www.ndi.org](http://www.ndi.org).



Mr. Walid al-Saqqaf Chief-Editor (bottom) with Mr. Leslie Campbell, director of NDI's programs in the Middle East and North Africa

## Parliament Elections, highlights

BY ISMEAL AL-GHABIRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

More than eight million voters exercised their democratic right yesterday in all parts of the republic. Heated competition among more than 1700 candidates; independent or representing some 20 political parties. This experience is expected to be different from all previous elections where hopes for a new democratic era are hanging in the air. For more information and to present our reader with a historical background of the Yemeni Parliament elections, here is a chronicle report on the previous elections and political parties participating in them:

**Elections 1993 where total number of seats 301:**

Political Party	Number of Seats won
1. General People's Congress	123
2. Islah Party	64
3. Yemeni Socialist Party	56
4. Baath Socialist Party	7
5. Baath Nationalist Party	7
6. Haq Party	2

7. Unionist Nasserite Party	1
8. Democratic Nasserite Party	1
9. Reformist Nasserite Party	1
10. Liberation Front	0
11. Nationalist Social Front	0
12. National Democratic Front	0
13. Yemeni Sons League (RAY)	0
14. Yemeni Unionist Congregation	0
15. Popular Forces Union	0

**Elections 1997 where total number of seats 301:**

Political Party	Number of Seats won
1. General People's Congress	226
2. Islah Party	53
3. Baath Socialist Party	2
4. Baath Nationalist Party	0
5. Haqq Party	0
6. Unionist Nasserite Party	3
7. Democratic Nasserite Party	0
8. Reformist Nasserite Party	0
9. Liberation Front	0
10. Nationalist Social Front	0
11. National Democratic Front	0
12. Yemeni Sons League (RAY)	0

## Elections in a book

A publication of al-Meethaq newspaper has lately been issued titled "Our electoral rights".

The book is prepared by Faisal al-Sofi and revised by Dr. Abdualmohm Shugha al-deen. Dr. Abdulkareem al-Eryani, the Secretary General of GPC has written the introduction of the book. The book represents a good example as it is considered a lawful guide for every citizen and voter.

The book talks about the definition of election rights, the goals of running of parliamentary elections, the importance of the parliament and its structure, tasks and authority. The book also includes promotional means and its violations, how to cast vote and how to count votes and announce the results.



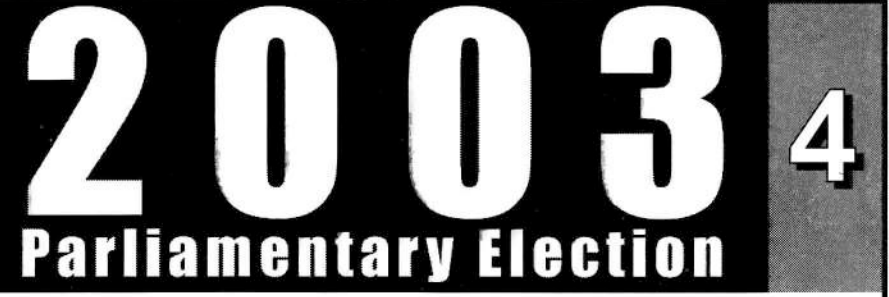
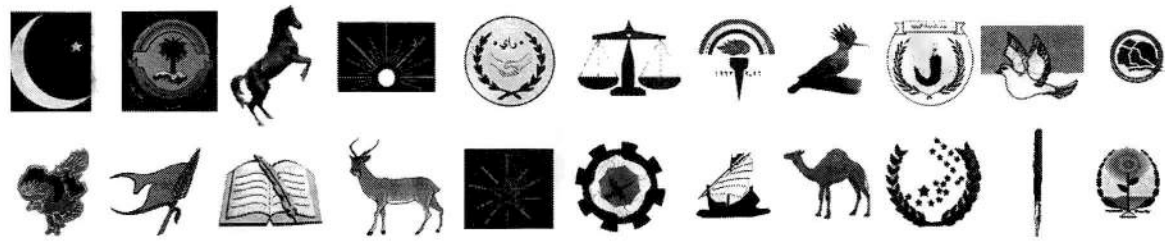
## Announcement

The Oil Company seeks administrative secretary (female or male) who has good knowledge in writing English and Arabic letters as well as English fluency.

**Requirements for this job**

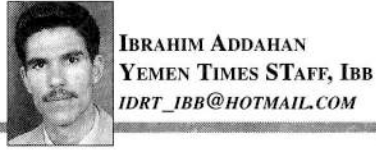
- Applicants should have a degree from any special institute after secondary school.
- Should have at least 5-year- experience in secretariat

Those who meet the above requirements should submit their documents to the office of administrative manager located in Al-Zubairay Street Banks Complexes (Mujama'a albonok) during working hours.



*It is not only about elections and it is not "boundless freedom":*

# Understanding true democracy



IBRAHIM ADDAHAN  
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Some people in Yemen believe that democracy doesn't exist. While to others, it is just a dream or illusion, a word with no meaning. To politicians, it is just lip service, a mere slogan to win votes. At least this is what Yemenis in the streets feel about democracy in the glowing fashion that must glow every five years in order to imitate a democratizing country and fool the world into thinking that we have indeed joined the new world order and started to look and feel as a modern state.

**What is democracy?**

What is democracy according to the common man in the street? This question proved to be a very difficult one for most Yemenis. Among the people I have directed this question to, many refuse to answer for the clear reason that they did not want to make fools of themselves by giving foolish irrelevant answers. On the other hand, the ones who actually answered my question gave me almost the very same answer every time. To them, democracy is boundless freedom. Well, this is a very open answer. I tried to get a more credible and logical answer, but unfortunately, all I got over and over again was the same response, probably due to the lack of awareness about the meaning of democracy. People have not been educated enough. In fact the only education they have on democracy is during elections, and it is limited to teaching them a single fact about

democracy, "Democracy is the right to vote". Because of the lack of awareness and information about democracy, people have no clue even of the most basic meaning of democracy. You will be surprised to know what 'boundless democracy' means to the majority of Yemenis. To help us understand why this is the case, let me tell this strange and unique story that I have experienced. Once I was traveling in a mini bus when it was cold. All windows and the door were shut. A young man sitting in front of me lit a cigarette and the person next to him requested him to put it off, since there is no way for the smoke to get out. The young man refused. I decided to interfere and pursue the young man to put out the cigarette yet he still refused. But this time he had given us a reason to why he is not putting it out! He said, "This is a democratic country, and I can do anything I want!" This answer might appear to be a good and convincing to some people, but if you read between the lines, you will be astonished when you realize that this young man had no clue about democracy that he was just lecturing us about. Democracy was never meant to harm people, it gives them freedom, but this freedom is not boundless. Your freedom in democracy has a limit. According to democracy "your freedoms end where others' start".

Yemen is one of the countries where on one hand, the leaders and members of parliament are democratically being deprived of their basic rights and freedoms. We are witnessing the rise of this diverse, contradicting, and disturbing phenomenon in Yemen. This is because of the lack of understanding of the concept of democracy by the public and politi-

cians as well. Some experts even predict in spite of being young, our unique experience in the Arabian Peninsula is actually heading to suicide! For our decision makers, the phrase "we have democracy" might seem enough reason to boast and cheer up, but we should look at it from a more reasonable and realistic viewpoint. We see that our parliament is not the one ruling the country when it is their job as the legislative body to do so. As a result, some members of the parliament are frustrated by what is going on around them. They feel that they have become puppets to blindly support the government. This is partly due to the partisanship that is evident in almost all parliamentary votes, and partly because of the majority of the ruling party in the parliament. This is in contrast to their main duty of putting partisanship said and thinking of the nation's interests and worries some of our leaders to some extent have bypassed the parliament evading basic constitutional practices; while security forces are turned on honest journalists who are trying to point out the insufficiency of the system. Sometimes political opponents who might disagree with the government on an issue face the same faith. This disagreement does not make them enemies of the ruling party. In fact this could be a good chance for both ends to meet and discuss to find the best way to overcome the conflict. This intolerance by officials shows that over leaders themselves need to be educated on democracy. For them, democracy starts and ends with the elections and what is beyond that is not tolerable. Holding free and fair elections is the first step in the direction of democracy, but it is just the beginning. What comes after

that is important too. In fact it is more important than the first step.

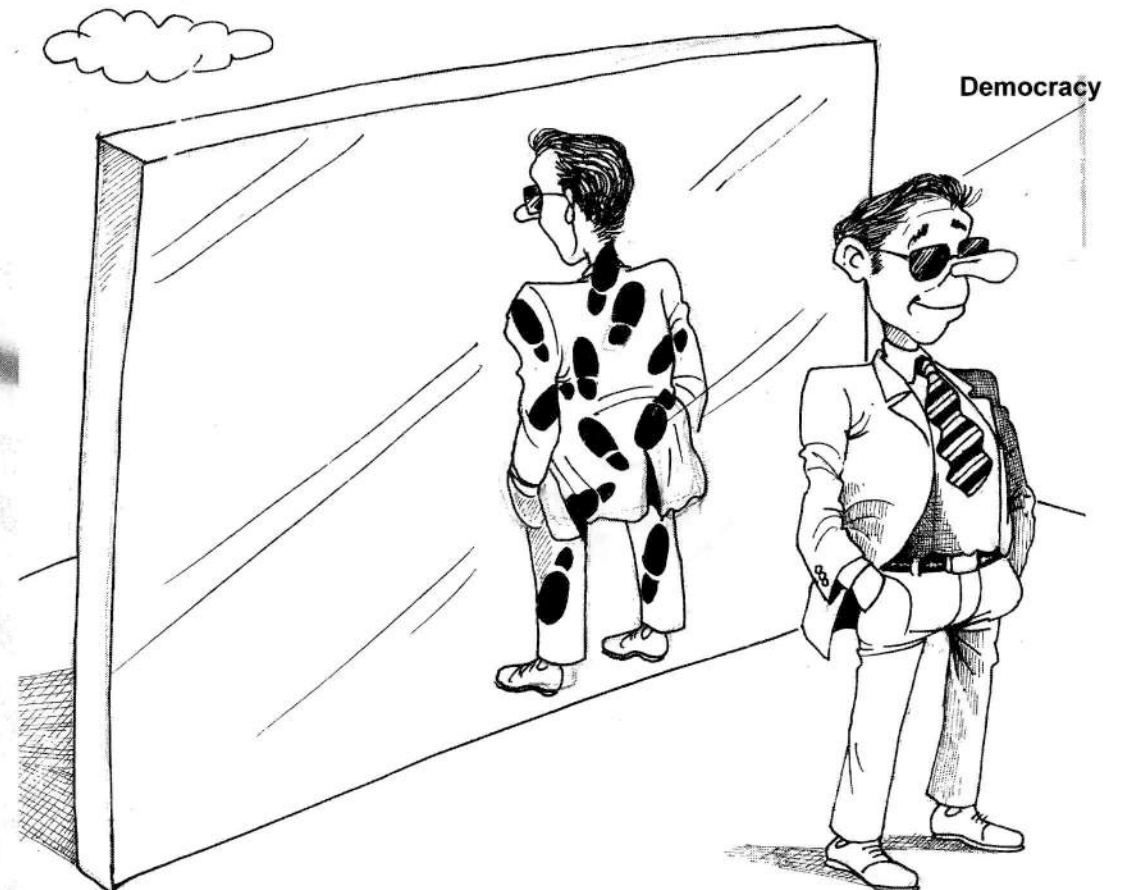
The real meaning of democracy means "liberal democracy". In other words, real democracy is a political system, which starts with free and fair elections along with the rule of law, separation of powers, and the protection of basic liberties such as free speech, property and assembly. Democracy is not about the procedures for electing government, but about protecting the individual liberties and dignity against constraint by the state or the society, it is about creating a framework of law and admin-

istration to ensure justice for all.

Free and fair elections are not the only benchmark of democracy. Democracy is a promise and a commitment to ensure the safeguarding of other values as well, including equality, freedom, basic human rights, and most importantly, the dignity of every individual, no matter who he/she is, or where he/she comes from.

There are three categories of regimes in the world. The first is the one that declares itself democratic and acts accordingly. The second is the one stating that it is not democratic (like some kingdoms and sul-

tanates). The third is the one stating it is democratic, but does not implement true democracy. Unfortunately Yemen is in third category. It is obvious that the third is the worst of all. Simply because the regime fools its citizens and the world into believing that what they get of freedom is the best that can be giving to the people and tries to convince them that there is democracy in the country. But the truth is otherwise. The misunderstanding of democracy has become the norm among Yemeni citizens, who are not able to judge whether they are in a democratic state or not!



## Political Parties Propaganda

# Wishful thinking or high hopes?

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Those who are following the propaganda proposed by various political parties competing for seats in the parliament 2003, would be able to deduce each party's strategy for winning votes and gaining support. For there are several main directions or issues that have been repeatedly stressed by those parties, reflecting the party's inclinations. Some of the headlines sound very attractive, some just sound over-used, and many sound like high hopes or perhaps just wishful thinking. Here an overview of the deduced strategies for the main parties:

**General People's Congress:**

The most dominant party and of course the ruling party focused on many of issues the GPC felt it as being the ruling party and more experienced with the national and international developments it has acquired throughout the years. Under

the title "For Endorsing development and Democracy and Building a Modern State", most of the party's campaigning took place. The campaigning basically could be divided into two main categories: the party's achievements represented by establishing unity, democracy, total development and future inclinations and directions.

In the first, the GPC reviews the several accomplishments that were achieved by President Ali Abdulla Saleh, leader of the party, and his international strategy and leadership that enhanced the relations between Yemen and many Arab and world nations, all in favor of Yemen's interests and benefit. Talking about democracy, the party described the current elections and the democratic spirit as an evidence of the democracy instated in the country by the ruling party. It also talks about the freedom of belief and how multi-party system exists in Yemen due to this reason. The Local Councils is another issue that has been brought up, indicating the ruling system contribution to involving the public in governance. Women have taken the lion's share in the propaganda where the party repeatedly stressed statistics that

showed that percentage of working women in Yemen has increased to 22%, and it also reminded the people of the Women police force.

One of the main achievements considered in the campaigning was standardizing education, and in economy the party showed that since '97 there has been significant progress. As for government employees, the party emphasized on the many privileges they get and the many projects that help insure social safety and public health, education, roads, and poverty alleviation. The second part which is the future was concerned with three main points: endorsing organizations' structure for the Yemeni State, where freedom and respect of others' freedoms of belief, thought and speech are emphasized. And to eliminate illiteracy and to ensure total development and continuous improvements in the country.

**Islah Party:**

The strongest opposition party has focused on reaching out for voters through direct communication methods. It stressed the need

for change and reviewed the current deteriorating circumstances of the country, such as poverty, unemployment, low income and feeble public services.

The party was able to display statistics that confirmed its accusations of the current ruling party on the mentioned issues. Simultaneously it gave a bright picture about the changes it plans to make and how it will establish a new state and improve the society conditions. Because the RP has presented itself as an opposition party, it displayed all the shortcomings in the current system and promised to bring solutions especially regarding the economic situation. The party promised to transfer the country into a regional trade centre through utilizing the strategic location of Yemen and the Yemeni harbors. It also promised more opportunities for work. As for education, the party stressed that it is one of the highest priorities and that it will dedicate more of the country's resources in this channel. The army also gained attention in the agenda where the party promised to improve their situation and to establish national spirit among those who work in the army.

**Unionist Nasserite Party:**



A strong opposition party and approaches to a large extent what the RP and other opposition parties' programs grouped in the "JMP" (RP, YSP, NUP, BAC, HP). The NUP has focused on improving the current economic situation and to achieve balanced sustained development. It also put stress on fighting administrative corruption of the state and government, and to create an environment that encourages investment.

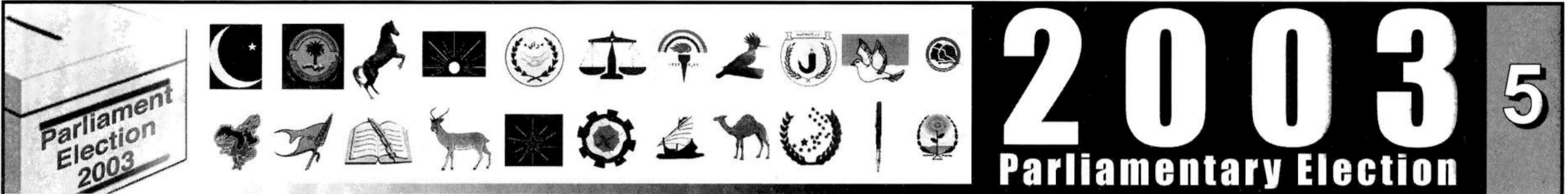
The Party demanded elimination of the ministry of Information and to establish an independent national body for all media activities in the country. And it also demands giving permission to various parties to express freedom of opinion through their own media. It also stressed independence of judiciary system and to build a modern state based on democracy and equality. Full application of the constitution and to implement the law and activate regulations in an unbiased manner on all people and organizations. It also requests activation of a watching and supervising role of the parliament and to prevent

weapon carrying by citizens. To improve the status of the army and instate the patriotic and national spirit among them, is also a major demand included in the party's program.

**Yemeni Socialist Party:**

The agenda of this party did not exceed criticizing the current situation and proposing appropriate solutions. It also focused on the 1994 civil war and its consequences on all aspects of the Yemeni life. It called for a total national and democratic reform in politics, economy, society and other domains. The party called for eliminating discrimination and any kind of bias, and to remove all chains and regulations that handicap independent civil societies. Also it called for ensuring free and clean elections and to amend the current constitution so as to remove the existing problems. It encouraged transparency and creating a better environment for investment, and to encourage the private sector. All parties talked also about international relations and how to enhance them, and many other issues.





*Women in elections*

# Power cannot be ignored

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI  
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**W**ith the approaching date for each parliamentary elections, all parties' programs give much more attention to singling out a spacious space for the woman as a figure that cannot be ignored. However, the attention is just for her vote, as most parties do not give the woman any seat to nominate for any elections. So the woman participation recedes day by day.

In every election we remarkably see the extensive fall-off of woman participation in political life. This drop in the woman political participation in the political life is at both local and national levels. It becomes international phenomenon that differs from one country to another and from one area to another according to the level of economic, social and political development.

International statistics and studies draw dishonorable picture about woman participation in life at all levels.

Yemeni woman is lucky for her status in the legislation, laws and parties platforms, however, she is greatly far way from practicing political life. That can be attributed to many reasons. For example the reality that is resulted of

inherited practices and so-called traditions and customs that did isolate her from participation in the society affairs and was not allowed to get educated and work till the outbreak of the evolution in 1962 that freed woman and man altogether.

In spite of the enormous changes in all different fields, it is still limited. Dr. Khadeeja al-Haismi, political sciences professor and the vice-chairman of Women Studies Center, confirmed that in a study aimed at knowing the real political partnership for Yemeni woman and her efficient participation in this field as well as knowing the limited factors for this participation socially. Moreover, it is putting mechanisms for supporting woman politically.

There are many reasons and obstacles to block woman's participation in the political and public life and being a decision-maker. The social situations and the degrading outlook to the woman ability affected her participation in the elections held after unification. Only two women won in 1993 and 1997 elections nevertheless the 1997 elections were distinguished by Yemeni woman effective participation in which the registered females were 38% against 16% in 1993.

In spite of the political address of parties and different social authorities was supportive and blessing the woman participation, parties competed

to magnetize and enhance woman participation aiming at benefiting just from them as votes in favor of men whose parties proffered to nominate, fearing of woman failure and thus losing precious opportunity besides distrusting women ability to practice in the political job. There are who believe that women presence in the parties platforms does not express the real faith in woman participation as much as it reflects the desire to gain women votes in elections.

However, the most important impediment of woman political participation decrease is the electoral system through which elections are run and the system of single constituency that lessens women's chance even if they were high-qualified as men usually have drastic influence.

Extensive participation of registered women to practice their rights does not exceed 36,8%, represents an open letter to all political parties and organizations that democracy has made woman as strong powerful that cannot be ignored and any party or organization overlooks her would be sentencing itself to failure.

Therefore the woman has to work to change her situation from merely figures that are being exploited, bought and sold, into a real power that can negotiate and discuss the parties about what she can do and serve woman sector.



Women Preparing to vote in one of the polling centers in Sana'a

*Election: Two points of view*

## Why I'm not voting...

RANA RASHEED  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES  
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**W**hen the elections started I was excited, I got myself an election card thinking it's good to be over 18 and use my right to vote. Then a question rose up: "Who am I going to vote for?!" The election campaigns started, well to put this right the pictures and the propagandas - the only sign of the candidates - were hung every where. Browsing through the available stuff, I realized that no one actually represents me! So I decided... I'm Not Voting.

I'm not voting for the General People's Congress because they have been handling the government for a VERY long time and problems like corruption are getting worse, whereas the Yemeni people are getting poorer and poorer compared to other countries regionally and globally.

For Islah, I have to confess they are very organized and they have "fancy" slogans and "powerful" promises. The irony of this, is that in the same time in which they promise peace and security, some of its members are breaking the law and do not have any respect for human lives. You can't preach what you don't do. The Yemeni Socialist Party, well, they came by next to our house and with microphones and started saying some very old fashioned slogans and over-used speeches. I think this party would disappear from political front a decade or so from now, unless they change and renew their trends.

Beside the above mentioned parties there are other less prominent independent candidates and other parties who didn't contact the public. Maybe there is someone out there whom I feel would represent me, but all parties in general were inefficient in their election campaigns... and this is the second reason why I am not voting.

The candidates were very inadequate in declaring themselves prefer-

ring a "Closed Isolation Policy". As a voter, I have no idea who they are?? Or what exactly do they do?? What did they achieve?!

Some might say you should ask, well I say: NO it's their job to make all their information known to the public by making DIRECT contact with public saying who they are and what would they do for us.

And here's a surprise; there's a common point between all the parties in these elections: they didn't encourage women participations as candidates! Women weren't supported to be part of the parliament basically because of the lack of trust in their ability to be an efficient member in the parliament. They just want to use women's voices, and for me as a woman I refused to be used.

I believe that my generation has different views, inclinations and ambitions; and I truly believe that my generation is the one that'll make positive change in Yemen and would make Yemen a better place except in the future it's going to be our way.

## ...and this is why I AM!

NADIA AL-SAQQAF  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES  
n\_saqqaf@hotmail.com

**I** am participating in the elections because I am excited with the hint of democracy this event represents. Because in ideal terms it means that I have a hand in changing the present and deciding the future, not only mine, but the whole country's present and future as well. Isn't that fascinating? I want to have the right to choose someone to represent me in the parliament, someone I can go up to and demand that he or she fulfills the propaganda and lives up to his shiny words when he becomes a member of the parliament.

That is why I am voting. I am voting because I feel that if I did not participate in these elections that I am letting my self and my country down. I have a chance to say something then why should I waste it? They say these elections are not clean and that the names are pre-decided. But what if they aren't? What if my voice was significant? What if there was a chance to tip the scale to a more favorable direction and my voice was the one that did it? They say there isn't someone whom they feel truly represents them. Quite true I should say, but if that is what they feel then why didn't they find someone that would in the first place and pushed him or her to do so? Or why didn't they nominate themselves if the available lot

is no good for them? One's got to make the best of what one's got. Because if we want a -so called- democratic way of changing what is wrong then this is it. This is our chance, turn to do something and most of all our responsibility. As it is, if the situation is as bad as they say, then in any case my vote would not have made a difference, because like it is rumored the districts are already booked for certain names in advance. So in that situation it wouldn't hurt to participate in the elections, at least I would feel that I took a part in the play in stead of just watching and making fun of it. It's my country we are talking about after all isn't it? And like they say, we must light a candle in stead of cursing the darkness.

**CANADIAN nexen VACANCY**

**ACCOUNTANTS PAYABLE ANALYST**  
*Yemeni Nationals*

**Location:** Sana'a  
**Posts:** Three posts  
**Working hours:** From 8:00am to 3:00pm Saturday to Wednesday and from 8:00am to 12:00am on Thursday  
**Location:** Masila Block  
**Posts:** Two posts  
**Schedule:** 28 days on / 28 days off

**Job Duties**

- Reviews and checks contractors' invoices. Includes stamping, dating and logging invoices, checking validity of charges, comparing rates with contracts, preparing spreadsheets showing supporting details such as number of days, equipment description, type of job, rates, codes, total amount etc., summarizing spreadsheet by account and cost center code, preparing adjustment letter if required, and submitting to his supervisor for review. Uses the (SAP) system as required.
- Prepares weekly transmittal report of approved invoices. Includes preparing list of invoices containing vendor's name and number, commitment document reference, invoice received date, name of approver, amount and bank code etc. Makes photocopies of invoices, and transmits to Sana'a Head office.
- Distributes pay packets to national employees on cash payroll. Includes receiving pay packets from Terminal, checking employee number against list of packages, distributing to individual employees and obtaining receipt.
- Carries out work related activities as requested by Accounting Supervisor.

**Minimum Requirements:**

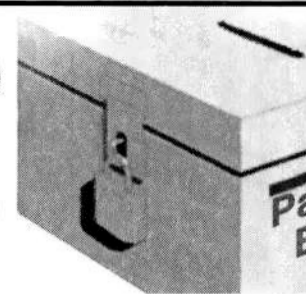
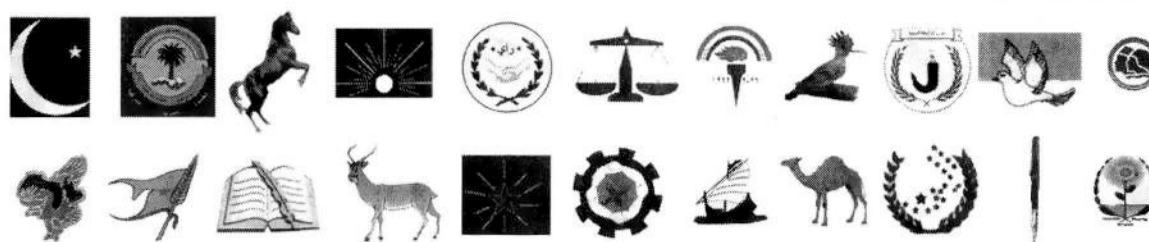
- Bachelors Degree in commerce or equivalent.
- Good working knowledge of Word, excel, and SAP system.
- Two years experience in the same field.
- Good knowledge of English.

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address  
NOT later than May 05, 2003

**Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen**  
**Human Resources**  
**P. O. Box 15137**  
**Sana'a, Republic of Yemen**  
**Fax No. 01-269899**  
**Attention: Senior Supervisor, Human Resources**

- Please make sure that your CV contains all the needed personal and qualification information, no need to attach any certificates unless we request them.
- Please don't call us, we will call you if you are selected for test and interview.

# 6 2003 Parliamentary Election



*After a couple of weeks of campaigning*

## Another democratic experience recorded



BY ABEER ABDULWAHAB  
AL-KHADHAF  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

**V**oting in any elections is a national democratic duty and responsibility that should be practiced by all citizens. Elections should never be perceived as a political game and people should not underestimate its importance. Being a constitutional right of every citizen in choosing an eligible candidate to represent him/her in the parliament, elections are the right way to convey the people's will peacefully and away from any pressure.

The voting process came after several weeks campaigning by all political parties and candidates. During the vote casting process, citizens probably realize that voting for any candidate they prefer is a way to serve their own country by selecting those whom they feel will be influential in enhancing the country's economy, politics and culture.

Simply put, every citizen should cast his/her vote for an eligible person to hold a suitable position.

The 27th of April parliamentary

elections are of great democratic significance in Yemen's history to build upon the democratic structure of Yemen. Just like all other elections, these elections will consolidate democracy in Yemen just as they will in any other country in the world.

However, one must not ignore the fact that such an important event cannot achieve its goals unless there is unified and concrete action by all citizens in the country in voting in the elections and to turn up in good numbers.

Every citizen's concern should be to develop and enhance his own country. Hence, elections should gain the greatest of attention and care by Yemenis because it is the means to do so.

Just as Yemenis went to the polls to choose members of the long-debated parliament, our country should be proud to have its third successful parliamentary elections.

Yemenis have already experienced two parliamentary elections in 1993 and 1997 and also practice their democratic rights during the presidential elections in 1999, and the local council elections in 2001. It was clear however that General People's Congress (GPC) was far ahead of its closest rival.

Yemen's history includes a number

of democratic experiences in the political arena, and one cannot deny that the current ruling party, the GPC, along with the other political parties have shown tolerance and adherence to the democratic principles of the constitution in order to make all those elections a success.

Those elections came as fruits of the re-unification of Yemen on May 22, 1990, which is the main accomplishment in Yemen's recent history.

Following re-unification, a number of vital projects have started including the construction of various developmental projects. But among the most important achievements was the emergence of freedom of the press and the setting up of the multi-party system.

The Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum (SCER) has exerted strenuous efforts throughout the preparatory stages for elections, but the greatest and most noticeable efforts were those exerted during the polling day.

The 301 electoral constituencies have been evenly distributed in accordance with the elections law and the population density distribution across the republic.

Independent observers confirmed that despite some flaws, preparations for the 27th of April elections have

been performed quite well by the SCER.

In this context, applications for candidatures for the parliamentary membership have been successfully completed for those who were politically affiliated or independents through a 10-day period preceding the elections.

During the few months before 27

April elections, eligible candidates were proclaimed and the withdrawal of other candidates was allowed.

As we mark this new achievement resembled in our country's third parliamentary elections, we need to appreciate the president's role in stressing on the importance of having those elections as free and as democratic as possible. His desire to make

Yemen a truly democratic country, is probably based on his understanding that only through freedom and democracy can Yemen achieve great accomplishments in running the country so as to implement the various financial and administrative reform programs and uprooting corruption and the corrupt officials, and to eventually build a flourishing strong Yemen.



Supreme Commission For Elections & Referendum, Capital Secretariat branch, an edifice for making strenuous efforts in disseminating democracy in Yemen, April 27

### Dr. Bilqees Al-Hadrani to the Yemen Times:

## "We've participated with 35 candidates in coordination with the Joint Meeting parties"

**B**aghdad along with Saddam Hussein has fallen to the Anglo-American occupation. But, what about the Baath Party in Yemen, will it collapse as that of Baghdad. The Baath party affiliation has been deeply rooted in the past for more than 50 years. Yemen Times journalist, Mohammed Bin Sallam, met with one of Baath party distinguished female figures in Yemen, Dr. Bilqees Al-Hadrani.

**Q:** How will the fall of Baghdad influence the Baath Arab Socialist party's Yemen Organization? And will you participate in the coming elections? If yes, with how many candidates?

**A:** A stronger and more firmly in our beliefs and objectives as the Baath party adopts and preaches since its establishment in the early parties. The objectives are Unity, Liberty and Socialism. We as Baath members consider them as substantial elements for building the unified and social Arab society and fulfilling our National dreams; the Arab Renaissance and project. We could say that Baath party in Iraq as a ruling party succeeded in achieving a good example, which could be an example to be followed if you were to examine the infrastructure, technology, education, medical and other development in which Iraq was a leading country. As you remember the Americans and the "Israelis" were extremely worried and annoyed when the Iraqi Scientists managed to control the unmanned drone planes and reprogram on which they operate. These principles which allowed Iraqis women to participate in all aspects of life and to excel in all the fields. As for the coming election, we will participate with 35 candidates in

coordination with the joint Meeting Parties.

**Q:** There are several regional parties in various Arab countries that follow the central National head quarters in Baghdad, how will these operate from now on? And what about electing a new head quarters elsewhere?

**A:** Let me start with the second question. The national head quarter is not abolished or canceled because it is elected not nominated, therefore it is still a legitimate leadership. And if any thing happened to it, changes and procedures would be done according to the negation and constitution of the Baath party, which goes as, mentioned to 1947. For the possibility of moving its location from Baghdad to any other Arab country, I can assure you that there is no hindrance except taking into consideration the political circumstance and the American pressures on Arab regimes. In the past the National head quarter has offices once in Damascus and another time in Lebanon. Going back to your question about how these parties going to operate "now" I would emphasize that the relationship between the regional parties and the National head quarter, which happened to take place in Baghdad as the capital of Baath revolution, is a moral and historical. It is based on adopting the basic any great objectives, which are "Unity", "Liberty" and Socialism as inseparable and chorine objectives. Each regional party draws his programs and strategy from these objectives given a large space for different interpretation and visions according to the particularities of each Arab country.

**Q:** How do you see the public stand? And what about democracy in Yemen, do you think it will be



Dr. Bilqees Al-Hadrani

more or less effective in the future?

**A:** Our people are highly patriotic and have a very deep sense of belonging to the Arab and Islamic world. Since ages Yemeni people have carried the message of Islam to the rest of the world and proved worthy of the praise that had been bestowed on them. Yemeni people have condemned this attack on Iraq strongly, for it is not only an attack on one country by on all the Arabic and Islamic nations as a whole. So it would not be strange that they sympathized and empathized with their brothers and sisters in Iraq.

The most that we aspire for today is that the country goes through honest and clean elections. Let's hope that the government and all the political party take their responsibility in making

these elections work in a respectable manner under the regulations of the law. This way democracy not only will increase in Yemen but also the country would move to a better situation and a more free and liberal life.

**Q:** So what are the main principles of the Baath party and what do they signify?

**A:** As I mentioned our objectives which we consider them as great National objectives for the Arab Renaissance. Unity Freedom and Socialism as I mentioned are our objective, which we consider as the pretest National objectives for the Arab Renaissance. Our belief in "Unity" strengthening day after day when all people feel how week is the

"country-state" which could not achieve any kind of a true progress or prosperity nor either stability or security for its people, unity is our belief for power, strength and dignity come when all the Arab countries are together, they don't come with partition and divisions. This is the reason why our countries are weak today. The European union despite the differences between its members. For they've different languages, histories, ethnic and despite the long and bloody wars which they have gone through. Nevertheless, these countries could achieve their European union. While we as having one language, culture and history and facing the same challenges and threats we could not take any serious procedures to achieve this target. The freedom we seek is not the freedom of individuals only it is more important for us the freedom of nations and people. To be able to choose their destiny, independence and to take in control their decisions according to the upper national interest. It is not only to be able to speak and express one thought. Freedom for us means independence in using resources and utilizing the national interests of the country.

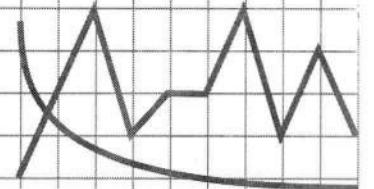
As for "socialism" it means for us equality in distribution and equal chances in everything. To versify production based and open doors for private, mix and government sectors to work on equal bases in away that would enhance the society and improve life for everyone.

**Q:** In the time while crises take place in the Arab world and Iraq is suffering from American and British occupation, the rest of the Arab world sits and watches, what can you say about the public and official responses will be next?

**A:** Although, currently Arab people

suffering mixed feeling of shock, anger and frustration, signs of objection and protest are giving ways to revolting which will eventually overwhelming all conspiring regimes. Those who are seen as tools at the hand of the Zionist American to achieve the Zionist dream "your land Israel is from Al-Furat to the Nile". We have seen Baghdad the capital of deep rooted civilization, the symbol of the Arab-Islamic caliphate is being slain by the same knife which gives the green light for the terrorist Sharon to slay our brothers and sisters in Palestine. While Arab wealth and oil being subjected to the increasing appetite of the invasive and expanding Imperialistic Americans most Arab leaders give no consideration to the national interest nor give any respect to the interest of their people who are suffering from poverty, illiteracy, illness and backwardness. Surely Arab people today are becoming increasingly aware, awake and capable of making historical evaluation, in a sense that the invading forces and the enemies of the Arab nation can not continue deceiving them and exploiting their wealth. People will not long stand "outside and internal" tyranny and oppression. We have seen the masses coming out to the streets to demonstrate not only in the Arab world but all over the world including United State and Britain rejecting and condemning the war on Iraq as unjust and aggressive war which violated all the laws and charter of the united nation. The Anglo American aggression was condemned by the Security Council itself. Nevertheless, they led this war which Arab and Moslems consider it as a crusade in addition to its colonial dimensions thus exposing the international order peace, stability and Security to violence terrorism, hatred and the unknown future.

# YT Business



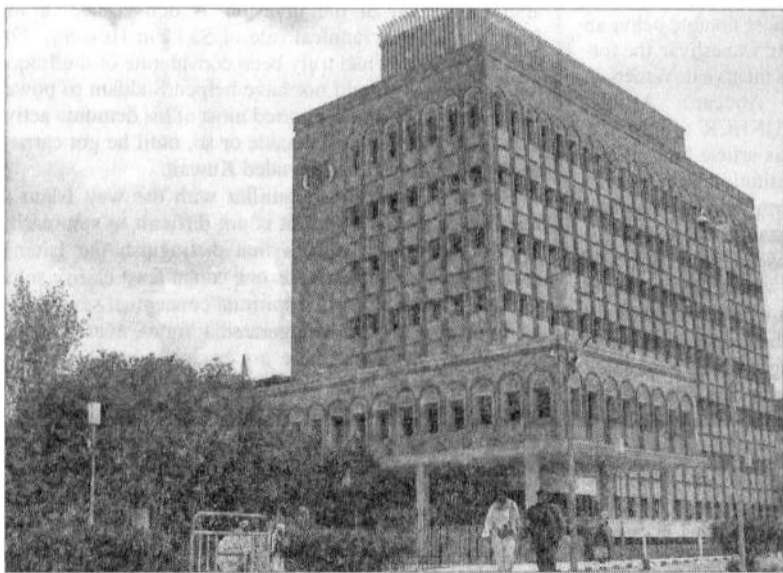
## Yemen Council of Businessmen & Investors:

# Central Bank of Yemen-Commercial Banks relationship problematic

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A working paper prepared by the Yemen Council of Businessmen & Investors (YCBI) on the relationship between the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) and Commercial Banks, presented recently to the Council of Ministers mentions that Yemeni and foreign banks seek to establish a relationship of cooperation, partnership and integration with the CBY. Those banks endeavor aims at surmounting the policies enforced by the CBY, which are distant from reforms and the policy of transformation determining the necessities of partnership relation between the parties based on cooperation and integration. A policy pursued to meet the public and common because such aspired for model of relationship is almost non-existent. The paper presents a vision on the relation between the CBY and the commercial banks. The paper sums up the picture of that relation in general as follows:

1- The two parties existing relationship is based on misunderstanding, a matter which constitutes a state of differences. These differences would ultimately produce mistakes the impact of which is negatively reflected on the kind of relationship between the CBY and commercial banks.



Central Bank of Yemen in Sana'a - YT photo

2- The relationship between the two sides is not established according to criteria and rules of partnership. It has become built on an apparent ignoring of banks role in discussing policies relating to bank activity. The CBY does not accept the concept of opinion and other opinion and does not believe in participation and listening to others. Nothing embodies the two parties' relation but sending inspection committee for punishing banks.

3- Unilateral extempore decisions are issued, and the banking sector is usually held responsible for their consequences. This policy makes the banking sector loses

capability of dealing with requirements of activating banking work according to rules fixed for it.

The paper has divided the nature of the relationship between the CBY and the commercial banks into categories or rather chapters. The first chapter of that relation is under the heading of "Banks role and restricted function". It says the central bank imposes such restrictions on the banks which make them unable to play their roles. Resulting of those restraints are: a- the Yemeni and foreign banks do not play major roles in investment activity and most of their activities are focused on funding short-range activities restricted to financing trade and small enterprises, b- local and foreign banks do not play a role in financing invested by the "Policy of monitoring foreign curren-

cy". Yemen's revenues of foreign currency are mainly from oil, while other forms of revenues from tourism and expatriates remittances have dwindled. Thus 90 percent of the mechanism governing the foreign currency has been rendered to the central bank. So in its turn must shoulder the responsibility for preserving the value of the national currency against collapse. But the central bank has adopted rule of speculation by adopting a policy of speculating with currency for realizing profit and interference through point for point, justifying that with not giving speculators a chance to seize a large portion of currency reserve. Practical experiments have proved that this supposition is incorrect. The sudden rise of the dollar value in one week and without the presence of any banking justification and the way the bank has treated that crisis according to profiting policy, did not stop that rise but it was rather a cause for its rise. Instead of providing support for the national currency, the central bank followed a policy of selling the dollar according to progressive prices. That has given way to the belief that the central bank supports raising the dollar price. This is regrettably a problematic in the existing relationship between the central bank and commercial banks. This has produced a state of affairs characterized by: 1- the central pursuit of an unclear unilateral policy con-



Customers active in CBY- YT photo

nected to achieving stability of the local currency.

The third chapter takes the heading of "The bank's monitoring policy". Central banks' monitoring of commercial banks activities is one of the functions assigned to them in order to preserve money of depositors and stockholders against misuse or fraud in avoidance of any ill effect that may arise against the national economy and the country's financial and monetary situation that could expose the country to financial disasters. But in the Yemeni example of this relation has created complicated problems with auditor's administration at the central bank. At most cases the banks do not know what the central bank's inspectors are looking for. The bank's inspection committees do not follow clear-cut and objective monitoring criteria. Their work is characterized by personal considerations and the personal dimension of the inspection members and their focus on finding or fabricating violations, thinking that the ideal measurement of efficiency is the discovery of as much as possible examples of violations, whether they are real or fabricated. It is not an aspect of justice to place future and destiny of the commercial banks under the mercy and judgment of inspectors some of whom do not entertain enough banking experience and do not follow an objective way in inspection. To solve this problem the paper suggests that opportunity should be provided for each bank having a grievance against the report by the committee to challenge credibility of the report and the bank's opinion should be listened to by a committee for revising. The paper proposes that the committee should comprise the deputy mayor of the central bank as chairman and the membership of a representative of the monitoring at the bank, representative for the banks and a representative for the Yemen Council of Businessmen and Investors.

The fourth chapter deals with "Decision of raising proportion of foreign currency reserve". The CBY has issued an obligatory decision on raising the foreign monetary reserve to 20 percent and without interests. This decision as looked at as a coercive one void of its economic and useful value as it affects the banks centers relation with their correspondents abroad because they grant an interest less than the world rate. This has helped transfer some savings in foreign currency to foreign banks. This measure would lead to the escape abroad of foreign currency revenues. In order to surmount this problem resulting from the CBY policies the YCBI proposes:

- the adoption of a clear banking and monetary policy depending on scientific approach and continuous economic assessment and its convenience to success. The CBY should be more effec-

tive and capable of protecting the national currency,

- continuous interference by the CBY to meet needs of foreign currency and enhance the balance of supply and demand and following a policy of covering value of strategic credits through direct relationship with commercial banks and through offering necessary documents, provided that the Central Bank secures demand of credits at the exchange price circulated in the market,

- in case of a sudden rise in foreign currencies exchange we see the CBY should interfere with reasonable amounts of money realizing balance of the supply and demand, not allowing the retreat of the national currency value and that is in realization of the principle of confidence,

-reconsideration of the CBY policy that depends on the basis of selling at a highest price and dealing should be done through dealing with the realistic price of the currency,

- reconsideration of the bank's decision issued on January 20, 2003 pertaining to increasing the proportion of the compulsory reserve of the foreign currency inside to avoid its transfer abroad, resulting from not gaining of a convenient rate of return from those savings and keeping the level of reserve at its former condition and counting interest on banks' compulsory reserve. This would help support the banks' positions regarding their assets of hard currencies,

- engaging the YCBI, Banks Society and Commercial & Islamic Banks in studying important decisions relating to banking activity in the country before their issuance and to setup joint plans to solve any problems facing the national economy and development plans.

In conclusion the report confirmed that relation problematic between the CBY and the banks is considered a most important issue the report sees the necessity of overcoming it and to establish a more effective relationship based

on the basis of partnership on which the government banking policies was founded in its reform program. In consolidation of this role the YCBI believes that the government has adopted expansion of the Central Bank's board of directors' membership by elements from outside of the bank. The council sees this is a good initiative towards achievement of partnership and proposes that this membership be based on understanding and coordination between the CBY, YCBI and banks society and commercial banks. The aim is to establish a mode of integration, cooperation and partnership which a basic necessity under the local and world changes and under circumstances the country is in need of mustering all efforts. For achieving this objective the paper proposes the:

-formation of a consultative and coordinating body including the CBY and the YCBI and the commercial banks under a decree by the council of ministers and to be endorsed legally later. The committee should comprise the CBY as chairman and the YCBI and the banks society, local and foreign banks and relevant economic and educational institutions as members. The body's tasks are:

- enriching the monetary and banking policies in the republic of Yemen for realization of stability in exchange price and development of banking performance in enhancement of economic development and economic reforms,

-discussing and enrichment of credit policies in the way making them supportive for development and investment activity in Yemen,

- consolidation of relations between the central bank and other banks in the manner serving the monetary and banking policy,

- establishment of strong and cooperative relations between local banks and regional and world financial institutions aimed at providing guarantees and financing for investment projects in Yemen.



Tadhamon International Islamic bank in Sana'a - YT photo

## The Road Ahead

### The Entrepreneurship Dream

BY RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF  
r\_saqqaf@hotmail.com

An entrepreneur is someone who sets up and runs his own small business, willing to take that risk in search for profit.

Entrepreneurship is one of the most important concepts in capitalism, because entrepreneurs shift economic resources from an area of lower productivity into an area of higher productivity and greater yield, so that they can earn more money.

Entrepreneurship has become the new great American dream, it is a reason behind some of the dramatic cultural shifts during the last forty years in the United States, people there no longer want to work for two cars and a nice house; given the choice of being the managers of their own companies they opt for the better; to start their own businesses and become entrepreneurs.

Can that be our dream too? Yes it can, but that isn't as easy as it sounds. Entrepreneurship needs more than a special collection of skills like the ability to take enormous risks and a great desire to create wealth. In fact, it needs individuals who can spot good business opportunities before they arise, and take advantage of them.

Starting a new business means asking hard questions, questions like "Is this idea feasible?", why it should / shouldn't work, why am I the one to make it work, what is the worst that can happen, and do I have the right combination for success, and more importantly, do I have the sources of finance and training?, because these two are the biggest setbacks for Yemeni entrepreneurs. Sometimes it seems easier to swim across the ocean than to get a loan. To add, it was found out that most entrepreneurs who had the right formula for success but didn't make it, failed due to financial reasons.

On the other hand, our business education system doesn't help create entrepreneurs; because our business curricula are based on the assumption that students have already enrolled and have jobs, in spite of assuming that students will be the creators and owners of their own businesses.

Many developed countries try to create a positive atmosphere for entrepreneurs in order to encourage their capitalist attempts and wealth creation, because entrepreneurship is the key to economic growth, a country that promotes innovation and entrepreneurship will surely emerge stronger in the future, and this is the dream.

Promoting entrepreneurship in our country can be done through providing guidance from school level to insert the dream of having your own business one day in the minds of tomorrow's entrepreneurs. And provide better financial facilities and training facilities to today's entrepreneurs, and to enhance entrepreneurship education to our unemployed youth to go and create their own jobs. Otherwise, what good is business education if fresh business graduates only load the rate of unemployment, leading us into a situation of jobless economic growth.

Endnote: our ticket to economic revival maybe in the hands of our entrepreneurs, and encouraging them ensures our economic revival, encouraging people to dream of owning their own businesses.

**Words of Wisdom**



One of the most important indicators of a new spirit and new system in Yemen is the degree of respect for the law. In this respect, law enforcement is something unimportant. Not only that, but the law is more than violated by the very people who should enforce it or at least who serve as role models for the public.

Thus, the law has lost lots of its prestige.

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



**OUR OPINION**

**Democracy's price**

For the first time in years, a sense of optimism has been felt throughout Yemen concerning Yemen's democratic process. Elections have been to a large extent carried out fairly compared to earlier elections. Competition between the ruling party and its closest opposition rival has been as tense as can be. In many constituencies, results could have gone either way. People have been able to rally for opposition parties so openly using all sorts of media organs including TV and radio.

Yes, there may have been some shortcomings, and indeed there may have been abuses by state-run media organs, but overall, there is improvement in the awareness of voters and transparency of this year's elections.

Opposition parties themselves have expressed relative satisfaction with the preparations and organization of the elections. Much fewer complaints were filed compared to earlier elections. This in itself is a sign that we are moving in the right path.

I just hope that opposition parties would rather encourage the positive steps taken rather than ignore them and simply attack the government on every occasion.

There is no doubt that President Saleh has become quite convinced that democracy in its glorious meaning is the right way to build a free and prosperous country. We are proud that President Saleh emerged as the president for all Yemenis. He has not sided directly or indirectly with or against any of the competing parties and candidates. This expresses a degree of maturity that reflects a wise commitment to democratizing Yemen fully and with no reservations. It is simply an irreversible path, and President Saleh has been and must always be neutral when it comes to elections because he is the president of the whole country with all the parties and entities representing it.

President Saleh should also accept the results no matter how they are. If his own party the General People's Congress (GPC) gets defeated in any of the districts, then he should accept this as the price to pay in any democracy. The days when the GPC was the sole and only power center has gone, and now there is room for others to participate if Yemenis want them to.

The spirit of democracy and freedom should be implanted in leaders of all political parties, especially the ruling party. Everything depends on the will of the people. If the public doesn't want the GPC to go on ruling on its own, then they have the right to vote for the opposition so as to have a share in ruling the new government. However, if the people continue to support the GPC to represent the government alone, let it be.

I personally believe that if the GPC loses seats to the opposition, then that would only enhance the president's reputation and not the contrary because it is he who insisted on making the elections free and hence allowing free competition.

President Saleh has realized that in order to have a true democracy, there should always be sacrifice and giving away of room for others to participate.

Every democracy has a price, and I am glad that our leadership has realized that.

*The Editor*

**War on the people of Iraq**  
**"You will not succeed in the end"**

BY MOHAMMED AHMED NASSER  
ADEN

Throughout my life-time and as far as I can remember no invaders are welcome into any country regardless of the oppression the people of those may have suffered and will not be received with bouquets of flowers or music as the current US administration has been telling its own people and the whole world which now turned to a misleading trick to usurp the wealth of an Arab nation and colonize its people, and this was confirmed by the stiff resistance shown by the people and their heroic defense for their country in spite of the fact of the superiority in the weapons used and the pretexts offered to disarm Iraq of some of its weapons by the UN inspectors.

The editor-in-chief in his editorial 'What if' was absolutely right in raising the many points questioning the consequences of the planned and thereafter ugly and inhumane war against the people of Iraq under false slogan which only serves American arrogance and agreed for what belongs to others fabricating ceaseless justifications for itself to continue to drain Arab Gulf treasuries to support the faltering

American economy at the expense of some Arab puppet regimes. All the respondents from the USA to the aforesaid editorial seemed to have been brainwashed by their own country News media and the arguments they have presented were evidently influenced by a misleading campaign. By portraying the Iraqi President as a brutal and oppressive ruler who must leave his country which they have failed up to now by subjecting the Iraqi people to almost 13 years of siege and sanctions and the daily bombardment by air of the country with no UN mandate. Even the on-going war on the people of Iraq is not authorized by the UN security council and yet the American are still calling it 'War to liberate Iraq' which is in truth is turning to liberating them from life by using the most sophisticated weapons and dropping 2-ton bombs on residential areas killing women, children, and the elderly as well as attacking hospitals.

May I ask those persons defending the US policy about this ugly war, does your president differ as a tyrant from the Iraqi president in launching his war against the Arab people of Iraq for political ambitions for re-election to appear as a victorious president who reached the white house by court ruling and revive the US economy with the

blood of the Iraqi people and shamelessly began even to issue bids for reconstruction of Iraq after the departure of Saddam? The unjust war unleashed on the heroic people of Iraq will not lead to the defeat of this courageous Arab country but the human losses on both sides will be very heavy.

Permit me to take this opportunity just to remind those liberators to be and those who support them as the subservient British prime minister as well as others, what have you achieved when the US tried to liberate Vietnam form communism, Lebanon, Korea, Somali land and the Philippines and the end result was resistance and driving them out.

The American administration is completely ignorant of the Arab psyche up to now and fails to understand that Iraq and the Arab world will not be an easy to be taken over and ruled by an American General or military presence and remember that the Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation has been going on for 53 years despite the superiority of Israeli military machine. As for the so-called opposition parties working under the American umbrella and money, they will not be able to rule Iraq because of the nature of the Iraqi's and it is not like Afghanistan. So, better withdraw now before it is too late.

**Somali refugees...**

**We still suffer**

BY MOHAMMED HAGI ALI MOHAMMED

Because of the prolonged crisis in horn of Africa, the Somali refugees in Yemen facing a very difficult moment and are actually troubled by two main problems. Firstly, they have as yet no prospect to return to their own country due to the fact that the various factions resulting from the collapse of the former regime have, virtually, fallen into the trap of endless tribal hostility which, practically, turned the country into a scorched earth and nullified all the efforts were made during the past ten years purposely is find a solution to the problem which has been tormenting the Somali people for so long time. It's no wonder, more than 400 thousand refugees took refuge in neighboring countries where they live in dire need. Almost the entire population is poverty-stricken, starvation, diseases and violence reigned throughout the country as the international community abolished any commitment toward it. Secondly, they do not receive any assistance from the local UNHCR in contrast to other refugees in other parts of the world, who benefit. A wide range of assistance provided by the international institution most community in the form

of food, shelter, medical assistance, education etc. in other words, the efforts of the local UNHCR in have not served to accomplish. Any thing more than a bit of humanitarian relief (over the past ten years) devoted, completely, to those refugees living in refugee camps in Aden and elsewhere in Yemen. The rest of the Somali refugees living in urban Arabs the only benefit they gain from being registered with the office of the local UNHCR is the medical assistance which is provided by the refugee health center which is not equipped adequately and lacks a well furnished pharmacy, and qualified doctors as well. The problem of Somali refugees was intensified when the pharmacy of the center interrupts the provision of the drugs to the patients, especially those patients who are affected by diabetes and blood pressure. The interruption which is due to lack of the drugs in the pharmacy caused the patients to spend an agonizing 6 months trying to get the required drugs for loan so that to avoid their health condition getting worse. At the beginning of the current year when new refugee id card were used in replacement of the old ones and a new administration was established in the bosom of the local UNHCR, our great expectation was to see also a turning in the assistance program which

remains in variable although many criticism have been directed to the local UNHCR office and others published on local newspapers. The reactions were incalculable. The most notable being an article written by Mr. Daneshvar, the former UNHCR representative in Yemen, in respond to Mr. Abucar's Article. Nevertheless, the UNHCR official has only protected in his article himself and the international institution from the criticism during his term, which was, characterized by a constant reduction of the relief aids which were being provided parsimoniously. It would be absurd to imagine that except for a few individuals who depends for their sustenance upon remittances coming abroad from their close relatives who are themselves refugees, the remaining depends for their survival upon petty cash's their children gain by doing jobs such as washing car and domestic servants instead of going to school like other children. The problem is not that the needs are far greater than the available resources as the responsible of the local UNHCR claim. It is their attitude of complete indifference toward the sufferings of these refugees. Nevertheless, most of the Somali refugees whether they in urban Arab or not are now concerned about their health conditions.

**COMMON SENSE**



By Hassan Al-Haifi

**Political Islam: The Shiite way**

Last week, the Americans in Iraq got a taste of one of the most interesting phenomenon in Islam: the Memorial Tribute to Al-Hussein Bin Ali Bin Abu Talib, the revered grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (PAUP). The significance of this event is that it highlights one of the paramount events in Shiite customs. The significance of this event to the Americans is that it underscores the point that freedom and political rights are nothing new to Islam. In fact, Islam was the first spiritual and social movement that underscored the importance of the political participation of the constituency long before Robespierre, Thomas Paine and others demanded "No taxation without representation" (over a thousand years before them). This is important in order to let it be known to all those emails and White House contenders, who think otherwise, that "freedom" and civil liberties are vital and dynamic issues in Islam and are not just their baby. They are probably even more important than the mechanical worship rites, to which some of the misguided Moslem constituencies have devoted 99% of their energy to at the expense of these real fundamental social tenets of Islam. The Shiites in Karbala were emphasizing their determination to carry on the struggle initiated by Hussein in his struggle against the Omayyad Caliphs, who at that time in the Seventh Century have imposed a tyrannical regime in the Moslem State, which Islam totally abhors, and against all forms of tyranny that followed. That is why the Shiites were the most vocal opponents to Saddam's regime and sacrificed thousands of people in their fight against the regime, while Washington was buddy-buddy with Saddam. That is also why the Shiite regime in Iran was very effective in removing the tyrannical rule of the Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavhi, while the United States used to consider the latter "their policeman in the region". Thus, we really have no reason to have to be reminded about what rights and liberties are, since it was in fact Islam, which introduced these concepts to the West in the first place. In fact, Benjamin Franklin was quoted as saying, that Islam was an important source for encouraging the development of the fight for civil liberties in the West.

On the other hand, the commemorations in Karbala were an astute reminder to the newly implanted invaders in Iraq that they are far from receiving total submission of the Iraqi and Moslem World for this invasion. Accordingly, there is really no need to continue with this aggrandizement of the invasion as deliriance of the Iraqis from the tyrannical rule of Saddam Hussein. For one thing, if they had truly been considerate of the Iraqis, the Americans should not have helped Saddam to power in the first place and supported most of his demonic activities in the region for a decade or so, until he got carried away with himself and invaded Kuwait.

For those who are unfamiliar with the way Islam is manifested in this world, it is not difficult to summarize briefly the major features that distinguish the Islamic sects from one another, thus one can at least clarify some issues. First of all from a spiritual conceptual standpoint, as much as it may be exaggerated at times, even by some misguided Moslems, there are basically no differences among Moslems with regards to their monotheistic concepts and the Five Pillars of Islam, etc. The differences really come down to some of the political and social ramifications introduced by Islam, which have become corrupted to a certain extent by religious scholars that served the interests of despotic rulers over the ages since the dawn of Islam. The Shiites, realizing that Al-Hussein fought against the tyranny of the Moslem despots in his age tend to be the more active adherents to the important social regime, which Islam envisioned for the world (Islam is, after all, a universal message). Moreover, Islam introduced political tolerance to a significant level to the point where exemplary Moslem rulers over the ages (namely the First Four Caliphs and some other Moslem rulers that followed later on) would dwell in tears, if they heard that a member of their constituency complained of an injustice here and there. During the rule of one of the more enlightened of the Omayyad Caliphs (in the Eighth Century, Omer Bin Abdul-Aziz), it is reported that there was not one beggar to be found throughout the Moslem State then, because of his strict application of the social justice that Islam demanded and his personal attention to handling all grievances against corrupt or malevolent deputies or officers.

The Shiites therefore look to Hussein Bin Ali, as a benevolent manifestation of the calls for social justice and civil liberties that Islam demands and his willingness to sacrifice his life for these important elements in Islam gave rise to the reinforcement of the Shiite Moslem constituency. The Shiite Sect originates back to the people who followed Hussein's father Ali [the Fourth Caliph (the word Shi'a in Arabic means followers; i.e. the followers of Ali) after the death of the Prophet Mohammed (PAUP)]. Ali was also well recognized by all Moslems (Sunnis and Shiites) as the originator of the Social Contract that Islam truly implanted as a basis for government, which Moslems have somehow overlooked. Such political notions were later picked was up by many Western Scholars as a basis for their drive for political freedom and social justice, and thus its application in the West, to a certain extent.

This is the crux of the issues that really now govern the situation in Iraq, and it will not be difficult for the Shiites and Sunnis of Iraq to come to terms, notwithstanding the false notions that many "experts" like to convey that the Sunni-Shiite "split" is an important element in the shaping of the future of Iraq. Both sects certainly view the American continued presence and influence as anathema to the social and political freedoms which Islam calls for. Make no mistake about that!

**Letters to the Editor**

**There is no ideal freedom**  
There is no true freedom anywhere in this world, yet. As an American I have a sense of freedom, but not true freedom. I can't just get on a plane and fly to Turkey and just go anywhere I please, or China or Iran without permission and papers. France of all countries helped us achieve our freedom, I believe we returned the favor in WW2, yet they're free to choose not to help us in Iraq. Germany, also chose to decline. Yet as a conquered country, cut off from humanitarian aid we made sure with the Berlin Airlift that aid got through. China suffered greatly at the hands of the Japanese, who came to their aid? Yet they were free to attack us in Korea. WWII was over 50 years ago, a very short time ago as man goes. True Freedom will only be achieved when man as a whole has worldwide freedom to come and go as they

please, express their views without fear of retribution, where religion is respected by all, regardless who they chose to worship. The only way to 'True Freedom' is for every man, woman, and child to honor all men, women and children as equals with no stipulations whatsoever. Then we can fight against together as mankind against disease, pestilence and hunger.

Charles Buehner  
FLA.USA  
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YT: 12 years and still growing  
Your paper keeps getting better. And the conversations that are ongoing; I wouldn't have thought them possible.

Change is not only difficult, it is usually unwelcome. War unleashes energy, questions values and can set new expectations.

The question is: To what

**Letters to the Editor**

end will the energy be applied? There are structures in many countries that kept civilizations arrested, economies stalled and children with limited futures. The energy may go to solving these problems, or it can be channeled into hate.

Dave Lockhorn  
Cincinnati, Ohio - USA  
nighshifi@fuse.net

You should be ashamed of yourselves  
Your editorial staff is composed of the worst kind of self-serving, pompous, bigots. They promulgate myths and unfounded rumors. And, by their actions, stereotype their own people as ignorant and backward. Repeating lies and half-truths in print to inflame the masses is the worst crime a journalist can commit in modern society. You make fools of yourselves and your people in front of the entire world. You should all be ashamed

of yourselves.

Michael E. Reed  
Kansas, USA  
mreed@hotmail.com

An American soldier's mother speaks  
I read the opinions of many and I have always wondered how so many can lay their heads down at night and truly rest. I feel that the Middle East has been in so much turmoil. The Iraqi people have lived in a suppressed state for so long, it is truly sad. I only hope that the entire Arab nation can someday thank the US soldiers including my 27-year-old son who went there to fight for their freedom. I feel that the Arab world hates Americans despite the fact that all we truly want is peace...

A Mother of a soldier  
Gail Nobrega  
Hague400@aol.com

More letters on page 18 & 19

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Priority to adopt by the allies in post-war Iraq

# Restore security



BY MOHAMMED KHIDR  
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The Anglo-American invasion forces have now almost come to the end of their military operations in Iraq and succeeded in the removal of Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq, the main aim declared by the American-British alliance. Before the start of their military campaign on Iraq, though it lacks any international or legal authorization, the allies promised for months before that they would go to the war on the Iraqi regime for liberating its people and to help them get freedom and democracy. They promised to attack only the regime and would not inflict any harm on the people. What happened over more than three weeks of the most ferocious and brutal military strikes on Iraq have resulted in total destruction of almost everything in that country. The allies' bombardment did not spare hospitals, civilian residential quarters, and civilian infrastructure of economy, water supplies, electricity, communications and others. Military bombardment did not exclude edifices, such as universities, cultural centres and museums which subsequently came under an unprecedented looting and sabotage acts under the eyes of the occupying troops who did not bother themselves even to guard those edifices. Death toll among the Iraqi population exceeded hundreds of thousands of innocent children, women and old people. The whole country is rendered into rubble, the reconstruction of which would take months and years and to cost hundreds of billions of dollars. All the Iraqi military, security and civilian institutions have been destroyed and disappeared, leaving behind a very dangerous political, security and social vacuum prevalent by chaos, embodied by organized acts of looting and hooliganism never experienced in this country which had always been the cradle of first human civilizations ever known in human history. All these tragic pictures are seen on world TV channels the world over and nobody can deny them. It has become clear that the "shock and awe" policy was really meant for the people of Iraq in the first place, rather than the Iraqi regime, a tangible impression expressed by huge segments of the Iraqi population.

Of course the Anglo-American ally strategists who have planned for this war have had in mind their own designs and goals of their aggression and occupation other than those

declared with regard to interests of the Iraqi people. They are plans aimed to re-shape the political and social map stipulated in their strategy concerning the region, in accordance with the allies' interests and ambitions, mainly economic and political, and the protection of their forward colonialist base Israel.

The declared objectives of the allies' military campaign on Iraq claim an effort for providing "freedom and democracy" for the people of Iraq. The allied forces in Iraq, especially the American marines and Special Forces, are now committing a very grave mistake. They have been behaving as an occupying, not liberating, force in the way they are treating the Iraqis with excessive violence and showing an indiscriminate skepticism towards Iraqi citizens. By this behaviour they would not be able to win the people confidence in them, especially after their indifferent attitude when the cities came under waves of looting of government, civil institutions, hospitals and even the cultural centres, particularly museums. This indifference resulted over many days in total destruction of those institutions and the burning of their contents of furniture, equipment and documents of high importance and sensitivity. Although keeping security and protection of the people life and property is the responsibility of the occupying forces under Geneva conventions, the Anglo-American forces adopted a negative stand in this respect and let chaos and crimes prevalent everywhere in the country. How then would the Anglo-American troops expect the people to welcome them? Another grave mistake made by the American administration officials is allowing some of the Iraqi exiled opposition elements, especially those who are pro the U.S. intelligence and the Pentagon, to enter the country with their own gunmen and to install themselves as leaders in the cities under alleged attempts to restore order and stability in the country and to speak and behave on behalf of all Iraqis. They even seized some public and private buildings and took them as headquarters for their organisations, an act resembling confiscation and occupation. It is to be perceived in the first place that those elements have no popular base inside the Iraqi political public opinion and many of them were part and parcel of the deposed regime. Some of them have been outside Iraq for decades and do not know what changes and suffering have been taking place on the ground. The people of Iraq bear special sensitivity and skepticism towards most of them and thus they refuse them to be their leaders, neither at present nor in the future.

The most urgent tasks the occupying forces must give priority to, are restoration of order and security throughout the country and providing water, electricity, health and other necessary services including re-opening the schools and universities where studies were interrupted because of the war. The war has left every walk of life in Iraq, especially the economic, in the worst chaotic condition and this requires urgent action and measures to return them to their normal condition as quick as possible, for otherwise the consequences will be detrimental to the Anglo-American forces in the first place.

Concerning restoration of public services functioning, Iraq is already well-organized institutionalized country and the occupying forces need not much effort to re-organize them, particularly the personnel who were running those institutions. The change could include only the senior heads of those institutions related to the former regime. They would have to send urgent calls to employees to go to their departments at various ministries and installations. The fact that the Americans and British have to understand is that the majority, if not all of the employees are not and were not really politically loyal to the regime but because of their needs and the regime's strict conditions they were obliged to pretend to be so. Even in the police and the army the majority are forced to declare their political allegiance to the ruling party. This is a very urgent task to be carried out by the allied forces in order to restore normality to the life of the Iraqis.

Regarding the political aspect both American and British administrations must understand that the Iraqis are not a society divided into conflicting religious sects and ethnic groups. It is a very homogeneous society. True the Iraqi society is comprised of Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans and other minorities but they are not living in secluded closed areas. Muslims, Sunnis and Shiites live together in every city and village in Iraq and they are inter-married. They, on many occasions, even perform prayers at the same mosques and other worshipping places. Sectarian divisions and incitements are sometimes performed by certain political factions for certain political purposes in application of the principle of divide and rule. Christians and other religions are not excluded for this state of harmony seen in Iraq.

Arabs, Kurds, Turkomans and other nationalities live everywhere in Iraq and many families are a mixture of these nationalities. That is why there no danger of a possibility of conflicts occurring between nationalities form-



ing the Iraqi society's fabric. Only political organisations of those ethnic groups could for certain narrow interests excite such differences. This religious and ethnical harmony has been so for many centuries and will remain so for centuries to come. The Iraqis are proud of this situation in their society. Iraq is in fact a harmonious multi-religious and multi-national society. Therefore, maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity is a very essential task and obligation the allied forces should take into consideration if they want actually to maintain peace and stability in the region as a whole.

One of the most urgent tasks the American-British allies must hasten to do is to restore the normal political life in Iraq. They have to genuinely provide sincere opportunities for the Iraqis to re-organize their political life. The Americans and the British should comprehend fully that the inside opposition is the party that directly suffered from consequences of former regime's policies and they are more righteous to re-organize their political life in utter freedom without anything options imposed on them by external forces or by some political elements who have been living for long periods of time in America and Europe without directly

suffering from imprisonment or suppression of the regime, but rather living in peace and leading stable life there. The inside opposition has certain sensitivity towards those elements, especially towards those who were for some time part of the regime. There is in Iraq a very strong and well-organized underground political opposition and due to fierce suppression it was not able express itself freely and loudly. It is a serious mistake and would result adversely if the Americans or the British try to impose or give support to the outside political elements or organisations at the expense of the inside political parties and organisations for such a stand would lead to political instability and conflict and the allies would be blamed for that and they will face strong resistance.

The U.S.-British alliance has to hasten in taking whatever necessary measures and arrangements to shorten the military presence in the country and help quick installation of an interim governance to undertake running the country as a prelude to preparing a permanent constitution and democratic legislative elections. And this should be at the same pace with introducing administrative and economic reforms

touching directly life of the people. The longer the military presence of the allies stay in Iraq the more chances of resistance would arise against such a presence and the people will get convinced that the British and the Americans have really attacked their country, with all the devastation and chaos resulting from it, just to occupy and colonize it. Longer military occupation would create a struggle for ending it either peacefully or by force. So far the allied forces behaviour and measures have created an impression of suspect towards the real intentions of the allies among the Iraqi people and unless these suspicions are removed, the consequences would not be in favour of the Anglo-American campaign. Whatever they do and however capable they think are of, the American-British allies must not try to act alone in re-building the political and government system and reconstruction in Iraq, and the United Nations and the Arab countries should not be excluded from participation in this task because Iraq is part of the international community as it is part of the Arab world and whatever changes take place in it would have their impact on both the international community and the Arab world and nation.

## Will GCC Survive?

BY AHMED SAIF  
RESEARCH MANAGER  
GULF RESEARCH CENTER  
FOR YEMEN TIMES

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was established in 1981 as a direct result for the Islamic revolution in Iran and the Iraq-Iran war, so it basically aims to forge a security umbrella for its members. The events since its establishment proved its weakness and it did not fulfill the mandate. It has been crippled by the internal fragmentation between its different-oriented members.

Some of these indifferences originated from fears of small state from the Saudi hegemony that make them resist certain issues and sometimes deflect GCC's resolutions. Other reasons had their roots in external influence particularly the American, which played GCC's members against others.

For these reasons military and security measures taken by the GCC for collective security arrangements have not materialized. For example, the unified security agreement signed in 1982 has never been implemented because of Kuwaiti resistance. The Peninsula Shield Forces does not exceed 15000 troops because small states are afraid of Saudi massive military superiority over them. This was among the important reasons makes GCC states dependent on exterior help to defend them.

More recently Qatar in particular causes a lot of trouble, to Saudi Arabia,

Kuwait and UAE. Qatar seems following different agenda derailed from the mainstream followed by the GCC members, she has aloof herself from conservatism and increasingly following a unique glasnost and perestroika. In many occasions Qatari extreme openness embarrassed other GCC members; therefore, reciprocal criticism is often happened between them.

The first Gulf war represented a turning point characterized by the direct American military presence that provided alternative means of defense, which relieved the fears of small states. This has been emphasized by the current war on Iraq that preceded by declaration of the U.S. its new strategy, which embraces dramatic political changes in the region.

In the same venue the unprecedented Qatari and Bahraini democratic endeavors have applied a great pressure on Saudi government to mimic them and the situation devastated for Saudis after September 11. Moreover, the war on Iraq sheds lights on disputed attitudes GCC states have had regarding the future and potential developments. Harmony among the GCC states now in its minimal level stemmed from differences in their state settings, state-society relations and the nature of relationship with the U.S. in which all are determinants of regimes' survival.

In such context, how viable the GCC to survive? In the light of regional prospects and direct American presence the future of the GCC is uncertain

and the current formula will be altered. There are three options: the first is to expand the membership of the GCC to include post Saddam Iraq. In pre 1990, Iraq was a member in all GCC corporations except the supreme council. New Iraq will be eligible to join either as a full member or partly as Yemen. This formula will enable the U.S. to steer the region's affairs smoothly and will increasingly contain and exclude Iran.

The second option is to abolish the GCC in favor of a new form of gathering with new orientation pertinent to the new era. If this happened the new formula is expected to be loose to enable the U.S. to run the show.

Finally is to disintegrate the GCC without creating an alternative and the Arab Gulf countries will run their affairs according to interest-motivation. In this case the state's vulnerability and susceptibility in the Gulf will be increased and desired changes the U.S. wants can be imposed easily.

Nonetheless, the first option is more probable because it avoids the region a sudden shock and expands the security arrangements to include other key countries at the time the U.S. will remain the mastermind of the developments. In doing so, the global oil market will be under control of the U.S. and OPEC will be no more needed, where production and prices can be determined only by the new GCC. This also suggests the creation a new joint market in the region and the U.S. may join it with Israel as active partners.



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Traditional Yemeni costumes, diverse, eye-catching and beautiful (part 2-2)

# Beauty in Yemeni eyes

YEMEN TIMES TAIZ BUREAU

Continuing our Yemeni costumes tour, light will be shed in this episode on the beautiful dress codes and traditional costumes of a few more regions in Yemen. We shall present costumes of Hajja, Al-Mahara, Taiz, and Jabal Sabir.

It's quite amusing how costumes vary drastically between men and women and still there could be certain similarities that are invariably there.

**Hajja costumes**

In Hajja, men wear a colorful wrap called "Miewaz" secured around the waist with a fold. This dress is shared among men in Al-Dhali, Shabwa, Al-Baidha, Lahj and Hadramot. Along with the Miewaz, men wear the Janbiya, and a head gear made from a square checked cloth generally red or black in color and folded in the shape of a triangle. This could also be placed on the shoulders instead of the head and is common all around the country. Men here also wear some other types called "Al-Dhulla" which is a small cap made from palm trees and is popular in coastal areas. Of course men wear a shirt on top of it.

Women in Hajja and in other coastal areas wear what is called "Wazar" and "Saderia" Those constitute of a two-piece dress and "Al-Dir'e" which is a one-piece light dress that could be decorated with embroidery. As jewelry, women wear what is called "Al-Duqqa" which is a necklace made of silver rings around the neck. Women in Hajja also wear bracelets and bangles and earrings. In similar regions women

decorate their heads with an embroidered piece of cloth called "Al-Qsheeta" and their hair with a decorative piece called "Al-Hanishiya".

**Yemeni women never left a part of their body with no decoration****Al-Mahara costumes**

In Al-Mahara, women mostly wear "Abu Thail". This is a velvet long cloth with an elegant tail giving women a hint of royalty as they walk. To crown this dress, they wear what is called "Al-Sent" or "Al-Qurqoosh" which is a head gear with an opening in its front side. Of course, the bride has special clothes to enhance her beauty; with heavily embroidered clothes, silver and gold jewelry. A bride puts on jewelry to decorate her head, neck, ears, nose, hair, chest, arms, fingers and even ankles. Yet the amount and value of these items vary according to the social status and richness of the family. Men are less fortunate this way although they still wear beautiful colored clothes and embroidered shawls, and of course, Al-Janbiya and most of the time, a gun as well on his shoulder as a sign of man bravery and manliness.

**Taiz costumes**

Being the former capital of Yemen and one of the most heavily populated cities, Taiz has acquired a mixed culture in everything including costumes. However, the original dress code in Taiz for men is a long sleeved one piece dress called "Qamees", which is also popular in most of the other regions as well as a "Yalaq" which is similar to the inner piece of men's for-

mal suit. Men also put a cap like head gear or a turban along with a shawl on the shoulder and a Janbiya around the waist. Taiz women wear a two-piece dress composed of a medium length dress with trousers made of similar colors if not the same material and color decorated at the bottom of each leg. As an overcoat, women wear what is called "Sharshaf" which is a two-piece black cloth composed of a skirt and a closed shawl-like with buttons in front.

**Jabal Sabir and Misrahk**

Men in Jabal Sabir and Misrahk usually wear similar clothes to those men living in Taiz City but what is most interesting in this region is women's dresses. Dresses of women in those areas are characterized with bright and joyful colors.

Women's dresses in those two towns must be handmade and are only made in those areas. The most prominent piece of women dresses here are usually wore on the chest. This piece, which extends to the knees are characterized with heavy embroidery and designs in fabulous artistic styles. The dress also has a pocket in the middle and has very long sleeves which are not actually used as sleeves because hands emerge from an opening near the sleeve root, and the sleeves are instead tied to the back to make a somewhat additional pocket. Women also wear "Sirwal" which are trousers decorated at the bottom and are generally of bright colors.

Of course there is also a head gear for the Sabiri women and that is a square piece of cloth made of chiffon or organza and folded in a triangular shape and tied on the head in a way



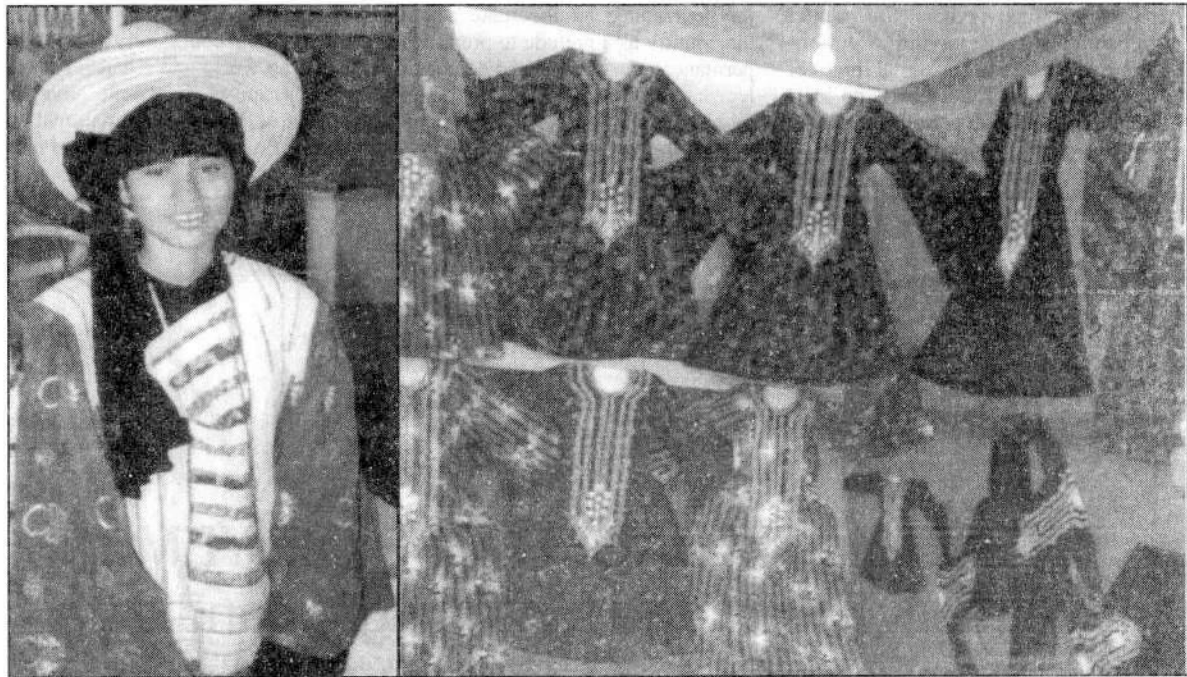
Girls appear in deeply-rooted traditional costumes

that leaves a part of its end from one side longer so as to cover the mouth in a veil like manner. As always, the bride takes the biggest share of decoration. In Jabal Sabir, brides have all their dresses decorated with jewelry and wear an item called "Al-Laba", which is basically a necklace that weighs around 800gm and made of pure silver. The bride also wears at least one neck bracelet with silver rings attached to it. As if that is not

enough, the bride also wears what is called "Kahrab" which is a jewel made of gems put on her head and which is embedded with silver. Moreover, the head is also covered with a silver crown that has danglers on the sides ending with silver coins, which must be worn with long heavy earrings called "Mashaqir0" that very much fit the style and design of the crown. She also wears silver bangles and a silver belt that could range from one to three

kilograms in weight. Of course ankles must also be decorated with bangles that make a sound as she walks. Traditionally, brides also put henna on their feet and hands in beautiful designs and drawings.

You can imagine how a Sabiri bride would look like just before she meets her groom on wedding day. She would resemble the beautiful picture of a gorgeous bride dressed with jewelry from head to toe.



A girl wears straw hand-made hat along with a number of traditional dresses on the left

As International day for theater celebrated in Yemen

## Bringing spirit to Yemen's dying theater

BY: ISMAEL AL-GHABIRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The 27<sup>th</sup> of March of every year is the day marked as the International Day for Theater and is celebrated all around the world. Yemen too celebrated this day last March although the concept of 'theater' is not really a popular one here. This could be attributed to the fact that no theater sector in the true sense exist in Yemen today. But the theater in Yemen is somewhat very limited and humble. Yemen's theater had a relative share of attention and several acts were conducted in the past years. Experiences although few and small in scale, have been praised to be of class and professionalism that inspired many working in the field to not abandon this neglected sector.

The idea is that Yemen, as many developing countries, suffers from many social and economic problems that affect its people's priorities and their inclination towards entertain-

ment. When you are hardly making ends meet, your most priority will certainly not be watching a theatrical play, especially with the current worries and circumstances that Yemeni people are sharing with the rest of the Arab world in terms of the war on Iraq. As a matter of fact, many Yemenis have been going about their lives in a routine manner looking at the local and international events unfolding in front of them believing that what William Shakespeare's once said, "Life is a play" is true indeed.

Many who are related to the theater industry in Yemen disagree on the real challenges facing the theater business today. However, they do agree that this sector is facing a lot of difficulties. Main problems are represented in lack of resources, lack of proper theaters for the plays, lack of experience that one would fall back upon to produce master pieces, lack of good scripts and professional cadre and most importantly the lack of commitment by the authorities to revive this sector. The negligence that theater is

suffering from in Yemen has resulted in putting it at risk of total collapse.

In harmony with the preparation to hopefully make Sana'a the Cultural Capital of the Arab World in a few years, the government has been seen exerting efforts and paying more attention to the theater as explained by related authorities in the Ministry of Culture. Where in the grand plan that had been set forward, the theater has had a good share of attention and planned development recently. Hoping that by establishing an infrastructure and encouraging theater lovers to work on reviving this sector, the government is working to promote the arts industry in Yemen as a whole and the theater industry in particular. Hence the celebration of the international day for theater meant a little more than inviting some intellectuals and those interested in theater to a small gathering this year. But perhaps it gives a little of a glance into a brighter future and a gleaming ray of hope for this neglected sector.

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**Advances in Labor and Reducing Mortality (ALARM) course held:**

# Combating maternal mortality in Yemen

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A three-day course on "Advances in Labor and Reducing Mortality" (ALARM) was organized in April at al-Thowra Hospital's National Tertiary Maternity Center in Sanaa and was sponsored by the Association of Obstetricians and Midwives of Yemen and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The course comes in direct response to Yemen's needs to tackle this problem as it is with one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. In Yemen, the lifetime risk of dying from a maternity related complication is extremely high. One in nine Yemeni women will die from a maternity related complication (this can be compared to Canada where the risk is only one in 6,600). Preventing maternal mortality and reducing the risks of maternity complications by providing training to locals in Yemen was the major objective of this specific course.

Trainers of the event included three Canadians: Dr. Jean Chamberlain, Dr. Ahmed Ezzat, Dr. John Smith and a Yemeni: Dr. Shamsaa Al-Awar. Organizers of the course believe that

there are two essential steps to be taken to improve maternity health in Yemen. Those are education of trained health care personnel and the facility and equipment enhancement and supply.

The course had targeted those who do need to know more about maternity problems and cures. They include Physicians, midwives and maternity nurses from the Sana'a governorate. Participants were invited from various hospitals and maternity units (private, public and NGO based centers as well as primary and tertiary units). A cross-section of maternity health care providers was also involved. The course provided training to around 40 participants.

The course started globally in the mid 1990s by members of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC- a Canadian NGO). To date, over 1,000 physicians, midwives and nurses have participated in the course. The major causes of maternal mortality are common worldwide and the basic treatment for each threat to life is basically the same.

Due to its adaptability and relevance to international women's health, the SOGC in cooperation with local NGOs have held the ALARM course in several countries over the past two years (Uganda- over 120 participants, Haiti-

80, Guatemala-40 participants). The course has been warmly received and is expected to gain greater momentum in all of these countries and is sponsored by CIDA.

The course is based on adult education principles with various components:

- Didactic lectures (participants have copies of the lecture notes)
- Small group workshops
- Hands on demonstrations with mannequins
- Evaluation of participants' knowledge acquisition (multiple choice exam and oral structured clinical examination) and
- Evaluation of the course by participants.

The input of the ALARM international course in Yemen is summarized in:

- Review causes of maternal mortality
- Review treatments of life threatening pregnancy related diseases
- Acquire hands on skills- which save women's lives

On the other hand, the course is expected to yield the following:

- Initiate change in maternity units (including the use of the panto-



Trainers during Advances in Labor and Reducing Mortality course held at Thowra Hospital's National Tertiary Maternity Center

graph, maternal mortality audits, development of protocols for treatment)

- All participants will receive the ALARM manual which is an up-to-date review of causes and treatments of maternal mortality based

on the course content

The three day course for trainees was followed by a one-day course for instructors to get them familiar to the subject of ALARM and its objectives. It is interesting to note that due to the

importance of this course for Yemen, it was extended one more day to become three days unlike what has been assumed for it earlier. Furthermore, the Al-Thowra Hospital was chosen for its adequate facilities for lecture and workshop components.

# Doctors or merchants?

By BASSAM JAMIL AL-SAQQA  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Don't you be deceived by some of the doctors' white uniform and misleading smile for behind that smiling mask, lies a dark heart of a brutish animal that does not attack with his claws or teeth, but with a surgeon's knife and a medical bill. Above all, he does this with a wide fake smile. Because if your fate is put in his hands- God forbid- then you'll surely understand that no longer he should be called "mercy angel" but perhaps "tool of torture", a merchant who is willing to sell his victim's well-being and life for a few thousand Yemeni rials!

It all started when a number of my friends -some actually working in that warehouse called hospitals- told me about the commissions and percentages that are availed by doctors, pharmacists, laboratorians and x-ray specialists, all in an organized system that somehow works very adequately in this chaotic country. Not only do doctors prescribe unrequired -and sometimes unsuitable- medicines, but they also request unneeded laboratory tests and surgeries.

When asked if this was true, a pharmacist replied positively, and mentioned that this is widely evident in the private sector. He mentioned that in his particular case, the owner of the pharmacy is a clean and religious doctor, that is why he doesn't have that many customers, and had he been like the others -in paying commissions- he would have earned much more revenue. Another pharmacist explained that he didn't hear of such practices and does not know if they existed.

**New phenomenon emerging throughout Yemen**

Ophthalmologist Dr. Tawfeeq Al-Khateeb replied to our questions about commissions saying that this is a recent

trend that has not been so common until recently. The medical stream still has an honest spirit because it deals with lives of people. Personally, he said, he did not have much information about such negative practices, although he did hear from colleagues about them. An incident he narrated was that of a neighbor who went through an accident and was told by 'doctors' that he had internal bleeding and operated on him and ultimately charged him heavily while it turned out that he didn't require any of that.

Dr. Al-Khateeb explained that perhaps this new trend has emerged because doctors' income in Yemen is quite low, so they seek other ways to increase their returns, whether through commissions from pharmacists or laboratorians or through private clinics. Another reason is lack of supervision by the Ministry of Public Health, where many doctors, especially foreigners, practice their job without any monitoring at all.

Dr. Al-Khateeb emphasized that if the earnings of doctors do not enhance, all of this would continue to happen.

**Pharmacists syndicate: 12 years of helplessness**

Member of the pharmacists syndicate, Dr. Abdulmajeed Al-Khulaidy says that this phenomenon is widely spread. He added that despite its efforts, the Pharmacist Syndicate has been unable to tackle this issue for 12 years.

He said that the most obvious form of it is in the field of medical insurance where companies and private organizations tend to deceive their employees with. Health insurance in the public sector consumes an operating budget from both Ministries of Health and Finance. This money is obtained from the taxes and then sold to the citizens. It's the Health Ministry's responsibility to ensure public health and provide precautionary medicine to all citizens including vaccines. Treatment is the responsibility of other establishments related to medical

insurance. However, it remains a fact that authorized persons are trading with people's health and needs. He added that Yemen's concept of services should improve, and that medicine should be separated from the Ministry of Health because the latter is pure science and the Health Ministry's concern should be public safety and health through environmental and precautionary medications. "In Jordan, they have separated the two and that is why medication has improved there," he said.

Regarding the commissions and percentages trend, he stated that there are such practices by heads of hospitals as well as regular employees. "How can you straighten the shadow when the actual object is twisted?" he asked. Reasons for this practice, he said, are administrative corruption and inequity in job and pay distribution. And there are more privileges given to foreign doctors on the account of Yemeni doctors, as there is little appreciation for Yemeni cadres. "We claim to be a democratic country but frankly speaking, this is just a sing song, because our government refuses to be questioned and there is no accountability."



A Pharmacy at al-Al-Jumhoori Hospital as shown in this photo, nothing inside

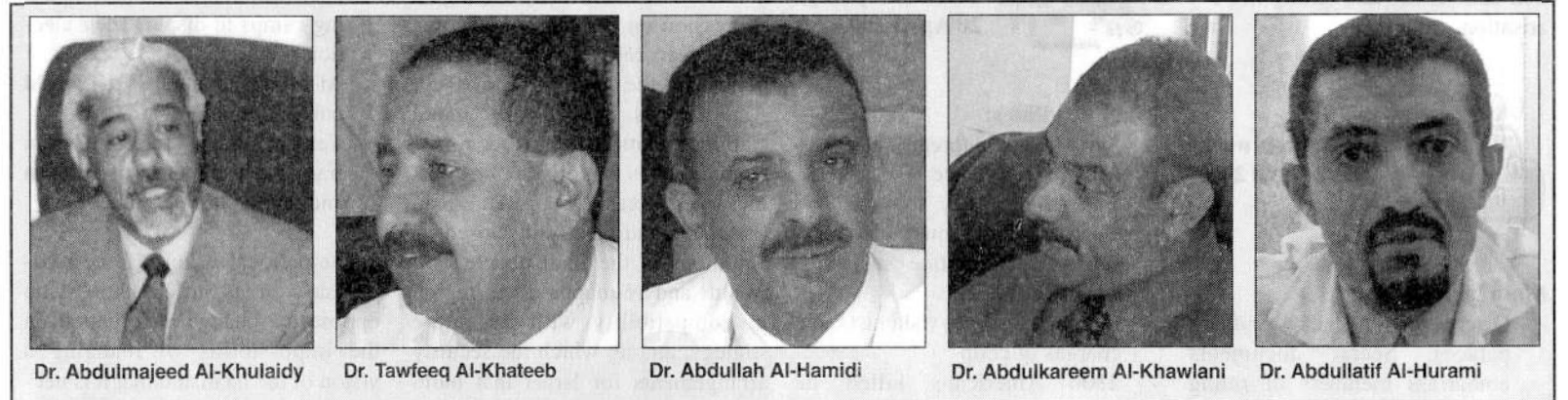
Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Khawlani, Vice President of Al-Thawra Hospital said, "We can't say for sure that this phenomenon is not exaggerated. If such incidents are reported, then they would probably be very limited in number. Terming doctors as 'merchants' is quite unfair because doctors do all they can to help relieve patients and cure their illnesses. It's quite ungrateful to talk about them in this way.

trust foreigners.

**Ask the minister!**

Head of Al-Jumhoori Educational Hospital Dr. Abdullah Al-Hamidi agreed with Dr. Al-Khawlani that this phenomenon is mostly common in the private sector. He said this is because in the government sector the state applies some rules when contracting doctors preventing

that demand their cooperation with certain pharmacies and laboratories in certain ways. This is because the original owners of most private medical centers are businessmen whose sole purpose is to earn money. For those businessmen, if the doctor displayed objection he is sacked! This doctor who in most cases waits for long years to get a job in front of the Health Ministry would probably



Dr. Abdulmajeed Al-Khulaidy Dr. Tawfeeq Al-Khateeb Dr. Abdullah Al-Hamidi Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Khawlani Dr. Abdullatif Al-Hurami

About the syndicate's role, he said that it could do very little. During its 12 years, it has been unable to do anything of significance because of the continuous pressures exercised on it. "If we were independent, then we could have taken certain measures, but we are just a part of the flock in a society that is used to acting as the sheep led by a governmental shepherd," he said. For 12 years we have been demanding that the situation of doctors and pharmacists be improved, but to no avail.

The consequences of ignoring our demands have proven to be severe, because how do you expect someone to treat you honestly when he/she is worried about losing his/her homes because they haven't paid the rent yet?

**It's all about money!**

Continuing our investigation into this subject, the government had to have its share in our survey. So we went to governmental hospitals to get the feedback of doctors.

In this hospital we have not heard of any complains about such incidents. But I believe these are more common in the private sector because of monetary reasons." About supervision, he said, there is a monitoring committee and it is concerned with investigation and delivering regular reports to the hospital's management and deciding proper punishments when there is a violation of the medical law. But he also indicated that patients have a hand still in what is happening because of their ignorance and because they want to get higher priority in treatment and they are willing sometimes to give 'gifts', etc. The daily number of patients visiting the hospital reaches more than 400 persons in the emergency section and more than 500 in the internal clinics. Hence, monitoring in this case is quite difficult. He also added that medication in Yemen is relatively cheaper than many other countries but unfortunately Yemeni citizens simply do not trust Yemeni doctors as much as they

them from behaving in an unsuitable manner. He also added that such behavior is a result of skewed morals and the persons who act in such a way whether doctors, pharmacists or laboratorians are dishonest. "Money is no excuse! They could have an extra job for additional income instead of robbing their patients. Yet the patients are also responsible because they cooperate in this. Doctors simply could not have done it alone," he elaborated.

We also noticed that the hospital's pharmacy has been closed for some time. "Two years", Dr. Al-Hammadi said. When asked why, he said it was the minister's decision; he could do nothing about it. "You are journalists, right? Go and ask him!" he said.

**Foreign doctors and private hospitals... a prime reason**

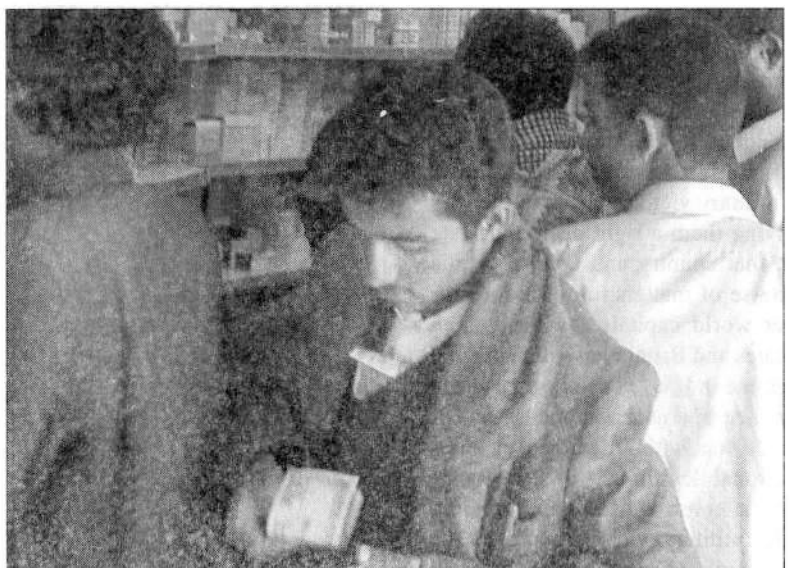
Dr. Abdullatif Al-Hurami, neurology doctor was quite frank with us. He said that in the private sector, the administration states a number of rules on doctors

not confront his boss in the hospital for such reasons.

He also said that most of the dealers who act this way are the foreign cadre because they have to come to this country basically to earn money, and they view patients as a source of income. Yemen is seen by many of those as a transit station before they move on to a better country such as The United Arab Emirates or Australia.

Dr. Al-Hurami stressed that this phenomenon is simply inexistent in the government sector because dealings there are with official vouchers with fixed prices that doctors cannot alter and that there are monitoring bodies that govern financial transactions.

He said that the hospitals most vulnerable to such practices would be private hospitals and clinics located in remote areas because they are not even licensed. And that the monitoring bodies actually identified some of those hospitals and closed them down.



Medicines have become these days unaffordable to buy

# Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

**P**reparations for the parliamentary elections on 27 April in Yemen and political parties' programs have this week captured the main front page headlines of local newspapers and columnists articles. Each party mouthpiece has presented elaborately its election platform in the bid for winning as much as possible votes at the polling stations. But the most eye-catching thing is the exchange of mud-slinging especially by opposition and the ruling party. Each side accuses the other of ill practices and violations of the constitution and elections law. The war of words between the opposition parties and the ruling party has been escalated during the past week as the date of elections approached. Although all indications point that this round of elections, the third since the unification in 1990, would be more organized and less violent, some observers and analysts still predict that the election process will not pass smoothly in some constituencies. For all that many observers see that the 13-year-old democratic experiment in Yemen is gaining more maturity.



**Al-Wahdawi**  
weekly, organ of  
the Nasserite  
Unionist Party, 2  
April 2003.

#### Main headlines:

- On Sunday the people in confrontation with corruption
- GPC hysteria against the law enhances success of the JMP
- One person killed, 15 injured in Utma
- At constituency 37, intensive shelling of JMP leading member house

Columnist Ahmed Said in an article that in the conduct of the supreme committee of elections and referendum offends the slow-progressing democratic experiment in Yemen and deals a blow to its. The reason is because of its non-neutrality and partiality to the ruling party. There is no meaning to any platform competition among the political parties under the continuous interference by committee's monitor who deletes any criticism against the electoral programs of the government policy. The latest of such deletion was that criticizing the deteriorating economic and general situations in the country. The law under which the committee has been formed was clear when its members were entrusted with administrative, procedural and technical tasks in any elections without partiality towards any political party and also to protect the law against any violations. What the supreme committee is doing exceeds its job and does not show any negative aspects of the ruling party that did not fulfill any of its promises it has given in the former parliament. That party even did not present any theories for economic reform but rather offered non-democracy and strong impoverishment.



**Al-Balagh**  
weekly, 22 April 2003.

#### Main headlines:

- Discovered in Uday Saddam palaces, Secret documents embarrass members of ruling families in the Gulf, Arab officials and ministers
- A source from Arab volunteers discloses accurate details on Baghdad battle
- American forces would not permit installation of an Iraqi government before five years
- CIA officials: Failure in finding Iraq's WMD confuses Bush administration
- Al-Sahaf alive, he handed over Saddam's TV tape to Abu Dhabi channel
- At the beginning of conspiracy against Syria, Powell: The U.S. studies enforcing sanctions of Syria
- Exchange of strong accusations between the Islah and GPC parties, reflects fierceness of competitions

Editor-in-chief of the newspaper says in his article that the election arena has witnessed big information and propaganda campaign though at sometimes went beyond the limits. Generally we think the elections festivals represent a step towards correct practicing of parliamentary elections. As much as these competitions represent a reflection of the democratic atmosphere the country is experiencing, they could not be ruled out that some would act in a fanatic way especially that programs of the political parties are almost the same. Looking deeply into the exchanged accusations by political parties regarding corruption, the citizen must be cautious when pondering these issues and to think of them carefully. He should not be drifted by the present living reality and corruption in some institutions and ministries and forget examining the present the recent past. Some of the opposition parties of today were influential partners in authority. The YSP was partner in power till 1994. At that time we had not of any corrupt being deposed of the government or being brought to justice. And the Islah party took part in government until the strategic alliance between Islah and the GPC got broken. At that time there was corruption and the Islah did not express objection against it. To be fair in our judgment we have to realize that corruption was not and would not be linked to a certain party for it is an octopus spread all over the society with all its parties. I do not believe that the parties playing the cord of corruption are true in their offers especially that some of them were part of the authority.



**Al-Jamaheer**  
weekly, organ of  
the Arab Baath  
Socialist party,  
20 April 2003.

#### Main headlines:

- Syria refuses threats, Saddam calls for resistance
- The ruling party tops list of electoral violations, elections supreme committee suspends constituency 281
- Egypt arrests 26 Islamists on charges of coup
- 2500 Americans killed in aggression on Iraq
- Law suit against war criminal, the commander of American military operations in Iraq
- Killers of Jaralla Omar and Jibla doctors tried

The newspaper's editorial devotes its theme to parliamentary elections saying those elections are part of a practice of the people's right to political authority and participation in construction, development and building a modern state base on law and order. It is the goal of building a state of institutions, scientific talents and creative capabilities to achieve individual's prosperity. Taking part in elections is, therefore, national and religious obligation necessitating good choice as it represents the axis of the electoral process. It would then

push for achieving aims of the society. So the whole process is related to the elector who thinks that corruption has included him in that he has lost his right and dignity against the corruption mafia and the influential elements. The elector has only one choice; either choosing corruption and accepting more retreat or selecting renaissance for lifting his suffering and forcing the upcoming authority to act in accordance with the national objectives.



**Al-Shoura**  
weekly, organ of  
the Yemen People's  
Forces Union, 20  
April 2003.

#### Main headlines:

- GPC's escalated breaches herald troubled elections
- YPFU condemns defaming its election program in official media
- Aggression on Iraq continues
- Lawsuit by JMP charges unconstitutionality of article 130 of election law
- Arrests and pressures practiced against opposition candidates in Taiz

Amin al-Kharsani says in an article the events taking place in Iraq proved that the United States political philosophy is in its essence an immoral philosophy even if the American administration claims to be a defender of freedom and human rights all that is but deception. There are many indicators confirm that. Such indicators are for instance hitting civilian quarters, and bombing the installations that contribute to offer humanitarian services such as hospitals and stores of food supplies.

The United States has violated the international laws by staging an aggression on a small country just because it refuses the American policy in the region. Above all, America has ignored the United Nations and its charter. It seems the United States has given the most important example of American arrogance and clearly disclosed its ambitions in the Iraqi people's oil wealth and re-mapping the region in compatibility with its future strategy, among which the security arrangements for Israel that build its presence at the expense of land and people of the Palestinian people. Plundering and looting museums and intellectual heritage of Iraq in an organized way proves that the American administration is morally defeated despite its military victory.



**Al-Isbou**  
weekly,  
24 April 2003.

#### Main headlines:

- Girl students assail the U.S. ambassador in Marib
- Execution of al-Nashiri and trial of 13 defendants with killer of Jarallah Omar
- Mystery engulfs destiny of mil-

- lions of dollars in Rafidain Bank
- Al-Salami takes part in Arab financial establishments in Abu Dhabi
- Prospects on suspending elections in tens of constituencies

An article by columnist Nouman Qaed Saif says the call of president Bush for lifting the blockade against Iraq confirms to those who used to believe the American allegations or were supporting them out of fear and hypocrisy that the occupation of Iraq by the allied forces was not motivated by disarming Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction which the international inspectors did not find any trace of them. The occupying forces and teams of experts have disclosed falsity of reports and information of American, British and Israeli allegations as well as claims by tail-pieces of the Iraqi "opposition". Troops and experts have been dis-able to find out any trace or material evidence confirming Iraq's possession of any prohibited weapons, the pretext upon which the UN Security Council depended on in imposing the harshest sanctions against a people whose sovereign state is member of the United Nations. The new demand by the international war criminal Bush was encountered with strong rejection by states insisting on sticking to return of inspectors to complete their task and offering a report to the Security Council saying that Iraq is clear of weapons of mass destruction. Only then the security council can take a decision lifting the sanctions imposed for thirteen years and was supposed to be lifted at least five years ago. But Washington had then acted ahead of any such a step and directed the inspectors through its spies to leave Iraq in 1998, claiming non-cooperation by Iraq and launched its aggression.



**Al-Sahwa**  
weekly,  
24 April 2003.

#### Main headlines:

- Following increase in security incidents, international monitoring in Taiz
- Islah candidates demand opening camps to display their election programs
- Al-Mouayad appeals to world public opinion
- Yemeni students returning from Iraq: we were prey of illusion and negligence

The political editor of the newspaper says in an article those who oppose the change have betted on the impossibility of realizing a vision of the Islah and that it is necessary to keep the situations as they are. The Islah program has been a strong reply to the ruling GPC party program which is just repetition of previous promises it did not meet and wrong policies that did not change and a failing experiment it has not benefited from. The government and its party continued defending the privileges the influential continued to entertain at the expense of the great majority interests. The ruling party program visualized the general conditions in the country as excellent though all realize the state of misery they have reached.

Despite the purposeful deformation of the Islah program by official media and conniving of the elections supreme committee the message of the program reached clear and pure and thus their illegal

endeavor was doomed to failure. All that is because the truth and sincerity could not be covered.

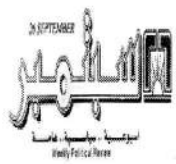


**Al-Thawri**  
weekly, organ of  
the YSP, 24  
April 2003.

#### Main headlines:

- YSP calls on the authority to disclose planners and implementers of the crime of killing Jarallah Omar
- Assassinations and arrests against activists of the YSP in Ibb and other governorates
- Elections supreme committee confirms the secret ballot, one year imprisonment of those violating that
- At Lahj education department, officials relatives employed, others pay the price

Columnist Abda Farie Nouman writes in his article that reality in our country clearly displays that dealing with elections democracy is a kind exciting worry and frustrates people, especially among those of limited mentality. The parties' practices inside the authority and outside it and the independent personalities prove the poor awareness of democracy. The usual practices by competing parties are represented by tearing off candidates' pictures, using harsh words and mud-slinging in a manner refused by reason and logic. The right way is that the competitors should entertain good morals and enough understanding. Such kinds of behavior reflect democratic and political bankruptcy. Our parties and candidates have to rise to the level of responsibility towards this issue and other matters. The ruling party should be a just judge among people and more balanced and wiser and more committed to democracy and human and moral values.



**26 September**  
weekly, organ of  
Yemen Armed  
Forces, 24 April  
2003.

#### Main headlines:

- President Saleh: democracy the most of what we are proud of
- 8.3 million voters go to polls to choose their representatives in the parliament
- American ban on travel to four Gulf countries, abolished
- The car that carried escapees from Tawahi prison seized
- Killer of nuns executed
- Jarallah killer confesses: We were planning to assassinate 31 secular personalities
- YR 387 million, state support for opposition parties

Columnist Nadeem al-Jamali says in an article the sound of guns in Baghdad and other Iraqi cities stopped but argument on the future of Iraq would continue inside Iraq and all Arab and European capitals as is the case in Washington and London. If the United States and Britain see that they have achieved a military victory in Iraq in the way giving them a right decide the fate of that country and control on the course of matters in it, the remainder world capitals say the United States and Britain have defeated the regime in Iraq. They say it has been an incomparable war and the use of force was without a cover of international legitimacy or acceptance of the entire world public opinion. The military victory could in the short-run change into a political

defeat if the Iraqis do not accept a government imposed on them or perhaps the military in the long-run if the United States was forced to withdraw from Iraq as a result of an armed resistance. There are several indicators suggesting that the road of re-building Iraq would not be strewn with flowers because voices in the United States and Britain began to question the two governments about the legitimacy of the war after it has been proved that the justification the war was launched for was fabricated and that president Bush and prime minister Blair have deceived their peoples on Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction and consequently be accounted because of that deceit. The political and religious movement now seen in Iraq against the occupation confirms to America and Britain that however refusing the Iraqi people were to Saddam Hussein's regime, their hatred and refusal of the occupation is bigger and greater.



**ATTARIQ**  
weekly, 22 April  
2003.

#### Main headlines:

- 28 Islah supporters arrested in Hodeidah
- Dr Habtour: Aden constituencies very important for the GPC
- 18 Yemeni students back home via Saudi Arabia
- In Hodeidah a call for electing Islah representatives
- Election festival in Tawahi for GPC candidate
- Citizens to ATTARIQ: Wait from candidates' programs not merely slogans
- 88 Islahis in Marib tender their resignation

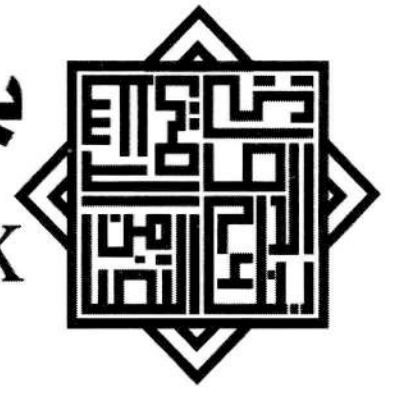
Columnist Ahmed Abdrabah Allow says the deputy we want must be a priority theme in our search. The elector must choose the representative who is qualified in truthfulness and honesty, he who feels problems of the public, studies their issues and work for finding a solution for them. The elector's role is the most significant and dangerous roles in elections. If the voter has chosen his representative well he would have contributed to electing a strong parliament able to express pains and hopes of the people and translating them into serious legislation contributing to achieve a better future for Yemen. It will be a council of the people's deputies leading the government and would not accept to be led by the government. It will be a council, the ministers be responsible to, and their task to be chasing after ministers and senior officials to sign requests.

**Yemen Times and friends wish a very happy send-off to Suresh Pal Singh, Indian Embassy, Sana'a**





# بنك التضامن الإسلامي الدولي Tadhamon International Islamic Bank



## Financial Statement - 2002

The 2002 annual report of Tadhamon International Islamic Bank

### capitals authorized and paid: YR. 2.250.000.000

On its sessions held on March 16, the financial annual report during 2002 affiliated to the Tadhamon International Islamic Bank was accredited by the general assembly. On his part, **Mr. Abduljabbar Hael Saeed Ana'am**, the Chairman of the Board of Directors read the board of directors' report focused on the main financial activities affiliated to the bank. The report was unanimously ratified by the general assembly. The annual banking activities was read by the chairman of the legal and monitoring opinion board. Then, the accounts auditor report enclosed along with the final budget was read by the bank's auditor and unanimously ratified by the general assembly. The quittance of the chairman of the board of directors, staff, and account auditors has been completed with regard to their work during the 2002. The board of directors has been deputized to choose 2003 account auditor.

#### Auditor's Report to the SHAREHOLDERS of TADHAMON INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC BANK Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Tadhamon International Islamic Bank represented in the balance sheet as of December 31, 2002, the related statements of income, cash flows, and changes in shareholders' equity, for the year then ended and the notes to the financial statements in the pages from No. (6) to No. (25). These financial statements and the bank's undertaking to operate in accordance with Islamic Sharia' rules and principles are the responsibility of the Bank's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and the Auditing Standards for Islamic Financial Institutions and the requirements of relevant Yemeni laws and regulations. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Tadhamon International Islamic Bank at December 31, 2002, the results of its operation, its cash flows, and changes in shareholders' equity, for the year then ended, in accordance with the Sharia' rules and principle as determined by the Sharia' Board of the bank, the accounting standards promulgated by the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) and with applicable local laws and regulations. Also, we ascertained that none of the transactions undertaken by the bank during the year ended December 31, 2002 contravened with the Law No. (21) of 1996 regarding Islamic banks.

M. Zohdi Mejanni  
Associated Accountant

Sana'a, January 22, 2003

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2002

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash on hand & reserve balances with Central Bank	7,487,568	5,465,116
Due from banks and financial institutions	19,483,194	9,376,743
Financing Murabaha transactions (net of provision and deferred revenues)	30,086,770	20,334,404
Financing Istisna' transactions (net of provision and deferred revenues)	32,211	3,011
Investments in Mudaraba contracts (net of provision)	1,479,453	197,268
Investments in Musharaka contracts (net of provision)	178,304	27,922
Investment financing	722,569	238,542
Participations	109,931	491
Debit balances & other assets	639,060	1,884,532
Property and equipment (Net of accumulated depreciation)	547,814	480,524
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>60,766,874</b>	<b>38,008,553</b>
<b>Liabilities, investment accounts and shareholders' equity</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current and savings accounts and other deposits	16,249,599	8,899,777
Due to banks and financial institutions	4,705,320	266,120
Credit balances & other liabilities	1,384,375	303,758
Other provisions	332,528	205,059
Dividends payable	173,250	173,250
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>22,845,072</b>	<b>9,847,964</b>
<b>Unrestricted investment accounts' holders</b>	<b>34,175,740</b>	<b>25,053,110</b>
<b>Shareholders' equity</b>		
Paid up capital	2,250,000	2,250,000
Statutory reserve	363,590	241,815
General reserve	1,124,693	613,828
Retained earnings	7,779	1,836
Total shareholders' equity	3,746,062	3,107,479
<b>Total liabilities, investment accounts and shareholders' equity</b>	<b>60,766,874</b>	<b>38,008,553</b>
Contingent liabilities and commitments	25,209,274	11,477,228

Chairman: **Mr. Abduljabbar Hayel Saeed Anam**

General Manager: **Mr. Tawfiq Jameel Abu Dabsah**

M. Zohdi Mejanni  
(KPMG Mejanni, Hazem Hassan & Co.)

#### STATEMENT OF INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Revenues of Murabaha and Istisna' contracts financing	1,943,651	1,734,358
Revenues of other joint investments	92,582	4,058
	<b>2,036,233</b>	<b>1,738,416</b>
Less:		
Returns on unrestricted investment accounts	( 1,835,430)	( 1,219,183)
The bank's share in the return on Murabaha and joint investments	200,803	519,233
Commissions & fees income on banking services	440,239	243,302
Gains of foreign currency transactions	896,048	173,412
Other operating income	18,677	16,581
<b>Profits of activity</b>	<b>1,555,767</b>	<b>952,528</b>
Less:		
Provisions	( 106,450)	( 84,497)
Commissions & fees expenses on banking services	( 16,177)	( 8,803)
General & administration expenses and depreciation	( 621,307)	( 485,878)
<b>Net profit for the year</b>	<b>811,833</b>	<b>373,350</b>
<b>Earning per share</b>	<b>YR 359</b>	<b>YR 164</b>

#### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	Paid up Capital YR'000's	Statutory Reserve YR'000's	General Reserve YR'000's	Retained Earnings YR'000's	Total YR'000's
2002					
Balance at beginning of the year	2,250,000	241,815	613,828	1,836	3,107,479
Net profit of the year	-	-	-	811,833	811,833
Proposed dividends	-	-	-	(168,750)	(168,750)
Transfer to reserves	-	121,775	510,865	(632,640)	-
Proposed BOD remuneration	-	-	-	(4,500)	(4,500)
<b>Balance at end of the year</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	<b>363,590</b>	<b>1,124,693</b>	<b>7,779</b>	<b>3,746,062</b>

	Paid up Capital YR'000's	Statutory Reserve YR'000's	General Reserve YR'000's	Retained Earnings YR'000's	Total YR'000's
2002					
Balance at beginning of the year	2,250,000	185,550	470,078	1,751	2,907,379
Net profit of the year	-	-	-	373,350	373,350
Transfer to reserves	-	56,265	143,750	(200,015)	-
Dividends	-	-	-	(168,750)	(168,750)
BOD remuneration	-	-	-	(4,500)	(4,500)
<b>Balance at end of the year</b>	<b>2,250,000</b>	<b>241,815</b>	<b>613,828</b>	<b>1,836</b>	<b>3,107,479</b>

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Cash on hand	2,587,596	2,146,562
Reserve balances with Central Bank of Yemen*	4,899,351	3,318,554
Purchased cheques	621	-
	<b>7,487,568</b>	<b>5,465,116</b>

\* The reserve balances with Central Bank of Yemen represents the reserve required and is not available for the Bank's daily business.

#### DUE FROM BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
<b>a. Central Bank of Yemen</b>		
Current accounts	2,910,755	1,399,967
<b>b. Local banks</b>		
Current accounts	127	196,333
<b>c. Foreign banks</b>		
Current accounts	14,940,583	2,530,630
Deposits with financial institutions	1,631,729	5,249,813
	<b>16,572,312</b>	<b>7,780,443</b>
	<b>19,483,194</b>	<b>9,376,743</b>

#### FINANCING MURABAHBA TRANSACTIONS CONTRACTS

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Murabaha - local	25,850,655	16,265,285
Murabaha - foreign	5,431,642	4,897,715
	<b>31,282,297</b>	<b>21,163,000</b>
Less: Murabaha transactions provision	( 328,086)	( 308,957)
Less: Deferred revenues	( 867,441)	( 519,639)
	<b>30,086,770</b>	<b>20,334,404</b>

Non-performing financing Murabaha transactions amounted to YR 139,305 Thousand at 31/12/2002 (YR 534,593 Thousand at 31/12/2001).

#### MUSHARAKA DEBTS

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Gulf Finance House	147,831	-
Dar Al-Khbrah Al-Arabi	10,196	6,064
Al Saeed Hospital	22,078	22,145
Investment in Musharaka contracts	180,105	28,209
Less:		
Musharaka transaction provision	(1,801)	(287)
	<b>178,304</b>	<b>27,922</b>

#### INVESTMENT FINANCING

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Al Sokoor Europ. Portfolio	298,234	245,800
Al Shahama government certificates - Sudan	536,640	-
	<b>834,874</b>	<b>245,800</b>
Less:		
Investment financing provision	(112,305)	(7,258)
	<b>722,569</b>	<b>238,542</b>

The market value of Al Sokoor Europ. Portfolio amounted to YR/185,929/thousand, Al Shahama government certificates -Sudan amounted to YR/544,250/thousand.

#### DEBIT BALANCES AND OTHER ASSETS

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Overdraft	150,553	411,072
Unpaid L/Cs	361,940	1,238,749
Assets which titles have been transferred to the Bank	11,565	11,565
Advances	20,426	25,181
Qard Hasan to employees	29,783	5,222
Prepaid expenses	6,681	2,476
Debtors	51,101	195,476
Accrued income	1,480	-
Stationary	12,039	12,373
Property and equipment in stores	3,175	2,439
	<b>648,743</b>	<b>1,904,553</b>
Less: Provision for doubtful debts	(9,683)	(20,021)
	<b>639,060</b>	<b>1,884,532</b>

#### CURRENT AND SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND OTHER DEPOSITS

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Current accounts	13,916,588	7,506,633
Other deposits	2,333,011	1,393,144
	<b>16,249,599</b>	<b>8,899,777</b>

#### DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Foreign banks Current accounts	4,705,320	266,120

#### CREDIT BALANCES AND OTHER LIABILITIES

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Accrued expenses	20,309	21,052
Sundry credit balances	1,348,258	282,706
Prohibited revenues by sharia	15,808	-
	<b>1,384,375</b>	<b>303,758</b>

#### UNRESTRICTED INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS' HOLDERS AND SAVINGS

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Return of unrestricted investments accounts and savings	1,835,430	1,219,183
Savings accounts	11,105,815	7,425,645
Deposits for one year	2,331	4,480
Deposits for more than one year	21,232,164	16,403,802
	<b>34,175,740</b>	<b>25,053,110</b>

#### CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Irrevocable commitments for Murabaha	9,690,915	2,513,630
Letters of credit	11,040,182	4,792,714
Letters of guarantee	6,243,163	4,371,857
	<b>26,973,667</b>	<b>12,277,701</b>
Less: Margin held	(1,704,413)	(800,473)
	<b>25,209,274</b>	<b>11,477,228</b>

#### EARNING PER SHARE

	2002 YR'000's	2001 YR'000's
Net profit for the year	811,833	373,350
Board of Directors' remuneration	(4,500)	(4,500)
Shareholders' share in profit	807,333	368,850
Weighted average of number of shares	2,250,000	2,250,000
<b>Earning per share</b>	<b>YR 359</b>	<b>YR 164</b>







# Gulf Air launches new corporate website

Following the unveiling of its new corporate identity on April 7, 2003, Gulf Air, the national airline of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates, today launched its re-branded corporate website at [www.gulfairco.com](http://www.gulfairco.com)

Incorporating the new look and feel as another significant step in the journey of change, the corporate website includes corporate and product information and a wide range of features such as online booking, an interactive route network with destination and weather information, and links to Gulf Air Cargo.

Members of the FALCON Frequent Flyer Program can also access their personal account details through the site, which will also soon incorporate a downloadable flight timetable, which can be downloaded to either a desktop or pocket PC for use on the move.

"The business enabling functionality of IT in the Digital Age is of prime importance as we head into the future. Our corporate website is one of the first areas where our progressive re-branding efforts- and all that our new identity represents- have been introduced," said James Hogan, President & Chief Executive, Gulf Air.

Governed by 21st Century business rules and economics, the website is an indispensable window to the rest of the world, and a powerful tool to showcase the fundamental changes that are taking place at every level in the airline, following the approval of the three-year strategic recovery programme by Gulf Air's Board of Directors last December.

"Gulf Air's new identity boldly and contemporarily reflects our Arabian values and tradition of hospitality, and builds upon our strong historical, cultural and geographic links with the Arab region, which span more than half a century of entrepreneurial spirit, world-class professionalism and exceptional service," added Mr. Hogan.

The worldwide implementation of Gulf Air's new branded identity will be rolled out over the next 18 months and will permeate all aspects of the airline's modern portfolio of products and services.

## About Gulf Air

Gulf Air was founded in 1950. Today, it is owned by the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Sultanate of Oman and the UAE, and is the only truly pan Gulf carrier in the region. The airline's network stretches from Europe to Asia and covers 43 cities in 32 countries. The fleet is one of the most modern in the Middle East and comprises 30 aircraft.

The airline is in its first year of a three-year strategic recovery program, headed by President & Chief Executive, James Hogan. The airline's aim is to further evolve by taking its renowned cultural strengths, which have been gained over more than half a century, into a global environment.

Gulf Air is also intent on 'going the extra mile' for its customers. It has subsequently made a concerted effort to focus on efficiency, to eliminate bureaucracy and implement processes that are required, above all, to improve customer satisfaction.

## طيران الخليج GULF AIR



## طيران الخليج تدشن الهوية التجارية الجديدة للشركة

قامت طيران الخليج، الخطوط الوطنية لمملكة البحرين، سلطنة عمان ودولة الامارات العربية المتحدة، اليوم بتكشيف الهوية التجارية المميزة الجديدة للشركة بحضور عدد من كبار الشخصيات التجارية، المسؤولين بالطيران والموظفين.

وفي تعليق له على الهوية التجارية الجديدة قال سعادة عبد الله حسن سيف وزير المالية والاقتصاد الوطني ورئيس مجلس ادارة طيران الخليج، ان تكشيف الهوية التجارية الجديدة لطيران الخليج يعد انجازاً بالغ الأهمية في اطار مسيرة التغيير التي شرفنا في تنفيذها في العام الماضي عندما اقر مجلس الادارة استراتيجية إعادة الهيكلة التي تمتد على مدى ثلاث سنوات.

موضحاً الهدف من تغيير الهوية التجارية، قال السيد جيمس هوجن الرئيس التنفيذي للشركة، يمثل هذا الانجاز التغييرات الجادة والجوهرية التي تجري حالياً على جميع المستويات بالشركة التي تواجه مثل نظيراتها من شركات الطيران في كافة انحاء العالم تحديات غير مسبوقه للبقاء والاستمرار في ظل الركود الاقتصادي الذي يعيق على كافة ارجاء العالم والناجم مؤخراً عن تأثيرات الحرب الدائرة حالياً في العراق.

وأوضح قائلاً، في اطار عملية إعادة تشكيل طيران الخليج للعمل في سوق تنافسية هائلة نهدف الى أن تكون متميزين عن الشركات المنافسة عن طريق الابتعاد عن الطابع المتوقع والشخصية الاعتيادية لشركة دولية لا تختلف عن غيرها. ولذا فقد توجهنا نحو إقامة روابط وصلات جغرافية وتاريخية وحضارية قوية بالمنطقة، وسنقوم بترجمة هذه القيم العربية الاصيلة والتقاليد العريقة التي تجسدها هوية تجارية عصرية قوية يرتبط ارتباطاً وثيقاً بالطاقة المتجددة، والروح الطموحة، والمستوى العالمي من الكفاءة المهنية وخدمتنا غير الاعتيادية.

وقال، ديفيل الصقر الذي اعيد تصميمه المحور الرئيسي هوية شركتنا الجديدة لكي يعبر عن التناسق ما بين المبادئ والأسس العتيبة والتجربة والقيم العربية الحضارية الاصيلة التي نجسدها والتي نعتقد أنها ستكون منطلقاً قوياً لبداية عصر جديد وحقبة جديدة، من الجدير بالذكر ان خطة تحليل الهوية التجارية للشركة، التي وضعت بالتعاون مع لاندور وهي المؤسسة الاستشارية المتخصصة في هذا المجال، توضح مراحل العملية التي سوف تشهد تنفيذ وتطبيق هذه الهوية عبر مختلف عمليات الشركة المتنوعة والواسعة النطاق. وأشار السيد جيمس هوجن قائلاً، مع هذا فإن العامل الحاسم في نجاح هذه العملية سوف يقع على عاتق موظفي طيران الخليج الذين سوف يجسدون القيم المتكاملة والاسلوب الفعال عبر كافة جوانب ومجالات منتجاتنا وخدماتنا، سواء كان ذلك في مكاتب المبيعات، مكاتب المراجعة، في استراحات طيران الخليج أو على متن طائراتنا.

## حول طيران الخليج

تم تأسيس طيران الخليج في عام 1950، وهي الناقله الخليجية الاولى في المنطقة. تتنشر شبكة خطوط الشركة من اوروبا الى آسيا وتشمل 43 مدينة تقع في 32 دولة. ويمتبر اسطول الشركة من أحدث اساطيل الطائرات في منطقة الشرق الاوسط ويضم 30 طائرة.

وقد بدأت الشركة السنة الاولى من برنامجها الاستراتيجي لتحسين اوضاعها والذي يستمر ثلاث سنوات تحت قيادة السيد جيمس هوجن، الرئيس التنفيذي للشركة. تلمح الشركة الى تطوير وتحسين اوضاعها عن طريق الاستفادة من عناصر قوتها الحضارية التي حازت عليها الشركة خلال اكثر من نصف قرن في ظل بيئة عالمية.

وتعتقد طيران الخليج العزم على قطع الشوط بأكمله من اجل تقديم خدمة أفضل لعملائها. ويائتاني فقد شرعت في بذل جهود متواصلة للتركيز على تحسين مستويات الكفاءة، القضاء على البيروقراطية وتنفيذ العمليات المطلوبة من اجل، وفوق كل شيء، تحسين معدلات رضا العملاء.

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**مفردات**

يكتب عربي، وانجليزي، مستعمل نظيف مع الخط سویر نیا، نظام كروت. جامعة العلوم التطبيقية، سنة التخرج 2001، رقم سجل 2421، وكذا شهادات 7114560، او وليد السعودي، خبرة على من وجدها الاتصال بتلفون 7188277

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# New office inaugurated

By MOHAMMED AL-MASANI  
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In a pleasant and enjoyable atmosphere, the Yemeni-Lebanese Brotherhood Association officially inaugurated its new office in Sana'a on April 24.

During the inaugural ceremony, the Chairman of the association, Mr. Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh delivered a speech focusing on the association's achievements during the last year, in which the Lebanese Cultural Week was

among the most important events organized by the association.

The association has positively contributed in enhancing Yemeni-Lebanese relations in various ways.

On his part, the Lebanese Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Hassan Maslamani delivered a speech in which he indicated the necessity to establish such institutions which aim at strengthening ties and brotherhood relations based on love and cooperation, particularly in such hard times for the Arab world.

"My hope is that the association and other similar associations in Yemen would do their utmost to enhance cooperation and coordination among Arab countries on one hand, and among themselves as associations on the other," the Lebanese Ambassador said.

Apart from the Lebanese Ambassador and Mr. Yahya Mohammed Abdullah Saleh, the inaugural ceremony was also attended by the Mr. Hani Shehadeh, the Area Manager of the Consolidated Contractors International Company, CCC-Yemen, Mr. Tareq Abdulwasae Hayel Saeed United Insurance General Manager, and a host of other guests.



(L-R) The Lebanese ambassador, the association chairman and the secretary general



A group photo for Yemeni as well as Lebanese guests during the event

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