

# Summit in 2 weeks

BY PETER WILLEMS

A day after the Tunisian government postponed the Arab Summit that was scheduled to begin last Monday, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak agreed during a telephone conversation that it could be rescheduled in mid-April and held in Cairo.

"We are in the middle of discussions to decide on a date that the summit will be held in Cairo," said Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi on Monday. The Foreign Minister, who participated in the preliminary meetings of foreign ministers before the summit was scheduled to take place, also added, "I am optimistic and am sure we will decide on a date."

Late Saturday, the Tunisian government decided to postpone the summit, claiming there were differences over proposals to promote democracy in the Middle East.

Many officials in Tunis preparing for

the summit showed surprise and frustration after the delay was announced.

Al-Qirbi said he and the other foreign ministers who met in Tunis thought that the postponement was "very disappointing."

Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa also said, "Certainly this is not one of our best moments. The Arab system is not in good shape."

But on Sunday, the Egyptian Government made an announcement that it was willing to host an Arab summit. Mubarak expressed in a statement "surprise and regret" regarding the decision to postpone the summit, but his country welcomed a new meeting "at the earliest time that can be agreed on."

It is reported that Saleh called Mubarak the same day and emphasized the need to hold the summit at the headquarters of the Arab League in Cairo. Saleh also said that the meeting of the leaders of the 22-member organization was essential because of chal-

lenges facing the Arab world.

Moussa is expected to start visiting Arab countries this week to discuss plans for a summit in the near future.

But there are questions as to why the summit was called off. The statement from the Tunisian Government said, "It became clear that there was a variance of positions on...proposals related to fundamental issues on modernization, democratic reform, human rights, the rights of women and the role of civil society."

Some say that the foreign ministers in their meetings failed to reach an agreement on reform proposals that were presented by five Arab nations - Yemen, Jordan, Qatar, Tunisia and Egypt.

But a number of delegates who were in Tunis accompanying foreign ministers to prepare for the summit claim that there were little or no arguments during their meetings and their talks had gone well.

Continued on page 3



In their latest meeting in Tunis, Arab Foreign Ministers failed to agree on holding the Arab summit on time as scheduled, but Yemen has taken the initiative along with Egypt to press for holding the summit in mid-April. REUTERS (archive)

## Al-Eman University strengthens security

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The al-Eman University run by Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani has started taking precautions against penetration by CIA agents, media reports said.

Reports said that the university administration decided to stop all peddlers coming to the university to sell their products to students in the university campus, abolishing all licenses that they obtained previously. This decision was made as a result of the press statement of US Ambassador Edmund Hull last week that US is worried about the suspicious activities of the university in promoting extremism

in the country.

The university decision has been reported to have been taken as a response to suspicion that the US might use those peddlers in intelligence work inside the university.

Hull told al-Nahar Weekly last Thursday that the US is concerned about the suspicious activities of al-Eman university in promoting fanaticism inside Yemen, pointing out that adding the name of al-Zindani to the US list of suspected people supporting terrorism was based on accurate information on the activities of al-Zindani in financing terrorist organizations. He said that a dialogue between Yemen and the US in this respect is going on. He denied that there are other Yemeni clerics on the wanted list at the moment.

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## PSO arrests al-Qaeda suspect

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni Political Security Organization (PSO) arrested on Monday in Ibb Governorate a Yemeni citizen suspected of being a member of al-Qaeda, a local source said.

The source said that the Intelligence Officers arrested Najeeb Saleh al-Muraisi on charges of having links to al-Qaeda after his arrival from Thailand.

Al-Muraisi was one of the young militants who fought in Bosnia during mid 1990s.

He came back at the beginning of last week from Thailand where he had been teaching the Holy Quran in schools for the last three years. He previously worked in the Philippines for two years. It was reported that he decided to come back to Yemen after five years to invest the money he gained during his time abroad.

There have not been any other details released on the arrested al-Qaeda suspect.

## Oil well with capacity of 2,670 bpd: Major oil discovery in Yemen

A source at the Ministry of Oil revealed that a major oil discovery took place last Friday at the Al-Nabragha well at block (43) south Hawareem. The block, which is operated by DNO, ASA Yemen, was found to have an estimated oil production capacity of 2,670 barrels per day.

Chairman of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority, Mr. Nabeel Al-Gawsi, told Yemen Times that this is a significant discovery that promises potential oil wealth beneath the surface, still awaiting investment to be uncovered.

"This is indeed a major discovery that

has indicated once again that Yemen does have great potential for investment in the oil field, and confirms the wide interest of international oil companies in investing in Yemen," he said.

There is no doubt that this discovery will be followed by others, confirming that many parts of Yemen will witness similar discoveries, which will bring more investment into the country and consequently contribute to economic development.

Confirming this news, DNO ASA sources said in a statement "as a consequence of the encouraging test results, a

two well appraisal drilling program will be conducted in order to determine the size and commercial viability of the Nabragah discovery."

The appraisal drilling program was due to begin towards the end of the second quarter of 2004. Two further exploration wells would be drilled in the block during 2004.

The Nabragah-1 well is operated by DNO ASA with a 50% interest, while Oil Search holds 25%, First Calgary Petroleum 10% and The Yemen Company 15%.

See interview on P11

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## Japan extends \$436 thousand for NMAP in Yemen

In the presence of Mr. Qasim Ahmed Al-A'ajam, Minister of State and Chairman of the National Mine Action Committee, Mr. Mansour Al-Azi, Director of Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre and Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Yemen Mr. Yuichi Ishii Saturday have signed an agreement to extend further support to the activities of the Mine Action Program in Yemen. In accordance with this agreement, the government of Japan extends a grant amounting up to USD 436,616 to contribute to the activities of the National Mine Action Program in Yemen helping the survivors of mines reintegrate in the society through various rehabilitation pro-

grams and to assist mine risk education activities. The grant is extended under the Japanese scheme called "Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects", which aims at extending assistance to those who face the threats caused by conflicts, disasters, diseases, poverty, deterioration of environment, mines or situation of refugees. It is worth mentioning that Japan has been supporting the activities of the Mine Action Program in Yemen by having earmarked USD 950,000 out of Japan's contribution to the "United Nations Voluntary Fund for Assistance in Mine Action" during the two years of 1999 and 2000.

## Seminar on the poor at Taiz University

French DIA Organization, in cooperation with Taiz University, organized on Tuesday 30 March a seminar entitled, "University students and the importance of their role in the awareness of development program targeting the most needy sections of society". The seminar aimed to activate the students role in increasing awareness of the poorest class and in supporting development programs in all aspects and how to assist them to break the social isolation they live in.

The seminar consisted of speeches on the reality of the life of this category and was attended by university students and professors and the officials from DIA organization.

## Environmental and biological diversity project team to Socatra island

Eng. Abdulrahman Al-Eryane, Director of the National Program to Protect and Develop Socatra Archipelago, heads the team on the biological diversity and protection of environment project that set off on 29 March 2004, for field visits to a number of islands, which will last eight days. The visit is part of the annual plan of the project implemented in cooperation with the local authority, to study whether any changes have taken place at previously studied environment locations, in order to establish coastal guards and to study the possibility of establishing an ice factory on Abdo Al-Kory Island.

## Concert of Italian classical and modern music

The Italian embassy in Sana'a on Sunday evening gave a reception and concert at Sheraton Hotel that sponsored the event. The reception and concert party was attended by a host of Yemeni guests including some officials and journalists from various media instruments.

The concert party included a rich variety of Italian classical and modern music by famous Italian composers played by Trio Aedon that was created in 1993. The Trio performed in important Italian theatres as well as in vari-



ous Italian Radio Television's programs and made several tours abroad, among them, in Lebanon, Greece, Turkey, Ethiopia, Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Mexico.

## A course on economic information

By YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Under the auspices of the Chief of the Journalists Union of Germany and a prominent journalist, Mr. Wolf Janeh Mayer, a course specializing in economic journalism began in Sana'a on Sunday 28 March. The course, organized by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, involves 30 journalists representing official, private and political party-affiliated newspapers. They

receive practical and theoretical lectures, including one by Mr. Mayer, on economic journalism in a time of globalization, professional guidelines for economic editors, contact theories and how to create an attractive economic page with the know-how to search for economic information on the internet.

This course is considered an important base for the foundation of economic journalism and equivalent to the beginning of Yemeni-European cooperation in other fields of informa-

tion. More importantly, the trainees, through this course, will be able to prepare more transparent reports on the economy and companies in the light of the changes in the legal framework, market conditions and economic development in their country. Economic editors will be able to detect facts behind figures and economic terms and whether companies (public or private) discharge their responsibilities towards the public interest.

## Continued detention of educational employee

In a letter addressed to the President of the republic of Yemen, and copies to the prime minister, the minister of interior, the minister human rights, the UNHCR and the UNICEF Ms Habiba Hussein an Ethiopian national says Ethiopian Naval and Civilian refugees came to Yemen 13 years ago to seek asylum. They were accepted by Yemen and handed over 14 warships to the Yemeni government upon arrival.

Around 200 refugees had been

involved in the sit-in protest in front of the UNHCR office in Sana'a since Feb. 10 to get a solution for their problems. On 20 March 2004, The Yemeni policemen used force to end their sit-in by beating and injuring the respected ex-Naval Officers and Civilians. Additional to this their families who arrived there to know where about their husbands and relatives are, were beaten and jailed even with their children instead of to go to school, which is not expected from the neigh-

boring country, particularly from Yemen. Currently there are some infants and children who are living alone in danger and in bad conditions as their fathers and mothers are jailed. UNHCR also closed its office who is responsible for refugees to help in such conditions. Taking into consideration our historical and blood link, I kindly apply to the Yemeni government to let free them ASAP and to push UNHCR to resume its duty in a proper way.

Mr. Saleh Abdullah Saeed Al-Shaheery, an employee at Abyan Educational Office has been detained by the Security Authority for more than a month on the pretext of stating the pay-day date to one element of Jihad Group, following the foiled attempt of Jihad Group to steal the wages of educators in Abyan. The unjustified

detention is to pressure him to testify against the group being detained, but he may encounter serious consequences from the group in the event of a false testimony. A number of educators have expressed their discontent to Yemen Times at the behavior of the Security Authority since the pay-day date is widely known.

## Disputes between Sheikh Al-Fadhly and Governor of Abyan

Disputes have erupted between Governor of Abyan, Fraeed Majwers, and Sheikh Tareq Al-Fadhly, on the definition of the state. The Sheikh insists it means Sultans of "Al-Fadhly" whilst the Governor sees it as the Government in the past and in the present.

The disputes have reached the extent of the formation of forums and groups and efforts have been made to seek supporters from various political streams and journalists and media people.

Political analysts explained that this comes in the scope of conflict between power centers regarding the continuation of loyalty, not qualifications, as the basis for employment and the process of meaningful political and economic reform.

## Parliamentary Committee inspecting jails in a number of governorates.

It is expected that Public Freedoms and Human Rights Parliamentary Committee will resume its field visits to prisons in Al-Beidha, Dhamar, Lahj, Aden, Al-Dhala and Abyan on Saturday 3 April. The committee will be split into two, one presided over by Abdullah Al-Ghader MP, which will visit jails in Dhamar, Al-Dhala and Al-Beidha, and the second by Mohamed Rashad Al-Alieme, which will visit the jails in the other three governorates.

It is noteworthy that this is the sec-

ond round of field visits by the committee and it is complementary to the first phase, which visited jails in Taiz, Al-Hodiedah and Hajjah.

In this regard, the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (NODRF) urges all political parties, journalists, lawyers, civil society organizations and human rights activists to cooperate with and to facilitate the work of the committee and to notify it of any illegal detentions, arrests or torture cases, if any, inside jails.

## UNESCO's workshop on governance & poverty eradication in Arab countries

Sana'a, Beirut, (UN Information Centre 24 March 2004) UNESCO is organizing, with the cooperation of the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies, a regional workshop on governance and poverty eradication in the Arab Region with a focus on the impact of civil society organizations on public policies, on Monday 22 March 2004 at the UNESCO Office, Beirut Hassan, Beirut. The objective of the for three-day seminar is to share analysis and experiences about the current capacity of Arab civil society organizations to influence public policy and the conditions needed to

empower them in their relationship with the state, public actors and other national stake holders. The seminar will include presentations and reviews of previous activities and material produced by the UNESCO project; presentations and discussion of the four national experiences of Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen; discussions about how to increase the impact of civil society organizations on public policies and recommendations on possible actions that UNESCO could develop to support Arab NGO's democratic governance and public policies to eradicate poverty in the Arab region.

## More than 2 billion riyals profit of Tobacco National Company

The General and Extraordinary Assemblies of the National Tobacco Company held their annual meeting on 10 March, chaired by Mr. Tawfeeq Saleh, Chairman of the Company, to review the annual report for the year 2003. The Chairman explained that work in the new factory, built at a cost of 2.54 billion Riyals, will commence this year at a capacity of 344 thousands cartons during 2004. He confirmed the importance of this modernization of the company in the light of foreign competition and challenges facing the company as a result of smuggling, which requires the collective efforts of the relevant authorities.

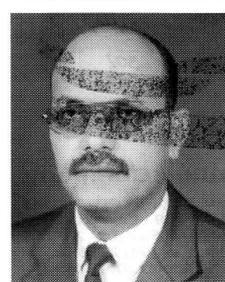


The annual report points also the contribution of the company to the national economy, of sum of nearly 11,167 million Riyals, plus the sum of 165,860 thousand Riyals in donations to sports, education and social organizations.

The report also indicates that the company earned a profit in 2003 of 2.8 billion Riyals, an increase of 300 million Riyals from 2002.

## Erratum

A printing error occurred in the issue dated 18/3/2004, in the article on the High Institute for Health Sciences' report. The article referred to Mr. Najy Al-Samawe as Vice-Dean for Branches Affairs. His correct title is Vice-Dean for Financial Affairs.



## Readers' Voice

Yemen Times features "Readers' Voice" a popular way for our readers to interact with us. This is your opportunity to have a say on world and local affairs.

### This edition's question:

Do you think that the Arab summit will be held this month?

- Yes, Arab leaders will agree.
- No, they will not.

### last edition's question:

Do you have hope in the upcoming Arab summit in Tunis?

- No, I believe it will have no impact whatsoever 53%
- No, on the contrary, it will cause more damage 35%
- Yes, I believe the upcoming summit will bring positive results 12%

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## In Brief

### Former Indian foreign minister to lecture in Yemen

Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of India and currently a Member of Parliament and Member of the Consultative Committee of MOFA, will visit Yemen on 4 April 2004, during which he will deliver a speech on Indo-Yemeni relations at 7:00PM, 5 April at the Embassy of India.

### A Financial Donation to Yemen from World Aids Fund

The Republic of Yemen has received 14 million USD in a donation from the World Fund for Combating Aids, Malaria and Tuberculosis, to be allocated to the fight against Aids during the next five years, beginning this year.

Minister of Public Health and Population, Dr. Mohamed Al-Naame, during the discussion meeting of the 5th Proposal of the National Program to Combat Tuberculosis in Yemen, held in Sana'a on 28 March 2004, expressed his hope that the World Fund would agree also, during the meeting of the Fund at their headquarters in Geneva on 5 May 2004, to grant Yemen an additional 6,174,500 USD for the program during the next five years.

### Citizens of Abyan call on MPs to reject new dose

Abyan Governorate has witnessed in the last two days a campaign to collect the signatures of citizens calling on their MPs to reject the coming round of price increases, expected to be announced on April. This follows previous abnormal price increases for commodities and consumer goods, which are perceived to place many goods out of reach of the limited average Yemeni income.

### Indonesian nationals in Yemen, requested to vote

on 5 April 2004, Indonesia will hold Parliamentary Election, opened for Indonesian nations all over the world, including who are residing in Yemen. The election is followed by 24 contestants or political parties. A press release issued by Indonesian embassy in Sana'a on Saturday said, following the parliamentary election, on 5 July 2004 there will be Presidential Election which will be considered as the 1st round, if none of the candidates get a minimum of 50% voter. In this regard, the final round of the presidential election will again be held on 20 September 2004.

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# YCH hosts symposium with Dr. Mahmoud Jibreel as special guest

By Hassan Al-Zaidi  
Yemen Times Staff

The Yemen Consultation House (YCH) held last Sunday at the organization's headquarters in Sanaa a symposium that hosted prominent Arab strategist and training expert Dr. Mahmoud Jibreel along with Dr. Ali Mansour Saffa' Minister of Vocational and Technical Training and was attended by Dr. Abdulhadi Al-Hamdani, the Chairman of YCH.

In the symposium, which was attended by prominent officials, businessmen, and intellectuals, Dr. Mahmoud gave a one-hour presentation on the situation of the Arab world and global changes taking place. He focused in the first part of his session on the overall trends in the world and the importance paid by Western countries to training and human develop-



Mr. Mahmoud Jibreel during his presentation

ment, in total contrast to Arab countries, whose regimes and communities lack of interest in technical and voca-

tional training, causing higher rates of unemployment due to lack of qualifications needed in this era.

He proceeded by pointing out the economic, educational, political, social, health, environmental, and other indicators of Arab countries and compared them to the rest of the world. According to statistics revealed in his presentation, Arabs ranked almost last among all world nations in terms of education, technological advancement, freedom, human rights, scientific research, and many other aspects.

In conclusion, he emphasized the need to rehabilitate the Arab world to start steps that would stop the deterioration in human skills and begin the upward trend to compete with other nations.

"Globalization has already reached an advanced stage in which market economy is dominating, democracy is the trend, and advanced robotics are the future," he said.

"If we don't wake up and realize this, our situation will worsen and our developmental efforts will be jeopardized. We have to focus on education, technical and vocational training, academic and scientific research, empowerment of civil society, promotion of freedoms and involvement of the public in decision making," he added.

Following the presentation of Dr. Mahmoud, Dr. Abdulhadi Al-Hamdani, head of YCH also gave a presentation on the importance of training and how globalization and market economy have played a role in changing the way countries think of the priorities they need to tackle to cope with the global revolution. "We must realize that in today's world, technology, education and scientific research are of major importance and to compete we must



Guests attending the symposium.

facilities and computers to cope with the ever increasing demand for qualified staffers in companies locally and abroad.

"When we look at the gloomy numbers of our situation in the Arab worlds as presented by Dr. Mahmoud Jibreel, we would realize how hard we should work to be able to compete with other countries. We must focus on human resource development because humans are the pillars of comprehensive development."

Following Dr. Al-Hamdani's presentation, Dr. Ali Mansour Saffa' Minister of Vocational and Technical

Training also gave a speech in which he identified the efforts of his ministry in promoting vocational and technical training to Yemenis and the strategies and plans set up to produce more qualified laborers. He identified the difficulties the ministry faces in terms of financial and technical resources, but insisted that efforts are being exerted to promote the Ministry, whose establishment, in itself, was a clear example of the commitment of the government to support this sector.

The one-day symposium included rich discussion sessions and was followed by a luncheon.

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### Note :

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Continued from page 1

## Summit to be held in 2 weeks: Yemen

According to Al-Qirbi, there was an overall consensus among the ministers on reforms. "The ministers agreed on a declaration of reforms... and our preparations would have been completed within a couple of hours at the time the summit was postponed," said Al-Qirbi.

Some delegates who were in Tunis said Tunisia may have postponed the summit because it was disappointed that some Arab leaders decided not to attend.

Abdel Bari Atwan, Editor of the pan-Arab, London-based Al-Quds Al-Arabi newspaper, said, "Tunisia... did not want to shoulder the responsibility of holding a low-level summit."

Leaders of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates decided to send a relatively low-level delegation instead of attending the summit in Tunis. Diplomats have said that some Arab leaders were concerned that the summit would not be able to meet the demands of the majority of the Arab people for decisions on major issues in the region, so they decided not to go to the summit.

The Yemeni Government put together its own peace initiative for the Middle East that it planned to present at the summit in Tunis. Yemen's "roadmap" for peace includes adding the Arab league to the international quartet of the European Union, Russia, United Nations and the United States that is attempting to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict using its own roadmap. It also suggests the use of an international force to protect Palestinians, a non-violence pledge from both sides and the creation of a Palestinian state in the territories the

Jewish state occupied in the 1967 war. For war-torn Iraq, the Yemeni proposal calls for the Arab League, the United Nations and the US-led coalition to set up a committee to work on building security using international forces under UN command. An Iraqi sub-committee would draw up a constitution, elections would be held in a year and the Iraqi Army would be fully established in two years.

The Arab land-for-peace plan, which won support at the 2002 Arab Summit in Beirut, was expected to be re-launched at the summit in Tunis. But Al-Qirbi said that ministers in the preliminary meetings showed interest in Yemen's initiative.

"During our meetings in Tunis, many countries welcomed the Yemeni initiative," said Al-Qirbi. "It does not conflict with the proposal put forth in Beirut. The Beirut proposal is the basis of our initiative."

Many analysts have judged Yemen as the leader in the Arab world in developing full-fledged democracy. But the Yemeni Government has joined the majority of Arab nations in criticizing US pressure for political reform in the Arab world, including the US government's Greater Middle East Initiative launched last month.

Saleh has pushed for political reform, but argues that the changes should originate within the Arab countries. In a speech he delivered during a demonstration in Sana'a against the killing of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin a couple of weeks ago, he said that there should be no pressure on Arab countries because "these

reforms should come from within." Besides political reform, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the US-led occupation of Iraq were expected to be discussed at the summit.

But doubts are now surfacing as to whether the Arab League can make concrete decisions and take important steps to deal with the challenges in the region. Analysts are becoming skeptical, citing that results from Arab Summits have been minimal in the past.

According to John R. Bradley, former Managing Editor of the Jeddah-based Arab News and author of the forthcoming book "Saudi Arabia Exposed: Princes, Paupers and Puritans in the Wahhabi Kingdom," Arab Summits have been far from profitable. He added, "They are also viewed by many Arabs as a scandalous waste of money, when so many of them are living in abject poverty."

A Yemeni businessman said, "I appreciate the effort of Yemen and Egypt to keep the summit alive, and I appreciate Yemen going forward with an active peace initiative. But I believe that when a large group of leaders meet, it will be impossible for something useful to gain full support because they will never come together and agree on something important."

The Tunisian Government has objected to another summit taking place in Egypt. According to a statement from the Tunisian Foreign Minister, a summit in Cairo would only divert attention away from the issues that caused the cancellation of the summit.

## Red Crescent workshop highlights volunteering

By Hassan Al-Zaidi  
Yemen Times Staff

The three-day workshop, organized by Yemen Red Crescent Association in coordination with the Regional Office of the International Red Cross Committee, concluded on 29 March. The participants, representatives of various media apparatuses, laid down the strategic basis that would enable them and civil humanitarian organization leaders to carry out joint operations for the success of humanitarian voluntary work.

This workshop took place following the deficiency identified by one of the most active association in Yemen, the Red Crescent, in the effectiveness of information and various media means in their supporting role in finding and recruiting more committed volunteers.

Dr. Ali Al-Haiify, Information Official at the Association said, "We focused through several lectures during the workshop on how to find common ground and to create a genuine partnership between the Association on one hand, and the various information corporations on the other, in addition to discussing the role of the media in presenting the humanitarian activities carried out by Red Crescent Association."

The working papers indicated problems between the media and Red Crescent. Mr. Abdulrahman Bagash pointed out that most people do not know anything about the Association and public awareness regarding voluntary work is non-existent due to the absence of contact between it and the media, as with many humanitarian



A view of the panel

organizations, of which there are nearly 4000.

Some statements of both officials focused on the problem of the cross symbol facing both organizations in dealing with the public. Due to the deficiency of public awareness, revealed also by representatives of various media organizations, when carrying out activities for the Association supported by the International Red Cross, the public sentiment is that the cross represents the Christian religion and the spread of Christianity.

While Dr. Abdullah Al-Khamesi confirmed that the sign serves protection as it indicates the membership of the crews during missions to rescue and transfer of victims of fighting and to gain respect. He reviewed the current international argument concerning the crescent and cross symbols, explaining that the cross is the Swiss national flag inverted and has nothing to do with the Christian religion.

Mr. Martin Amkheer, Chairman of the International Red Cross Mission, confirmed that the role of media means could contribute positively in clarifying this sign issue and in supporting the Red Crescent in motivating the enrollment of volunteers towards success of its missions.

The workshop and recommendations of participants:

The representatives of the various media organizations understood the need and the importance of the media to reach the workshop's objective. They drew a strategy through which they could contribute to the rise of voluntary work through the utilization of various media channels to close the gap between the public and the Association, and the importance of integrating with humanitarian concerns in the media. The official media particularly considers publishing the Association's important issues as revenue-raising advertisements.

## Yemenia starts new flight to Johannesburg

Yemen Airways (Yemenia) is to start its new flight to Johannesburg next Friday at an official launching ceremony. It will transport passengers to the South African city once a week on Monday and will have a stopover in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

In a press conference held last Tuesday, Mr. Nabil Al-Faqih, the Marketing Manager of Yemenia, revealed that Yemenia is expanding its operations to

## Yemenia اليمنية

include many other cities besides Johannesburg, including Dar-es-Salaam, Dacca, Baghdad, Istanbul, Moscow and others, and will hence increase the number of its flights by 20%.

Mr. Nabil also noted the various improvements and facilities introduced in

Yemenia in the last few years in technical, administrative, coverage, and tourism aspects. He added that Yemen and Qatar Airways are also discussing means to establish a comprehensive partnership in terms of covering areas not reached by Yemenia.

## Al-Eman University Strengthens Security

It was reported that the university campus was crowded with peddlers and that some of them showed interest in studying at the university on a part time basis despite the fact that the enrollment at the university is very difficult.

Yemen Times learnt that the university administration and al-Zindani fans started collecting signatures in support of al-Zindani against the US allegations concerning supporting and funding terrorism. The sources said that they intend to present these signatures to the Yemeni Government to stop any potential extradition of the man to the US.

The US already said that adding the name of

al-Zindani to the list does not mean a "request for extradition" at the moment.

The university, which was set up in 1995, has already closed one of its gates to the west, lengthened the wall of the university in some parts and has built a more secure gate to the north. Security measures are already there and even visitors should leave their mobiles if they are to enter the university offices.

Thousands of Yemeni and foreign students are enrolled at the university which receives financial assistance from some Arab and Muslim charitable organizations. Reports said that the university was able to collect around \$18 million. Yet, it was reported that such

funds went down after the US announcement on adding the name of al-Zindani to the list of suspected supporters of al-Qaeda and terrorism.

Al-Zindani refuted allegations concerning the university and said it is operating according to the Yemeni Constitution and laws. He even said that President Ali Abdullah Saleh laid the foundation stone of the university and defended it several times. However, the university was closed down temporarily after the September 11, 2001 terrorist operations in the US in fear of any potential US strike against the university as Yemen was put as target number 2 after Afghanistan at that time.

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**WB Delegation visits Al-Takaful headquarters****Housing City Project tops agenda**TAIZ BUREAU  
YEMEN TIMES

Headed by Mr. Stephen Karam, Senior Urban Economist, Finance, Private Sector and Infrastructure of the Middle East and North Africa Region, the WB delegation has recently paid a visit to the Taiz-based Association for Solidarity and Social Care, Al-Takaful. During his visit, Mr. Karam has been accompanied by Mr. Shukri Al-Furais,

The Al-Takaful Secretary-General, Mrs. Rasnanna Nitti, Urban Specialist, Mr. John Bryant Collier, Operations Officer. During the meeting with the WB delegation, a number of vital issues have been discussed including, Housing City Project to accommodate victims of flood disasters. On his part, the Al-Takaful Secretary-General has given explanations to the delegation concerning accomplishment and progress achieved by the Al-Takaful, its supervi-

sion on the Housing City Project as well as rehabilitating the beneficiaries. The delegation has expressed its happiness with regard to the ever-increasing growth of the Al-Takaful in providing social services and raising awareness among the beneficiaries. It is worthwhile mentioning that the Al-Takaful has been founded on January 6, 1997 and considered to be one of the most active charitable associations in supporting humanitarian activities in Yemen. "Al-Takaful's main mission is to fight poverty, developing society through sustainable development and this can be achieved through mapping out plans and programs to train and rehabilitate most of poverty-stricken families for the benefit of the beneficiaries" the Al-Takaful Secretary General remarked. It is worthwhile mentioning that a WB delegation visited Taiz at the end of 2002 and headed by Mr. Ben-Achour, the WB representative. During the meeting with Mr. Ben-Achour at the Al-Takaful headquarters, an emphasis



WB delegation at a meeting with al-Takaful Association headquarters

was placed with regard to mapping out an extensive work plan in order to keep pace with progress and implementation of the civil works in raising awareness among the beneficiaries and paying an attention to their health, environmental and social problems.

**Housing City Project**

The Housing City Project aims basically at protecting the victims of flood disasters of an area of 46,929 square meters. It includes 244 housing units and has been financed by the WB in cooperation of local philanthropists and some institutions. More than 244 families who fall prey to flood disasters in Taiz have been given a hand by the Al-Takaful. Such segment of the society has become the focus of the focus of the attention of Al-Takaful members in dif-

ferent angels such as, raising awareness among those people to know all there is to know about their civil rights, helping them to look for job opportunities. The Al-Takaful has been entrusted with supervising the implementation of the project according to a contract signed by the concerned authorities. The overall cost of the Housing City Project which is currently under construction has been totaling USD 3 million. It is due to be completed during the mid of 2004.

**Al-Takaful's development programs**

- Rehabilitation, training and holding periodical workshops
- Supporting the poor families' project.
- Housing people who were exposed to flood catastrophes including the Al-Takaful Housing City.
- Financing small project's programs.

- Raising environmental awareness programs.

**Children as a hot issue**

Since its establishment, the Al-Takaful has been engaged to so many problems including the street children phenomena. Its concern has come as a result of its strong belief in that children are the budding talents to rely on for a better tomorrow. This is actually a tangled problem which is dire need of an immediate tackling in order to improve children's conditions in a country plagued with limited resources, economic crises, lack of public awareness on children issues, etc. Accordingly, the Al-Takaful has made strenuous efforts to promote the rehabilitation and protection of street children and guide them to the right way and tries to help them to depend on themselves and their own

living.

**Al-Takaful highly praised**

A host of businessmen, social dignitaries and politicians have highly praised the Al-Takaful efforts in rendering philanthropic services in different fields. "The Al-Takaful is a pioneering model in our country that worthy deserves the trust of all," a prominent figure commented. The WB has increasingly come to appreciate the great value that NGOs can bring to development work. In Yemen as in many other countries, the WB has tried to build trust and cooperation between NGOs. Yemen is one of the most active partners in the Middle East and North Africa in terms of ongoing projects, which are concentrated on education, training, water, sanitation, and public sector administration and policies.



Mr. Shukri al-Furais, al-Takaful Association's Secretary General

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# Yassin killing fuels anger in Israeli Arab protest

ARRABA, Israel, March 30 (Reuters) - Thousands of Israeli Arabs and Palestinians marched on Tuesday in annual civil rights protests filled with fresh anger over Israel's assassination of Hamas militant leader Ahmed Yassin.

Begun as a memorial for six Israeli Arabs killed by police while demonstrating against government land expropriations in 1976, "Land Day" also resonates for Palestinians dreaming of statehood.

Israeli troops fired teargas to disperse stone-throwers in the West Bank as protesters urged revenge for the killing of Islamic fundamentalist leader Yassin. Unlike in previous years, there were no reports of serious casualties.

Arabs marching in Israel deplored Yassin's killing in Gaza last week — on the orders of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon — as a setback to any hope of a negotiated peace that could mean a state for their Palestinian brethren.

Protests reached fever pitch in Gaza City, where Israeli helicopters killed the founder of the group that has sworn to destroy Israel and carried out suicide bombings that have killed hundreds of Israelis.

"We will sacrifice our souls and blood for you, Yassin," chanted 3,000 Hamas supporters in Gaza.

Some 3.5 million Palestinians live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip while about 1.3 million Arabs live in Israel, where they make up almost 20 percent of the population.

"This is not an issue that can be solved by assassination," Israeli Arab lawmaker Azmi Bishara told Reuters in the Galilee town of Arraba, where about 6,000 people took to the streets.



Masked Islamic Jihad militants burn a coffin bearing the words Arab League during protest in Gaza Mar. 30. Thousands of Palestinians attended the protest in Gaza to commemorate the 28th anniversary of Land Day. The Arab League's summit was unilaterally postponed by host country Tunisia on Monday amid divisions over U.S. calls for political and economic reforms in the Middle East. REUTERS

"As long as Sharon is prime minister, I cannot see hope," he said.

Protests in the West Bank also focused on the vast barrier that Israel is building with the avowed aim of keeping out suicide bombers. Palestinians called it a bid to grab land seized in the 1967 Middle East war and deny them a viable state.

Outside Bethlehem, Palestinians used their hands to tear down a small

section of fence that was part of the barrier. They planted tree saplings in its place.

In the West Bank cities of Nablus and Ramallah, Israeli troops fired teargas to disperse Palestinian stonethrowers.

An Israeli security source said troops had been ordered to limit the friction. "We want to avoid confrontation. The situation is tense enough as it

is," the source said.

Israeli Arabs did not flee alongside hundreds of thousands of other Palestinians during the 1948 war at Israel's founding. Now they complain of widespread government discrimination.

"Every day that there is discrimination is Land Day. Land is not just a piece of earth," said Arraba resident Saher Daem.

# Syria says wants Arab reform, summit meet revived

DAMASCUS, March 30 (Reuters) - Syria said on Tuesday it wanted regional reforms on Arab terms, not based on Western ideas, and that "healthy differences in opinion" should not block a long-planned Arab summit.

"Syria wants the summit to be held with the right priorities that include internal reforms and the Arab League reforms but also the key issues of Iraq and the Arab Israeli conflict," a Syrian official who did not wish to be identified told Reuters.

Tunisia said it had postponed the summit because of disagreements at a ministers' meeting about democratic reforms. But delegates at the talks disputed that account, saying any differences were modest and could have been overcome.

"In every preparatory meeting for a summit, Arab or other, there must be different views on topics being discussed. These are healthy differences in opinion," said the official.

"We in Syria want Arab consensus on Arab (originated) reform that replaces what foreign sides propose. Their proposals do not take into account fundamental issues such as the Arab-Israeli conflict which has a bearing on any internal reform bid."

Some Arab League delegates said Tunisia wanted to burnish its democratic credentials with Washington by pushing for U.S.-backed reform ideas at a ministerial meeting on Saturday.

Syria, accused by Washington of sponsoring terrorism, said on Monday Arab foreign ministers had agreed on key "documents and resolutions" which were to have been submitted to the summit before it was postponed, including modernisation and development plans.

"The media is talking about differences but not many in the media spoke about the fact that we have reached an

agreement on the recommendations for the summit," said the official.

## OPTIMISM

Syria's Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara said after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak he was optimistic that Arab leaders could reschedule the summit.

"We are optimistic about holding the summit and we hope there will be a comprehensive response from Arab states," Shara said in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, in comments broadcast on Egyptian state television.

Mubarak has offered to host the meeting in Egypt after many Arabs were shocked at Tunisia's move to indefinitely delay Monday's planned gathering in Tunis.

Analysts say the postponement reflected badly on the Arab world when it was faced with pressing issues, including the Israeli-Arab conflict and the occupation of Iraq, as well as U.S. and other outside pressure to reform.

Mubarak has been holding an intensive round of talks with Arab leaders and ministers, with some talks by telephone, to discuss preparations for the summit. On Wednesday, he is due to meet Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah in Egypt.

Mubarak has said the Tunisian decision to delay the summit was unjustified, a view echoed by other Arabs, including Syria.

Shara who delivered a letter to Mubarak from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad concerning efforts to convene the summit, will deliver a similar message to Prince Abdullah later on Tuesday.

League Secretary-General Amr Moussa starts a regional tour on Friday starting with Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria to discuss reviving the summit, a league spokesman said.

## Saudi Arabia frees two reform activists

March 30 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia has released two reformists who were among a group of people arrested two weeks ago after calling for political change in the absolute monarchy, supporters said on Tuesday. They said university professor Tawfiq al-Qusayyir and lawyer Suleiman al-Rushudi were freed on Monday. They did not say whether any conditions had been set for their release.

"They were released yesterday. We are hoping that two more may be freed today," said one activist. The two men were among a group of 13 activists rounded up earlier this month after signing petitions calling for a constitutional monarchy and urging the royal family to set a timetable for political change. Four are still detained.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter and birthplace of Islam, has launched a programme of cautious reforms including municipal elections later this year.

De facto ruler Crown Prince Abdullah has promised the reform process is unstoppable, but also warned the kingdom would not be embarking on "reckless adventures".

This month's detentions overshadowed a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who said his country was troubled by restrictions on free speech demonstrated by the arrests.

The United States is eager to promote reform in the Middle East and has encouraged its longstanding ally to speed up change since the September 11, 2001, attacks which were carried out by mainly Saudi hijackers.

# Israeli charged for bombing campaign against Arabs

JERUSALEM, March 30 (Reuters) - Two ultra-nationalist Jews were charged on Tuesday over a string of bomb attacks including an assassination attempt against an Israeli Arab lawmaker.

Eliran Golan, 22, was arrested at his home in the northern city of Haifa earlier this month where police said they found an explosives laboratory and 30 bombs.

A charge sheet handed down Tuesday in Haifa district court accused Golan of four counts of attempted murder for a series of bombings staged as revenge for Palestinian attacks since mid-2001.

The only casualty in the 10 bombs Golan was alleged to have manufactured and planted was a woman wounded by an explosion set off by a bomb rigged to a door at a Haifa mosque in August 2001.

Golan was also accused of setting an explosive beneath the car of an



An Israeli peace activist lies on the ground during clashes between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli soldiers in the West Bank village of Bitounia Mar. 30. Thousands of Palestinians attended protests in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to commemorate the 28th anniversary of Land Day. Land Day marks the series of clashes between Israeli Arabs and Israeli police that erupted on March 30, 1976 when Israeli Arabs protested the Israeli government's confiscation of Arab land. REUTERS

Israeli Arab lawmaker Issam Makhoul last October, which set the car ablaze when Makhoul's wife switched on the ignition.

The charge sheet said Golan also attempted to bomb the car of two Israeli Arabs he accused of involvement in suicide bomb attacks, and the homes of two Israeli women who dated Arab men.

The other suspect, Alexander Rabinovich, 22, was charged with aiding Golan in most of these attacks.

The two men are among a small number of Israelis arrested for attacks on Arabs during three and a half years of conflict in which 2,415 Palestinians and 889 Israelis have died.

Israel's Arabs, who make up about 20 percent of the population of the Jewish state, have largely kept out of the violence, although they tend to sympathise with their Palestinian brethren.

## Sudan to offer western rebels amnesty for peace

KHARTOUM, March 30 (Reuters) - The Sudanese government said on Tuesday it would offer rebels in western Sudan a general amnesty if they signed a peace deal during talks to begin shortly in Chad.

Rebels launched an uprising more than a year ago against the government of the oil-producing country accusing it of neglecting the arid western region of Darfur, which lies near the Chad border.

The two rebel groups have said they would attend the talks, sponsored by the United States and the European Union, in the Chadian capital N'Djamena. Khartoum said talks would begin on Tuesday but a rebel group said they would start on Wednesday.

Peace talks late last year with one of the groups failed.

A U.N. official said this month that pro-government Arab militias in Darfur

were carrying out killings of African villagers reminiscent of the Rwandan genocide. Khartoum calls the militias outlaws and dismisses comparisons with Rwanda.

"The government will grant a general amnesty to all those who sign (a peace agreement) with the government at the N'Djamena conference," Sudanese Justice Minister Ali Mohamed Osman Yassin told reporters in Khartoum.

Sudan's Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail said a government delegation headed by Investment Minister Al-Sherif Ahmed Omar Badr had left for Chad earlier on Tuesday and said talks were due to begin later in the day.

"The delegation will try to convince the different parties that the solution is in dialogue... The Chadian presidency is setting the agenda and our delegation has been briefed regarding the govern-

ment line," he said but did give not details.

Abu Bakr Hamid al-Nur, spokesman for the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), one of the two rebel groups, told Reuters on Monday that his group would attend the talks, adding he expected them to start on Wednesday.

He said the group had agreed to attend the talks on condition that international observers be present, that the talks would be directly with the government and that they would address issues beyond the regional conflict in Darfur.

"I am presuming that the government has accepted these conditions," Nur said.

The Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A), the other western Darfur rebel group, said earlier this month it would attend the talks but was not available for comment on Tuesday.

## Jordan ready to return stolen antiquities to Iraq

AMMAN, March 30 (Reuters) - Jordan is ready to return to Iraq more than 700 stolen antiquities that were seized from smugglers, the official news agency Petra said on Tuesday.

Quoting the director-general of Jordan's Department of Antiquities, Fawaz Khreisha, Petra said the pieces, confiscated by security and customs authorities, were well preserved, scientifically documented and ready for delivery upon the request of the Iraqis.

The department has sent a compact disc with pictures of the artefacts to the Iraqi authorities renovating the National Museum in Baghdad which was looted after the fall of Saddam Hussein last year.

Iraqis then blamed invading U.S. troops for not protecting the museum as treasures dating back thousands of years were plundered.

Khreisha said Jordan had previously handed to Iraq 1,000 pieces of antiquities.

It was not clear from where in Iraq the artefacts had been stolen.

Iraq, a cradle of civilization long before the empires of Egypt, Greece or Rome, was home to dynasties that created agriculture and writing and built the cities of Nineveh, Nimrud and Babylon — site of Nebuchadnezzar's Hanging Gardens.

Jordan frequently reports seizing ancient artefacts that smugglers try to get into the kingdom from Iraq or outside to a third country.

## Heavy hand in south Thailand breeds anger: Minister

PATTANI, Thailand, March 30 (Reuters) - Heavy-handed tactics by security forces and a deep mistrust of government officials have fuelled anger and fear in Thailand's largely Muslim south, Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisang said on Tuesday.

Chaturon, on a fact-finding mission to the south after the latest bomb attack on Saturday, said government attitudes toward the region had to change if there was to be lasting peace there.

"People don't trust state officials. They aren't confident that they can be safely protected by state officers," he told reporters after meeting Muslim leaders from three southern provinces

now under martial law.

Saturday's blast, which wounded 28 people, was the latest in a series of violent incidents in which 60 people have died since January despite a massive security effort critics say has gone awry. Thais with dual nationality carried out the weekend bombing of a karaoke club near the Malaysian border, then fled across it, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra told reporters.

Bangkok had asked Malaysia to track them down, he said.

"We should have got the culprits that night. But it turned out that officials had to wait for approval and they managed to slip into Malaysia," he said.

Police roadblocks, raids on schools and the detention of religious leaders have fuelled anger in a region home to most of Thailand's six million Muslims.

Muslim leaders said Chaturon's mission, which will include getting local input on a delayed \$300 million development plan for the region, was a move in the right direction.

"The problem is people are fearful of treatment by some government officials. It's okay to keep martial law as long as people are not taken away," said Waeduramae Maminchi, president of the Islamic Council of Pattani province.



A man inspects a warehouse after an arson attack in Thailand's largely Muslim province of Pattani, 1,150 km (718 miles) south of Bangkok Mar. 30. Arsonists set fire to six buildings in Pattani and Yala overnight and shot dead one worker in Yala. At least 60 people have been killed in a spate of violence in the region since January. REUTERS

## Two Pakistanis executed by al Qaeda militants



Pakistani tribesmen stand on the rubble of their homes in Kalosha near Wana after a 12-day offensive by the Pakistani army on armed al Qaeda guerrillas Mar. 29. Pakistani troops vowed to hunt down a group of heavily armed al Qaeda guerrillas, including a notorious Uzbek, who fled into the mountains along the Afghan border after escaping a siege of their hideout. REUTERS

WANA, Pakistan, March 30 (Reuters) - Islamic militants on the Afghan border shot dead two Pakistani hostages, a government official said on Tuesday, a day after the military said it had killed an al Qaeda spy chief.

The deaths heightened tension on Pakistan's remote Afghan border where about 5,000 troops attacked 400 to 500 al Qaeda and other Islamist fighters in a 12-day offensive that ended on Sunday with more than 100 people dead.

The hostages, among 14 kidnapped government men, were found in a ditch near a well late on Monday, shot in the head and chest, close to Wana in rugged South Waziristan where they worked as district officials, the military said.

"They were unarmed," Mahmood Shah, the region's security chief, told Reuters. The other 12 hostages, all paramilitary troops, were released unharmed on Sunday.

The military said on Monday a spy chief in Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, identified only as "Abdullah", was among 63 militants killed in the raid, but the government has yet to find his body or fully confirm his identity.

But the military said on Tuesday the man was only a local-level intelligence official.

"He is not the al Qaeda intelligence chief but he was the local intelligence boss," said military spokesman Major-General Shaikat Sultan.

"HAMMER AND ANVIL"

Pakistani intelligence received radio intercepts indicating the man was an Egyptian and was in charge of communication equipment in the compound where Pakistani tribesmen had sheltered al Qaeda and other foreign fighters, Shah said.

But some intercepts suggested the man may have been a courier, Shah said.

The sweep of Pakistan's tribal belt, involving 50,000 troops, is the biggest in the semi-autonomous territory and has netted 167 militants, including 73 foreign fighters. At least 46 soldiers were killed along with more than a dozen civilians.

U.S. forces are hunting on the other side of the border in what the Americans have called a "hammer and anvil" operation. Militants linked to al Qaeda are

widely believed to be behind bomb blasts in Madrid this month that killed 190.

Heavy resistance at the start of the offensive suggested tribesmen were helping to protect a "high-value target", maybe bin Laden's deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri.

The military later dismissed that as "guesswork".

But officials say a wounded Uzbek al Qaeda leader, Tahir Yuldashev, was on the run somewhere along the mountainous border, describing the man as al Qaeda's 10th most senior member.

The discovery of the two dead hostages follows last week's grisly execution of eight soldiers taken hostage by militants in an ambush of an army convoy. The men were also shot in the head and chest and dumped in a ditch, their hands bound.

"The two hostages were found shot in much the same way as the eight soldiers," said Shah. He said it was unclear when the men had been killed but tribal sources said they appeared to have been shot soon after the fighting started on March 16.

## Muslim party draws biggest Indonesia election crowd

JAKARTA, March 30 (Reuters) - A conservative Muslim party has drawn the biggest crowd yet in Indonesia's parliamentary election campaign, as an estimated 100,000-plus supporters massed at a Jakarta stadium on Tuesday to hear its anti-corruption message.

Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) leader Hidayat Nur Wahid, wearing a white Muslim shirt, black pants and white Muslim cap, told an enthusiastic crowd the PKS would "fight for every level of society's prosperity, and the strategy is by eradicating corruption".

Although few expect PKS to rank among the top two or three parties in the April 5 ballot, it could more than triple its share of the vote from the last election to six percent or more, thanks to organisational strengths like those that helped it pack the stadium.

In Indonesia's fractured and fluid politics, where 24 parties are competing, that performance may be enough to give the party an influential voice when the election is over, and for it to be courted to join other parties in a coalition for the separate presidential election due on July 5.

The PKS is one of several parties in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country, which explicitly or implicitly endorse Islamic Sharia law and other conservative positions.

But most Indonesian Muslims are moderates, and the PKS campaign stresses its anti-corruption credentials and integrity, not its Islamic roots.

It promises to tackle Indonesia's endemic graft and boost an economy struggling to keep pace with a growing labour force.

"Election 2004 is an important moment because a reform agenda can be presented after this election," said Hidayat.

He claimed the party had drawn half a million supporters clad in its white colours to Jakarta on Tuesday, including many unable to get into the stadium. "Because of them, Jakarta became white and that's our preliminary commitment to whiten Indonesia," he told reporters.

Until Tuesday's PKS rally, the biggest stadium crowd estimate had been between 30,000 and 40,000 for President Megawati Sukarnoputri's Indonesia Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P).

Megawati was on a whirlwind campaign tour on Tuesday taking her to Central Java, the heartland of her support; East Kalimantan in the Indonesian part of Borneo; and the resort of island of Bali, another centre of her popularity.

She urged supporters to help PDI-P win a majority on Monday, singing along with the crowd at one point and stressing voting practicalities more than policy.

## "I didn't torture anybody": Kenya's Moi

NAIROBI, March 30 (Reuters) - Former Kenyan president Daniel arap Moi angrily rejected allegations of torture and theft during his 24-year autocratic rule on Tuesday.

"I didn't torture anybody. If they were tortured, why didn't they go to court?" Moi told reporters when asked about former detainees who accused security forces of torture in the 1980s.

Surprised and irritated by the questioning at a rare news conference to unveil his new job as a peace mediator,

Moi repeated longstanding denials that he did anything wrong during his leadership.

Commenting on a financial scandal now being investigated by a panel of judges, he said: "How would I know (funds were embezzled)? It is only an insane person who would have allowed millions of dollars to be moved verbally."

The inquiry, one of several set up by Moi's successor Mwai Kibaki into alleged abuse of office during Moi's rule, has heard that Moi telephoned

senior officials to order the movement of large sums of money in the 1990s to the account of a businessman friend.

The imperious Moi, who stepped down after December 2002 elections lost by his KANU party, rarely allowed reporters to ask him more than one or two questions during his fleeting contacts with the media in his many years in power.

Analysts say corruption flourished among a predatory elite of businessmen, MPs and civil servants during

Moi's rule, and Kibaki's aides say they believe up to \$4 billion was stolen and hidden abroad.

Kibaki's graft-busters say they do not intend to pursue Moi for his alleged misdeeds as a reward for his decision to leave power peacefully.

Moi, 79, had extended a rare invitation to reporters to visit his Nairobi home to help him publicise the launch what he calls his Moi Africa Institute (MAIN), a peace mediation body he hopes will become his retirement project.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
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وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ  
تتقدم بخالص التعازي لأسرة الزميل  
**مهيوب الكمالي**  
بوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى  
**الحاج أحمد سعيد قاسم الكمالي**  
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته  
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الأسيقون:  
المهندس وليد عبدالعزيز السقاف  
وكافة الزملاء  
في مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
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وفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى  
**الحاج مقبل الصبري**  
وبهذا المصاب الجليل نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة إلى  
**الأستاذ عبده مقبل الصبري**  
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد  
بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه ويسكنه فسيح جناته  
ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون  
الأسيقون:  
موظفي مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر  
موظفي الشركة اليمنية لصناعة السمن والصابون



More than 100,000 supporters of the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), one of Indonesia's most conservative Islamist parties, rally in Jakarta's main stadium Mar. 30. REUTERS

# Cyprus peace talks get muted go-ahead from all

BUERGENSTOCK, Switzerland, March 30 (Reuters) - Greek and Turkish parties involved in Cyprus peace talks gave the go-ahead on Tuesday for more negotiations but there were major objections by all to a revised U.N. plan to unite the island.

U.N. officials said submissions by Greece, Turkey, Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot delegations, meeting a Tuesday deadline imposed by U.N. chief Kofi Annan to say if they wanted to negotiate further, reported they were ready to carry on.

"Contacts will continue today," one U.N. official said.

Before the submissions were made, Turkish media had warmly welcomed the new proposals while the Greek press angrily denounced the plan as a sell-out of the larger and richer Greek Cypriot population.

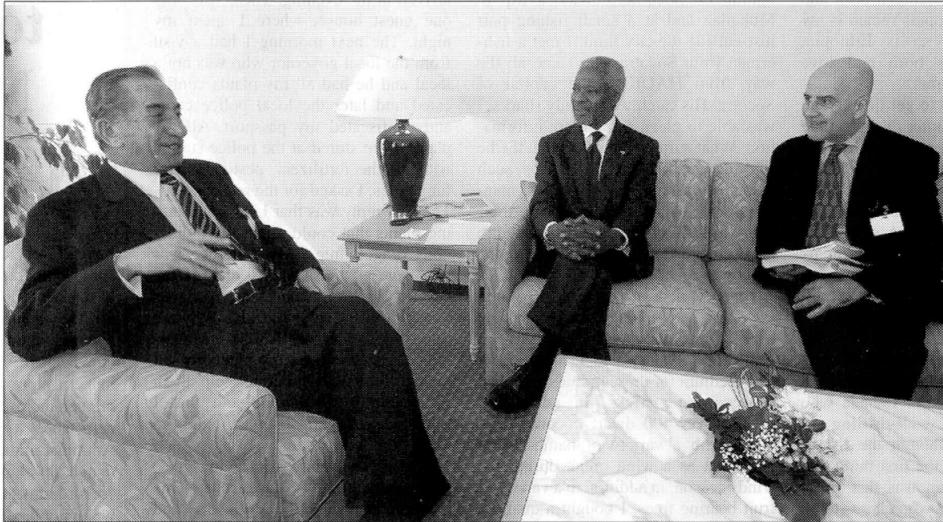
Negotiators had toiled through the night to fine-tune their responses under strict deadlines set by Annan who wanted their formal views on the proposals on Tuesday and an end to talks by Wednesday.

Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis and his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan, now key figures in the talks, have had their first meeting on the blueprint that they hope could lead to a united island joining the European Union on May 1.

"There are disputes and problematic points, and they left it at that," a diplomatic source involved in Monday night meeting said.

The main disputes about the plan concern how many Greek and Turkish troops will remain on the island, rights to property and freedom of movement between the two communities as well as the rule of EU law.

"The Greek Cypriot side has asked for changes on several provisions of the plan, relating to Turkish settlers, restrictions on Greek Cypriots living in the north and exceptions the Turkish sides



Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos (L), United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan (C) and United Nations Special Envoy to Cyprus Alvaro De Soto (R) talk during negotiations on the reunification of Cyprus, in the Swiss mountain resort of Buergenstock March 30. The revised peace plan unveiled by the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan for Cyprus reunification met mixed reactions on Monday. Annan submitted the plan as his last-ditch effort to clinch a deal satisfying both sides before Cyprus enters the European Union on May 1. REUTERS

want from EU law," a Greek Cypriot official said after giving their submission.

"We told them (U.N.) of our reservations and during the day we may in addition give more," a Turkish official said.

Annan's new plan would give Greek Cypriots more land in line with earlier proposals but allow fewer to return to homes they fled from in the Turkish Cypriot-controlled north in 1974.

Turkish newspapers welcomed the revised plan, saying it addressed most of the Turkish side's concerns on such issues as preserving two zones for Greek and Turkish Cypriots, property, security and political equality.

"Annan has given hope," said the mass-circulation Milliyet daily. "The mood in the Turkish camp is positive."

The centre-left Radikal daily said the Greek Cypriot side had been disappointed by the revisions, seeing them as giving the Turkish Cypriots virtually all that they had sought.

Greece's Eleftherotypia newspaper saw a major setback for Greek Cypriots in the plan.

"10 Gifts to the Turks — Disappointment among Greek Cypriots as Turkey celebrates," the newspaper said.

"The risk of the Cyprus talks ending up as a failure are now visible after unacceptable proposals by Mr Annan," Greece's Ta Nea newspaper said.

Cyprus has been split since 1974, when Turkey invaded the north of the island after a Greek Cypriot coup backed by Greece. NATO members Greece and

Turkey, guarantor powers under 1960 arrangements inherited from former colonial power Britain, have on at least two occasions come to the brink of war over Cyprus.

Annan has a mandate to fill in any disputed gaps if the sides fail to agree by the end of Wednesday.

No deal at Buergenstock would still send the plan directly on to separate referendums on both parts of the island on April 20. If it is not approved by one or the other side, only the internationally recognised Greek Cypriot government in the south would join the EU on May 1.

This could cement the island's partition and harm Turkey's own hopes of becoming the first Muslim state to join the EU.

## Explosive ingredients found in UK terror raids

LONDON, March 30 (Reuters) - Police seized a large amount of explosive material and arrested eight men across London and southeast England on Tuesday in Britain's largest anti-terror operation for years.

Peter Clarke, head of Britain's anti-terror branch, told a news conference more than half a tonne of ammonium nitrate fertiliser was discovered in a six-foot (two-metre) high plastic bag in west London.

"Part of the investigation will focus on the purchase, storage and intended use of that material," Clarke said.

An anti-terror source said the fertiliser was similar to explosive materials used in bombings in Turkey and Saudi Arabia in recent months, although there was no evidence to indicate a bombing was planned or any possible target.

However the source said there was enough material to launch an attack on the same scale as the huge 1996 bombing near Canary Wharf in London's financial district.

Clarke stressed the operation was not linked to investigations into the co-ordinated train bombings in Madrid on March 11, which killed nearly 200 people or to Irish republican terrorism.

Britain has been on high alert since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S. and after the Madrid bombings Britain's most senior police officer Sir John Stevens warned an attack was inevitable.

Clarke said the eight men, all British and aged between 17 and 32, were arrested on suspicion of preparing to carry out acts of terrorism. They were detained in a series of 24 dawn raids carried out by 700 officers from five police forces and the security services.

"It was the biggest counter-terrorism raid in recent years," the police source said. He added all the suspects were believed to be Muslim and of Pakistani origin.

Some were arrested near London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports, but the source said there was no evidence to suggest either were targets.

Local residents were not entirely surprised.

"I could see how a terrorist would choose a place like this," said Sam Cocking, 31, who rents a unit in the large self-storage warehouse in Hanwell, just a few miles from Heathrow, where the ammonium nitrate was found.

"People can just come and go as they please."

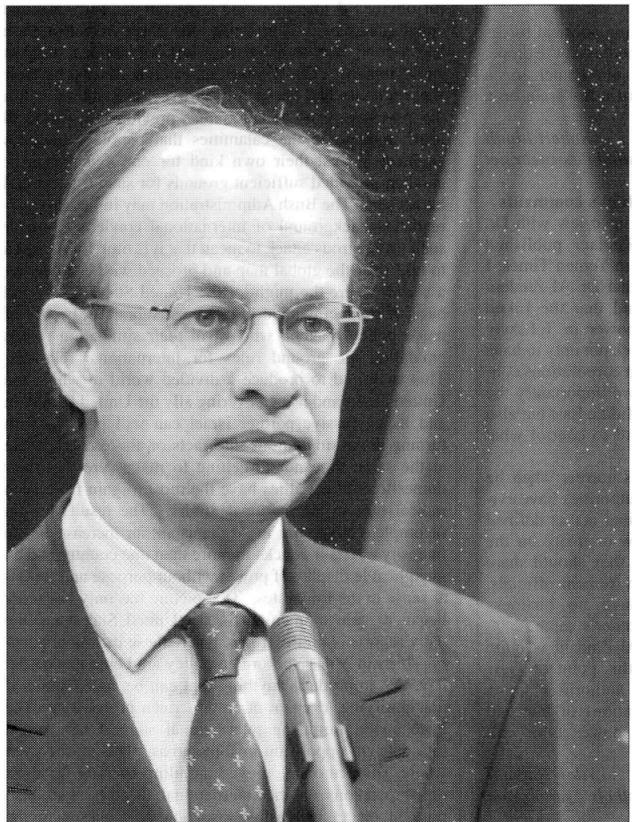
Suicide bombers attacked the British consulate and the London-based bank HSBC in Istanbul last November, killing 32 people and injuring hundreds more.

Turkish officials said bombs comprising ammonium sulphate, nitrate and petrol were used in suicide car bomb attacks on synagogues in Turkey the same month, killing more than 20.



British police officers stand guard outside a warehouse where more than half a tonne of ammonium nitrate fertiliser was recovered in west London, March 30. British anti-terror police seized the fertiliser, similar to explosive materials used in bombings in Turkey and Saudi Arabia in recent months, and arrested eight men in raids across London and southeast England on Tuesday. REUTERS

## EU's "Mr Terrorism" warns can't guarantee security



Dutchman Gijs de Vries, recently appointed the European Union's first counter-terrorism coordinator, holds a joint news conference with European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana at the EU Council headquarters in Brussels, March 30. Former Dutch deputy interior minister de Vries vowed to defend civil liberties in the battle against militants as he took up his job on Monday. REUTERS

BRUSSELS, March 30 (Reuters) - The European Union's first anti-terrorism coordinator warned on Tuesday that no one could guarantee security in the bloc, but pledged to do all he could to achieve it while respecting and building on civil liberties.

"There can never be, in any society, a guarantee of 100 percent security,"

Gijs de Vries told reporters after talks with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, to whom he reports.

"But what we can do, and our citizens must expect, is that as governments, and as institutions of the European Union, we do everything in our power to strengthen collaboration and make sure all necessary measures

are in place."

De Vries, a former Dutch deputy interior minister who had been variously described in European media as "Mr Terrorism" or "anti-terror czar", took up his post on Monday to coordinate the work of different EU bodies to combat terrorism, and push member states to implement commitments to which they have signed up.

"We are living in an open society in Europe, an open society in which people can enjoy many liberties. It is important to preserve those liberties, to build on them," he said.

De Vries later met the Justice and Interior Ministers of all 25 current and future EU member states to discuss implementation of a declaration on terrorism published by EU leaders last week.

The Declaration followed the March 11 train bomb attacks in Madrid which left 191 dead and nearly 1,900 injured.

Groups linked to the Islamic militant al Qaeda network are suspected of carrying out the bombings, and fears are rising that Europe may increasingly become a target of such attacks.

De Vries said his main role was to ensure government bodies in EU member states, as well as EU institutions in Brussels, worked together as efficiently as possible to pool resources and analysis — at the direction of heads of government.

"The prime ministers have indicated what they want done. Now we have to do it, that is to say in Brussels but also in the national capitals," he said.

The EU justice and interior ministers agreed in principle on Tuesday to set up schemes in all member states to compensate victims of serious crimes, including terrorism, anywhere in the bloc — proposals EU leaders said they wanted approved by May 1.

They did not set any maximum or minimum limit for the amounts to be paid. But ministers failed to agree on simplified procedures for confiscating proceeds of crimes across the bloc, on which EU leaders want a decision by June.

## Bush campaign says Kerry would raise gas taxes



U.S. President George W. Bush (C) and leaders of new NATO nations wave after a ceremony at the White House marking the expansion of NATO's membership from 19 countries to 26, March 29. Representing the new member nations from left are Latvia's Prime Minister Indulis Emsis, Slovenian Prime Minister Anton Rop, Lithuania's Prime Minister Algirdas Brazauskas, Slovak Republic's Prime Minister Mikulus Dzurinda, Romanian Prime Minister Adrian Nastase, Bulgarian Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coburg, Estonian Prime Minister Juhan Parts and NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. REUTERS

WASHINGTON, March 30 (Reuters) - U.S. President George W. Bush, faced with record-high fuel prices, will accuse Democrat John Kerry on Tuesday of wanting to increase gasoline taxes.

A new television advertisement from the Bush re-election campaign seeks to pre-empt Kerry's announcement on Tuesday of a new plan to reduce fuel costs.

"Some people have wacky ideas, like taxing gasoline more so people drive less. That's John Kerry," the Bush ad will say.

The 30-second ad will run on Wednesday in 18 battleground states and nationally on cable television.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration on Monday announced the average nationwide price of regular unleaded gasoline had set a new high of \$1.758 per gallon. The agency has predicted prices will march higher in April and May due to tight supplies.

With an election-year battle brewing over high gasoline prices, Kerry is to say on Tuesday he would pressure oil-producing nations to increase production and temporarily suspend filling the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Kerry will say Bush's economic policy had cost Americans 3 million jobs and is driving gasoline prices toward \$3 a gallon and that Bush is running "a campaign of untruths, of misleading America."

The Bush campaign cited as evidence that Kerry would raise gas taxes a 1994 case in which the Boston Globe quoted him as having supported a 50-cent increase in the gas tax. It also said he had supported increases in gasoline taxes 11 times as a senator.

"Raising taxes is a habit of Kerry's," the ad's voiceover says.

Bush wants Congress to pass energy legislation that has failed to pass in three years but has offered little in the way of

short-term measures to help consumers at the pump.

"We need to increase domestic production, increase conservation and renewable energies and streamline the rules so that fuel can get to the market and to the consumers cheaper," said White House spokesman Trent Duffy.

The Bush campaign wants to portray Kerry as an old-fashioned tax-and-spend Democrat. Bush calls any proposal to rescind the tax cuts at the center of his economic program a tax increase.

Vice President Dick Cheney on Monday accused Kerry of planning to eliminate many expiring tax cuts and said he faced a \$1 trillion gap in paying for his own spending proposals.

"It takes little imagination to figure out just how he would fill that tax gap — a major new tax increase on the workers, entrepreneurs and inventors of this country," Cheney said in a speech to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Words of Wisdom



Individuals must be held accountable for the way they handle property, especially if it is publicly owned. Thus, drivers of government vehicles, operators of machines, an other people who have direct responsibility for government assets have to be constantly brought under supervision. By the way, this would also apply to traffic violations by government drivers. They should be made to pay for the tickets.

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



OUR OPINION

Arab Summit's postponement:

A normal consequence of weakness

The decision to delay the Arab Summit taken last week by Tunisia was for many Arabs quite normal. There is no irony in seeing Arab regimes dispute among themselves the date and program of the Summit because each of them has a different agenda, which on some occasions will contradict with that of others. It is a state of humiliation and weakness never before felt in the Arab world.

To add insult to injury, the US veto against the condemnation of Israel for assassinating Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and the inability of Arabs to hold a summit to condemn the killing is in itself a serious indication to the extremely degraded level we have reached today.

Pan Arab-relations have undergone some turbulence in the recent past, but no one could have imagined that the world would look at Arabs struggling to come together. This is considered by many analysts as the extreme of extremes and cannot be justified in any form or way.

What Arabs need now is true leaders who can stand up for their rights and beliefs. They need models who can take steps and decisions rather than talk and spend hours in TV interviews. They want to see a glimpse of hope in a potential unity of stances, and hence, presence in world arena.

It is a pity to see that none of the current indicators show the possibility of such a break through. On the contrary, Arab leaders are as close as ever to obeying and showing loyalty to today's mightiest powers, which have been so open in supporting Israel.

Looking at Israel's response to the decision to postpone the Arab Summit, one can only feel more pity towards all those Arab regimes. Israel said that the delaying of the Arab summit was a positive indicator that Arabs are no longer unified in hating Israel.

Arab regimes should also be assured that the USA would have also been satisfied with the decision to postpone the summit, which was supposed to come up with a strong condemnation of the assassination of Sheikh Yassin. Such condemnation would have been directed to Israel directly and USA indirectly.

Last week, in a truly rich and informative lecture, prominent researcher and training expert Dr. Mahmoud Jibreel said that Arabs have now been transformed into what has been called an 'vocal phenomenon'. By this phrase, Jibreel implied that Arabs have turned to a species that talk a lot and do little.

But perhaps this time he had it wrong. As Arabs failed to even hold their regular summit in which they talk a lot and do nothing, they have turned to stagnant creatures, who cannot even talk, not even a little...

The Editor

Yemenis must always remain loyal to their country

WALID HUSSAIN AHMED AL-BAR  
WALLID20@HOTMAIL.COM

I am a Yemeni national born and raised in Ethiopia. Yemen is my country and so is Ethiopia, where I was born and love equally the same.

The reason I want to get this crystal clear, is to show my utter disgust at the derogatory remarks made by Mr. Ali Aljubani who submitted his views on Friday, March 19, 2004 at 08:32:20 (CST), on Yemenis born and raised in the diaspora be it in East Africa, Asia or Europe. Yemenis are Yemenis whether they are born in Yemen or abroad. Furthermore we are all Muslims, or have you forgotten that.

This was my first time to visit the Yemen Times on the Web and the reason was to place an advertisement for a friend of my mine from Canada who was interested in well-drilling in Yemen. I browsed through the list of Yemenis abroad and the first thing that attracted my attention was this racist view of an individual who claims to be a Yemeni.

Let me state something for the record even though I was born and raised away from Yemen. I am an agricultural engineer by profession and had spent over 25 years between Saudi Arabia and South East Asia.

During my stay in Saudi Arabia I introduced tropical plants to Saudi Arabia and conducted research on its adaptability. I introduced a wide range of tropical plants from fruit bearing trees, to shrubs to ground covers and finally in introduced varieties of orchids such as Cattleya, Vanda and Dendrobium, which are mainly epiphyte. It was a success and the second step was to produce it commercially and that was a success too. The clients here were both Saudi Princes, Prince Fahad bin Abdullah bin Abdulrhaman, Deputy Head of the Saudi Navy, in his farm in Al Kharij and Prince Khaled bin Sultan, the son of the Saudi Defense Minister, in his farm in Tebrak outside Riyadh.

I wanted to apply what I had acquired in Saudi Arabia in my country, Yemen. I conducted my research on an ideal location to introduce orchids since they are the most expensive and least difficult to maintain. I found the ideal

place for the production of the orchids was Socotra. I made a trip to Yemen in the middle of 1999 to get more information on Socotra. I made a trip to Mukallah and at a small fishing port just outside the city limit, I met a fisherman from Socotra who came all the way from HADIBO, the capital of Socotra. His catch was mainly sharks. I was able to glean some more information. What surprised me was that the he said the local MAHARAS has such plants as custard apples, guavas, mangoes and bananas, planted in their courtyards. The island was supposed to have only endemic plants such as the dragon tree.

I left Yemen and returned to South East Asia and embarked on purchasing over three thousand seedlings of Cattleyas, Vandas and Dendrobiums. The medium for those orchids is ONLY charcoal and bricks. In addition I bought over 100 dwarf coconut trees along with a variety of bamboo that could act as a wind break during the windy season, in addition to a variety of fruit bearing trees. I bought a quantity of fertilizer, pesticide and fungicide to last for six months. My only goal was to provide the locals with the know-how to make an additional income and I provided the plants and was doing it for free. The orchids can be grown in the courtyards of the locals since the orchid does not grow higher than 60 cm. The orchid produces at least four suckers annually which increase the inventory of orchids. The long-term goal is for flowers to be exported to Dubai or to sell them locally in Yemen.

I planned to allocate sufficient time so that the locals would get to know how to maintain these orchids in addition to the other plants. Before the end of 1999 I brought my plants supported by a phytosanitary certificate which cleared all the plants from any disease by Emirates to Sanaa. I got my plants cleared and preceded to Mukallah. I waited for a few days before I could get a ride to Socotra. In the meantime I was maintaining my plants by watering them and keeping them in a shaded area.

It took us three days to get to Socotra and we docked at SOGALIYA port and from there had my plants transported by truck to HADIBO.

I finally made the trip to Socotra and

it took us three days and we arrived at Sogaliya port and from there took a land rover to travel to Hadibo and arrived in the evening. There was only one guest house, where I spent my night. The next morning I had a visit from the local governor who was not a local and he had all my plants confiscated and later the local police came and confiscated my passport. All my plants were stored at the police station with all the fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides, I asked for the reasons why. The first reply was that I was introducing plants that could affect the indigenous dragon trees. My response was you have all those plants such as the custard apples, guavas and mangoes already planted by the locals. Why are those plants not considered as dangerous? I did not bring my plants to sell them to the locals but to help them make additional income and that I would have spent many months to teach them how to do it.

You all know how the saying goes, little knowledge is dangerous. This Governor looked at the fertilizers I had brought and considered it be drugs. My God, how ignorant could he be. The fertilizers were sent to Sanna for analysis and a few weeks later came the answer that it was fertilizer and that all the plants must be destroyed. Imagine during this period I would go daily to the station to water the plants and I found that miraculously, none of the plants had died. It was a painful experience to watch all my plants being torched. The local Maharas were disappointed and were grateful for what I did. Nevertheless I collected my passport and left very disappointed, not for the amount of money I lost in the process but by the way I was treated.

I returned to South East and I am living in Laos. Here I have land that I am developing into a resort. I will be willing to turn part of this resort to promote the life style in Yemen in the form of its architecture, costumes and Yemeni products here in Laos. If there are Yemenis from the home land or Yemenis from Africa, Asia, Europe, interested to participate, they are most welcome.

In addition, Laos has incense wood (OUD in Arabic). Lao incense wood is considered the best for both OUD and DIHIN (liquid) form and is cheap.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

Send Bush an email

How I wish every newspaper, and international news website would publish Bush's e-mail address so people could send him a note demanding that he resign for telling lies about going to war against Iraq. Bush's email: [president@white-house.gov](mailto:president@white-house.gov) or [bushcheney04@georgewbush.com](mailto:bushcheney04@georgewbush.com) (and include a copy to [info@johnkerry.com](mailto:info@johnkerry.com)). Americans do not want a "war president". Americans want a more peaceful world which means that Bush MUST resign or be defeated for re-selection.

Harold S Kramer, MA USA  
[solomonkramer@yahoo.com](mailto:solomonkramer@yahoo.com)

A thank you to A. Moen

I would like to thank Dr Ahmed for his concern on plight of the Ethiopian refugee in Yemen. Ahmed has taken the part of being voice for the voiceless. I think as peoples of both nations we should see ourselves beyond politics be brother and sisters regardless of governments of today.

Solomon Gebre  
[solomangebre@sbcglobal.net](mailto:solomangebre@sbcglobal.net)

In support to Dr. A. Moen

I am an Ethiopian living in South Africa, who is quite pleased to read Dr. Ahmed Moen's article concerning the plight of Ethiopian refugees in Yemen. He basically outlined the historical connections and relations between Ethiopia and Yemen. Indeed, the two countries have long history dating back to the Queen of Sheba's era that bound the two countries together.

Dr. Ahmed has in detail discussed the hardship that the Yemenis faced in the past. He acknowledged the treatment they have received from Ethiopians during their time of hardship and strife. I believe, as mentioned by the doctor, the Yemenis had no complaint whatsoever during their time in Ethiopia.

Now that things have changed,

Ethiopians migrated to Yemen expecting the same kind of treatment that we have provided them in the past.

As doctor Ahmed said, it is quite bizarre to hear that Ethiopian refugees are mistreated by our brothers whom we, Ethiopians, stood by them during their difficult times. In fact, they are puzzled why such kind of harsh treatment is given to them. They were expecting, I believe, that they will be welcomed, respected, and dignified by our Yemeni brothers.

I once again salute Dr. Ahmed's contribution and call for an end to the plight. I also thank him for giving his time to jot down the historical links which highlights the relations between the two nations.

Finally, I am optimistic that the relevant department and government body will address the matter in due course to hear our brothers' plea.

'A friend in need, is a friend indeed.'

Yitatek Yübarek  
South Africa  
[yitatek@hotmail.com](mailto:yitatek@hotmail.com)

Don't trust present US government

I quote your article "Dr. Al-Zindani is concerned that the accusations may harm the United States' relationship with Yemen and the Muslim world."

"I am concerned because I do not want the relationship between Yemen and the United States to be affected negatively in this way."

When will the leaders of Yemen finally understand that the present US administration is not to be trusted? Stop and think who is running the US! It is Perle, Wolfowitz and Rumsfeld.

Months ago, the FBI arrested a Moslem cleric US Army officer for treason. After months of torturing this Muslim officer, they finally admitted he had done nothing wrong. They knew that he had done nothing wrong in the first place. The arrest was simply a terrorist action against Moslems. The people of Yemen had better begin

thinking about joining political forces with Spain and the rest of Europe. Better to ride an old camel for a month than to board a fast train on a broken track.

Robert Lindh  
[slindh@swnebr.net](mailto:slindh@swnebr.net)

About Dr. Al-Zindani's comments

Concerning the interview with Dr. Mansour Al-Zindani published several weeks ago in Yemen Times, I would like to say that Dr. Al-Zindani seems to understand that the Likud Zionists, now in power in Tel Aviv and Washington, seek not only to have Israel and American corporations control the oil and more importantly the water in the Arab Middle East but also have moved forward to control what the Arabs think.

Dr. Al-Zindani is correct when he states that if U.S. authorities have evidence of any criminal act as defined by international law or treaty on the part of his brother, they should share such evidence with Yemeni officials, otherwise they have no business besmirching his brother's name.

Of course, Dr. Al-Zindani is quite generous to offer this point of view because the U.S. authorities know well Sharon's violations of law and they continue to shower him with praise and money.

Alan Balboni  
[balbolv@yahoo.com](mailto:balbolv@yahoo.com)

Memories of Aden

I lived in Aden from 1962 until 1964 as part of the British forces. I really enjoyed my time there and would love to have stopped longer as I had many Adeni friends and I did "anna araf arabi a kalil", although I have forgotten most of it now I have always wanted to return to Aden for a visit. If any of your readers can give me any information on how to do this it would be much appreciated. You can contact me by my e mail address always.

Vic Blain  
[vicblain@aol.com](mailto:vicblain@aol.com)



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

Boy, is it getting tougher for Mr. Bush?

As the presidential elections in the United States get nearer (but not near enough for President George W. Bush), it appears that the most optimistic forecasters for the present White House Administration are hoping for a very close race with John Kerry, the almost for sure Democratic candidate. In such a case, the experience of the last close race (Bush 2 vs. Al Gore) would be a plus for the incumbent President and James Baker can be counted upon to shift the count towards Bush again. However, it appears that there is still ample time left to make it more and more difficult to assure a Bush victory or even a close count, because with each passing day, circumstances are making it more difficult for the Bush Administration to be assured of any hope for even a close match, let alone a decisive victory. If we just look at the "record of achievements", if they may be called that at all, we undoubtedly have a lopsided track record of setbacks actually, as far as the majority of American voters can see. This is especially true on the economic front - the front that really counts as far as most Americans are concerned. While the policy of cuddling up to the rich and affluent may be nice for attracting substantial donations to finance the campaign, the fact of the matter is that campaign donations cannot be used to buy votes. Many Americans are gradually showing signs of strong discontent of the misguided economic policies that have quickly turned the country from one of a once prosperous nation at the zenith of its economic strength and well being and fiscal soundness to a country with an unsure and perhaps misrepresented "growing economy" beset by a mounting budget deficit and a stagnant employment picture, if not a moribund one. Many economic analysts are ready to point out that the official picture of the economy not only tries to whitewash the extent of the deteriorating economic indicators, but goes even as far as mislead, with the obvious politicizing of the government agencies responsible for monitoring "objectively and autonomously" the economic conditions of the United States. It goes without saying that the promises and forecasts of the Bush Administration on this front are far from being realized, and efforts to blame the matter on the attacks of 9/11 are not proving helpful anymore.

On the other hand, the Bush Administration's reliance on its track record of "managing a country at war" will not prove to be as effective as the Bush Administration would like to think. For one thing, the people of the United States, for all intents and purposes have managed to put the storm behind them somewhat and carry on with life on a more pragmatic plane, and have now come to even question the "crisis management" of the attacks, which by all counts must be remembered as being shocking and cause for obvious deliberation and swift but carefully planned countermeasures. Admittedly, the Bush Administration had a good start at harnessing full international support and sympathy. The heinous attacks themselves, by their sheer ferocity and heavy toll, in lives, in material and in the psychology of a nation that previously considered itself immune to the calamities that people sometimes engineer against their own kind for one evil reason or another, provided sufficient grounds for such support and harnessing. The Bush Administration may in fact has misread this background of international condemnation for such a monstrous attack to mean that it is time for America to take over the global map and proceed with engineering a world, where the might of the United States is a sound basis of producing a world that must submit to the will of naive policy makers, who sit in their simulation rooms emulating the ground rules for international relations. This backfired to produce a divided world in which the United States and its persevering ally the United Kingdom and its aggressive partner Israel can will proceed with turning those simulations into facts on the ground, while at the same time not forgetting to make sure that their domestic political allies have the most to gain from such radical turn in international affairs. The results are an incomplete adventure in Afghanistan, an increase in the intensity of terror attacks in more than one country and an inexplicable display of power without purpose and rational sense in the Euphrates. This picture has only belatedly began to gain momentum in the United States and the daily reports in all the fronts, where these incomprehensible shifts in American foreign policy are being played out have yet to produce anything that can be called stable if not gratifying, even from an American prospectus. The once uncompromising international support has turned into outright opposition in some areas. This is true even where America once enjoyed unflinching backing for most of its positions on the international theater. This also brought on an increasing suspicion of intent, with the manifestation of a "might makes right" policy and the furtherance of American interests, in their narrower sense.

Furthermore, with the obvious lack of concern for one of the major causes that terrorists are leaning on to justify their maniacal acts, namely the Middle East problem, the United States is increasing the possibility that the kindled flames ignited by such an attitude towards the most pivotal area in the world today could give rise to an explosive situation. Passions in the region are volatile in nature and the almost spoiled child attitude that characterizes present American relations with the Likud demagogues in Tel Aviv are not helping to insure any stability for the region or the world, especially with the miscalculated results that are coming to light of the Iraq Adventure. To be continued...

**YEMEN TIMES**  
Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly  
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991  
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

**Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:**  
Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

**Head office:**  
Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661  
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276  
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

**Email:** [yementimes@yementimes.com](mailto:yementimes@yementimes.com)  
**Website:** <http://www.yementimes.com>

**Branches:**

<b>Aden Bureau Chief:</b> Ridwan Alawi Ahmed Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596; Fax: +967 (2) 347-056 Email: <a href="mailto:ytaden@y.net.ye">ytaden@y.net.ye</a>	<b>Taiz Bureau Chief:</b> Imad Ahmed Abdullah Tel: +967 (4) 217-156 Tel: +967 (4) 217-157 P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz Email: <a href="mailto:yttaiz@y.net.ye">yttaiz@y.net.ye</a>	<b>Hodeidah Bureau Chief:</b> Imad Ahmed Abdullah Tel: +967 (3) 206-886
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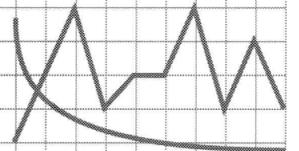
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# YT Business



# Arab Bank at the top

BY PETER WILLEMS

One would expect that a manager placed in a country far from his country of origin by an international corporation would be moved from one country to another regularly or sent back home not too far in the future.

But Mahdi Alawi, the Jordanian Regional Manager of Arab Bank based in Yemen, has spent nine years in Yemen and is not expected to leave soon. The reason Arab Bank has not moved him elsewhere is obvious: the bank in Yemen has grown dramatically under Alawi's leadership.

According to Arab Bank, it was ranked sixth out of eight commercial banks based on total deposits nine years ago. Today Arab Bank is ranked number one out of 17 commercial banks.

Alawi believes the reason Arab Bank moved into the top slot three years ago was by making necessary changes to attract and satisfy customers.

"The core issue is to satisfy your customers," said Alawi. "And we have been concentrating on that core issue for a number of years."

To help service the customers, Alawi implemented a restructuring program inside the bank.

"The staff is the main core of your success," said Alawi. "If you don't take care of your staff, how can you serve your customers?"

Alawi established a training center when he first arrived, and a training program has been ongoing to work with the entire staff, from employees all the way up to upper management. He has also implemented an incentive program

to encourage the staff to perform well: bonuses and salary increases are based on their performances each year.

To help generate greater efficiency, Arab Bank was the first bank in Yemen to install the SWIFT system five years ago. It has offered a faster network that operates in real time.

"Our standard at Arab Bank in Yemen is to always try to keep up with the way banks operate around the world," said Alawi.

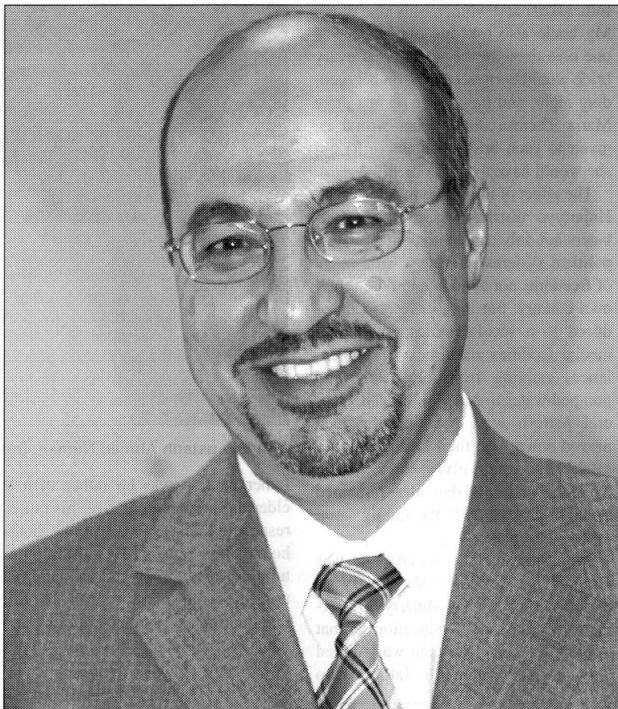
Alawi also focused on developing retail banking to attract more customers.

"Retail banking is one of the keys to becoming number one," said Alawi. "You have to focus on what the customers want."

Arab Bank was the pioneer in offering a number of products and services. It was the first bank in Yemen to set up ATMs, starting off with having ATMs at their branches. Recently, it was the first to branch out placing ATMs in public places: There are now Arab Bank ATMs at the Sana'a International Airport and the Sana'a Trading Center.

Arab Bank was also the first to issue credit cards in Yemen under the bank's name. In 2002, it brought in Visa cards that could not only be used at local ATMs but could also be used at other branches in other countries.

Four years ago, Arab Bank was the pioneer in telephone banking. Up to now, telephone banking has been used mostly to get information, such as checking balances. Now, the bank is upgrading telephone banking to include financial transactions. Arab Bank was also one of the first to offer online banking. It is in the process of upgrading online banking so that money trans-



Mahdi Alawi, the Jordanian Regional Manager of Arab Bank in Yemen. Photo by Peter Willems/ Yemen Times

fers will be part of the package by the end of the year.

Arab Bank, which has 10 branches located in major cities of Yemen, has one more advantage: trust.

According to bank managers, Yemeni customers are hesitant in using financial institutions. But the Arab Bank Group, which is based in Amman, Jordan, operates worldwide with

Oil and the Chairman of Housing Credit Bank in Yemen. "Customers believe Arab Bank is a safe place to put their money and know that it is well organized."

One question, however, is whether Arab Bank will be able to hold on to its number one position in the banking sector in Yemen.

Some Yemeni-owned banks in the local market have caught on to the importance of retail banking. Yemen Gulf Bank, which was just established in 2001, brought with it a strategy to go full force into retail banking. It was the first to offer online banking, offers telephone banking and was the first Yemeni-owned bank to install an ATM.

Soon after Yemen Gulf Bank, International Bank of Yemen rolled out similar products, such as online and telephone banking and now has ATMs at its branches. It recently announced that it offers a Visa card that can be used worldwide.

Both Yemen Gulf Bank and International Bank of Yemen have a strategy to go further: They have plans to put ATMs in public places and develop point-of-sale by issuing cards to customers that can be used in different retail outlets, such as stores, hotels, restaurants and supermarkets.

Tadhamon Bank, which prides itself on operating on Islamic principles, has climbed up rapidly in the ranking of total deposits in the last few years. According to Al-Bahr, Tadhamon Bank will continue to grow because it is well diversified, is integrated into the local business community and handles numerous projects.

But Al-Bahr said that it would be difficult for other banks to overtake Arab

Bank. "Not only has Arab Bank established itself through a long history of trust, but it has also become known as the bank full of reliable services," said Al-Bahr.

And Arab Bank has plans to continue to grow and stay on top of the market.

"To stay on top, you always have to do your homework," said Alawi. "It's important to know what your customers want, work with your staff and continue re-engineering your procedures."

Each year Arab Bank focuses on particular targets to enhance their operations. According to Alawi, the targets are based on the Yemeni market and customer feedback, as Arab Bank Group allows the local bank to make decisions on enhancing operations independently of what other Arab Bank branches are doing in other countries.

On the retail banking front, along with upgrading previously launched products Arab Bank has plans to offer more products and services to fit the need of the customers, such as expanding lending. But just as important, Alawi plans to focus on streamlining the services at Arab Bank. Instead of customers having to move around the bank to seek out different services, there will soon be tellers able to manage whatever a customer wants. "Streamlining will make life easier for the customers," said Alawi. "A teller will be able to handle all services for each customer. Arab Bank will be the bank for one-stop shopping and services."

If Arab Bank sticks to its strategy that took it to the top, it will be difficult for another bank to take the number one spot in the near future.

## National industry between,

# Development impediments and facing consequences of globalization

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A recent study has called on the government of Yemen to work for development and qualification of the national industry to consolidate its capability of competing with foreign commodities that flood the local markets under a trend toward liberalization of external trade and facing consequences of globalization impact on the local consumer.

The study stressed the importance of benefiting from experiences of Arab

countries in the field of developing the national industries along with studying impediments that delay development of our national industry and also to protect the consumer. It has also focused on raising efficiency of production and pursuing modern trends in marketing systems as well as meeting consumers' desires and needs.

The study mentions that under the cautions of negative impact of trade freedom on national industry there is a necessity for offering facilities to producers regarding transportation, at ports, providing raw material for industry and founding just taxation and developed centers for exports. The study has also touched on the opportunities provided by agreements of World Trade Organisation in developing and protecting local industries. It also drew the attention that the GATT has its effect on national industry in the following areas:

- In the liberation of food stuffs the GATT has caused the annual rise in their prices by a percentage between 10-25%.
- The GATT affects the clothes and textile industry and growth of tourist, banking, insurance and transport services.
- Yemen's following of the way of liberating trade and seeking to obtain membership of World Trade Organisation would render it a market for industrial states commodities and this would lead to decrease Yemeni industries and weakening the volume of its capability of competition in external trade.



Al-Shams oil, one of the most successful cooking oil products in Yemen, now facing challenges and obstacles in the form of competition of smuggled goods. YT photo

Therefore it is very important that the parties concerned should study condition of external markets and to get acquainted with opportunities available for exporting to them. They have to prepare convenient climate for countering

the policy of dumping markets with goods, growth of local exports and motivation of investment in export industry sectors.

The study concluded in stressing the necessity of working in two prongs: the

first is the encouragement and development of local industries and exports and the second is the warning against impact of trade globalisation on the local consumer. The study on the other hand demanded for the rights necessary for

protecting consumers against outputs of globalization and defining the ways ought to be followed for facing impediments of industrial development and the impact resulting from liberating international trade.

### Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.4400	184.6600
Sterling Pound	335.1700	335.5700
Euro	223.6200	223.8800
Saudi Rial	49.1800	49.2400
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.0100	626.7500
UAE Dirhem	50.2100	50.2700
Egyptian Pound	29.7000	29.7400
Bahraini Dinar	489.2200	489.8100
Qatari Rial	50.6600	50.7300
Jordanian Dinar	260.1400	260.4500
Omani Rial	479.0700	479.6400
Swiss Franc	143.6100	143.7800
Swedish Crown	24.1700	24.2000
Japanese Yen	1.7473	1.7493

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

# Sheikh Abdulrahman Ahmed Numan: A Memoir

IRENA KNEHTL  
IREN\_KNEHTL@MAKTOOB.COM  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Lying in the southwest of the Arabian Peninsula, traversed by the Indian Ocean monsoon and blessed by high mountains to capture the rainfall borne by these monsoons, much of Yemen is by Arabian standards extremely fertile, fully justifying the name Arabia Felix, given to it by Roman geographers. For much of the period prior 26<sup>th</sup> September 1962 revolution Yemen was governed in such a way that its trading ties with other countries, even with its neighbors, were at an absolute minimum.

The year is 1980 now and we are on our way to Turba. The Arab Republic of Yemen is at the height of the Al-Hujariyya initiated grass roots development movement. The road to Taiz is worth a few risks. It is a landscape of wild, unspoiled beauty, bathed in light. Some mountains are prodigious sculptures. For hundreds, even thousands of years, Yemeni peasants have terraced entire slopes, making farming possible in this arid, mountainous countryside, and giving the landscape a strange relief, like the altitude lines on a topographical map. Having crossed the first mountain range, we drive over plateau with only sparse vegetation in this season: Nothing but stones, sand and dust, only the bright blue of the sky. But when it rains, all this turns green. Vegetation is still rare, though there is more of it as we approach Taiz. Here and there, amid the vast, arid rocky spaces, we see a miracle in the form of a corn or sorghum field, or a garden of glistening lettuce. From time to time on a strategic hills, the ruins of a Turkish fortress. The Ottoman Empire had stretched its tentacles to here. After crossing another mountain pass at an altitude of 2,000 m we descend toward the marvelous city of Taiz, situated at 1,400 m. The dynasty of the Rasulids (1229 – 1454) had its capital here. It was also the choice of the Imam Ahmed (1948 – 1962).

The district of al-Hujariyya lies in Taiz province and has an area of 2,500 sq kms. It is an agricultural area growing mostly cereals, particularly sorghum, qat and some coffee. The administrative centre of Al-Hujariyya is al-Turba, some 70 kms south-east of Taiz, and only 18 km from the border with the West Aden Protectorate. It is its proximity to Aden that has had the most impact on the development of the area. The light of the busy port of Aden, then and now, could be clearly seen at night from the town of Turba. There Sheikh Abdulrahman Ahmed Numan recalled:

"When the Turks left the al-Hujariyya in 1918, men were afraid of being conscripted into the (Zaydi) Imam's army. So they went to Aden. As it is written in the Quran, something that you hate may be good for you". For another ten years, Sheikh Abdulrahman was to become my foremost teacher on Yemen.

During the 1930s Aden was a rapidly expanding port providing bunkering facilities for ships heading to and from the Suez Canal and cheap free port facilities for passenger ships traveling from Europe to India and the Far East. As the port of Aden developed, more and more workers were attracted to it from the district of al-Hujariyya, only a good day's walk away, and by the middle of the 1930s most of Aden's laborers and port workers came from this district. Initially they were short-term migrants to the port, but eventually many of them established themselves in Aden, either as laborers or as merchants taking advantage of the commercial freedom offered by the colony, for commerce in Yemen by the mid-1930 was rapidly being monopolized by the Imam's family and by appointed agents. Sheikh Abdulrahman recalled again: "Our lands were so poor. We could not sit back and relax like other communi-

grain – which was not much – for cloth, kerosene, matches, tea, sugar and other goods. In those days men had only one futta (skirt) and women only one dress. My uncle also told me that there was one nice dress in the village that every bride would borrow to wear on her wedding night, and the village owned three Maria Theresa dollars that would be given to each bride as mahr (gift) but she would have to return them"

The effect of migration to Aden on al-Hujariyya district was dramatic, villagers not only came into contact with a political systems offering a wide range of freedoms not available in the in their own country, but they were also introduced to a secular education system, medial facilities and a host of conveniences ranging from electricity and pumped water to paved roads. The general pattern was that that the men moved down with their eldest sons and established themselves in a house, while the wives and daughters remained at home looking after the family farm, receiving money.

Alongside such experience, it was natural that someone should try to establish a school in al-Hujariyya, offering the same sort of education as that offered in Aden. That man was Ahmed Numan, Abdulrahman's father, who



The house of Abdulrahman Ahmed Numan in Dhubhan

ties that could grow coffee or qat or fruits. So we left. My uncle told me about life under the Turks. He would go to the Turba suq to exchange his excess

became known as ustadh (the teacher) Ahmed Numan. With Zubayri he became the leader of the Free Yemeni Movement, which would bring the end to the isolation that kept Yemen a mystery to the rest of the world and pave the way for 26<sup>th</sup> September 1962 revolution. After the revolution Numan served briefly also as Y.A.R. Prime Minister.

It is possible today to travel throughout Yemen and meet a variety of government officials, businessmen, tribesmen, peasant farmers and laborers, who consider themselves to have been members of Harakat al-Ahrr, the Free Yemeni Movement, which should be seen as closest approximation to a national movement that Yemen ever experienced.

The Numans were large landowners and among the most important families of Shaykhs in al-Hujariyya. Ahmed Numan, born in 1909 was educated under the traditional kuttub system which he came to recognize as limited and anachronistic in the twentieth century. Abdulrahman later recalled: "Encouraged by his father, Ahmed made the four-day journey by foot to attend university at Zabid, spending seven years at the ancient Shafi centre of learning. When in 1930 Numan returned to Dhubhan, and when his



The late ustadh Ahmed Numan, the leader of Free Yemen Movement and Y.A.R. Prime Minister during 1985 in Sanaa

father died, it was he rather than his elder brother who took over his father's responsibilities as head of the household. Since Yemenis lacked the opportunity of obtaining "modern" qualifications, how they could ever break out of the traditional systems imposed upon them by the Imam's policy of isolationism was the challenge. But the collapse of the 1948 coup signaled the temporary end of the Free Yemeni Movement. The leadership of the Movement was ruptured by the execution of al-Ansi, al-Hawrash, al-Muta and al-Mawshki, and by imprisonment of Numan, al-Shami, al-Akwa, al-Iriyani, and al-Muallimi and the exile of Zubayri.

Imprisoned alongside his father in Hajja, Abdulrahman recalled the "Hajja Days":

Chains and fetters weighed down their bodies, sapping their strength and making life unbearable. Then there were the appalling condition of the place itself, filth, overcrowding, vermin and bad food, conditions no different from a stinking sewer teaming with worms. It was an atmosphere of overwhelming despair which made death seem preferable to staying alive. Forbidden to read or write, allowed only to suffer silently in the darkness, only prayers were allowed. So we had a chance to kneel to Allah. We sat to recite the Quran from memory and tried hard to remember the words.

Oh, how much a human being holds in his depth. And how much more his mind can store!

After 26<sup>th</sup> September 1962 revolution the Free Yemeni Movement came close to presenting a "practical" analysis of Yemeni situation, and specifically recognized the necessity of decentralized government to meet the needs of Yemen's myriad of communities. The efforts went to improve the development infrastructure. Devastated by the assassination of his older brother Muhammed in 1974, who served as Y.A.R. Minister for Foreign Affairs, Abdulrahman centered all his energies on the Local Development Association (LDA – development co-operatives), a grass roots development movement which he founded in his home area, the Turba area. There he became known as Abdulrahman water, Abdulrahman electricity, and Abdulrahman roads. Subsequently he was elected to the LDS national organization. During 1980 Sheikh Abdulrahman also served as Secretary General of Y.A.R. Industries. Abdulrahman recalled that time:

That time has come! Something great was coming toward us. There was a huge, cleansing storm that should sweep away all the laziness, apathy, idle dreams, and corrupt hostility from society.

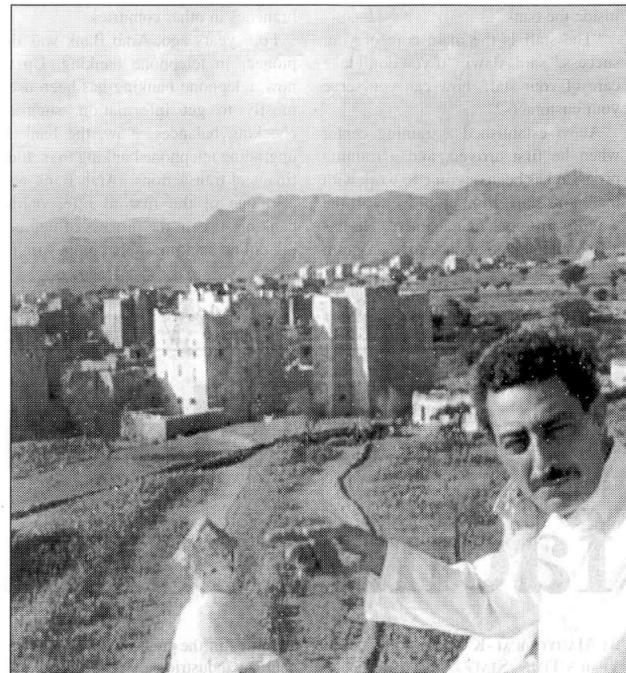
After Yemeni reunification, Sheikh Abdulrahman served also as a Member of Parliament.

But time is like a sword – strike it, or it strikes you. And the world is a wheel – one day up, and tomorrow at the bottom. His longing was brought on by the

tales told at night, songs of home, dreams of his childhood, and that fertility engendered by the union of the sea and the shore. The world, the whole world, in that quaking era, so full of anticipation and possibilities, looked around as slow as a tortoise, as swift as a bolt of lightning, to question, to listen carefully for distant thunder watching the dread for the approaching morrow. When he passed away in the middle March 2004 – may God bless his soul -

Sheikh Abdulrahman Ahmed Numan was disappointed and disillusioned with life.

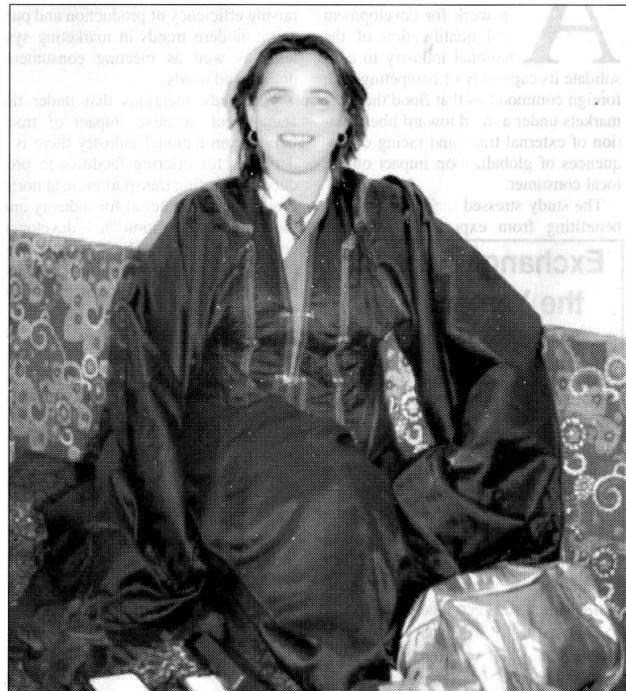
As it is, we won't share that life we are living today. We work and suffer in creating it. This alone is the purpose of our existence, and, if you wish, our happiness. That which we imagine might be, sometimes, a glimmer of the possible, and it is in probing the possible that the power and possibilities of future life lies. I must not forget telling him that.



Abdulrahman Ahmed Numan in his house in Dhubhan, AlHujariyya



Abdulrahman Ahmed Numan addressing the first solar energy application training course in Y.A.R. (1985)



Irena Knehtl dressed in a al-Hujariyya dress during Eid festivities with Numan family in Dhubhan, al-Hujariyya.

**Chairman of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority:  
Amid 28 companies that presented bids for the tender to invest in newly opened oil blocks**

# 19 International Companies Compete to Operate 6 Oil Blocks

**T**he petroleum sector and the current explorations in Yemen are in a boom. Work in this aspect has been ongoing through the implementation of a well-researched and transparent plan. Petroleum explorations in several blocks have started unveiling their richness in many areas of Yemen and other fields are going through further extensive technical inspections.

Amid all of this, the Ministry of Oil and Minerals represented by the Petroleum Exploration and Production Authority (PEPA) is implementing an ambitious program with a number of oil exploration and production companies. After the tremendous success that followed the government's campaigning worldwide, tens of foreign and Arab companies are currently competing to win bids to invest in the blocks still open for international tender offers.

This is a battle for development and construction led by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and carried out by the Yemeni government in total dedication and loyalty so as the oil and mineral sector would always lead the way in comprehensive economic development that Yemen has committed itself to achieve. This is done with the understanding that oil will still maintain its position as the main source of income for the country and the hope that drives overall development in Yemen.

In this interview, Engineer Nabil Saleh Al-Gawsi, the Chairman of PEPA points out the successes achieved in the Masila and Shabwa oil basins and the positive results so far unveiled concerning exploration works in various oil blocks. Engineer Al-Gawsi details the conditions of the blocks that have been re-divided in areas of blocks S1 and 51.

He presents the stages of the first and largest international tender of its kind in exploring oil and gas in Yemen and talks about the companies that have presented their bids and were qualified leading to the announcement of the final result.

Mr. Al-Gawsi mentions the stages of international campaigning for some oil blocks on the Internet in cooperation with the Schlumberger International Network. He specifies the future vision of the Ministry of Oil and Minerals and that of PEPA concerning the blocks of the southern and mid areas of the Empty Quarter.

Most importantly, Al-Gawsi focuses on numbers and statistics to emphasize the interview's credibility.

He also stresses on the fact that under the leadership of Minister of Oil and Minerals Dr. Rasheed S. Ba Rabaa, the valuable and important oil sector in Yemen is indeed in safe and loyal hands.



Engineer Nabil Saleh Al-Gawsi, the Chairman of PEPA

**Q: We start this interview with explorations. What is the latest news about oil explorations in the Masila, Shabwa basin?**

**A:** Allow me to first start with the 2003 commercial oil explorations in Damis Block (S1) of Vintage Petroleum Yemen and Sharq Al-Hajar block (S1) of Canadian Nexen Petroleum Limited.

In this respect I would like to inform you that the accumulation of scientific data gathered and its analysis have indeed participated greatly in bringing new visions that proved to be successful in the latest exploration activities, which have consequently resulted in greater interest by international oil companies in investing in Yemen.

The discovery of oil in commercial quantities - announced in 17 December 2003 - in block 51 operated by Canadian Nexen Petroleum Limited is a good example. It is worthwhile mentioning that constructive work in Central Processing Facilities (CPF) including the 22-km long pipeline to connect with Al-Maseela, Al-Shihri main pipeline is currently ongoing. The official inauguration of production in this area will take place in 2005 with an initial production of 20 to 25 thousand barrels per day (bpd) capacity. We are currently however assessing the petroleum production capabilities of Basheer Al-Khair fields.

As for the oil discovered in S1 block operated by Vintage Petroleum Yemen, commercially announced on 14 October 2003, work is ongoing to construct its CPF that will have a capacity of 10,000 bpd. Furthermore, the 28-km pipeline of 8 inch diameter and a maximum capacity of 80,000 bpd will be connected to Jannah Hunt Oil Company's block (5) pipeline in preparation for production. On the other hand, recently, a certain quantity of oil produced in block (S1) was transported to Jannah block (5), signaling the expected production of the block by the first quarter of 2005 with a capacity of 25,000 bpd.

As for oil explorations under inspection for block (9) operated by Calvalley Petroleum Incorporation and block (S2) operated by Preussag Energy GMBH, I would like to note that block (9) of Calvalley is undergoing explorations in three stages. Work started with inspecting the first well (Ruwaidhat 1) and the initial results were 614 bpd. Work will continue this

year by inspecting wells that were drilled in 2003. An assessment program will also be implemented in the form of drilling new wells to identify the extensions of the layers with oil and gas in preparation to announce the commercial discovery of oil in this block, and God willing, we expect this to happen this year.

As for block (S2), I am glad to say that the German Company Preussag Energy GMBH was able to discover a well (Nilm 1) in this block and initial tests have shown a successful production of 450 bpd. This is beside the oil well (Kharwa 1) discovered before with a production capacity of 500 bpd. The assessment and development work plan will also be studied for this block by the German company in preparation to announce the commercial discovery of oil in this block in this year.

**New discoveries**

**Q: Are there any new oil discoveries?**

**A:** There are initial discoveries of oil in block (49) east of Shabwa operated by MOL Yemen Oil and Gas Company along with block (43) south Hawareem operated by DNO, ASA Yemen.

Furthermore, information obtained by analysis of well recordings have unveiled layers of oil in:

1) A well south of Behark in block (49);

Test procedures for the well have already started and unveiled the existence of oil in three secondary layers (Basement rocks, Kuhlan, Shaqra, Lam, Al-Sabaateyn). Later the production capacity of these layers will be identified after the completion of the testing operation and assessments currently taking place at the well.

2) Positive results for Al-Nabruga well at (43) block in Al-Masila;

The results of drilling at Al-Nabruga well at (43) block in Al-Masila revealed significant oil indicators and well recordings have confirmed the existence of a 13-meter thick section of the Qishn layer saturated with oil. This is apart from a section in the Al-Harshiyat layer. In fact last Friday morning, the Al-Nabruga well was examined and results revealed that the oil production rate 2,670 bpd.

**Q: What about promising oil blocks?**

**A:** There are promising blocks that

indicate the existence of oil in them including blocks 15, 47, 48 as that has been unveiled through exploration drillings at those blocks. Meanwhile, component maps are currently being assessed and new areas are being specified in a more specific manner to locate potential oil fields for exploration in these areas to begin after carrying out more assessments.

As for the blocks that have been re-divided in blocks (S1) and (51), which were announced commercially, the Ministry of Oil and Minister represented by PEPA has re-divided those areas to six new blocks as follows:

- 3 blocks were divided in block 51, and those are 71, 72, 73.
- 2 blocks were divided in block (S1) and those are 70 and 69.
- A block was formed from block (48).

## Al-Nabruga well discovered with a production rate of 2,670 bpd

**A modern campaigning plan**

**Q: You have launched an international bid tender for exploration of gas and oil in Yemen, what are the specifications and objectives of this initiative?**

**A:** Upon instructions by the Minister of Oil and Minerals Dr. Rasheed S. Ba Rabaa, the ministry represented by PEPA started a modern international campaigning plan to market for the blocks that have been re-divided in blocks (51) and (S1). These blocks, namely 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, and 74, have been announced in local, regional and specialized international newspapers and have received the greatest of interest by several international oil companies. We have done this to attract international investment in oil blocks in the country and open a new window to petroleum investments for the most prestigious oil companies in the world, which if selected could have their investments in Yemen.

This plan has specified the means to provide bids along with the major conditions for tender offers. Those offers were provided during 14 January - 15

March 2004 after which the qualified companies - financially, and technically- were allowed to participate in the tender. This also comes as an implementation of orders from President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has always given great attention to the oil production sector and its overall development in Yemen.

The tender has gone through several stages as follows:

1- Committee has been formed by the Minister of Oil and Minerals to be under his direct supervision.

2- The announcement to open the way for bids was published in major Yemeni newspapers and magazines (Yemen Times, Yemen Observer, 26 September, and Oil and Minerals Magazine) and international newspapers (London-based Al-Hayat, UAE's Al-Itihad, Upstream, MEES). The

announcement was to allow companies to offer their bids to invest in the six new blocks (69, 70, 71, 72, 73, and 74).

3- The announcement was also published on the Internet.

The announcement mentioned the following conditions to accept bids by oil companies willing to operate the mentioned six blocks:

- 1- The company's profile
- 2- The company's technical and financial report for the last two years.
- 3- The company's latest audit report
- 4- 15 March 2004 was specified as the final deadline to receive bids by the oil companies.

An operation room was prepared to work around the clock (24 hours) to receive the bids of the applying companies and answer any of their inquiries. A special data room was also prepared and was equipped with the most highly developed and modern equipment. The period from 27 March to 28 April 2004 was specified to study and inspect the provided bids and identify the ones that qualified.

Twenty eight international companies from 15 countries applied for the

tender, but not all of them were allowed in the tender.

5- Letters were sent to companies that did not fulfill the requirements and were requested to complete their files by the deadline specified, 15 March 2004.

6- After the completion of all required data and statistics of the applying companies, evaluation of the companies was made using the most modern statistical procedures and taking into account the international standards applied in the field of oil industries.

Upon the completion of the evaluation of applying companies, 19 oil companies from 12 different countries qualified for the tender. Nine companies were rejected from the tender for either:

- not fulfilling the conditions mentioned in the original announcement; or
- not meeting satisfactory financial or technical requirements necessary to apply

Following the first phase that ended on 26 March 2004, the second phase is scheduled to take place from 27 March to 28 April 2004.

After the approval of the Minister of Oil and Minerals of the results of the first phase, letters were sent to qualified companies to view the data collected by the data room during the period 27 March-28 April 2004.

The third phase will take place during 2 May - 23 May 2004. The day 2 May 2004 has been specified as the date when the Minister of Oil and Mineral Dr. Rasheed S. Ba Rabaa will head a meeting in which he would give a lecture to the qualified competing companies and their representatives in one of the hotels of Sanaa and provide them with forms on the special financial and technical commitments to be filled in by the companies.

The final day to receive final bids by the qualified companies will be 23 May 2004. All bids will be submitted in the form of envelopes sealed with red wax. All bids will be analyzed with scrutiny and studies by the negotiating team and will then be raised to the Minister.

**Final results**

**Q: When will the final results of the tender be announced?**

**A:** 20 June 2004 was specified as the day when the final results will be unveiled by the Minister himself. This whole operation is indeed a first of its kind by the Ministry of Oil and Minerals, which represents the degree of transparency for the International Bid Tender. Due to this step, the Ministry represented by PEPA received several requests to negotiate investment opportunities to explore oil from international and Gulf companies that wanted to operate blocks that are not yet declared. For example, some have applied to operate blocks 6, 7, 3, and 17. Twenty nine companies have applied for the exclusive rights to explore oil and gas in the six announced blocks, and this is a mere example of the transparency and accu-

racy of the steps taken by PEPA to this extent. This has also been possible due to the many oil discoveries in blocks 51 and S1 and initial oil discoveries I blocks S2, 49, 43, and 9 which have been unleashed in 2003 and 2004. Such positive outcome resulted from the joint efforts of PEPA and oil companies currently operating in Yemen amid direct supervision and follow-up by Minister of Oil and Minerals Dr. Rasheed S. Ba Rabaa. This was also possible through direct campaigning on the Internet.

**Q: What are your activities to promote blocks 16, 19, 28, and 55?**

**A:** Apart from what the ministry and PEPA are doing in promotion, PEPA in cooperation with Schlumberger International are campaigning for the open blocks in land and water 16, 19, 28, and 55 on the Internet through a website of PEPA on IndigoPool.com. Launching a website for PEPA on the network itself has many advantages including:

- 1- Opening a petroleum window to Yemen
- 2- Receiving the largest volume of information related to the oil industry in the international market quickly, smoothly, and efficiently.

3- Ideal promotion through a common database supported by advertising and modern and developed scientific approaches.

4- Bringing more oil companies (investors) and visitors to the database to know more about oil industries in Yemen and fields of investment and open blocks.

5- Ease of promoting and conveying available information

**A Strategic Project**

**Q: What is the future vision of the Ministry and PEPA concerning the Empty Quarter and middle region?**

**A:** The Ministry and PEPA will continue a similar approach in future plans, especially after the success of the first phase in promoting open blocks. The second phase will be the promotion for the Empty Quarter and Middle region.

There is already a comprehensive strategic project prepared by the exploration department of PEPA based on instructions from the Minister of Oil and Minerals. The project was prepared based on a scientific explorative vision that was well-researched based on specialized and available information.

God willing, we will cover this program in the second half of 2004 after completing our current program at the end of the first half of this year.

The Ministry, represented by PEPA adopts ambitious plans through which we hope we would achieve all our programs and future plans especially after the great success achieved by PEPA in the last few years in the field of explorations and attraction of several international oil companies through its events and promotion activities.

**COPYRIGHT NOTE:**  
- Interview done by Abdulqawi Al-Odeini, 26 September Newspaper

**The 19 companies of 12 countries that qualified in the tender upon the end of the first phase**

Company	Based in	Country
1. Total	France	France
2. OMV	Austria	Austria
3. Reliance	India	India
4. PetroChina	China	China
5. Luk Oil	Russia	Russia
6. Oil Search	Australia	Australia
7. Sipeprol	UK	Chile
8. DNO Yemen	Norway	Norway
9. Vintage Petroleum Yemen	USA	USA
10. Petrogas	Oman	Oman
11. ZPEB International	China	China
12. Dove Energy Yemen	UK	UK
13. SOCO	UK	UK
14. ROC	Australia	Australia
15. OPI	USA	USA
16. Turkish Petroleum	UK	Turkey
17. Trans Glope	Canada	Canada
18. Global Petroleum	UAE	Ukraine
19. Shengli	China	China

# Local Press

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr

**Al-Isbou weekly, 25 Mar 2004.**

**Main headlines**

- Military force to seize a historical site
- Electric engineer killed in Amran cement factory

The writer Qassim Ahmed Abdurab says in an article that Yemen has sought at an early time to join the so-called 'Gulf Cooperation Council' GCC. It tried that since the GCC was declared more than 20 years before, when the council's states were enjoying a kind of independence and limited connection with policies of the western camp: America, Britain and others. But it seems that the politicians in Yemen have not comprehended the situation of those states after the war of 1991 against Iraq. From then there has been an establishment of a system subservient to the west and the only variation is the degree of loyalty of this state or that. Kuwait is a major ally, the American military bases to the north of Mecca, the American command of America's war on Iraq is in Qatar, in addition to facilities and sea and naval bases in Bahrain as well as the secret and public connections and subservience. In other words these states are occupied by the Americans and their allies with satisfaction and blessing of their regimes the question to be asked to Yemen's politicians is what is the reason behind the endeavor to join the GCC at the present time, at least it could be delayed till the colonization evacuation?

**Al-Umma weekly, 25 Mar 2004.**

**Main headlines**

- Al-Haq party condemns the crime of assassinating sheikh Yassin
- President Aden University cancels nominations of the university employees

The newspaper's editorial is devoted to discussing the crime of assassinating Sheikh Ahmed Yassin the founder and leader of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas. The editorial mentions that the days and events would prove to the world notorious terrorist Sharon and his ally the White House that the crime would not go unpunished and would not achieve but the immediate goals of its perpetrators in satisfying their greed for the Palestinian people blood by all means and ways. It will only realize their intentions of terrorizing the people of Palestine and the attempt to weaken the resistance will of Hamas and the Palestinians.

But as the Zionist entity has been unable, since its foundation, to silence the resistance voice and stop the resistance, it would today or tomorrow discover that the martyrdom of sheikh Yassin was as a new start for resistance and an indignation against the occupiers and a strong moral push by which the Arab and Islamic nation the wrath would explode and strengthen their determination everywhere.

**Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress, 22 Mar 2004.**

**Main headlines**

- Bajammal in China for development of cooperation in economic and development areas
- Endowments ministry allots accounts for wills endowments

Columnist Dr Abdulaziz al-Maqaleh says there no longer be any doubt that the American administration is now at the threshold of admitting that it had committed a gross mistake in its uncalculated adventure of the war in Iraq, what accompanied it and the grave mistakes that followed it against Iraq, in particular and against the Arab nation in general, as well as against the United States of America. The United States has nevertheless admitted implicitly of what it has committed of the gross mistake it had done through its latest stands implying as if seeking help of the United Nations and the states that did not take part in the unjust war. No

## Main headlines

- Coast Guard in Mokha seize a ship loaded with diseased cows
- New initiative for solving Arab chronic problems, political controversy on its reality and avail
- American National Security apparatus plans to implement "spring" operation from Socotra Island
- American Democratic Institute: Hull focuses his efforts now on following sheikh al-Zindani assets in banks and companies
- Millions of dollars lost due to smuggling
- Arab intelligence agencies consider Yemen den of terror
- Works office in Hudeida imposes illegal duties on trade shops
- American intelligence determined to assassinate Islamic personalities in our country
- Bush congratulates Sharon on assassination of sheikh Yassin
- Night club closed in capital secretariat after a quarrel
- Bajammal: Yemen and Saudi Arabia face challenges in their fight on terror
- Education minister: Second phase of basic education project to be implemented next September
- Official source: America committed a grave mistake by accusing al-Mouayad and his companion and it should be corrected
- American ambassador to Sana'a: We work form stopping external funding to al-Zindani, anxious about El-Eman University activities
- Security in Taiz arrests citizens demanded the change of the governorate leadership
- assassination of sheikh Yassin changed the map
- Rights and freedom organisation: Yemen and Egyptian governments are responsible for the life of Ahmed Salem Ubeid
- New loans add burdens on the citizen, Oil sector providing 10 million dollars a year, sold for 13 million dollars
- Prisoners accused of Cole explosion without trial
- Utrageous assassination of sheikh Yassin
- President Saleh: Sharon must stand trial
- On observing the world day of water, Soufan calls for raising diesel price to solve the problem of water
- The government offers generous promises to journalists, calling them to cooperate
- Al-Qaeda organisation confirms possession of nuclear weapons
- In response to Yassin assassination, al-Qaeda threatens with nuclear retaliation, the Arab League demands Arab rulers to retaliate for the assassination of sheikh Yassin
- Only the will of Arab comprehensive resistance would deter the Zionist enemy
- Prisoners suspect of affiliation to al-Qaeda sent to court
- Shar intelligence arrest a person accused of kidnapping children
- Yemen's ambassador to Italy: Terrorist violence acts meant for offending Islam and Muslims
- The Pope's advisor accords on president Saleh order of the 'Great Knight'
- American intelligence arrest Yemeni citizens
- Consolidation of cooperation between Yemen and Oman
- Water disaster threatens Yemen
- History symposium demands protection of documents and manuscripts from smuggling
- President Saleh describes Sharon as the terrorist No. One
- The Arabs mourn sheikh Yassin with calls for retaliation

doubt, Iraq has been destroyed and the sectarian and ethnic diversity started to move around itself like the octopus, but on the other side the American administration has also been destroyed but still insisting on its obstinacy and to continue on the wrong. The fact is that the American administration would not stay long in the White House whatever the material potentials are and however clever it was in its propaganda.

**Al-Shumou weekly, 27 Mar 2004.**

**Main headlines**

- Following an increase in information activity between the American embassy and several political and media personalities,
- FBI praises Hull's success in Yemen
- Press reports : Hundred of thousands dollars behind ruling out circulation of Oil Committee report

The newspaper's political editor wrote saying that it was supposed that Tunis summit to be a turning-point in the course of Arab action in the manner giving then Arab System an opportuni-

ty to improve its deformed image before its masses and the world. But such an optimism got diminished at the phase of preparing for the summit against backdrop of subjective calculations that do not live to the volume of dangers facing the nation and threaten her future. The Arab rulers could have benefited from taking the blood of the martyr sheikh Ahmed Yassin as a fuel for a more effective stage keeping them away from Washington's "whip" and arrogance, it seems that not only the Pakistani regime is praying for Bush's success in the elections for a second term for even the Arab system is doing likewise so that the American president stays in his post for a coming period.

**Al-Thawri weekly organ of YSP, 25 Mar 2004.**

**Main headlines**

- Gunshots at two cars in the capital Sana'a
- YSP politburo condemns the assassination of sheikh Yassin
- At the protest demonstration against the assassination of sheikh Yassin, gunshots fired by mistake after the end of the president's



- speech
- External pressures save Layla's life from death by stoning
- Direct threat to gag Sadeq Nasher's mouth

Columnist Jammal Amer says in his article that the latest security agreement between the Yemeni and Egyptian presidents represented a retreat in the first stand refusing any acknowledgment of the presence in Yemen of any Egyptian wanted persons, a question that has caused differences between the two regimes reached to the point of dispute.

That non-acknowledgment was also addressed to Saudi Arabia. After that there happened a breakthrough and Egypt and Saudi Arabia had received some of the wanted by the two regimes handed over to them by Yemen.

Domestically, ten persons of the accused against the backdrop of Cole explosion incident had escaped from al-Mansoura prison in Aden and then lived their own life without being searched for by any side, until the recent variables came and Yemen began to be more interested in being cooperative in fighting the so-called terror. That was

an enough cause to send its security forces to seriously hunting down on wanted persons which did not take long time to reach them. Many of those wanted began to be captured by security men.

What is wanted in this regard not the liquidation of those but to conduct an ideological dialogue with them without wavering with the carrot in order to be faithful in the sovereignty of the ruler in return for conceding what they bear of devastating ideas that would consequently harm the regime and the homeland as a whole.



By Yahya Al-Olfi  
alolfi@hotmail.com

## Reflections

**Trying Saddam's devils is a pressing**

### And an absolute necessity

Evidence is being collected to indict Saddam, and that can be done without even trying due to his numerous idiotic blunders, but what about his acolytes? What about his disciples, minions and lackeys? They are now enjoying the harvest of their ill-deeds with impunity, while their boss is rotting in jail.

The Iraqi Intelligence files and records were strewn and displayed for open sale following the Anglo-American invasion of Iraq and many horrors were revealed. Videos, files etc. all testified and gave incontrovertible evidence against the recently-overthrown typical Arab oppressive regime (most of the finds involved state crimes against the citizenry). The prices of those files and pieces of evidence and proofs varied according to the contents of the files, records, pictures etc. from hundreds of dollars to thousands according to the highest bidders' interest. Such documents and evidence are equivalent to what is available in the other tyrannical Arab regimes (indeed all Arab States are equally developed in this aspect and slight differences are insignificant). To everybody's surprise, this is the only field where you can find tangible Arab cooperation and truthful exchange of expertise and information.

A good example should be set by collecting evidence against the heads, ears and hands through which Saddam and his lot were able to usurp the humanity of the Iraqi human being. I am 100% sure that the USA did not come to liberate Iraq or to establish democracy as proclaimed but rather had its own agenda which will be unfolding in the days to come when the electoral rivalry between the democrats and republicans boils over (I remember reading an interview with Peres in Newsweek two or three years ago in which he referred to an American promise to invade Iraq). But,

now that the Americans have become involved in the Iraqi quagmire, it has become their obligation and duty to act on behalf of humanity by uncovering the atrocities perpetrated and punishing those involved, for perhaps the other replicas might learn the lesson, although hopefully not as Gaddafi of Libya seems to have done (i.e. the "just bribe em! Moyen"?), because in my opinion they are all still complacent about their day-to-day actions and rely blindly on their accustomed American stereotype. So, above and beyond trying Saddam the world is eager to see his accomplices and the Iraqi people can have a dominant say in this, for they were the ones subjected to the injustices and humiliations of those verminous animals.

Unfortunately, up until now the other Arab regimes have been extremely obstinate and refuse categorically to introduce any tangible reforms whatsoever. Indeed, skiving off the Tunisia Summit attests to this sad reality. The stagnancy and the non-productivity of the current Arab system involves more poverty, further corruption and the disciples, minions and lackeys of the regimes are thriving and getting richer by the minute, and believe it or not they are all the same, for slight differences here and there are of little significance, if any. They are getting richer and haughtier while the Arab man-in-the-street is getting poorer. Poverty has been proven to be the real factory of extremism in the Arab World. Many out of despair are ready to embrace any doctrine and the most attractive whipping boy is the American and Zionist conspiracy and hence they do not hesitate to join any organization vowing to liberate the abode of Islam from the evil intentions of the West.

Arab regimes claim that development should be home-based, but with the way things are going at present, millions of years shall pass by without any damn change whatsoever, except

towards the worse. Oil is an American priority, undoubtedly it is true, but the Americans cannot escape from their moral and matter-of-fact duties. It is better for the Americans and the British to strike deals with democratically elected governments rather than with dictators, as is the case in Libya nowadays. People of the world are beginning to notice that USA and Britain are interested in oil and gains and are exploiting other excuses to achieve their ends i.e. they are being very Machiavellian in their approach. In a nutshell, the visit of Blair to Libya is a farce if the Libyan Megalomaniac continues in power and no changes are introduced for the long-repressed Libyan people. Other dictators will just think that they can still go on with their ill-governance as long as they satisfy American and British desires for more oil and more concessions. Straightforwardly, this is a prescription for more extremism and more animosity towards the West. Some might say this is only a transitory stage and reform shall ensue, but if otherwise is proven, believe me all American and British claims shall come to nothing and the people of the Middle East will be convinced even more that countries like the USA and Britain are mere Machiavellian diabolical invaders caring about their own interests, and that they have no credibility concerning human rights, let alone the development of the region.

In my opinion, a transparent and democratic Middle East is a necessity and without practical intervention by the West the environment will be conducive to further violence and extremism. It is in the interest of America, Europe and Israel to have a democratic Middle East and this is the right time to do it, for the sake of everyone. Europe should have a stable, civilized neighbor and the African neighbors of the Middle East should see better role models next door.

# Iverson Out for Rest of Regular Season

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Philadelphia 76ers Allen Iverson will miss the rest of the NBA regular season because of cartilage damage to his right knee.

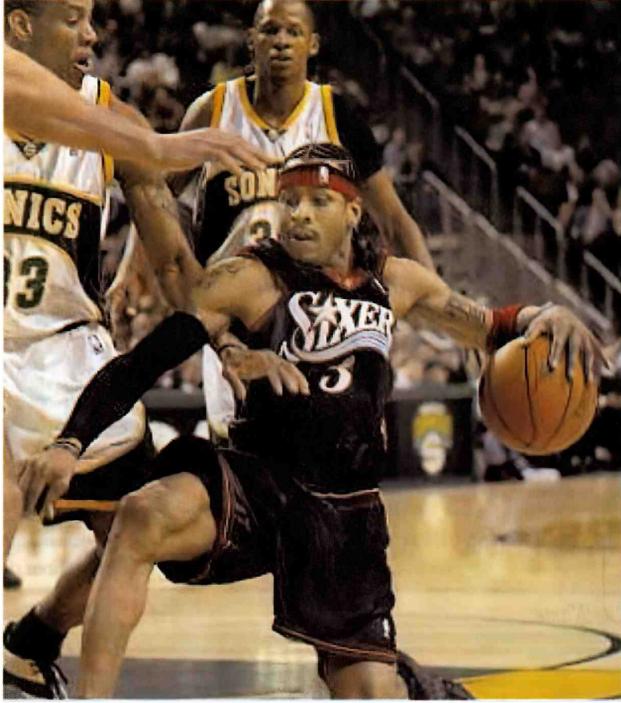
The all-star guard could possibly return for the playoffs should the 76ers qualify for the post-season but according to ESPN.com on Tuesday, Iverson will need to rest his knee for two to six weeks.

The chances of Philadelphia reaching the post-season however, continue to fade. The team are 10th in the Eastern conference three games back of the eighth-placed Boston Celtics, who currently occupy the final playoff berth. Eight games remain on the schedule including Tuesday's clash with the Golden State Warriors.

The injury is latest setback in what has been another turbulent season for the gifted but controversial five-time all-star.

Plagued by injuries, Iverson has played just 48 games but remains second in league scoring averaging 26.4 points per game.

He also had a strained relationship with 76ers rookie coach Chris Ford, refusing to come on as substitute earlier this month when told he would not start.



Philadelphia 76ers Allen Iverson will miss the rest of the NBA regular season because of cartilage damage to his right knee, according to ESPN.com on March 30. Reuters

# Serena Williams blasts into Miami Semis

MIAMI, Florida (Reuters) - Serena Williams blasted her way through to the semi-finals of the Nasdaq-100 Open with a 6-0, 6-1, victory over unseeded American Jill Craybas on Tuesday.

Williams, playing her first tournament following an eight-month injury

lay-off, needed just 55 minutes to demolish her 29-year-old opponent.

Williams next plays either Eleni Daniilidou of Greece or Croatian Karolina Sprem.

In the men's tournament, Argentine third seed Guillermo Coria narrowly escaped defeat in his fourth round

match, clawing his way back from 2-5 down in the third set to beat French qualifier Julien Benneteau 7-6 (7-3), 2-6, 7-5.

"Even at 5-2 I was thinking about how to fight my way out of it," said Coria through a translator. "You don't get to the top of the game without being able to come through tough situations."

Coria plays Nicolas Kiefer next. The former top 10 player from Germany has fallen on hard times in recent years but is enjoying a return to form in Miami.

Having knocked out sixth seed Rainer Schuettler earlier in the week, Kiefer beat 12th seed Sebastien Grosjean 6-4, 6-2.



Serena Williams hits a backhand against compatriot Jill Craybas during the Nasdaq-100 Open on Key Biscayne, Florida, Mar. 30. Reuters

# San Francisco Ballpark becomes WiFi Internet Hub

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - The old ballpark is getting some new technology.

Baseball fans bored by the slow pace of a game or wanting more statistics and information will be able to connect computer devices via wireless computer networking, or WiFi, at San Francisco Giants home games this year, the team announced on Tuesday. The Giants' stadium is, after all, called SBC Park, for telecommunications giant SBC Communications Inc.

"We've created, if not the largest, one of the largest hot spots in the world," said Larry Baer, the team's chief operating officer. "We're the first professional sports facility to provide people universal WiFi connectivity."

San Francisco's wired stadium is the latest in a growing world of wireless connectivity. Earlier this month the

city of San Jose, the capital of Silicon Valley, began offering free WiFi service in its downtown areas. A growing number of retail establishments such as McDonald's and Starbucks are also offering WiFi, a wireless technology that allows a computer with a special modem to connect to the Internet. Even more remote corners of the world are beginning to offer WiFi services.

Srinagar, home to alluring houseboats and gondolas at the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains, recently started offering WiFi service to lure tourists deterred in recent years by turmoil in India's Kashmir region.

The WiFi service, provided by SBC and Nortel Networks Corp., is free for fans attending games, but tickets to games cost as much as \$75 for the best seats.

## القمرية

### جودة وعراقة وجوائز عملاقة فقط

#### كيفية المشاركة في المسابقة

استبدل ثلاثة أعطية عبوة (٠.٩) كجم مختوم عليها واحصل على صحن ميلامين فاخر

استبدل غطاء واحد عبوة (٦.٥) كجم مختوم عليه واحصل على صحن ميلامين فاخر

استبدل غطاء واحد عبوة (١٥) كجم مختوم عليه واحصل على صحن ميلامين فاخر

### ١٢ جائزة في كل سحب

- سيارة أكت
- أثاث بيت
- أدوات مطبخ
- أدوات مطبخ
- سلاجة ١٤ حصان
- سلاجة ١٢ حصان
- فرن غاز خمسة عيون
- فرن غاز خمسة عيون
- تلفزيون ملون ٢١ بوصة
- تلفزيون ملون ٢١ بوصة
- غسالة كمن كاسيت
- غسالة كمن كاسيت

المكان	تسليم الجوائز	سحب الجوائز
صنعاء	٢٠٠٤/٠٤/٢٦	٢٠٠٤/٠٤/١٩
عدن	٢٠٠٤/٠٥/١٧	٢٠٠٤/٠٥/١٠
تمز	٢٠٠٤/٠٦/٠٧	٢٠٠٤/٠٥/٣١

سيتم إعلان أسماء الفائزين عبر الصحف الرسمية والوسائل الاعلانية المختلفة.

لمزيد من الاستفسار الاتصال بخدمة العملاء: تلفون: ٤/٣٥٠٢٦٦

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**NON SEQUITUR  
BY WILEY**



"...emotionally speaking, of course. Then we'll have a nice, non-judgmental cultural exchange over a cup of herbal tea and some organic, low-carb bread."



OK, I THINK I KNOW WHY JACK BECAME A GIANT-KILLER

ALL RIGHT, THEN HOW ABOUT THIS ONE... "THE EMPEROR'S NEW RECYCLE BIN"? THAT OUGHTA PUT US TO SLEEP FAST

**مسابقة رقم 7  
إعداد معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر**

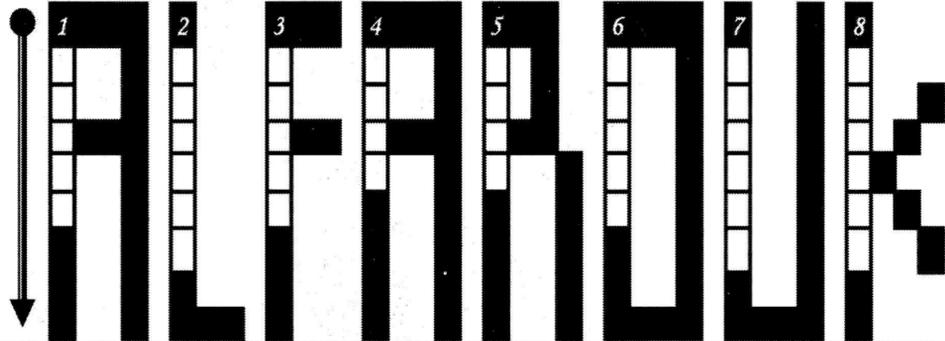
Prepared by Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer

الممثل الوحيد لكليات سانت جيلز ومركز اكسفورد في كل من بريطانيا وأمريكا  
The Sole Representative of Oxford L.C & ST. Giles Colleges UK&USA

تخفيض 30% لمن يلتحق بالمعهد في نظام الدبلوم (الإنجليزي أو كمبيوتر) مع ضمان الوظيفة أو جهاز كمبيوتر مجاناً لاول  
تخفيض 20% للإجابات الصحيحة التي لم توفق بالفرعة في دورات اللغة الإنجليزية والكمبيوتر ولغات البرمجة



1. Streets
2. Unlawful Killing
3. Uncokked bread
4. Rim
5. Flavour
6. Sharp Part of a knife
7. Happinings
8. It attracts iron



Ans. Cont.6

1. Trust
2. Knapsack
3. Loose
4. Vase
5. Taste
6. First
7. Agitate
8. Observe

Winner

**Nada Naser**

جائزة هذه المسابقة دبلوم كمبيوتر مقدم من المعهد بتخفيض 50%  
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Sana'a Hael St. Tel/Fax 213711 Email: alfarouk26@hotmail.com  
Website: www.alfaroukinst.netfirms.com  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

**7-Day Weather Forecast**

Sana'a	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Aden	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Hi	26	27	27	27	27	27	27	Hi	35	34	36	35	36	36	36
Lo	9	9	8	8	8	9	9	Lo	23	24	24	24	23	22	22



**THE LAST WORD IN**



**ASTROLOGY BY Eugenia**

- Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**  
Set the record straight. By not backing down, you will make some new friends who are as enthusiastic as you are. Socializing with energetic people will lead to some very progressive partnerships.
- Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**  
This is not the time to tell others how to do things. Do your own thing and do it well. Changes at home may not be to your liking, but go along rather than start an argument.
- Gemini (May 21 - Jun 20)**  
Problems at work and at home are best left alone for the time being. Planning your next vacation will ease stress. Listen to what others have to offer before making promises.
- Cancer (Jun 21 - Jul 22)**  
Don't hold back if you have a suggestion that might lead to a more efficient way of doing things. If you've forgotten your life dream, consider giving it another whirl.
- Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 22)**  
It will be difficult to control your emotional reaction toward others today. Reconsider your options and don't be afraid to make a move if it will help you stabilize your future.
- Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22)**  
Someone you are working with may not be playing fairly. Observe what this person is doing, but don't share your ideas. Consider if you know anyone who would make a good partner.
- Libra (Sept 23 - Oct 22)**  
Someone will strike a chord with you and get your mind racing in a new direction, beneficial to you and to the group you are with. You'll grab someone's interest.
- Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
Control your emotions and refrain from showing any jealousy. Maintain a state of calm and no one will ever guess that you are churning inside. Patience will pay off.
- Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
You'll probably find adventure if you do a little traveling today. Make plans with friends or your lover to do something that will rev up your metabolism.
- Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
You can sign contracts; take care of legal matters, invest or make changes to your personal papers without concern. An older family member may need assistance. Offer your home or office as a meeting place.
- Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)**  
You'll be looking for love, but if you are too pushy you are likely to come up empty. Treat whomever you are with respectfully and you will do so much better.
- Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20)**  
Gossip or getting involved in one of your peer's personal affairs will not lead to advancement or finishing your work. Focus on what it is you are supposed to get done and don't stray until your task is complete.



*Isra Girgrah, the world boxing champion of Yemeni origin makes her decision:*

# 'Raging Beauty' retires

The internationally known and admired female boxer of Yemeni origin, Isra Girgrah, also known in the USA as Raging Beauty, has retired after long years of success and dedication to her beloved sport of boxing.

After nine years, 33 professional fights and a collection of five championship belts, Isra entered the ring for the last time to finish off her challenger, Philadelphia left-hander Shakurah Witherspoon, in a six-round bout.

This was the 28<sup>th</sup> victorious match for the prominent boxer. She won a unanimous decision over Witherspoon - the sister-in-law of former heavyweight Tim Witherspoon - and nearly knocked her out in the final round, with a flurry of punches.

"I wanted to have fun," said Isra (28-3-2), who won a unanimous decision over Witherspoon (10-35) in 2000 and knocked her out in the first round in 2002. "Yes, I wanted to knock her out as well, but her style was so awkward."

Sporting a fire-engine red robe, Isra came to the ring with much fanfare, her entourage carrying all five championship belts she owns (three junior lightweight, two lightweight). After a slow first round, Isra landed seemingly at will to the body and head in rounds 2 through 6.

Isra, who finalized her decision to retire during the past two weeks, ends her career with 12 knockouts and will now concentrate on promoting young female fighters. She and husband Marty Wynn run Raging Promotions.

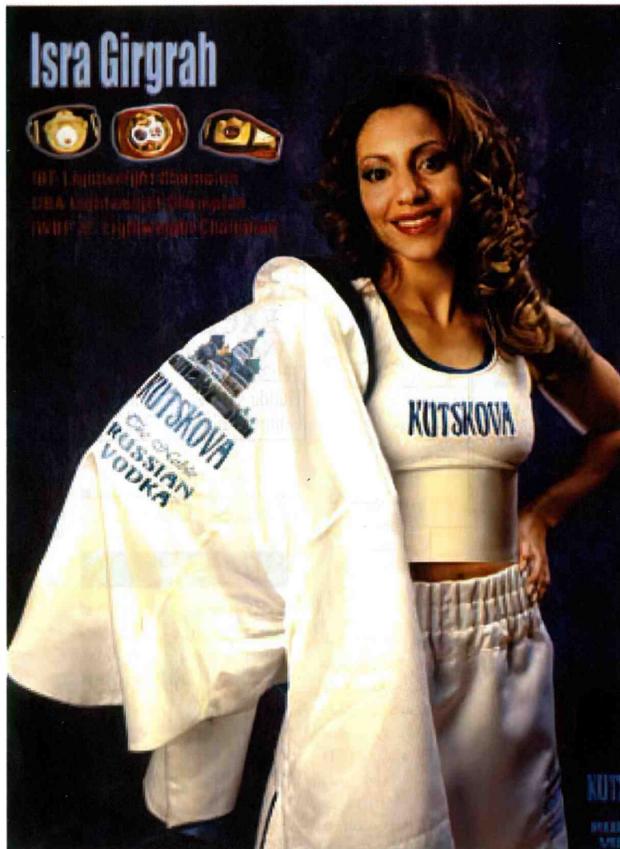
Before her final bout, Isra, 32, said she will have mixed feelings about walking away.

"It is bittersweet, definitely," said Isra, who was born in Yemen, moved to Canada with her family at age 3, and began boxing there in 1994 as a form of exercise. "I'm going to miss it a lot. Being in that ring is just a rush of adrenaline. I just love it".

"But I have to move on with promoting and letting the younger ones go into it now."

Originally from Al-Baidha in Yemen, due to the political situation the Girgrah family left Aden in the early 1970s to settle in Canada. With due support and attention and a suitable environment, they prospered. Their daughter, Isra, excelled in a sport new to the fair sex: boxing. Raging Beauty, as she is christened by the media, was hailed by sports commentators as a new world champion.

Isra's retirement comes after so many years of dedication to the sport, which she loved since childhood. However, sources close to Isra reveal her disappointment



with the Yemeni government's neglect and carelessness in contacting or appreciating her achievements, which were hailed worldwide.

Isra concluded her career as one of the all time greatest female boxers of all time, side by side with Christy Martin.

Yemen Times had previously published three stories about Isra's achievements and interviewed her family, which supported her throughout her career.

Isra spoke fondly of being able to promote her own shows. "Learning from the best, I've been around Don King, Lou Duva, so many people that have done this for so long," she said.

Isra won her first belt, the International Boxing Federation lightweight title, by defeating Angela Buchanan by TKO in April 1998.

Arguably the most high-profile fight of Isra's career was also one of her three losses. In July 1997, Isra, fighting on two weeks' notice, took on Christy Martin, then the biggest name in female boxing, at Madison Square Garden. Isra and Martin fought the full eight rounds, and by the sixth round Martin was bleeding from the mouth. Though the television announcers at the fight scored it even, Isra lost on all three judges' cards, eliciting loud boos from the crowd.

In last night's co-feature, Silver Spring 185-pounder Darnell Wilson (16-1, 14 knockouts) scored a third-round technical knockout of Forrest Neal (14-4) of Detroit.

She will make the transition to full-time promoting along with her husband, Marty Wynn, CEO of Raging Promotions.

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