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# YEMEN TIMES

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## CTPJF: 2004 is worst year for press freedoms

By MOHAMMED BIN SALAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Center for Training and Protecting Journalist Freedoms (CTPJF) points out in its annual report that the year 2004 was the worst year for press freedoms in Yemen and its democracy.

It reveals that the freedom of expression and press in Yemen in 2004 for the first time was severely targeted and minimized because of playing its role towards society. It is considered unprecedented event that has happened neither before approving political plurality and journalistic diversity after of the reunification in 1990 or even after 1994 war.

The report states that: "What makes the last year distinguished, comparing to the previous years, is that it was the worst and the darkest as well in the history of democracy and rights of press freedom in Yemen.

The journalistic field has witnessed issuing sentences of imprisonment against some journalists. Some journalists were kidnapped by the police forces besides various procedures such as cancellation of licenses and confiscations of a number of private and independent newspapers. Cases of attacks, sacking from jobs and corporal punishment against writers and journalists were registered."

The report pointed out that there are several publishers, editors-in-chief and writers who are still subjected to collective investigations in front of the prosecution under pretext of publication cases. In addition, the issue of the detention of Al-Shura's Editor-in-Chief and suspension of his newspaper is another example. The publisher of Al-Huriyah, one of the outstanding private and independent newspapers, and one of its writers are suffering from detention after they have been sentenced to two-year imprisonment in Dec 2004.



Yemeni press includes a wide range of newspapers and publications representing different opinions. Yet press freedom has been suffering setbacks recently.

Mohammed Sadiq Al-Odaini, Director of Press Freedoms Center, explained the conditions of the professional freedom and liberties in 2004 mentioning that the center recorded a great rise in the average of verdicts of severe punishments against: some of them were unprecedented and they were very dangerous in the history of Yemeni judiciary. He mentioned that the average

of such verdicts issued against journalists and writers increased by 80% comparing it to 2003. The events of detaining, kidnapping, chasing and attacking journalists increased as well. He declared, "the report of our center for 2004, being recorded throughout the year, treated more than 120 cases of gross violation and harassment in details."

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## Zindani asks Yemen authority to sue US at ICJ

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani, head of Islah's Consultative Council demanded the Yemeni government to sue the US at the International Court of Justice for its accusations to him for supporting and financing terrorism. In an interview with September net, a website run by the ministry of defense, Al-Zindani said Monday that the US should present its evidence and support for its accusations against him.

The US Treasury Department announced Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2004 that al-Zindani, Rector of al-Eman (Religious) University, has been added to the American government's list of people suspected of supporting terrorist activities. Al-Zindani was described by the US Treasury Department as a "loyalist" to Osama bin Laden, adding that he "has along history of working with Bin Laden, notably serving as one of his spiritual leaders." It also said that al-Zindani has actively recruited for al-Qaeda's terrorist training camps and played a role in the purchase of weapons for al-Qaeda and other terrorists. However, al-Zindani denied all these allegations and that he has money deposited at the US or any other country in the world except Yemen. He described the US allegations as "baseless and false." He pointed out that the reason



Sheikh Al-Zindani

behind this the media barrage and the US measures taken against him at the UN Security Council because of his "stand against the US policy towards the Muslim world and Palestinian cause as well as fund-raising for the Palestinian Islamic Movement Hamas," branded as a terrorist organization by the US. "It is also because of my patronage to the Eman university which is teaching religion. The US wants dry up the springs of Islam" rather than terrorism," he stressed. The UN Security Council added his name to the list of the financiers of terrorism. Al-Zindani demanded Yemen's government to ask the

UN Security Council to debate again the resolution which was taken in the absence of Yemen's representative.

Former US ambassador to Yemen Mr. Edmund Hull said last March "we are worried about the activities of al-Eman university; we aim to stop the foreign funds to al-Zindani so as to stop his fund for the university and the activities that promote terrorism and finance terrorism."

Despite the denial of al-Zindani and al-Eman University that Abed al-Kamil, murderer of the three US doctors at the Jibla Baptist hospital December 30, 2002 was not a student at the university, Hull said "the killer of the doctors in Jibla is one of the al-Eman university and it has a role in promoting extremism."

AL-Zinadi showed his anger over what he described the media barrage against him by the web site of the ruling party which he said hurt him very much. "I declare that I have been hurt by this media behavior as it gives a false excuse for the Americans, creating evidences and support for the US media to tarnish my image as well as that of the al-Eman university. The reason for this is the almotamarnet.(the ruling party website)." Zindani demanded that President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the ruling party' leaders should question the accusations made by almotamarnet which reported last week that al-Zindani trained his and the university's militants to carry out lawless acts, adding that the university has become "a shelter for terrorists."

The US Loss Anglos Times reported January 2003 that prisoners held in connection with the attack against the USS Cole told local authorities that al-Zindani issued a decree or fatwa ordering the strike and that the authorities did not

investigate into such allegations which were denied by some leaders of the Islah party. "The allegations - and the government's reluctance to investigate, or at least to acknowledge that it is investigating - demonstrate the extraordinary challenges facing Yemen and U.S. officials trying to fight terrorism here," the US newspaper said.

"Authorities can expect greater opposition if they try to extradite, arrest or even question someone of Zindani's stature," it added. The newspaper said Zindani is a former teacher and confidant of Osama bin Laden and that his radical anti-American, anti-Jewish brand of Islam not only had been tolerated until recently by the central government but was also rewarded with money, authority and legitimacy. Zindani, who fought against Soviet forces in Afghanistan in the 1980s, played a central role in helping end a civil war in Yemen in 1994. "The United States has long wanted to question Zindani in connection with the Cole attack, but authorities here said that the prisoners' statements are the first evidence that has surfaced in Yemen that might connect Zindani with the blast," the newspaper added.

Al-Zindani is the third prominent members of the Islah party who have been accused by the US of having connection



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with terrorists. The US accused January 2004 Sheikh Abdullah Sa'atar of raising money for terrorist operations which he denied. Last year, Sheikh Mohammed al-Mouyad was arrested in a trap set for him in Germany and then he was turned over to the US which has accused him of collecting more than \$20 million for al-Qaeda and Bin Laden.

Concerning his medial innovations, al-Zindani stressed tat he invented some

medicine for the disease of diabetics, hepatitis as well as HIV/AIDS. He said that experiments which he carried out with some doctors from Science and Technology University achieved good results. He pointed out that he is ready to disclose the source of this medicine and its formation provided that he and his team are given patent by the Yemeni government which can be given 10% of this right.

## Witnesses in terror case denied visas

By ANTHONY M. DESTEFANO

U.S. consular officials in Yemen canceled on "national security grounds" visas that had been issued to four people needed as defense witnesses in a Brooklyn terrorism case, attorneys for the defendants said Monday.

Defense attorneys for Mohammed Al Hasan Al-Moayad and Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed disclosed the revocation of the visas just as preliminary jury selection was getting under way yesterday in Brooklyn federal court.

Al-Moayad, 56, a cleric from Yemen, and his assistant Zayed, 31, are scheduled to go on trial on charges they conspired to give support to the terrorist groups al-Qaida and Hamas. Al-Moayad is also charged with giving material support to those groups.

Attorney Jonathan Marks, who is representing Zayed, told Judge Sterling Johnson in court that the visas had been canceled.

Marks later told reporters that the witnesses were needed to testify in Brooklyn

to support Zayed's entrapment defense.

Marks said "national security grounds" were given by U.S. embassy officials in Yemen for the cancellation. He said he received the news about the visas from an attorney in Yemen.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kelly Moore told Johnson that she had not been informed about the reasons for the cancellations. "If there are security grounds there is not much we can do about it," Moore told Johnson.

But if the visa snafu is just an administrative glitch she said her office would try to remedy the situation and get the visas reinstated.

"If there were security concerns why were they granted in the first place?" Johnson asked rhetorically.

Department of State officials said late yesterday they were unable to trace the visas without the complete names, and dates and places of births of the witnesses. One official said visas are "revoked" in the country of origin but are only "canceled" at U.S. ports of entry.

Defense attorney Howard Jacobs said

the four witnesses involved in the visa matter, who weren't identified, were also potential witnesses for his client Al-Moayad.

Along with the visa problems, defense attorneys also complained to Johnson about the pace and quality of the translation of surveillance video and audio tapes.

Al-Moayad and Zayed were arrested in January 2003 in Germany after security officials there recorded them talking to two U.S. undercover operatives. The defendants were then extradited to Brooklyn a few months later.

Labeling the transcripts provided so far as "deficient," Al-Moayad's other attorney William Goodman wanted to put the trial off for several weeks. But Johnson was adamant about starting the case as planned this month.

"There will be no adjournment," Johnson intoned.

Some 300 potential jurors were brought into the Brooklyn court house yesterday to fill out questionnaires about their backgrounds.

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## Government to fight corruption

By HASSAN AL-ZAYDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The 2005 budget, which includes the agreement lift subsidies on oil derivatives, has been approved. The removal of the subsidies is intended to prevent profits from the subsidized diesel going into the pockets of corrupt officials.

Prime Minister Bajammal came out this week with some statements accusing centralization of being the real cause of corruption. These statements were followed by another symposium headed by Director of Presidency Office in collaboration with German experts to discuss issue of corruption in Yemen.

Corruption has become so prevalent that symposiums and foreign assistance are useless against it while the government and the Office of the Presidency remain unable to sack or sentence corrupt employees.

Abdu Bishr, GPC Member of Parliament said: "we ask the government to adopt the policy of austerity and to construct expenses on luxurious cars and furniture since they are at the expense of the poor people."

Reciting a verse from the Holy

Quran about corruption and corrupt people who consider themselves reformers, Sultan Al-Same'e, an opposition member, addressed the government "you have succeeded in increasing the number of corrupts and their accounts, you succeeded in destroying education. You succeeded in shutting the voices and violating the people's rights."

Sultan al-Attawani, Member of the Nasserite Public Unionist Party, asked "what will the country's situation be if oil which its avenues go corrupts' accounts?" He confirmed that the government is the source of corruption and it is caused by the absence of auditing and control on those people who steal public money.

Sakhr al-Wajeeh, GPC member, demanded that the corrupt people be identified, referring to an issue in where a one-kilometer road which should have cost YR 10 million to be covered with tarmac reportedly cost more than YR 300 million.

Ahmed al-Aqari, GPC member, said that corrupt people in the government use public money to pay for their cars.

Naser Arman, Islahi member, said that, "when the government admits that the subsidies on the oil derivatives go

to the pockets of smugglers why doesn't it audit even one of them."

These are just a few examples of what the parliament members, government officials, and managers of Presidency Office have said in tackling this issue but without making any move in any of corruption and bribery issues that the governmental establishments are filled with.

It is believed that the financial support given to Yemen by foreign donors was decreased because reports from the Central Organization for Control and Auditing (COCA) showed the theft of funds intended for poverty reduction.

While everyone is talking about corruption, some people are asking if this talk is being allowed in order to absorb people's anger and distrust of the government over the new economic reform package.

The President must take decisive action, fighting corruption should start at the top of the ladder by removing all the corrupt people around him.

Shame on us, if we hold workshops against corruption with the help of German experts, while not working to eradicate the well-known causes of corruption.

## Praiseworthy national establishment

By RUDHWAN AL-SAQQAF  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A team of technicians belonging to the National Cigarette and Matches Company has come back from India after having undergone a training program in installing and operating new the company's new machines. The company has the most up-to-date machinery and modern technology in the Middle East.

Mr. Hassan Karamah visited the team during the training period at Golconda Matches Industries, one of the best companies offering technical training in tobacco industry worldwide.

Ahmed Shamsan, Secretary of the Chairman of the Board, stressed that Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab, Executive Director of the Company, pays attention to employees and appreciates their efforts, honoring the distinctive personnel. He added that, in 2005, the company will be operating the new factory in Al-Mansoura after having completed all necessary infrastructure including equipment, communications networks, water, and electricity.

## YFMF launches "The Great Yemen" project

By Yemen Times Staff

The Yemen Female Media Forum (YFMF) organized a three-day tour trip on Jan. 12 to Mareb as part of their "the Great Yemen" Project.

This trip was made under the patronage of the education office manager in Mareb and the consultant of information, Hassan Dakhnan, and aimed to enable female journalists to know the community better in order to attract the attention of people in Yemen and abroad.

This visit to Mareb, the first to be organized by YFMF, will be followed by a trip to Sa'ada and another to Shabwa involving female journalists from different provinces.

## Middle East partnership initiative

The coordinator for the Middle East Partnership Initiative at the American Embassy is pleased to announce that the Office of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) has extended the deadline to February 8, 2005 for the open competition to fund projects that support the role of civil society throughout the Middle East.

MEPI is seeking concept papers as pre-applications under this RFA. Concept papers need to outline a detailed series of activities linked to reform, why these issues are a priority and how these activities would build on expertise that already exists throughout the Middle East and North Africa region with sustainable impact. Pre-applications must clearly articulate the institutional capacity and expertise of the submitting organization(s). Concept papers are not to exceed seven pages and may be sub-

mitted in English, French or Arabic. The closing date is February 8, 2005. Authors of the highest scoring concept papers will be asked to submit full narrative and budget proposals to MEPI.

\* Enhancing the role of civil society organization(s) in fostering linkages with governing institutions.

\* support for region-based societal observatories and institutions that benchmark and monitor reform and best practices through analytical models and research.

\* Support (infrastructure and activities) for a fledgling civil society network, cyber or otherwise.

\* Creation of public information centers/libraries on reform.

\* Creation of a legal fund for targeted research and advocacy.

\* Advocating volunteer networks on reform activities.

## Democracy discussed in Qatar Symposium for Arab countries

FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

A symposium on strategies of civil participation and democratic change in Arab countries was held in Doha, Qatar, recently.

Organized by HRITC in cooperation with the Washington-based Freedom House and the National Committee of Human Rights in Qatar, the gathering created a working paper handling the civil community connection with the political authority, democratic culture, the religious factor and democratic change, and how they relate to poverty, globalization, economic policies and its impact on

democracy.

Director of HRITC, Ezzuddin Saeed al-Asbahy, noted the importance of partnerships among the organizations of civil community in the Arab zone.

He also said that the workshops assess the role and the level of the civil community.

The most important hindrances hampering democratic change will be displayed, and comments on equality, democracy, and other national matters are part of the paper.

About 50 persons of different Arab countries participated in the symposium, the first regional activity of HRITC of 2005.

## Young robber commits suicide

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Police have found the body of a young man who committed suicide, in a hotel room in Sana'a but were unable to identify the person immediately. They watched the room where the body was found and have arrested another man

who visited the room. Police say that the men were members of a criminal gang of thieves.

According to a recent report by the Ministry of Interior, the number of suicides has increased in Yemen to more than 1200 people, attributing the increase to several social problems.

## Tribal wars settled

By HASAN AL-ZAYDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

After the destructive battles between Qardhan village of Mughreb Ans district, in Dhamar and Bani Omer village of al-Qafr District, in Ibb, last which killed and wounded tens of tribesmen, President Saleh has issued instructions for a ceasefire.

Brigadaire Ali Mohsen al-Ahmer led a meeting with the governors of the two areas, local members of parliament and a number of sheikhs, which brought a final settlement to the conflict.

Incidents of tribal revenge have been increasing recently due to the state and security services not taking the necessary procedures against it.

## Workshop on development, social integration

TAIZ BUREAU

Some 25 members and staff of Taiz local councils have participated in the activities of a workshop on development and social integration of poor segments. The workshop was organized from 10-12 January by French organization of Dia.

At the opening ceremony, Mr. Stephane, representative of Dia in Yemen, delivered a speech pointing out the significance of the workshop which is part of social project implemented by Dia in Taiz.

"The development of poor sections is a prerequisite for the development of the whole society, and the integration of the poorer sections is very important for comprehensive development," he said.

Mr. Stephane reviewed Dia's role in training local councilors and equipping them with experiences to help them

carry out their duties in serving poor sections.

Ahmed Ali Jamel, Chairman of a local council, Al-Qahira District, indicated the role of local councils in supporting and enhancing development programs in cooperation with local and international organizations. He also cited the need of local councilors for training in development issues.

He added: "We thank Dia organization for fostering development in Yemen particularly its interest in supporting poor sections of the society."

He renewed pledge to work together with Dia seeking development and improvement of citizens' life

The opening ceremony was attended by Mrs. Delphia, Coordinator of the Project, Mahyoub Al-Amri, Manager of the Project, and the Manager of the National Institute for Administrative Science as well as a number of local councilors.

## Health discussed in Taiz

TAIZ BUREAU

A meeting to discuss health issues in Taiz was held on Jan. 8 between the Minister of Health and Population, Dr. Muhammad Yehia al-Noamy, the Governor of Taiz, Judge Ahmed Abdullah al-Hejri, and leaders from the local authorities.

The need to allocate an operational budget for the burns section in Thawrah General Hospital, preserve the hospital's morgue, and artificial kidney section, and the possibility of opening a cardiology test section were all given special attention.

## Raw materials port to be implemented

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Aden Free Zone Authority has finished drafting the general plan for the raw materials port, which is to have a quay of a 2340 meters long, and 16-meter deep with an area of a 47-hectares. The port is to have six berths for heavy vessels each of which is 400-meter long, and a back yard of 14 hectares for unloading and freighting equipment and vehicles and constructing storerooms for dry merchandises.

The project includes the construction of a fire-extinguishing station, installation of an electric adapter, construction of a health center and provision of other services.

Official sources said the port enjoys advantages such as proximity to heavy petrochemical industry sites and main highway network which will depend for their imports and exports on the port at down-to-earth costs, encouraging internal and external trade as well as facilitating delivery to other spots in the country.

Aden Port has a strategic geographical site as it is close to sea routes and has a large quay and back yard for car parking. The port is situated within the investment zone on which new industries will depend, close to the site of main services project, and containing an area for storing liquid raw materials.

## Yemen hails peace accord signed in Sudan

By PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government has commended and supported the peace agreement signed last Sunday between the Sudanese government and the rebel group in the south, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLA).

President Ali Abdullah Saleh sent a message to Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir on Monday to congratulate him for the peace agreement and that he wishes for there to be a new age of peace and stability in the country now that the signing should end two decades of civil war. The President also commented that along with the Sudanese people benefiting from the peace accord, the stability in Sudan will also benefit the Arab countries.

"Yemen considers that the peace agreement in Sudan, which ends the longest war in Africa, will help bring peace and security to the region," Ahmed Al-Basha, Head of the African Department at Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told Yemen Times. "The peace agreement is seen as a new sign of political and diplomatic life in Sudan and neighboring countries. It can create a new diplomatic atmosphere, and the accord will also help to push forward the development for the people of Sudan, which will give them a better future. The lack of stability and security has hindered development in the area."

Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha and SPLA's leader John Garang signed the agreement in Nairobi, Kenya, and representatives from the

international community, such as US Secretary of State Colin Powell, attended the ceremony. The two sides signed a cease-fire a week before.

"This is a glorious day for the Sudan," said Al-Bashir on the day of signing. "It's not only a deal that ended a protracted war of untold suffering, but it is a new contract for all Sudanese."

The war between the Sudanese government and the southern rebels lasted for 21 years, and over two million people, mostly from disease and famine, died while around four million Sudanese were displaced. The war erupted when the SPLA wanted to gain more in sharing wealth and power in the south.

Some officials have said that the new peace agreement could lead to a greater effort in ending strife in Sudan's western Darfur region.

"The United States and the world community expect the new partners to use all necessary means to stop the violence," said Powell in Nairobi. "And we expect to see rapid negotiation of the crisis in Darfur."

Arab militias, known as Janjaweed, are accused of killing over 70,000 and driving up to 1.4 million people from their villages since fighting began nearly two years ago. Refugees have reported that the Janjaweed fighters have slaughtered men, raped women and have looted their villages during their assaults.

The peace agreement included a six-month interim government, a plan to draft a new constitution and put together a transitional government in Khartoum, the capital, and another

administration for the south. A transition period will last for six years, while national elections are planned to be held at the end of the fourth year. When the transition government nears the end of its term, Sudanese in the south will vote as to whether to secede.

Yemen has taken the initiative to help bring nations in the Horn of Africa closer together and ease tensions between neighboring countries. At the summit of the Sana'a Group held in the last week of December, made up of Yemen, Ethiopia and Sudan, President Saleh called on Somalia, Djibouti and Eritrea to join the coalition that aims at promoting peace, security and development among nations.

"We hope that the other three countries will join because it will create cooperation for security, development and fighting terrorism, which are the three most important principles in the Sana'a Group," said Al-Basha.

Relationships between Eritrea and both Sudan and Ethiopia have been strained in recent years. Saleh offered to launch an initiative to normalize relations between Eritrea and its two neighbors if each of the three countries accepted to participate in talks.

After the 1998-2000 war between Ethiopia and Eritrea over border areas that killed 70,000 people, a cease-fire has remained fragile. Ethiopia turned down a demarcation proposal established by an independent border commission last September and Eritrea warned that the rejection could lead to more fighting in the future.

The Sana'a Group was formed when the three countries met in October 2002.

## 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:

Will the newly elected President Mahmoud Abbas succeed in realizing Palestinian State?

- Yes  
- No

### last edition's question:

Do you believe child trafficking is a serious problem in Yemen?

Yes, it's serious 88%  
No, it's not serious 12%

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# Conference in Abu Dhabi: Vision of a new Arab media

Abu Dhabi, January 11 (YT & DPC) – In an unprecedented level of clarity and transparency, the UAE has hosted a conference on the new Arab media and how it should be reborn to cope with the global information revolution. His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and UAE Minister of Defense, has urged media organizations to play an active role in catalyzing the process of reform in the Arab world. He called on Arab leaders to promote freedom of speech and to protect the intellectuals, accept other opinions and to support creativity and new ideas. In his opening address at the 10th Conference of Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research

(ECSSR) that opened in Abu Dhabi (9 Jan. 2005) under the title "Arab Media in the Information Age". His Highness Sheikh Mohammed warned that the slow response of the Arab media to deal with its own issues in a responsible manner will open the way for others to deal with these issues – but from their foreign perspective and interests. He hinted that Arab regimes should abandon their manipulation of the press to serve their agenda and let the Arab media work with fewer restrictions and with greater freedom in a responsible way. The crown prince of Dubai called upon Arab countries to analyze their laws of press and publication and remove any articles that restrict the media's movement. He said that such

laws were originally drafted to use the media in favor of regimes, which they should have been used to ensure the right of the media to gather information is guaranteed. "...How will it [the Arab media] be able to compete when it is chained with undeveloped and obsolete systems and how can it face the satellite invasion while it is chained with some laws that control information and prevent other opinions?" he asked. H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Minister of Information and Culture of the UAE also asserted on the need to revolutionize the way Arab media works and called it to be more responsible and ambitious in rising to international standards with higher professionalism and ethical standards.

He called upon Arab regimes to ease the pressure on media organs and help them be more independent, professional, reliable, and competitive. He also called upon Arab countries to formulate a mechanism to monitor negative coverage and reports of the Arab world, and work together to launch counter-reports to bring about the facts to the world and diminish the impact of negative rhetoric of anti-Arab media. Conference calls for less restrictions Conference members during the first sessions of the conference called for greater freedom for the Arab media, more training, awareness campaigns, and respect for the role that media people play in this era of global information. In the three-day conference, working papers and speeches concentrated on the need to bring an end to the stagnancy of the Arab media, particularly the public Arab media that is controlled and run by the state, and to start a liberal movement that would maintain a high degree of freedom of media organs, taking to account the need to educate the public instead of imposing restrictions on the media. Yemen participated in the media with a delegation of three members representing the Ministry of Information and the Private press.

# Rights of adultery suspects discussed

TAIZ BUREAU

A special symposium concerning a woman suspected of adultery was held under the title "the suspect of adultery is between the hammer of justice institutions and the social forces." The symposium was organized by the Yemeni Women Union in Taiz, under Mrs. Su'ad Al-Absi, and Al-S'aeed Foundation for Science and Culture (SFSC), and was supported by the British Organization OXFAM. The symposium was run by Faisal Far'c, General Manager of the SFSC. Mohammad Al-Haj Local Council Secretary General delivered a speech in which he pointed out that the Local Council has the intention to team up with the organizations, women unions and the charitable societies in order to build a special center for the sake of training the women and the targeted categories of street children. He mentioned that there are numerous woman prisoners from the Horn of Africa in the central prison and other prisons. According to him this issue is in an urgent need of studies to be conducted in coordination with the prosecution and judiciary. He hopped the symposium to come out with positive results and promised that he will carry out the recommendations as well as to change them into work programs. The symposium was staged in two

themes. On the first theme, Mohammad Al-Durrah Chairman of the Committee for Supporting Woman, forwarded a scientific research confirming that it is related to the issue of women rights and achieving quality between both sexes. The research included that preventive measures should be taken against slandering the innocent women unless they are proved guilty. The second theme included a paper by Dr. Akram Hijazi entitled "Rights of Adultery Suspect: results of field study". On her part, Mrs. Amal Al-Basha Head of Al-N'oman Sisters Forum mentioned that the majority of woman prisoners are illiterate coming from poor families and are in a persistent need of legal, economic and social reform in order to overcome corruption. "Our society is also in an urgent need of a comprehensive reform and fair application of the law to include the different social layers as well as the influential persons. If there was a crime, every member in the society should be held accountable for it according to the law, but we are living in a society where the survival is for the strongest", Mrs. Al-Basha said. Mrs Su'ad Al-Absi Head of Yemeni Women Union in Taiz stated that one of the most valuable outcomes of the symposium is assigning the tenth of January in every year a day of solidarity with woman prisoners. This day will remind us and draw our attention toward the issues of woman prisoners.

# Illiteracy eradication requires support & cooperation

By YASSER AL-MAYYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Arab World, including Yemen celebrated the Arab Day for Illiteracy Eradication on Jan. 8, that was organized by the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Sciences. A number of regional organizations and authorities as well as other organizations concerned with illiteracy eradication and foreign embassies to Yemen celebrated the occasion. Illiteracy is one of the major issues from which the developing countries all over the world suffer as it has negative influences on the society and hinders development. Despite the fact that Yemen suffers from several economic problems, it was one of the countries that brought forth several solutions for this issue. In 1998, the law No. 28 concerning illiteracy was drafted as well as the National Strategy for Illiteracy Eradication & Adult Learning No.196.



Women joining illiteracy eradication program.

In Yemen the rate of illiteracy has increased, partly due to rapid population growth rate, and primary education that does not include both sexes of children at the age of 6-14. The national survey for the phenomenon of poverty conducted

in 1999 released that the rate of male and female children enrolled in primary schools is only 59.3%. Our country requires double efforts both internally and internationally to help overcome these problems.

# Course for tourist police

TAIZ- A special course for tourist police recruits was held last week at Al-Watania University for the sake of contributing to the launch of 2005 as a year for tourism and tourism promotion. Several activities including festivals, courses and workshops are being staged along with the establishment of numerous tourist institutions. The training course was on the tourist guidance and marketing with

the participation of 15 trainees who receive theoretical and practical lectures in the tourism sector. The course aimed at exploring talents and skills for the sake of coping with the new technological changes as well as upgrading the standards of tourism. Additionally, the course aimed at reinforcing the role of tourist police recruits to increase the influx of foreign tourists to Yemen and provide

them with security. The idea of renewing the tourist infrastructure is being reconsidered. The course is part of a serious of activities held by Al-Watania University to fulfill the needs of the social development. The course was held after the coordination between Judge Ahmad Al-Hajiri Governor of Taiz and Dr. Shakeeb Al-Khamri Rector of Al-Watania University.

# Workshop on organic pollutants

By Ismail al-Ghaberi  
Yemen Times Staff

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) held a workshop on Jan. 9-11 in collaboration with the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITR) to build the skills needed to prepare national action plans for the Stockholm Agreement on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The workshop was held under the auspices of Dr Mohammed Lutf Al-Eryani, Minister of Water and Environment and was attended by more than 25 trainees from different government and non-governmental authorities. The workshop was aimed to assist



those involved in chemical and waste management to build the capacity to develop sound, realistic action plans for projects; effectively collaborate

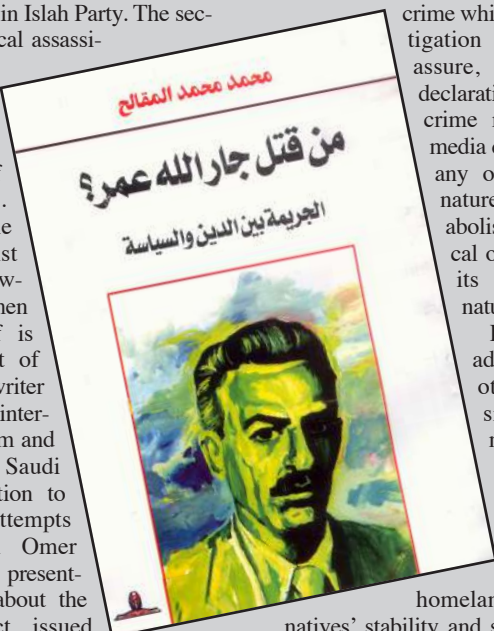
with stakeholders in a transparent manner; and increase their competitiveness internationally when submitting proposals for funding.

# The crime between religion and politics Who killed Jarallah Omer?

By HASSAN AL-ZAYEDI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A book titled "Who Killed Jarallah Omer? Crime between the Religion and the Politics", written by the journalist Muhammad Muhammad al-Muqaleh was recently published by Obyad Center for Studies and Publication. The book containing 215 pages, the first part comprised some investigations records with the killers of Jarallah Omer. The book has presented 'the individual struggle', 'the group killing', 'the deviations from faith of al-Sunnah and al-Jama'ah', 'killing in Yemen is easier than abroad', 'killing for killing and power's sake', and 'lies are means of spoiled jihad' which are sub-titles of the first chapter of the book. The book presents the map of expiating and violence group in Yemen as well as the dialogue and political arguments. The writer raises three assumptions that targeted the killing of Jarallah Omer and which are reflecting one purpose: of which the first is represented in the individual crime and al-Salafy

(ancestral) wing in Islah Party. The second is the political assassination assumption to which the book raises the political objectives of the crime, i.e. weakening the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) showing that the Yemen Islah Party itself is the other target of the crime. The writer has handled the international socialism and the visit to Saudi Arabia in addition to the previous attempts which Jarallah Omer could avoid. He presented some data about the primary verdict issued against whom are called "killers", and also his referring to the procedures which were not carried out. The writer has expressed that the religion foresight as being the cause to the



crime which the investigation records assure, the killers declarations, and the crime released via media don't change any of the crime nature and don't abolish its political objective and its organized nature. He also added some other fore-sights of more danger on the community ethics and manners and on the homeland and natives' stability and security. The killing based on the opinion, belief and on making the Islamic religion and its forgiving rules as means of the crime and a cover for the political assassinations.

# Vacancy Announcement World Food Programme of the United Nations (WFP)



The WFP is establishing a pool of pre-selected candidates (Roster) for Driver post for its offices in the Republic of Yemen.

This post is open to Yemeni nationals

The responsibilities of the Driver, shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Drive office vehicles for the transport of authorized personnel.
- Plan and schedule routing.
- Collect and deliver of mail, documents, and other items.
- Meet official personnel at the airport and facilitate immigration and customs formalities as required.
- Optimize use of the vehicle; assist in the registration of new vehicles, renewal of insurance, disposal of vehicles and getting local driving licenses for the international staff.
- Take care of the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicles, check oil, water, battery, brakes, tires, etc.; perform minor repairs and arrange for other repairs and ensure that the vehicle is kept clean.
- Maintain spare parts inventory and make appropriate arrangement to order parts.
- Log official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil changes, greasing, etc.
- Maintain records of drivers' travel and their overtime records.
- Ensure that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in an accident.
- Perform other related duties as required.

Qualifications:

- Completion of Primary School Education.
- Driver's Training with a valid driver's license.
- Very good knowledge and practice all provinces and villages in the country.
- Knowledge of English language desirable.

Experience:

- 1) Minimum 2 years experience as a driver with a safe driving record.
- 2) Knowledge of driving rules and regulations and skills in minor vehicle repairs.
- 3) Experience in driving a variety of types and models of vehicles, including vans and other kinds of motorized vehicles.
- 4) Practice in driving in all provinces and remote villages, and in the rough roads.

Interested applicants should deliver their applications along with their detailed CV's in English.

All applications to be submitted to the WFP Office in Sana'a not later than 20 January 2005 in closed envelope clearly marked:

(Application for Driver Roster, at WFP Sana'a) at the following address: World Food Programme, Sana'a, villa No. 22 – Nwakshut St. St. No. 21, Diplomatic Area, P.O. Box 7181, Republic of Yemen. Tel: 01 214100/101 Fax: 01 205515.

# European Commission contributes aid to Yemen

By PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

It was announced last Monday that the European Commission will provide Yemen with 2.53 million (\$3.3 million) for people viewed as the most in need of assistance.

The groups receiving help will be one of the most marginalized groups – commonly called “Akhdam” in Yemen society – that live in shanty neighborhoods, children living on the streets and refugees from countries in the Horn of Africa.

“The humanitarian needs in Yemen are largely forgotten by the international media and the donor community,” said Louis Michel, European Commissioner responsible for humanitarian aid and development. “Because the Yemeni state has limited capacity to act, despite its development efforts, it is up to the European Commission to help the poorest and most vulnerable people to live in decent conditions and in dignity.”

According to the United Nations, nearly a third of the Yemenis, and around two-thirds of those living in rural areas, do not have access to drinking water. The plan of the project is to provide 60,000 people living in rural areas with proper water facilities.

The European Commission will back the construction of drinking water systems and health clinics in shanty towns in Sana’a and Taiz that will help improve the lives of over 24,000 people.

The most marginalized group in Yemen live in cities and villages in different parts of the country, and most live in small homes made of cinderblocks or aluminum, tarps and waste material. It is estimated that roughly 200,000 reside in Yemen, and most men are hired as street cleaners or



A girl living in one of the shanty towns in Sana’a. (Yemen Times photo by Peter Willems)

garbage collectors and earn around \$50 a month. In a study conducted by The World Bank, only 45% of the children were enrolled in school in 1999, and many women and children need to go out to work or beg to support their families.

The humanitarian aid will support the development of places to stay and education for 650 children living on the streets of the capital. A study carried out by United Nations Children’s Fund and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor showed that there are approximately 28,000 homeless children in Yemen, with 4,000 in the capital.

The plan also includes building water distribution and sanitation facilities in a camp on the southern coast of Yemen that services refugees from Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees headquarters in Sana’a has reported that 47,000 Somali refugees now live in Yemen. It is estimated that 430,000 Somalis live outside of Somalia after leaving the country that has been in a civil war since 1991.

“The people who will be receiving aid from the European Commission are really in need of help,” said Adam Taylor-Awny, Program Technical Advisor at CARE International in Yemen. “The marginalized groups and the lack of water facilities, for example, are generally excluded from the development of services in general. This is a good move, but I would like to see more funding and efforts contributed in the future.”

The funding provided by the European Commission will be managed by ECHO, the Commission’s Humanitarian Office, and the projects will be implemented by United Nations agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations.

## More primary schools opened

TAIZ BUREAU

A celebration was held at Al-Wahda Primary School in Jabal Habashi district, Taiz, Sunday Jan 9, 2005 in which the top schools in the program of improving the educational environment belonging to the Japanese Project of Primary Education Development were awarded.

The celebration was attended by Dr Abdusalam al-Jawfi, Minister of Education, Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hagri, Taiz Governor, and the Japanese Ambassador. Dr al-Jawfi congratulated the schools that have appropriately got benefit from the Japanese support, represented in the 18 schools, thanking the

Japanese friends for all aids they offer in various educational fields in the light of the partnership between the two governments.

The Japanese Ambassador expressed his gratitude for the positive interaction with the aids programs presented to the primary schools wishing all his best regards for the students.

Dr Mahdi Adusalam, Education Office General Director, confirmed necessity of the school environment improvement as a behavior that should be imprinted in the minds of students.

Later, the Minister along with the Governor opened a number of schools including 13 June School for girls in Al-Ma’afer.

## Al-Saeed Foundation inaugurates cultural program

TAIZ BUREAU

Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture showcased its cultural program of events for the first six months of 2005 in the presence of a group of scholars, writers, authors and judges recently.

Included were Judge Yehia Muhammad al-Shura’abi, Head of Personal Affairs Dept. of Taiz Appeal court, and Judge Ibrahim Aqeel, Shariah advisor of Taiz Governorate.

The Foundation General Manager, Faisal Saeed Farae Mudhaji, has on behalf of the Chairman Mr. Ali

Muhammad Saeed Ana’am and the Deputy Chairman, Dr. Ahmed Hayel Saeed, displayed the events program that contained 16 events, among them a scientific conference and five scientific forums, 4 lectures, 2 large international exhibitions in addition to some other events.

The program was begun by poetic events with the Authors and Writers Union in Taiz (titled Reading through the Divan ‘Valley of Love’) by the Poet, Judge Ahmed Muhammad al-Mujahed, President of Hadhoor Dhulaimah court, Amran Government at present.

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# New militant attacks pose early challenge to Abbas

GAZA, Jan 11 (Reuters) - Palestinian militants resumed rocket and mortar fire at Jewish settlements in Gaza on Tuesday, throwing down the gauntlet to newly elected Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and his call for calm to talk peace with Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told his cabinet he would phone Abbas on Tuesday to wish him luck and seek close cooperation based on a Palestinian effort to "stop terrorism".

"I believe there will be a meeting between us soon," he said.

A security source said Sharon was ready to turn over most occupied territory to Palestinian policing — meaning a halt to army raids and removal of checkpoints — as a gesture to Abbas if he demonstrated "a 100 percent effort" to subdue militants.

Abbas took 62.3 percent of the ballot in Sunday's election of a successor to the late Yasser Arafat, patriarch of Palestinians' statehood struggle.

But powerful Islamists boycotted the vote and refused to suspend attacks on Israel.

They wasted no time subjecting the new Palestinian president to his first test, firing seven rockets and mortar bombs into Jewish enclaves in southern Gaza and one rocket into an Israeli border town, causing damage but no casualties.

An Israeli died on Tuesday of wounds suffered in a rocket volley into a north Gaza settlement last week.

The resurgence of rocket fire after an election lull and the threat of more Israeli army counter-strikes could, if not swiftly checked, stall the new diplomatic momentum generated by the rise of the moderate Abbas.

A fresh Israeli raid for wanted militants after a suspension of such operations to safeguard the election posed another early challenge to Abbas, who wants Israel to free thousands of Palestinian prisoners to help him get gunmen to lay down arms.

Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, says he aims to negotiate for a state in all of the occupied West Bank and Gaza with East Jerusalem as its capital, after four years of bloodshed in which Israel shunned Arafat, calling him an "arch-



Former U.S. presidential candidate Senator John Kerry (D-MA), an election observer, meets Yasser Arafat's successor in Palestine Mahmoud Abbas (R) in the West Bank city of Ramallah Jan. 10. Mahmoud Abbas was formally declared the winner on Monday of the Palestinian presidential election. The Central Electoral Commission announced that Abbas, who succeeded Yasser Arafat as leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, captured 62.3 percent of the vote in Sunday's poll. REUTERS

## Watershed

Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said Abbas's election on a platform of non-violence was a Middle East watershed but that Israel's planned pullout from Gaza, seen as a key step towards peace, would not be done "under fire".

"I think something dramatic has happened on the Palestinian side, with Arafat gone and Abu Mazen's election by a wide margin, which permits Palestinians to choose another path, not violence and terror but a reality of dialogue," Mofaz said.

While hailing Abbas as a man to do business with, Israel has criticised his intention to co-opt, not crush, the militants.

"A 100 percent security effort means at least a halt to the rocket and mortar barrages," the Israeli security source said.

"If Abu Mazen doesn't do that, the army will have to sweep in again and

that could escalate violence and jeopardise the whole effort for stability after Arafat," he told Reuters.

But while Abbas wants a ceasefire, he regards militants as "freedom fighters" who should be integrated into security forces and mainstream Palestinian politics.

Aides say Abbas would gain more leverage over militants if Israel stopped expanding settlements in the larger West Bank and proved it was ready to talk about a viable Palestinian state and not just security coordination to protect Israelis.

A spokesman for the Hamas militant group, Sami Abu Zuhri, said it wanted to reach "common understandings" with Abbas, but added: "Resistance to occupation will continue and that includes shelling attacks. This is natural."

A halt to a Palestinian uprising and a freeze on settlement building are twin preconditions for a "road map" peace process U.S.-led mediators hope to revive with Abbas in power.

# Iraq insurgents kill 18 in string of attacks

TIKRIT, Iraq, Jan 11 (Reuters) - A suicide car bomber killed seven policemen in Saddam Hussein's home town and gunmen shot dead eight people in a minibus south of Baghdad on Tuesday in the latest attacks to threaten Iraq's Jan. 30 election.

A group led by al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said it carried out the bombing against what it called "cowardly mercenaries" at police headquarters in Tikrit, a Sunni Muslim stronghold in northern Iraq. Eight officers were also wounded.

Repeated guerrilla attacks on the Iraqi police and soldiers who will be tasked with protecting polling stations have deepened fears of major bloodletting on the day Iraqis vote in the controversial election.

Shortly after the explosion, gunmen attacked a minibus travelling through Iraq's notorious "Triangle of Death", killing eight people and kidnapping three, police in the area said.

Police said it was not immediately clear who was in the vehicle. Sunni insurgents regularly target Iraq security forces and Shi'ite pilgrims in the lawless zone of dusty towns, which is regarded as one of the most dangerous parts of Iraq.

Cars are routinely stopped by insurgents setting up illegal checkpoints to search for those they regard as collaborators with U.S.-led troops and the American-backed interim government.

In the northern Iraqi city of Samarra, a roadside bomb against a joint U.S.-Iraqi convoy killed two Iraqi National Guards, and a second bomb killed a policeman, police said.

Leading Sunni Arab political parties say they will boycott the election because violence in the Sunni heartland will scare away voters and skew the results in favour of majority Shi'ites, who expect to emerge dominant after years of oppression.

Surge in violence  
On Monday, gunmen assassinated

Baghdad's deputy police chief, and a suicide bomber in an explosives-packed vehicle resembling those used by police rammed into a police compound in southern Baghdad, killing at least three people.

The shooting of Brigadier Amer Nayef came just six days after guerrillas assassinated Baghdad's provincial governor.

Zarqawi's group, behind most of the deadliest suicide bombings in Iraq since Saddam's overthrow, has claimed responsibility for both assassinations.

Washington is offering \$25 million for information leading to the death or capture of Zarqawi, a Jordanian militant whom it regards as its number one enemy in Iraq.

A senior U.S. commander said last week that four of Iraq's 18 provinces, including parts of the capital, were still too insecure to hold elections and predicted a surge of violence.

Insurgents have killed more than 100

Iraqis in the past week alone, mostly security force members they regard as collaborators with foreign occupiers.

But Iraq's Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has insisted the vote, Iraq's first national ballot since a U.S.-led invasion toppled Saddam in April 2003, will go ahead as scheduled.

Seeking to shore up security for the election, Britain on Monday pledged another 400 troops for Iraq.

Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said Britain would soon deploy a battalion of the Royal Highland Fusiliers "for a limited period of time".

U.S. troop numbers have already been raised to their highest level since the start of the war to help protect the polls.

On Monday, a powerful roadside bomb killed two U.S. soldiers and wounded four when it destroyed a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, one of the army's most advanced pieces of armour.



Victim brought to hospital after car bomb attack on police post in Tikrit. Hooded police officers help deliver the body of a colleague to a hospital after a car bomb attack killed seven policemen in Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit Jan. 11. The bomb struck police headquarters in the Sunni Muslim stronghold 110 miles (175 kms) north of Baghdad in the latest attack to threaten Iraq's January 30 election. Authorities said eight officers were also wounded. REUTERS

# Iran denies it still issuing stoning verdicts

TEHRAN, Jan 11 (Reuters) - Iran's judiciary said on Tuesday accusations it was still sentencing women to death by stoning and executing minors were baseless lies aimed at sully the Islamic state's image.

Rights groups have accused Iran in recent months of continuing to issue death sentences for criminals aged under 18 and of sentencing some women to death by stoning for adultery, despite earlier pledges to end such practices.

But at a weekly briefing with journalists to which some members of the foreign media were invited for the first time, judiciary spokesman Jamal Karimirad dismissed the allegations.

"In the Islamic Republic, we no longer face such verdicts and implementation of such verdicts," he said.

"I do not know how they get such baseless information and then make a fuss over it. The aim of such news is to harm Iran's image."

The United Nations, in a resolution

last month, condemned Iran's record on public executions, floggings, arbitrary sentences, torture and discrimination against women.

Hanging is the most usual form of execution in Iran but some female adulterers have been stoned to death in the past.

Stoning has sparked scathing international criticism.

The penalty involves victims being buried up to their midribs and then pelted to death with medium-size stones that should not be so large as to kill instantly.

Local media quoted judiciary officials last month as saying the stoning of a woman for adultery in the northern city of Jolfa had been suspended, pending appeal.

Another woman, believed by lawyers and diplomats who said they had seen her birth certificate to have been only 16, was hanged in August in the Caspian Sea port of Neka for sex before marriage. Iranian officials said she was in her early 20s.



Iran's Judiciary chief Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi-Shahrudi takes notes as he speaks with a woman (UNSEEN) in his weekly meeting with the public to help them solve their legal problems in Tehran Jan. 11. Iran's judiciary on Tuesday said accusations it was still sentencing women to death by stoning and executing young criminals were baseless lies aimed at sully the Islamic state's image. REUTERS

# Saudis banned from text voting in reality TV show

RIYADH, Jan 11 (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's main mobile phone operator has banned its customers from voting by text message in a hit reality television show because it fails to "match the values" of the conservative Muslim kingdom.

State-owned Saudi Telecommunications Company (STC) said on Tuesday it had blocked its 9.5 million mobile phone customers from texting votes for their favourite musical contestants on satellite show Star Academy 2.

"We feel the programme does not

match the values of the Saudi culture," said spokesman Saad Dhafer.

"Our social and economic market research shows that our customers want us to operate in line with these values."

But Dhafer added viewers in the kingdom were still able to vote using a regular land line.


In Star Academy 2, a group of young musicians from across the Arab world share a house and are filmed 24 hours a day as they compete for a recording contract.

The show has drawn huge audiences across the region.

But religious scholars in Saudi Arabia and beyond have been angered by the sight of young men and women singing and dancing together.

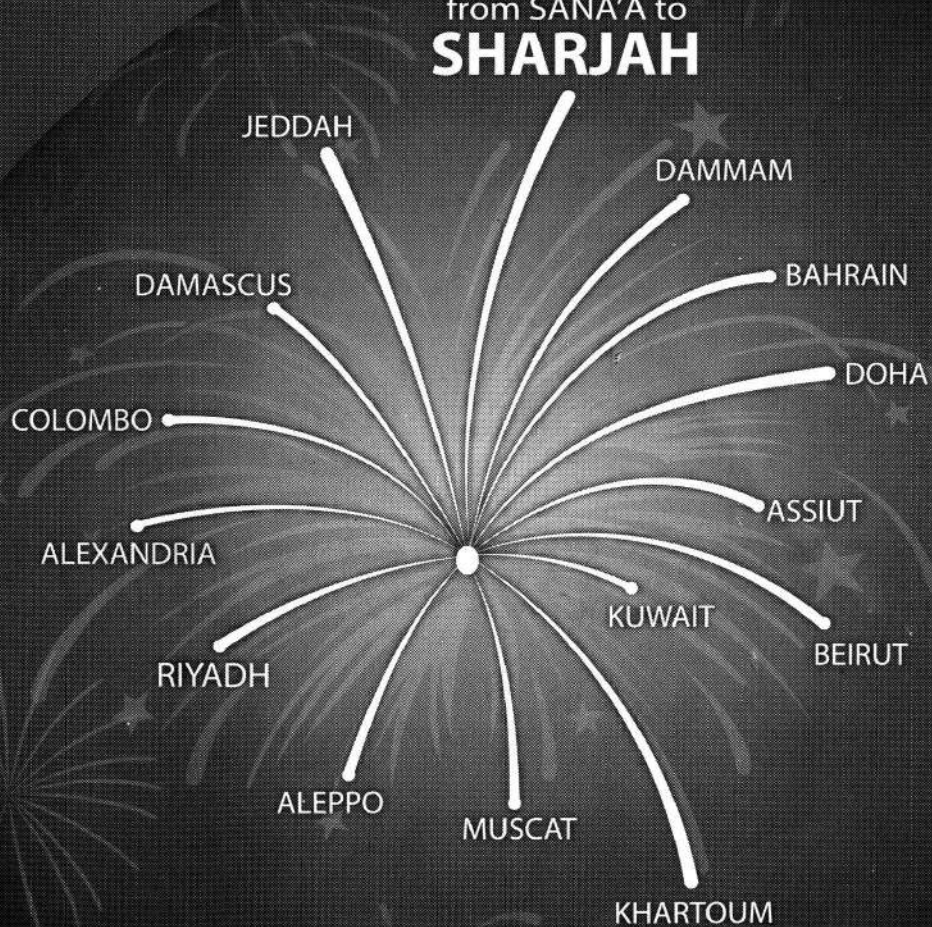
Islamists forced an Arabic satellite network in 2004 to scrap filming in Bahrain of an Arab version of the reality television show Big Brother because it involved unrelated men and women living under the same roof.

Protests on the streets of Manama denounced "Sin Brother" even though the producers had modified the show with separate living quarters for men and women.



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# Islamic militants warn aid groups to stick to job

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia, Jan 11 (Reuters) - A militant Indonesian Islamic group warned foreign aid agencies in the tsunami-devastated province of Aceh on Tuesday not to stray from their humanitarian mission.

Hundreds of volunteers from the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI) are helping retrieve corpses from the debris of the killer tsunami that crashed ashore on Dec. 26 following a magnitude 9 earthquake, killing more than 105,000 people alone in Indonesia.

The group said it considered non-governmental organisations — numbering more than 40 — and foreign military in the overwhelmingly Muslim province of Aceh to be “friends” provided they remained focused on their aid relief work in the province on the northern tip of Sumatra island.

“We can work together. But if they came here with some hidden agenda — colonialism, imperialism or missionary, I think this is very, very dangerous, and very, very compli-

cated,” Hilmy Bakar Almascaty, central board chairman for the FPI, told Reuters.

“I think it is very complicated because they (could) make new problems for Aceh people.”

Around the Indian Ocean at least 156,000 people were killed by the undersea earthquake and tsunami.

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim country, with around 85 percent of people professing that religion.

Aceh is the most Islamic province of all with Muslims making up 98 percent of its population.

Corpses handlers The FPI, known for raiding and trashing Jakarta nightspots that sold alcohol during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, is one of many small militant groups that sprang up after the 1998 downfall of President Suharto, who suppressed radical Islam.

Separatist GAM (the Free Aceh Movement), which has been waging a

decades-long battle for independence in Aceh, has deplored the presence of the FPI and another militant Islamic group, the Indonesian Mujahidin Council, in the ravaged province.

GAM, in a statement from its government in exile in Sweden, accused the two groups of using aid to push a religious agenda and said they were “criminal organisations” who were not welcome in Aceh.

But the FPI's Almascaty said nobody could reject his group.

“We come here under the authorities of Allah, Islamic teachings and also the government.

And nobody can reject our group here,” he said.

Tubagus Sidik, an FPI member wearing a Muslim cap, white T-shirt and rubber boots, said the group planned to clear bodies from three different waterfront areas of Banda Aceh on Tuesday.

“There is a big ship carried away by the waves and ended up in residential

areas.

We have reports many corpses are rotting there. Now residents come to us every day to request us to get the

corpses,” Sidik told Reuters.

“FPI now is known as the corpse handler. FPI is doing something that no one wants to do.”



A tsunami survivor rides his motor bike a flooded road at Phoenix Bay in Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar archipelago Jan. 11. Hundreds of people left their homes for higher ground in the capital of tsunami-hit Andaman and Nicobar islands, after high tide waters entered low-lying areas, officials said on Tuesday. REUTERS

## Kenya clashes kill 21 near Somali border-police

NAIROBI, Jan 11 (Reuters) - Clashes between rival clans near the Somali border have killed 21 Kenyans so far this year in a struggle over water and grazing land, police said on Tuesday.

There may also be a political element in the violence in drought-prone Mandera district, which saw nine people killed on Jan. 2 and 12 on Jan. 9, police spokesman Jasper Ombati said.

“We have two clans competing for water, pasture and grazing land,” he said, adding the dead were ethnic Somalis of Kenyan nationality.

Kenya has a large ethnic Somali community based in its northeastern province, among Kenya's poorest regions, and in the capital Nairobi.

“Some politicians were alleged to have made statements which hinge on incitement.

This is an angle that cannot be ignored,” Ombati added without elaborating.

The Kenya Red Cross said it had sent a team to the area offering first aid and relief supplies.

# Interpol launches biggest tsunami victim ID centre

PHUKET, Thailand, Jan 11 (Reuters) - Interpol and 20 national police forces launched history's biggest disaster victim identification system on Tuesday to unravel the mesh of forensic data from the bodies of more than 5,000 tsunami dead in Thailand.

“This is like a world first,” said Jeff Emery, an Australian police forensic expert in charge of a team of about 60 detectives, doctors and pathologists from 20 countries.

“It is using the world's best and latest technology.”

The centre, in the offices of a telecoms company on the tsunami-hit island of Phuket, will act as a giant database, cross-referencing dental records, fingerprints and DNA from corpses in Thailand against similar data from countries where people are listed as missing.

The painstaking process, which will involve close cooperation with police, dentists and victims' families in Thailand and dozens of overseas countries, is likely to take many months to complete, but is already starting to bear fruit.

“It's hard to put a time on it, but it wouldn't be unreasonable to expect that this will go longer than six months,” Emery said.

“However, we are very hopeful of some success shortly.

We have some positive reports.” The Interior Ministry said relatives of Thai victims should give DNA sam-



Thai soldiers distribute food to homeless children before classes begin at Ban Nam Khem school in Takuapa, about 130 km (81 miles) north of the Thai resort island of Phuket, Jan. 11. The local school has resumed classes after the December 26 tsunami battered the coastal town. REUTERS

ples through provincial hospitals and foreigners through their embassies for tests which would take about two weeks.

A total of 5,309 people are registered as dead in Thailand from the Dec. 26 disaster.

A further 3,370 are listed as missing and the government says it presumes they are among the 3,700 bodies still to be identified.

Roughly half the bodies identified so far have been foreign tourists, most of them from northern Europe.

The centre will give equal weight to

processing data from Thai and foreign victims, Australian police officer Carl Kent said, countering criticism that international forensic teams were only interested in identifying foreigners.

“All examinations will be conducted without discrimination as regards to ethnicity or race,” Kent told reporters.

Teeth, fingerprints, dna

Interpol has only three official ways of identifying a body — dental records, fingerprints or DNA samples — although they hope that in many cases dental records, the easiest and quickest to obtain, will prove sufficient.

Even though it had only been up and running for a matter of hours, the centre had already received around 1,000 dental records from overseas.

“If the dental people can make a positive ID, there's no need to go any further.

Doing the fingerprint checks would just be a duplication of effort,” said Interpol fingerprint specialist Mark Branchflower.

For fingerprint data, the centre relies on prints taken from home countries — either criminal records, or national I.D. cards, in the case of countries such as Hong Kong or France, or actual fingerprints lifted from a missing person's home.

“The sort of thing we are looking for is a glass of water that somebody had the night before they went on holiday, which they left beside their bed,” Branchflower said.

If the fingerprints do not yield a cast-iron identification, the forensic detectives will then resort to genetic DNA fingerprints from corpses and relatives of the missing.

Thai Interior Minister Bhokin Bhalakula said the number of unidentified bodies was close to the number of reported missing, suggesting most of the bodies had now been recovered.

“It is very likely that most missing people are among the unidentified bodies,” Bhokin told reporters.

“What we need to do now is to get families to send their DNA samples to match those of the corpses.”

## Myanmar troops clash with rebels despite ceasefire

MAE SOT, Thailand, Jan 11 (Reuters) - Myanmar's largest rebel group, the Karen National Union, said on Tuesday that 300 Myanmar troops raided its stronghold along the Thai-Myanmar border, sparking the first clashes since their ceasefire 13 months ago.

KNU officials said Myanmar soldiers started bombarding their base about 20 km (12 miles) from the Thai border town of Umpang, on Tuesday.

The bodies of five Myanmar soldier were found after the fighting subsided and seven surrendered to the Karen troops, rebel officials said without giving details of their own casualties.

The KNU, which has been fighting for autonomy for the Karen people

since 1949, a year after what was then called Burma became independent of Britain, agreed to stop fighting in December 2003 but never signed a ceasefire deal.

The deal was brokered by then Myanmar Prime Minister Khin Nyunt, who was purged last October, prompting several of Myanmar's rebel groups to fear for the ceasefires agreed with him.

“We are sorry the ceasefire has been broken by Burmese soldiers who never keep their promises,” KNU Colonel Nerda Mya, a son of KNU leader Bo Mya, told Reuters by telephone.

“It was a pity that Khin Nyunt was sacked and his replacement, Soe Win, is the destroyer of peace,” he said.



Myanmar's Karen ethnic villagers at the Thai-Myanmar border flee their homes after Myanmar troops raided a stronghold of its largest rebel group, Karen National Union, Jan. 11, sparking the first clashes since their ceasefire 13 months ago. The bodies of five Myanmar soldiers were found after the fighting subsided and seven surrendered to the Karen troops, rebel officials said without giving details of their own casualties. REUTERS

# Purged China party chief Zhao in hospital

BEIJING, Jan 11 (Reuters) - Zhao Ziyang, toppled as China's Communist Party chief for opposing the army crackdown on the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy demonstrations, is in hospital, the government and sources close to the family said on Tuesday.

Zhao, 85, has been confined to his courtyard home in Beijing for more than 15 years, but current leaders remain nervous about the residual influence of modern China's icon of reform, fearing his death could spark widespread protests.

The government dismissed Hong Kong newspaper reports that Zhao had died of respiratory and heart failure in Beijing on Saturday and that the Chinese government had

withheld the news for fear of social unrest.

“Zhao Ziyang is an old man who is over 80. He fell ill, but after attentive treatment, his condition is currently stable,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told reporters.

“Overseas media reports that Zhao Ziyang died on Jan. 8 are totally untrue.”

One source who spoke on condition of anonymity also said Zhao was in hospital.

“His condition is not good,” he said.

Zhao had lung problems, which required him to use an oxygen mask, the source said.

Zhao was in hospital for three

weeks in February 2004 with pneumonia.

A second source who has had extensive meetings with Zhao on a regular basis also denied the Hong Kong newspaper reports.

“His health is not very good and he is in hospital, but he is not dead,” the source said.

China's cabinet spokesman declined immediate comment. Zhao's family could not be reached.

In 2003, Japanese media reported Zhao had died, but the Chinese cabinet spokesman denied it weeks later.

It was seen as a trial balloon floated by the authorities to see how society would react to his death.

The Chinese leadership fears

Zhao's death could serve as a rallying point for reformists, workers disgruntled at soaring unemployment and farmers disillusioned with the widening gap between rich and poor.

The death in January 1976 of populist premier Zhou Enlai led to an outpouring of grief and protests on Tiananmen Square. The passing of purged reform-minded party chief Hu Yaobang in April 1989 triggered the demonstrations that year that culminated in the army massacre.

Zhao was last seen in public on May 19, 1989, when he tearfully begged student protesters to leave Tiananmen Square, where the protest was centred.



Purged Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang poses in his home in Beijing. This file photo taken 2002. REUTERS

Beijing declared martial law the next day and the army crushed the movement on June 3-4.

Accused of trying to split the Communist Party, Zhao was summarily sacked as party general secretary and replaced by Jiang Zemin.

Jiang himself retired in 2002. Analysts said Zhao stood virtually no chance of staging a political comeback and lacked the power to influence the day-to-day world of Chinese politics.

But some top leaders who were involved in, or who benefited from, the crackdown are still influential and see Zhao as a security threat or as a political ghost haunting them, analysts.

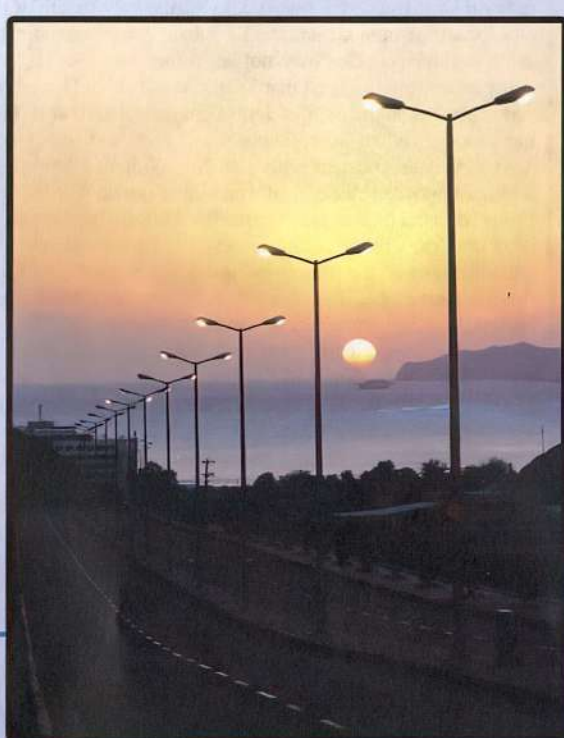


# شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة عدن

National Cigarettes & Matches Industry Ltd Aden

## Calendar

## 2005



## فخر الصناعة اليمنية

**Abril 2005 أبريل**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
1						
8	7	6	5	4	3	2
15	14	13	12	11	10	9
22	21	20	19	18	17	16
29	28	27	26	25	24	23
						30

**March 2005 مارس**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
4	3	2	1			
11	10	9	8	7	6	5
18	17	16	15	14	13	12
25	24	23	22	21	20	19
	31	30	29	28	27	26

**February 2005 فبراير**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
4	3	2	1			
11	10	9	8	7	6	5
18	17	16	15	14	13	12
25	24	23	22	21	20	19
				28	27	26

**January 2005 يناير**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
14	13	12	11	10	9	8
21	20	19	18	17	16	15
28	27	26	25	24	23	22
				31	30	29

**August 2005 أغسطس**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
5	4	3	2	1		
12	11	10	9	8	7	6
19	18	17	16	15	14	13
26	25	24	23	22	21	20
		31	30	29	28	27

**July 2005 يوليو**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
1						
8	7	6	5	4	3	2
15	14	13	12	11	10	9
22	21	20	19	18	17	16
29	28	27	26	25	24	23
					31	30

**June 2005 يونيو**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
3	2	1				
10	9	8	7	6	5	4
17	16	15	14	13	12	11
24	23	22	21	20	19	18
	30	29	28	27	26	25

**May 2005 مايو**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
6	5	4	3	2		
13	12	11	10	9	8	7
20	19	18	17	16	15	14
27	26	25	24	23	22	21
			31	30	29	28

**December 2005 ديسمبر**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
2	1					
9	8	7	6	5	4	3
16	15	14	13	12	11	10
23	22	21	20	19	18	17
30	29	28	27	26	25	24
						31

**November 2005 نوفمبر**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
4	3	2	1			
11	10	9	8	7	6	5
18	17	16	15	14	13	12
25	24	23	22	21	20	19
		30	29	28	27	26

**October 2005 اكتوبر**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
7	6	5	4	3	2	1
14	13	12	11	10	9	8
21	20	19	18	17	16	15
28	27	26	25	24	23	22
				31	30	29

**September 2005 سبتمبر**

الجمعة	الخميس	الاربعاء	الثلاثاء	الاثنين	الاحد	السبت
2	1					
9	8	7	6	5	4	3
16	15	14	13	12	11	10
23	22	21	20	19	18	17
30	29	28	27	26	25	24







# Yemeni Press,

# A week in review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

## Main Headlines

- Yemeni press, 120 cases of violations against it last year, the worst in press history
- Initiative of the Middle East for Partnership increases its support for civil society
- Politics "doses" leaned on the new world order system
- Large-scale resentment for not considering journalist al-Khaiwani case
- Formation of a Yemeni-Saudi committee to encounter children smuggling
- American Anti-Semitism report condemns Arab governments and media
- Washington studies handing over of 292 of Guantanamo detainees to their countries
- Diplomatic source: Our country takes part in a ceremony of the final signing of the Sudanese Peace Accord
- Presidential directives for establishment a committee for raising donations for victims of Asia quake
- Accompanied by high-ranking delegation and businesspersons, German Chancellor to visit Sana'a in March
- 580 Italian tourists in Sana'a
- Under formation in Yemen; security apparatus for fighting terror
- Cabinet studies drawing up strategy for tackling unemployment
- Arab foreign ministers to discuss reforms of joint Arab action
- Yemen to host meeting of Arab Fish Wealth Ministers in February
- Among them Yemen, America plans to establish new "Guantanamo" in Arab and Islamic countries
- Prepared by American Organization for World Press
- Report accuses Yemen of refusing to take strict measures against al-Qaeda
- Yemeni fighters; major topic in the president's talks with Abi Zaid



Annas weekly, 10 January 2005



### Main headlines

- In a press conference, PM Bajammal says, The region needs charismatic personality of Ali Abdullah Saleh
- Court of Appeals adjourns considering the case of al-Khaiwani
- Head of Freedoms Committee at Shoura Council Mohammed al-Taib: International community watches situation of freedoms in the region
- Interior minister al-A'leemi: Democracy dries springs of extremism
- Sana'a University students denounce narrowing their freedom

Columnist Dr Hosni al-Jawshaie says in an article the call for democratic reform launched by President George Bush has greatly decreased in intensity after he has become sure or being convinced by some of the Arab leaders that his call would carry some radical trends to power, what is meant here the Islamic current. Those currents would not accept to coexist with the state of Israel. The American president has thus preferred to continue dealing with corrupt and dictatorial regimes. These regimes would implement all that he wants and wanted by Israel. This situation is preferred more than national democratic regimes that would disturb his policy and refuse dealing and coexisting with Israel.

What has happened is entirely opposite to what Bush had announced about an ambitious plan for making the Middle East a paradise of democracy and even that America has covered scandals of corruption of many of those regimes in the region.

As for corruption of some Arab governments, it has become a program always followed and protected inside and outside those countries. Inside it is protected with legislatures protecting that corruption and they are approved by parliaments in those countries.

Al-Shumou weekly, 8 January 2005



### Main headlines

- GPC, Islah and YSP ruin unifying of education unions
- Pharmacists union chairman: Ministry of health has frozen talents
- After the scandal of Abu Ghraib prison, Iraqi prisoners abused
- Documents disclose manipulation in water projects in Mareb

The newspaper's political editor says

in an article Yemeni universities are living a state of backwardness and reproduce illiteracy and thus greatly contribute to impeding development. All that because they have turned from forums of science, education and studies and research, into merely places for leisure timed and sterile political conflicts between political parties. The universities students rendered to just followers of this or that group of professors and without apparent goal. This situation emphasises a state of illiteracy spread among circles of universities caused by failing education.



Al-Sahwa weekly, 6 January 2005

### Main headlines

- Islah bloc walks out from the parliament session passing on the dose
- Amidst large-scale warnings against its impact, GPC majority approves the dose
- JMP, Independent blocs reveal the government rigging of budget figures
- Yemeni sociologists warn against consequences of the government economic policies
- Parliament amends elections law

Columnist Rajih Badi says in an article that he follows up syllabus of the government justifications of the new price dose realises that the officials in our country are still addressing the citizen who is living in the twenty-one century in the language used in the fifties of the last century. They still think that he is still that naive person who believes every word said on the radio or written in a newspaper.

It seems that our officials have not yet realised that the ordinary Yemeni citizen has become able of analyzing the news and what is behind it. What is astonishing is the government's insistence on syllabus of this kind of address, which affirms that the reason behind raising prices of oil products is the large-scale process of smuggling those products to neighbourly countries and that to undermine that process, prices of those products should be raised instead of subjugating smugglers to accountability.

The officials statements on cheap prices of diesel in Yemen and its smuggling makes those who do not know about our country think that Sana'a has become a capital of world smuggling operations.



Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP 6 January 2005

### Main headlines

- "Ruling corruption" sanctions the deadly dose, opposition declares its refusal

- Sentences on imprisonment of journalists
- University professor discloses bad conditions of Hadramout University administration
- Committee on unifying educational unionist work calls for a meeting on February 5

Columnist Abdeh Farie Nouman writes an article discussing the census saying the population of Yemen in all its cities and villages have received the census operation with welcome and expectation of good and change of conditions. They considered it an important turning point forming a new and positive achievement on the road of improving their living. They have taken it as a way through which they would move to safety and security, which a condition that guarantees the process of investment and development for the growth of the national economy and realisation of self-sufficiency.

What is disappointing during the process of census is that the questions in census forms focused on knowing houses supplies such as washing machines, refrigerators, gas cookers and kitchen utensils...etc. all those questions have nothing to do with the essential issues or the goals of census. We hoped that ques-

tions of the census were to concentrate on what aimed at improvement of conditions and living of the people and developing the national economy through knowing the number of family members or those who had slept in the house at that night. Questions should have focused also on the number of those studying at various stages of schooling, the graduates, the unemployed and others such questions. They should have asked the people about their ideas about the standard of living and high prices of foodstuffs and their subjugation to health monitoring. With such like questionnaires we would help ourselves in laying the first bricks for scientific planning for the development our country and society.

Al-Wahda weekly, 5 January 2005.



### Main headlines

- Civil service minister: implementation of the first stage of wages strategy
- 871 persons, victims of suicide in Yemen in two years
- Yemen to announce results of official study on the phenomenon of children smuggling
- Project for development of Aden airport
- Training of female journalists on designing electronic websites
- Amending the pecuniary law and that of carrying weapons

Columnist Yahya Tahir al-Hakeem writes saying again the discussion and argument is aroused on reform and its necessity for encountering failures in the economic situation and the financial, monetary and administrative policies. Reviewing the programs of reform submitted by the government regarding lifting subsidy on oil products and the necessity of approving it so that to avoid continuation of the disaster of maintaining burdens of subsidy on the budget and the opinion of the opposition, the reforms should be comprehensive. They have to include all fields of life, especially the economic field. The wanted thing is not to confine reforms to one aspect and leave others without any reform.

The opponents to price rise argue that what is the benefit of lifting the subsidy on oil products and the consequences of rise in prices and continuation in deterioration of the standard of living of the citizens and not reforming the big gap

between prices and the level of the citizens' incomes and also the smuggling and evasiveness from taxes that results in depriving the government of billions of riyals? Those billions could be used in meeting needs of development, and social, health and educational services and others. He who reviews all that would be certain that the process of reform is the demand of all and could not be achieved successfully without its being comprehensive and implemented by a strong political will and without any selectivity or hesitation. Thus, the state apparatuses could be able to design plans and programs for the establishment of real development projects.

The process of reform is an indivisible one and continuation of the policies of price reforms alone would be unavailing policies. Example of this is the lifting of subsidy on consumer goods like wheat and flour taken some years ago without the citizen feeling tangibly any fruits from them. Nowadays the work is going on for effecting price reforms by lifting subsidy on oil products as if the government has no other alternative but price options. It is as if the government does not have the courage for introducing real reforms in administration, finance and economy. The state responsibility is not confined to reforming one aspect and leaving others.

## للتبرع لمنكوبي التسونامي

أزروا إخوانكم في جنوب شرق آسيا المنكوبين بفعل التسونامي وتبرعوا لهم بالعون نقداً على أرقام الحسابات التالية:

- ١- البنك المركزي اليمني - رقم حساب ١٩٥٩٩
  - ٢- البنك اليمني للإنشاء والتعمير - رقم حساب ٦٦٦
  - ٣- البنك الأهلي اليمني - رقم حساب ٦٠٠
  - ٤- بنك التسليف التعاوني الزراعي - رقم حساب ٧٠٠٠
- أو التبرع عينياً بتوصيل التبرعات إلى المؤسسة الاقتصادية اليمنية بجمع فروعها في الجمهورية. كما يمكن التبرع على الإنترنت على موقع الإغاثة الإسلامية على العنوان:

<https://www.islamic-relief.com/submenu/Help/signin.asp>

## An Appeal for Aid

This is a call to all kind-hearted people in Yemen to assist East Asian Tsunami victims who are in dire need for your helping hand at this critical time.

To donate money, please deposit any donations to one of the following accounts:

- 1- Central Bank of Yemen - account no (19599)
- 2- Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development - account no. (666)
- 3- National Bank of Yemen - account no. (600)
- 4- Cooperative and Agricultural Credit Bank - account no. (7000)

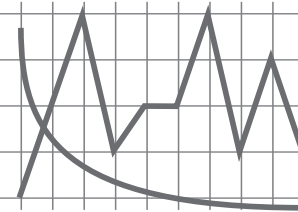
Furthermore, donations in kind (clothes, etc.) can be presented directly to any of the Yemeni Economic Establishment offices throughout the country.

If you would like to donate online, you can go to the Islamic Relief Website: <https://www.islamic-relief.com/submenu/Help/signin.asp> or you can select to donate through any of the international organizations whose links can be found at:

[http://www.google.com/tsunami\\_relief.html](http://www.google.com/tsunami_relief.html)



## YT Business



**Bajammal: Price increase won't exceed 7%**

# Yemen's debt at \$5.5 billion

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni cabinet has set up a ministerial committee to determine strategic projects in the minerals, gas, fertilizers, industry, and transport sectors. The committee will give special attention to planning coastal, mountainous, and desert highways to provide employment and alleviate some of the negative impacts expected from the economic reform package.

Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal says that the scheduled price increases will not exceed seven per cent, and maintains that the price restructuring will also bring a reduction of customs rates to five per cent, reducing smuggling and corruption, saying that "[the] economy is not sentiment but figures, hard figures."

The Prime Minister says that Yemen



Bajammal

has scored economic, administrative and political victory while setting an example to the world by settling a debt of around \$10 billion, \$7.2 billion of which was to the former Soviet Union, and about \$3 billion to Europe, Japan and the International Monetary Fund. He says that Yemen's debt has been reduced to \$3 billion, which is a "spectacular" achievement, and that the country's total debt with interest is no more than \$5.5 billion.

To further enhance the reform process, the government has adopted a project to modernize and develop the commercial courts in Sana'a, and the governorates of Aden, Hadramout, Taiz, and Hudeida. The project, which is part of the general plan for reforming the commercial judiciary, aims to upgrade performance levels in various legislative, judicial, technical and auditory areas. The Council of Ministers has also

formed two other committees, one for supervising and the other to implement a project to develop statistics on external trade and Yemen's preparation to enter the world trade system.

## Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	186.3600	186.6500
Sterling Pound	349.1500	349.7000
Euro	244.0900	244.4600
Saudi Rial	49.7000	49.7700
Kuwaiti Dinar	637.2200	638.2100
UAE Dirhem	50.7400	50.8200
Egyptian Pound	31.4000	31.4500
Bahraini Dinar	494.3200	495.0900
Qatari Rial	51.2000	51.2800
Jordanian Dinar	262.8200	263.2300
Omani Rial	484.0800	484.8300
Swiss Franc	157.8500	158.0900
Swedish Crown	26.9600	27.0000
Japanese Yen	1.7822	1.7849

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

## Economic balance

# Yemen can't depend on oil: study

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A recent economic study has warned against dangers of the government's dependence on oil, and only oil, for its economy.

The study, which discussed reasons why Yemen has virtually no non-oil exports in Yemen, warns Yemen's economy is vulnerable due to fluctuation in oil prices, and how that reflects on the country's share of foreign currency, its trade balance, and its general economic relationship with the outside world.

The study noted that oil exports reached an export proportion of 66.8 per cent in 2000, while they registered 90.4 per cent in 2004.

Trade sources believe that these rates of non-oil commodities in the period 1998-2004 as dangerous indicators, as they reflect not only weakness of non-oil exports, but structural failures in external trade and in construction of Yemen's economy.

The study noted that agriculture production last year reached 2 per cent of the total sectors of exportation, besides the fish wealth production sector, which, despite being a promising sector, is still low in aspects of volume.

Also, the proportion of the private sector exports to its imports, as compared to what is happening in the public sector of oil and its products, is considered very little. This situation does not reflect any progress in production levels of the private sector.

The study has also found for the year 2003, the more important countries representing partners of exportation for Yemeni oil are China, Thailand, India, South Korea and Singapore. The study found that oil exports of those countries reached at 99.1% of total exports.

Promising markets for non-oil exports are Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Emirates, Egypt, Jordan Djibouti and countries of Horn of Africa.

The study has called on the Yemeni government to replace more imports with local goods and revising the country's policy regarding the strategic structure for development of local exports.

Economists see that maintaining the program of economic, financial and administrative reforms and restructuring as a partial solution. There are other alternatives. More important are boosting investments in mineral wealth, diversity of sources of national income and pushing forward the process of comprehensive economic and social development.

The council of ministers recently had in its periodic meeting to give directives to ministries of industry and trade, the fish wealth, oil and minerals, culture and tourism and agriculture and irrigation.

The question is, will the concerned ministries, especially oil and mineral and trade and industry, include in their programs the successful methods for the investment of mineral wealth which Yemen possesses such an abundance of?

# Wages strategy & financial reforms

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government has affirmed that the elements of reform are interrelated and for that, it has drawn up a national strategy for salaries and wages. The strategy is part of its quest to establish a genuine structure for minimum wages that would be around YR 12500.

Hence, the higher segment of employees would in the first phase receive 40-50 thousand riyals wages and at the second stage the amount rises from 14500 riyals to 70 thousands and then at the third stage the wages would go up from 16500 to 80 thousands.

## Reforms in civil service

The minister of civil service and securities Hamoud Khalid al-Soufi has explained that the administrative reforms in Yemen are progressing according to a clear-cut and defined program, adding that his ministry has implemented a number of surveys to assess the system of administration. The surveys revealed the

existence of big administrative failures and shortcomings with which the government has begun dealing with the aim of building a modern system for administration and government machinery capable of actively carrying out its functions.

Minister al-Soufi said the ministry had introduced the electronic system for employment on all sectors of the state in order to put an end to phantom employees and others having more than one job. That situation has formed an impediment for pensioning some employees that would result in providing the government machinery with specialized and well-qualified cadres and the creation of job opportunities for graduates of technical and vocational education. Mr al-Soufi has also clarified that his ministry has finalized a study on simplifying government services offered to the public and the private sector. The study defines those services in terms of their type, ways of assessing them and a directory containing them.

Mr al-Soufi also has disclosed that measures of the ministry of civil service have resulted in pensioning more than 34

thousand employees, procuring for the state budget an amount exceeding 22 billion riyals a year. Replacing non-Yemeni labour by Yemenis of 7286 persons has also secured an annual surplus of more than three billion riyals. The minister also said that elimination of 10242 double-job persons has produced an annual surplus exceeding two billion riyals, pointing out that application of mechanized settlements has enabled the ministry to solve situations of about one thousand employees, while the ministry's capability in this regard was modest and not exceeding 1500 settlement cases in a year and securing one billion riyals. He has further made it clear that activation of civil service fund and accomplishing legislations and regulations pertaining to it resulted in sending 15431 employees to the civil service fund and at present their status is under settlement in accordance to the law. A main center for information and branch centers for it in governorates has also been established. Mr al-Soufi mentioned that the ministry's plan in the year 2005 includes the finishing and application of the system of employment card and it has almost finished the designing works of the card that aims at giving employment national number to employees in the public and mixed sectors as well as building a database for the unified computer. He pointed out that the ministry of civil service had finished the national strategy of salaries and wages and that it was submitted to the council of ministers to be referred soon to parliament to complete its constitutional procedures.

## Reforms of financial system

Regarding the second part of reforms connected to financial system and mainly the customs the government is seeking to achieve three things. The first is the capability of building a commercial and customs system with neighboring countries because both sides' products would influx between them. The second is related to conditions and requirements for Yemen's joining of the World Trade Organisation while the third thing is the protection of national industry.

The Yemeni government confirms that results of financial reforms would be needed in the industrial zones planned to be built in Hudeidah, Aden, and Mukalla. Those would need protection of their products so that there would be great demand for investment in them and consequently expansion of the work base and absorption of part of labour.

With regard to taxes, the government is studying the sales tax and a group of other taxes. However, the most important of all that is cohesion of the taxation system because, according to the prime minister opinion, the existing taxation system is presently not cohesive. Beside that, the government stresses the significance of linking comprehensive reforms towards development of the experiment of the local authority and enhancement of financial and administrative decentralization. The local council represents the cornerstone in the economic and social progress and building the state. It also represents a big political and human dimension of the question of the state administration and the people role and participation in it.

# Animal wealth grows by 7.6%, environment sustained

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

An official report recently mentioned that the animal wealth, veterinary campaigns and other activities offered by the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation between 2002-2004 helped the animal wealth to increase by 7.6%.

In this respect, the Yemeni Government approved the provision of technical and financial aids to implement the process of field surveys, diagnoses and laboratory tests and enhancing quarantine.

The government is interested in the establishment of grass farms, encouraging investment and providing investors with some lands to be able to pursue his career.

Enhancing the training activities for families in the rural areas and improving both the quality and quantity of

dairies are given adequate priority.

The government also approved the establishment of centers for the Central Veterinary Laboratories in Sana'a as well as units for the epidemic surveillance in all the Yemeni governorates, in addition to the buildings for quarantine in the official outlets in Mukalla, Hawf and Haradh.

The government agreed upon the project of the national strategy and the executive plan for the biological diversity all over the Republic of Yemen. The strategy aims at providing a sustainable and proper management for the natural resources through maintaining the inherited resources, environmental regulations and the diverse animal and botanical wealth in the coastal and mountainous areas.

The strategy included the provision of protection for rare animal and botanical species.

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# Central Bank of Yemen celebrates the new financial year

By FAHMIA AL-FOTIH  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

A training year for the Central Bank of Yemen and the Banking Studies Institute was celebrated on 8 Jan. in the headquarters of the Central Bank of Yemen.

The head of the Banks Association, heads of different banks and insurance companies along with the deputy of the Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen and the agents of the bank branches attended the celebration.

The new training plan for 2005 was also demonstrated which focused on the training in field of fighting infla-

tion, terrorism funding, and the investing funds as well as electronic bank operations and international accounting standards.

Ali Humaid, the public relations manager at the Central Bank of Yemen, in statement to Yemen Times "we aim to assess the rehabilitating training activity for the employees of the banking sector in Yemen from 1997 through 2004. The programs through the previous years were intensive and the trainees in 1997 were few, not more than 100 cadre. Now the number of trained employees is in the hundreds. They have benefited much from the workshops and trainings programs. So that's why we celebrated today."



Story

# The boots

BY MOHAMMED BAWAZEER  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

As soon as I walked into the house at six o'clock, coming from work, my wife rushed to me and said with an apparent anxiety as if disclosing a top confidential secret:

'Don't you know! The flat upstairs, I mean the flat we are under, I mean the one above us was taken yesterday by a soldier in the army'. Quietly she waited to see my reaction to this news, but I showed no concern. For a long time now I had not been giving any attention to anything that happened around me; my work was the only thing that I had time for. I had no time even for reading, my favourite hobby. My quiet and indifferent response seemed to annoy her.

'You are becoming boring these days, isn't there anything that can excite you at all?' she said.

'A new tenant! Do you think this is an exciting thing?' I replied uninterestedly.

'But this tenant is a soldier in the army. They say the army soldiers tend to be tough and violent.'

'In their work of course,' I commented. 'They must be like that.'

Appearing disappointed, she said, 'Haven't you ever seen how fast they drive their cars on the main roads?'

'I don't believe he will drive his car in the flat' I said with a smile.

'Terrible! I never saw you as boring as this before' she murmured.

I did not answer her but went to have a shower. I changed my clothes and left. In the street I felt calm again as if I had got out of a prison. It is weird, I thought, to find peace of mind in the street and not at home. I wandered aimlessly in the streets until I realised it was very dark. From a distance I noticed the street lights were struggling unsuccessfully to push the darkness away, but were able only to stay lit.

I recalled my wife's conversation: 'Soldier, army, tough, violent'. Mixed with the darkness these words became a nightmare that haunted me until I reached the door of the building. At that point, I discovered that the prison was inside me. I entered the flat. "A new atomic explosion" I heard the radio saying repeatedly; I switched it off and looked at the TV; I saw images of the famine in India; I turned my face away and walked into my bedroom. Picked up the morning paper and I was shocked by Israel's acts in the Arab occupied lands. I flung the paper away, pushed my head beneath the pillow and recited from the Qur'an the verse of the Throne for the tranquility it is known to bring. I felt calmed and went to sleep.

I did not know how long I slept before I was awoken terrified by violent and heavy footsteps on the stairs. Bang! Bang! I looked around in fear. I heard my wife whispering in my ear:

'He is going up the stairs'

'Who is he?' I asked irrefully.

'The soldier' she answered tersely.

'Who told you that?'

'Do you think I was asleep,' she retorted. "I was watching him through that window right in front of you until I saw him entering the block."

'What is the time now?' I queried.

'One o'clock after midnight' she answered.

'What are these bangs on the stairs?'

As one in the know, she said confidently,

'His boots! He was wearing a huge pair of boots I never saw anything like them before.'

I threw myself again on the bed while the noise got louder and louder, and I felt as if they were bouncing down on my head. My wife drew closer to me and said,

'I have warned you before, what are we going to do now?'

'Sleep' I answered with irritation.

'In the morning we will see what we can do,' I added.

'The same as ever. You put things on ice and never act,' she complained.

Furious, she turned her face away and went to bed. For a moment, I sat quietly lost in thought when I heard a violent bang of a heavy thing being dropped on the floor of the room above us; the noise was so frightening that we both sprang up from the bed holding each other's hands in panic.

'What the hell is that?' I exclaimed in awe. 'It sounds like a wall has fallen on the floor of the room upstairs ...'

I hardly finished my sentence when we heard another explosive blow.

Like a real know-all, she replied, 'I know now!'

'Know what?' I asked curiously.

'This is what they usually do.'

'Excuse me! are you hallucinating?'

As if speaking to herself, she went on: 'You haven't seen them. I have. Each boot weighs more than three kilos.'

Running out of patience I said: 'What are you talking about? Make yourself clear!'

'I'm talking about his pair of boots' She replied. 'But if he throws them hard on the floor they will weigh double their actual weight.'

'Go up and see him now' she demanded.

'No rush. Tomorrow we will work something out' I said.

'I know what you will do tomorrow.' My wife complained. "You will put it off for a long while before you speak to him."

'Just try to believe they were strikes of a clock on the ceiling' I said jokingly.

And we slept.

Since that night and for a whole week, the boots kept hammering above our heads every night so that it became a habit for us not to go to bed before the soldier entered his room and threw his boots over our heads, one after another. Only then we could sleep - in peace.

During that week I tried every day to speak to the soldier, but was always distracted by other things. One morning I ran into our neighbor Al-Haj Jum'ah. We chatted for a while before we brought up the issue of the soldier's boots. 'Don't worry, son' He assured me, 'I'll look into this problem and will tell him to stop his Rambo-like behavior in the late hours of the night and will teach him how to make his way up the stairs quietly.' After a short pause he continued, "Hope you will see the result from tonight".

At home, my wife was very happy when I broke the news to her about the deal. 'We'll see tonight.' She commented. 'I'll take it upon myself to watch him and see how he will go up the stairs to ensure he abides by the deal.'

I smiled at her formal tone and said, 'Do you know what job I would nominate you for?'

'No!'

'Observer of the International Emergency Forces.'

'You never change. Big mouth at home but chicken outside.' She said.

'You may be right' I agreed.

The night came and the time for the soldier to return home was due. Behind the window curtains, my wife stood waiting watchfully for the soldier exactly like a vigilant guard. From a move of her hand I understood that he arrived. We both listened attentively. Three minutes passed; five minutes; twenty minutes passed and we heard nothing but a heavy silence. Undoubtedly Al-Haj Jum'ah had succeeded in his mission, we hoped. My wife drew nearer and embraced me with open arms. 'The cease-fire has been declared' she said with the tone of a soldier in the battlefield.

We both laughed and went to bed.

Another week had passed since that 'cease-fire' and we both forgot the soldier's boots, and this what we, Arabs, always do - forget.

But one night, while we were fast asleep, we were awoken terrified by the noise of one of these boots crushing down on the floor above us. Too scared to go through the horror of hearing the noise of the second shoe, my wife collapsed on the bed thrusting her fingers into her both ears. For me I bent my head down and waited helplessly for the second boot to crash on it.

# The perfumed gardens

IRENA KNEHTL  
iren\_knehtl@maktoob.com  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

There was and there was... There was basil and there were lilies which grew everywhere. You who tend the lilies, do you know how many leaves does it hold? You who studied the book of God, tell me how many stars are in the sky!

How many fish in the water. And dots in the Quran.?

**Place of scent**  
The Arabian Peninsula is an area with strong flavors, and smells too intense, and contrasts much too extreme, stretching from the desert lowlands, mountain tops wrapped in thick clouds, wilderness, to the cities and villages of Yemen, and the shores of the Red and Arab seas, turning over to the Indian Ocean. With secrets in it, and the sky beyond. It is here that the scent is the strongest. Scent, so it is being said, also clears the darkness of vision.

This is also an area with rich commercial and cultural links. It was them who have illuminated this earth with knowledge. And its book patiently coped and circulated among the learned men from China and the West.

Since the time immemorial extensive trade links were maintained with China, India, the Spice Islands, the Banadiri coast, Zanzibar, Kilwa, Lamu, the Comoros, Sofala, Maldives, Samarkand, and the West. The highway brought knowledge, the mountains provided protection and liberty. But it was not until last century, that Arabia and the West resumed a commercial intercourse, only this time the commodity was oil.

**Scent of place**  
**Spring:** Colors are intruding from everywhere, colors from the Tihama, colors from the Red and Arab sea, colors from the outskirts of the desert Al-Rub Al-Khali. The mountains were now on the move, like waves in the sea, and danced, covered with green and gold, gold and green. Apricots spread out their branches and dropped so many blossoms.

By March, the geometric terraces turn into hanging gardens in a million shades of green. In April blossom all other trees. By the grace of God, the sky opens - most years - and the land gives off that most magical scent of all, rain of dust, smell of life and death. Here each village has its own history, a village with its stories, jokes, nicknames, intrigues, conflicts, reconciliation, nights of singing and poetry. A village for which all lands are far away, even the land one comes from. Breads that are made from blend of wheat and barley flour milled grain, grown on Yemeni terraces, were full of flavor, soft and bumpy irregulars. From where wheat, barley, millet, raisins reach the suqs of Sanaa. Where I come from, there too people have faces in the shape of their mountains. And those mountains I loved, it meant being free.

**Beauty of scent**  
But smells like music hold memories. Outside Sanaa, the Wadi Dahr valley has shrunk and I gave grown. It had tress along it. And a murmur of approval rose from the crowd. I felt that this city was mine, it gave me a great sense of well-being. Their voice, and their tone were so reassuring that it made me more attached to its fate. The rain fell upon my way that year for a third time, a slight breeze obliged, and shades of oblivion awaited me.

Sanaa, today after renaissance has a

different face, modern and prosperous with the Old City raped into sand colored wall, where north wind scatters flowers every spring. Sanaa which is enveloped by scent of orchards and blossom, adorned with carved arabesques and verses of Quran. Its roses blossom in a thousand varieties. Where poets themselves were far more numerous and innovative, both in style and content. I entered the gate and the roses told me I could pass. Houses of Sanaa applauded from the lofty windows. It houses that

uttered a sight. Will be sun tomorrow less bright? Sanaa was still the place for dreams.

**Strength of scent**  
Many years ago, when I came to Yemen, I did not understand the strong link between the brown mountains and the blue sea. It seemed, only the sky had a blue depth. And here were mountains which turned dark after the sunset. Time that had two faces, the length in the rhythm of the sun, and the depth in the

chiseled by shadow of the earth brown wall and dense orchards and sparking brooks. From the very beginning we shared the same enthusiasm for the common journey, the same taste for food and music, our eyes had the same taste for beauty. As we moved higher, they would frequently put raisins, almond and nuts into my palm. One, two, three... They talked about love as they would know all about it. We flew through clouds, walked on the Red and Arab Sea, wore an exhausted smile. Memories that are now hidden under the carpet of memories.

**Harvest of scent**  
Incense, fragrant resins, spices, herbs and perfumed wood were the items the Arabs traded in long before petroleum. Yemen as the center of this trade prospered, and its history is subject to tales. Sanaa assumed significance, since the early days and trade and commerce played an important role since earliest times. Further testimony is the suq of Sanaa. Walking into the suq for the first times takes you back in time. Winding pathways greet you as do the fragrance of incense and spices, sizzling food, and lively chatter and bright-lit sops. Here old and the new mingle, and the present revisits the past. It has retained much of its old-world charm. Everything from the purest silk to the cottons, to copper

store honey in jars.

**Scent of beauty**  
Sweet scented jasmine blossoms lingered in the air. A soft wind blew from the mountains through the orchards in flowers. A longing for the past, for its purity. Cool air of the summer night. An exhilarating rumor, a vessel, which sails through storm after storm and which sometimes wrecked, is that not what this city is? Waiting its lawyers to be uncovered veil by veil. It is people, traditions, history, proverbs, peddlers, calls, sights, smells, weddings, births, and humor. It is what people do in their houses, their material surroundings, how they spend their leisure time, their daily schedules and holidays. It is how people respond to each other, remind of beautiful moments in their houses designed for comfort, and the intimacy of narrow alleyways. These things are veiled, and they and I were on the same side of the veil. In the sky a light cloud had just obscured the crescent moon. It remained silent and then

rhythm of passion. But that was at the beginning of a long journey in space and time. Onset of a great journey. That day the wind from Sanaa carried a sharp perfumed scent of apricots. The stars were taciturn, there was no music, not a sound, no secrets. A frail crescent at the end of the month of shawwal. New stars arose, and other waned. The way was flat and stony, grain by grain. A path illuminated by the moon at right, at the distance a line of mountains.

Each new day was launched on a fresh landscape, one which reached out to grab our full attention. We were constantly at the mercy of sand storms. The smoke of frankincense, sweet and clear, sweetened our drinking water. The sea was calm and the wind mild. We saw famed cities reduced to dust. So much deceit, so many regrets, and so many things it could have been experienced differently. A burning wind outside a town, in the shade of the palm trees, which was built out of mud and clay. Brick minarets shoot up with a dome



A view of Old Sanaa the Arab culture capital 2004

A village in Haraz region



A village in Haraz region

Wadi Taa

Wadi Taa



Wadi Taa



Kohlan as seen from a mountain top

# شكر على تعازي

نتقدم بوافر الشكر وعظيم الامتنان والعرفان لكل من  
سار كنا مصابنا الجلل في وفاة والدنا:

## محمد عثمان ثابت الأديمي

سواء بالحضور الشخصي أو الاتصال الهاتفي أو البرقي  
أو عبر وسائل الاعلام المرئية والمكتوبة... مما كان له الأثر  
الطيب في تخفيف الآلام في نفوسنا.

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في عموم محافظات الجمهورية.

سائلين المولى أن يجزيهم جميعاً خير الجزاء.

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

شكيب محمد عثمان ثابت واخوانه  
وكافة آل الأديمي

# Big unit the big showcase in New York

NEW YORK (Sports Network) - The New York Yankees introduced their newest acquisition on Tuesday, as five-time Cy Young Award winner Randy Johnson officially met the media in a whirlwind day for New York City baseball.

Nearly three hours earlier, the New York Mets introduced their newest star in outfielder Carlos Beltran.

The Yankees officially finalized their trade and a two-year, \$32 million contract extension for the Big Unit, acquiring the 6-foot-10 lefthander from the Arizona Diamondbacks for pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, catcher Dioner Navarro and cash.

Johnson led the majors in strikeouts last season with 290. He went 16-14 with a 2.60 ERA and topped the NL with opponents hitting .197 against him. The downfall for the 41-year-old was playing on a team that compiled the worst record (51-111) in the majors. The Diamondbacks scored more than three runs just 13 times in his 35 starts. The highlight for Johnson was throwing a perfect game on May 18 against Atlanta. He finished second to Roger Clemens in the NL Cy Young voting.

Shortly after putting on his new No. 41 uniform of the Yankees, Johnson spoke to the media and apologized for an incident on Monday in which he got into a heated argument and shoving match with a television news cameraman.

The Diamondbacks refused to deal Johnson at the trading deadline last season — the Yankees being one of the teams in pursuit at the time — and he's due to make \$16 million in 2005, which would have been the final year of his contract.

The trade signaled the end of a six-year run in Arizona for Johnson, who won four consecutive Cy Young Awards (1999-2002).

Johnson joins a revamped Yankee rotation that includes free-agent signees Carl Pavano and Jaret Wright and holdovers Mike Mussina and Kevin Brown.

A 10-time All-Star and co-MVP of the 2001 World Series when the Diamondbacks beat the Yankees in seven



Randy Johnson reacts to a question at a press conference where he was introduced as the newest New York Yankees pitcher, after his trade from the Arizona Diamondbacks became official, January 11 at Yankee Stadium in New York. Johnson apologized for his actions where he angrily confronted a TV cameraman. Reuters

games, Johnson has compiled 4,161 strikeouts in his career, third-most all-time, behind only Clemens (4,317) and Nolan Ryan (5,714). The Big Unit holds a career mark of 246-128 with a 3.07 ERA in 489 games with Montreal, Seattle, Houston and Arizona. He last pitched in the American League in 1998 when he was with the Mariners before being dealt to the Astros at the trading deadline.

Vazquez was acquired by the Yankees prior to the 2004 season and in his first year in pinstripes he went 14-10 with a 4.91 ERA in 32 starts. It will be a return to the National League for the righthander, as the 28-year-old Vazquez pitched for Montreal the first six years of

his career. Vazquez, who was an All-Star for the first time in 2004, has a lifetime mark of 78-78 with a 4.26 ERA.

Halsey, a 23-year-old lefthander, made his debut in the majors last season, going 1-3 with a 6.47 ERA in eight games (7 starts).

The 20-year-old Navarro reached the majors last season with the Yankees and batted .429 (3-for-7) with two runs and an RBI following a split season at Double-A Trenton and Triple-A Columbus. The switch-hitting catcher began the year at Trenton and hit .271 in 70 games before earning a promotion to Columbus. In 40 games with the Yankees' Triple-A affiliate, he batted .250.



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## الفروع

مدينة تعز	شارع الزبيري
ت : ٢٥١٨٣٣ (٩٦٧-٤) ف : ٢٥١٨٣١ (٩٦٧-٤)	ت : ٢١٨٨٩١ (٩٦٧-١) ف : ٢٠٩٥٦٦ (٩٦٧-١)
مدينة إب	شارع تعز
ت : ٤٠٦٨٥٠ (٩٦٧-٤) ف : ٤٠٦٨٤٧ (٩٦٧-٤)	ت : ٦١٦٤٧١ (٩٦٧-١) ف : ٦١٨٧٥٥ (٩٦٧-١)
مدينة المكلا	مدينة عدن
ت : ٣٠٤١٧٧ (٩٦٧-٥) ف : ٣٠٣٥٢٦ (٩٦٧-٥)	ت : ٢٥٨٧٨٢ (٩٦٧-٢) ف : ٢٥٨١٨٤ (٩٦٧-٢)
مدينة ذمار	مدينة الحديدة
ت : ٥١٩٥٢٩ (٩٦٧-١) ف : ٥٠٩٥٢٦ (٩٦٧-١)	ت : ٢١٩٥٦٠ (٩٦٧-٣) ف : ٢١٩٥٧٣ (٩٦٧-٣)

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# Montoya fighting the flab with McLaren

LONDON (Reuters) - Colombian Formula One driver Juan Pablo Montoya believes McLaren are better than Williams when it comes to helping him fight the flab.

McLaren's new signing appeared at a news conference on Tuesday looking fit and in good shape after reports that team boss Ron Dennis had encouraged him to lose weight for the season starting in Australia on March 6.

The stocky 29-year-old has been asked to slim down in the past, notably before his Williams debut in 2001 when team bosses suggested the fast food-loving Latin had been putting away too many burgers and fries.

Brazilian Rubens Barrichello, his closest friend among the drivers, has even jokingly dubbed him 'El Gordo' (The Fatman) in the past.

"It's quite funny because when I came into Formula One there was the thing with Frank (Williams); 'Ah, you're fat, you're overweight'," grinned Montoya.

"In the first race when I joined Formula One I weighed 75 kilos with helmet and everything. And everyone says that I look really fit now and I weigh probably 75 kilos without the helmet.

"It's like everybody is saying 'You

look a lot fitter'. I am working out and I've always worked out but I'm making sure I don't leave anything behind and they are motivating me to do more and get more out of myself.

"I never had that at Williams.

"They (McLaren) are giving me the tools to work harder, they are giving me the tools to get more out of myself.

"Williams always said 'you need to be fitter' but they never did anything about it."

### Pumping iron

Montoya has linked up with David Coulthard's former fitness trainer, now that the Briton has moved to Red Bull Racing, and has been pumping iron and cycling as well as sticking to a low calorie diet.

"I'm with Gerry, who used to be Coulthard's guy, and I'm getting a kick out of him," said Montoya. "He understands what I want, he understands what I hate and he's always there."

The winner of last year's season-ending Brazilian Grand Prix for Williams stuck up for his old employers after former team mate Ralf Schumacher said at the weekend Toyota were a better long-term bet for the title.



Looking fit and in good shape, McLaren's new signing Juan Pablo Montoya appeared at a news conference after reports that team boss Ron Dennis had encouraged him to lose weight. REUTERS

Williams, with an all-new line-up this year, have won more constructors titles than any team other than Ferrari but have not been champions since 1997. Toyota have yet to finish on the

podium in three seasons despite spending vast sums.

"I wouldn't say they (Williams) are in more trouble or they're better off," said Montoya. "I think they were

great with me and they are probably going to be competitive.

"You can't say 'You're coming out of a sinking ship'. The sinking ship won the last race."

# Dawson recalled to England elite squad

LONDON (Reuters) - Coach Andy Robinson has handed Matt Dawson an olive branch by recalling the Wasps scrumhalf to his 56-player elite squad.

Dawson was England's first-choice number nine for several years and played in the 2003 World Cup final but lost his place last year when he refused to cancel an appearance on a TV quiz show that clashed with an England training session.

Instead of playing in the three November internationals, the British Lion appeared as a captain on the BBC's "A Question of Sport".

Andy Gomersall took over the scrumhalf duties but Dawson is now back in the frame for the Six Nations.

"I always said I would consider bringing Matt back if I felt he was playing well for his club," Robinson said on Tuesday.

"He has demonstrated this in Wasps' recent Heineken Cup and Premiership matches and merits his return on his current form."

Dawson faces stiff competition to make the starting XV from Gomersall and Leicester's Harry Ellis, who has also been promoted to the elite squad.

Sale winger Mark Cueto, who scored four tries in the three November games when he made his debut, is also included and there is a recall for Wasps hooker Phil Greening.

"Mark Cueto thoroughly deserves his inclusion in the senior squad after his outstanding performances last November," Robinson said.

England begin their Six Nations preparation next week when the squad will train with rugby league side Leeds.

Their first championship game is against Wales in Cardiff on February 5.



England rugby coach Andy Robinson has recalled Wasps scrumhalf Matt Dawson to his 56-player elite squad. REUTERS

# Myskina and Moya Beaten in Sydney

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Carlos Moya and Anastasia Myskina both slumped out of the Sydney International Tuesday, jolting their preparations for next week's Australian Open.

French Open champion Myskina suffered a shock second-round defeat by little-known Chinese qualifier Shuai Peng while Moya was sent packing by Czech Radek Stepanek.

Shuai, ranked 80th in the world, raced to a 6-1, 6-3 triumph as Myskina struggled to cope with the hot and windy conditions at the Olympic tennis center.

Russia's first female grand slam winner committed a whopping 46 unforced errors to leave her short on match practice heading to Melbourne.

"The conditions were tough but that's no excuse," she said. "I'm not confident but I have to look forward to the Australian Open. It's one more week so I will have time for some practice."

Moya had flown straight to Sydney after winning the Chennai Open Sunday and donating his prize money to the tsunami relief fund.

The Spanish Davis Cup hero looked to have his first round encounter with Stepanek under control when he won six games on the trot to take the first set before falling 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

"I had my chances but my legs felt heavy," Moya said.

### No problems

"I only got here last night and after a long trip it wasn't easy but I tried my best.

"The good thing is that I can take a few days off and recover a little bit for Melbourne."

Russian sixth-seed Nikolay Davydenko lost to Czech Ivo Minar 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 and Ai Sugiyama, the women's eighth seed, was beaten by Tatiana Golovin of France 6-1, 2-6, 6-3.

Women's world number one Lindsay Davenport was untroubled in winning her second round clash with Frenchwoman Nathalie Dechy 6-3, 6-4 in her first appearance of 2005.

Davenport pulled out of last week's Hopman Cup in Perth with a knee injury but said there had been no problems against Dechy.

"Physically I don't feel any pain right now," Davenport said. "Overall I was ecstatic with the way I played. She's a tough player and I was able to close it up well."

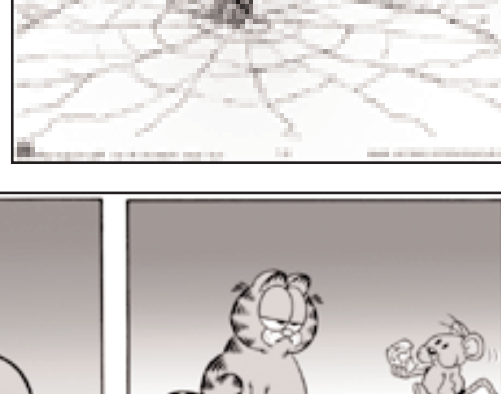
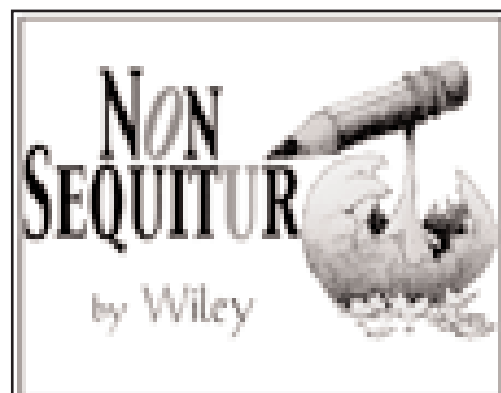
Defending men's champion Lleyton Hewitt rebounded from his early exit at last week's Australian hardcourt championship in Adelaide to crush Slovak Karol Beck 6-1, 6-2 in the first round.

Hewitt cruised to victory in 67 minutes to set up a meeting with Arnaud Clement after the Frenchman beat Czech Tomas Zib 6-1, 6-3.

"That was pretty good. I felt like I moved the ball around well," Hewitt said.

"I've done all the hard work leading into the Australian Open so now it's really just about keeping the confidence levels up."

Australian hardcourt champion Joachim Johansson of Sweden continued his fine form with a 6-4, 6-3 win over big-serving Briton Greg Rusedski while Adelaide runner-up American Taylor Dent defeated Spaniard Santiago Ventura 7-5, 7-6.



## THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

BY Eugenia

<p><b>Aries</b> (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Nothing will be stable, especially where finances are concerned. Concentrate on accomplishment and doing what you know will bring the highest returns. Protect yourself from phobias.</p>	<p><b>Cancer</b> (Jun 21 - Jul 22) Take the initiative and make the first move if you want to get to know someone better. Common interests will lead to a close bond. Visiting, communicating and traveling are highlighted.</p>	<p><b>Libra</b> (Sept 23 - Oct 22) You will have a different way of viewing things when it comes to work. Don't fight the changes in your career direction or within the company you are working for. It will be favorable.</p>	<p><b>Capricorn</b> (Dec 22 - Jan 19) You will enjoy the company of friends and family, especially if you get to travel or do something unusual with them. You will be in an expressive mood, so let everyone know how you feel.</p>
<p><b>Taurus</b> (Apr 20 - May 20) You've got a lot going for you today. Believe in yourself and your ideas, and you will be convincing when you talk about your plans with potential partners.</p>	<p><b>Leo</b> (Jul 23 - Aug 22) Strive to make things a little different around your home and you will grab the attention of neighbors, friends and your family. Sudden financial changes are apparent. Be smart with your money.</p>	<p><b>Sagittarius</b> (Nov 22 - Dec 21) You will be in the mood to get things done and to make whatever changes are necessary to boost your confidence. You will get a good buy if you go out shopping today.</p>	<p><b>Aquarius</b> (Jan 20 - Feb 18) You will be drawn toward unusual careers. Unexpected changes will help you make up your mind about your future direction. A gift, winning or dividend will surprise you.</p>
<p><b>Gemini</b> (May 21 - Jun 20) If you act too fast, you may end up making a mistake you cannot retract. Opportunities are available but someone may tempt you to try something that will not turn out to be advantageous.</p>	<p><b>Virgo</b> (Aug 23 - Sep 22) Today is all about partnerships and making them the best you can. Bending a little to accommodate someone you really care about will pay off.</p>	<p><b>Scorpio</b> (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Put your heart and soul into your work. Trying to sort through your personal problems will be like spinning your wheels. Focus where you'll prosper.</p>	<p><b>Pisces</b> (Feb 19-Mar 20) You will be unpredictable if you are forced to make a personal decision. Don't put pressure on yourself; instead of jumping into something, check it out from every angle.</p>

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Verb	الفعل	Noun	الاسم
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Employ	يوظف	Employment	توظيف
Educate	يعلم	Education	تعليم
Require	يحتاج	Requirement	حاجة
Worry	يقلق	Worry	قلق
Greet	يحيي	Greeting	تحية
Succeed	ينجح	Success	نجاح

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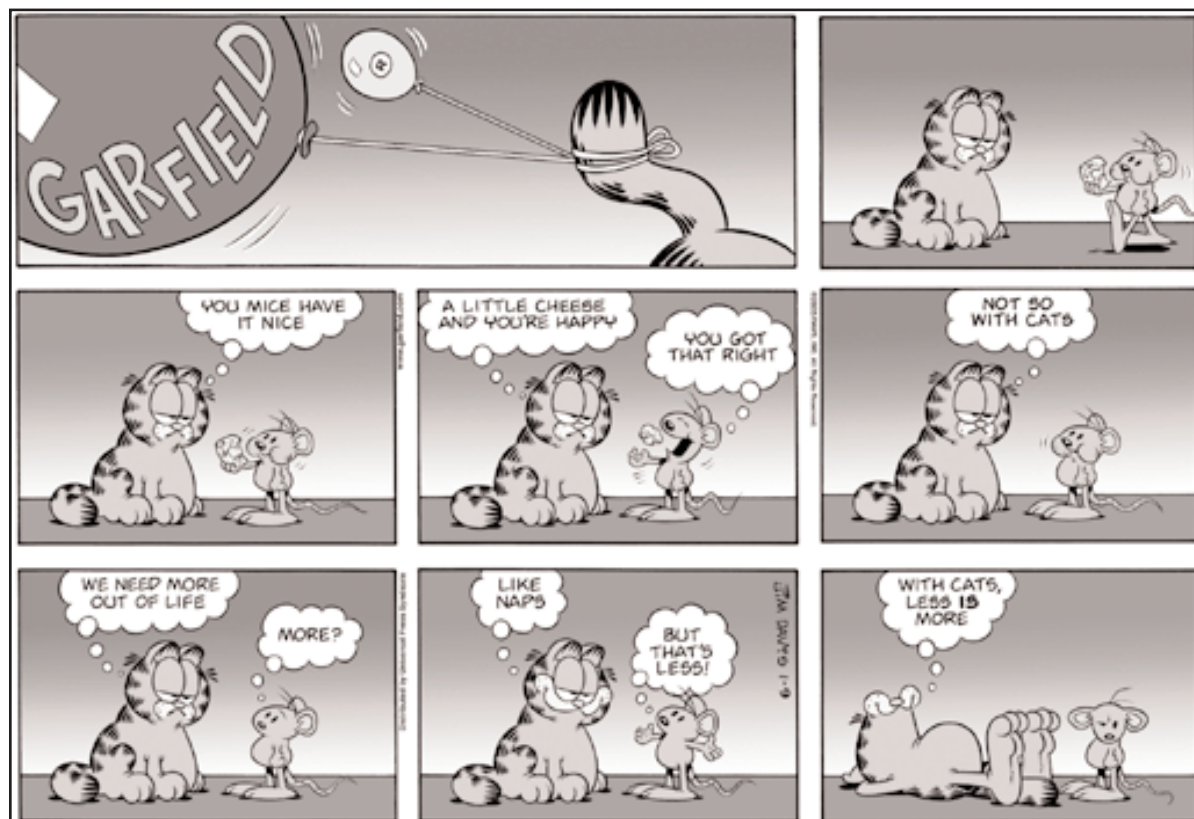
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## Nature's replenishment

# Bura' must be saved

By KAMAL YAHYA ABDULLAH MARIDI  
BAJEL, HOEIDAHA  
kamalmaredi@yahoo.com  
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Bura' is a protected natural sanctuary and one of the charming and magnificent places which is bestowed on our land by God Almighty.

When you get to that place everything around you and inside you changes thoroughly. You burst with zeal and vitality. The climate changes into a lovely one. You throw off worries, boredom and depression and feel that a pure soul replaces your own one.

Evergreen trees and bushes surround you from each direction. Little streams of water flow on the rocks in the valley forming small water gatherings here and there. The sounds and sights of birds and monkeys add more beauty to the scenery and that makes

you feel and imagine as if you were in the heaven.

During Al Eid vacation my colleagues and I paid a visit to the mentioned place. When we sighted it everything changed as I mentioned above. We spent a short but enjoyable and wonderful time, which will not be erased, from our memories.

Yet one thing made me sad and enabled sorrow to find its way to my heart. It is the environment enemy, namely the waste materials which have been thrown everywhere by the visitors. You can find water and Pepsi plastic bottles and cans, food plastic dishes, plastic bags and other forms of garbage scattered everywhere.

As it is known plastic materials are dangerous and

can lead to the vanishing of such beautiful heavens.

What is the solution to this problem? What can we do to stop it and put an end to it? I the humble man have come up with a suggestion, which I hope it can work much in overcoming such problems.

It is: the concerned authority should erect a checkpoint in the entrance of that site and those who carry damaging things must be prevented from entering the wood. This is my modest solution. If you have other ones, please, make them see the light.



## Rebranding physics = making Einstein youth friendly

LONDON, Jan 11 (Reuters) - Bicycle stunts, rap music and modern dance — all in the name of Einstein.

Hardly E=mc<sup>2</sup>, but 100 years after Albert Einstein published three seminal research papers which changed scientific thinking about the universe forever, physicists are conscious they must rebrand their shunned science to appeal to young people.

Einstein Year was launched in Britain this month at a youth driven ceremony at London's Science Museum where a BMX stunt rider performed an "Einstein flip", said to be the first bicycle stunt to be designed by a physicist.

"There tends to be a knee-jerk negative reaction about physics — that it is boring and hard. What we are trying to do is change people's perceptions," said Caitlin Watson of the Institute of Physics (IOP) in London.

"We want to show that physics is not about the stereotype of the mad scientist. Physicists are normal people doing normal things."

Rap artist DJ Vader has also been drafted in by organisers to rebrand physics as cool. His love song "Einstein (not enough time)" has been adopted as the theme tune for the year-long celebrations across Britain.

It is unlikely he will ever replace Einstein as the face of science. Einstein's iconic image is known the world over.

"We remember (him) now mainly as an older man, the benign and unkempt sage on a poster and t-shirt," said Professor Martin Rees of Cambridge University.

"That's surprising because his great work was well over by the time he was 40. At that time (1905) ... he was a nattily dressed young professor. In a way, the icon is rather different from the man who made these great achievements."

Some people say the celebrations marking Einstein's annus mirabilis border on being irreverent.

"Of course, physics is a science used in all kinds of applications in technology, the environment etcetera, and anything we can do, even if it means dumbing down to enthuse young people about physics, is surely excellent," said Rees.

### School drop-out

Einstein loved music and cycling. He was also a school drop-out.

He did so badly at school his teachers told his parents to take him out because he was "too stupid to learn" and it would be a waste of resources to invest time and energy in his education. The school suggested that his parents get him an easy, manual labour job as soon as



A file photograph, dated January 5, shows BMX rider Ben Wallace performing the "Einstein Flip" over an Albert Einstein look-alike to mark the launch of Einstein Year at the Science Museum in London. REUTERS

we view the world. His work on photoelectric effect earned him a Nobel Prize in 1921.

Many of the great breakthroughs of the past century — quantum theory, the computer revolution, nuclear power, lasers, space travel, Global Positioning Systems — can in some way be put down to Einstein's genius.

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