

## Conflicting reports as

# Guerilla raids increase in Sa'ada

BY MOHAMMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Confrontations are continuing between the government's forces and Hussein al-Houthi's "Believing Youth" militias, with government forces mounting a successful siege in Ruzam, where al-Houthi's father Badr al-Din al-Houthi, is living, well-informed sources told the Yemen Times.

Officials are deliberately withholding information surrounding the number of casualties resulting from the bloody clashes, but tribal sources say as many as 200 civilians may have been killed or injured.

Medical sources at al-Salam Hospital in Sa'adah, say that many dead government soldiers have been received by the hospital since the fighting erupted in al-Talh Market on March 19, 2005.

Local sources in al-Buq'a district, 170 kms north of Sana'a reported that clashes last Wednesday between al-Houthi's followers and government forces, displaced residents in the areas of Nashur and Ruzamat, where fighting

has been fierce.

Other areas affected by the insurgency suffered similar displacement as battles intensified between the two sides. Planes and artilleries bombarded areas thought to be hideouts of Houthi's followers. According to Sa'adah residents, hundreds of families are seeking safe haven elsewhere.

One local resident told the Yemen Times by telephone that they do not know the real reasons behind the campaign. "We were surprised at the attacks, especially because there are no reasons or claims behind the bombardment," he said. There was a truce between the government and the insurgents led by Abdullah al-Ruzami who had traveled to Sana'a and met the President. The insurgents accuse the military in Sa'adah for breaching the agreement.

The source mentioned the incident that occurred two weeks ago at the Arms Market where armed men exchanged fire with the security forces resulting in four deaths, one of whom was from Nashour. Arbitration is being used to settle the dispute. Al-Houthi's followers



Badr al-Din al-Houthi

deny the claim that they violated the truce by shooting at some government sites in recent days. They claimed that the government has not complied with the agreement reached with Abdullah al-Ruzami concerning release of prisoners captured during the events in Maran.

A source close to the government said, on condition of anonymity, that

Abdullah al-Ruzami pledged at his meeting with the President, and after the intercession of sheikhs Haydar Shawkah and Shaji'a Mohammed Shaji'a, to stay at his home in Sana'a but he returned a few days ago to Sa'adah. The official source said that he is behind the armed groups formed recently in the areas of Aqlah, Muthab, and Al Shafi'ah.

The source said that Scholar Badr al-Din al-Houthi and his son Abdul-Malik went to al-Ruzami's house, which was surrounded by approximately two thousand armed tribesmen, who took positions in nearby mountains.

Some analysts think that the cause behind the crisis is that members of the Islah party within the so-called the extremist Salafi lobby, started to feel that the President and the General People's Congress (GPC) were trying to confront them especially in the wake of recent demonstrations in Taiz and other cities. These analysts think that the Salafi lobby sparked the Sa'adah crisis as a diversionary tactic.

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## Reforms must continue Sa'ada fighting hampers economic reform

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The eruption of fighting in Sa'ada between government troops and rebels supporting the Shiite cleric Badreddin al-Houthi, will negatively affect the government and World Bank's economic reform package and general economic stability.

Economists believe that the fight hampers efforts to achieve economic stability by attracting investments. Instability does not encourage foreign investors to come to Yemen and dissuades local investors.

Some opposition politicians argue

that the fighting gives the government the excuse to further delay the unpopular price reforms. Last year the government asked the parliament to approve an additional budget of YR 180 billion, most of which was to cover the costs of Hussein al-Houthi's three-month insurgency. Although some economists believe that the fight in Sa'ada might delay the introduction of the sales tax and the price reforms on oil derivatives, others dismiss this. Yemeni cities witnessed last month violent protests against the new sales tax, which the government has decided to introduce in July.

Continued on page 3

# Iraqi parliament appoints Kurd as president

BAGHDAD, April 6 (Reuters) - Parliament elected Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani as Iraq's president on Wednesday, breaking a political impasse and paving the way for a new government more than nine weeks after historic elections.

He is the first Kurd to be Iraq's president, a sign of the new clout of the minority that backed the U.S.-led invasion.

The two vice presidents were named as Adel Abdul Mahdi, a Shi'ite who was finance minister in the outgoing government, and Sunni Arab tribal leader Ghazi Yawar, the previous president.

"This is the new Iraq — an Iraq that elects a Kurd to be president and an Arab former president as his deputy," parliament speaker Hajem al-Hassani said after the vote. "What more could the world want from us?"

Talabani, hailed by a standing ovation in parliament, pledged to work together with all ethnic and religious factions to rebuild Iraq after decades of conflict and dictatorship.

The Islamist-led Shi'ite alliance that won a slim majority in parliament and the Kurdish coalition that came second in the polls have been arguing for weeks about forming a government.

They have also been trying to include representatives of the Sunni Arab minority that dominated Iraq under Saddam Hussein but was left sidelined after most Sunni Arabs stayed away from the January polls due to intimidation and calls for a boycott. There are only 17 Sunni Arab lawmakers in the 275-member parliament.

Continued on page 3



A conference room in the Baghdad convention centre is prepared for a meeting of the Iraqi National Assembly in Baghdad April 6. Iraq's parliament is set to name a president and two vice presidents on Wednesday after weeks of haggling, in a major step toward forming a new government more than two months after historic elections. The Arabic words on the top of the banner are from a Koranic verse urging discussion and the exchange of views, while the words on the bottom, in Arabic and Kurdish, identify the meeting as the National Assembly.

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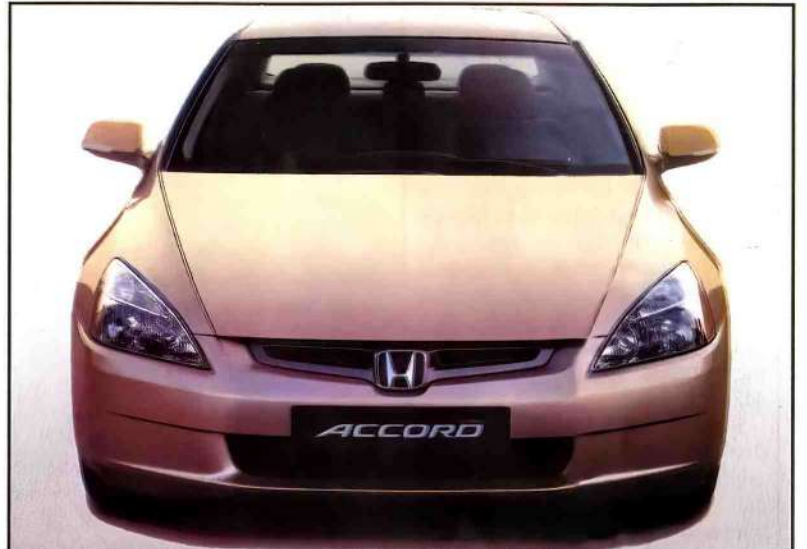
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Continued from page 1

### Guerilla raids increase in Sa'ada

The President has reiterated the importance of security and stability and has undertaken to solve the problem of detainees and other issues in cooperation with scholars. It appears that the President's message has irritated the Salafi forces and they have inflamed the situation in an attempt to restore the President into their line against Zaidism.

Despite the President's promise, members of al-Houthi's insurgency are still being detained. Further, the Governor remains in power despite his being behind the clashes between the State and the citizens. Another problem lies in the oppressive nature of the military forces active in Sa'ada.

Many people in Sa'ada have been fired from their jobs because of the insurgency and have not been reinstated. Some of them have been moved to distant areas and the President's directives for compensation have not been implemented.

In his turn, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al-Ahmar, Parliament Speaker, invited the leaders of political parties, political forces, several religious figures, and tribal Sheiks to his house on April 5 to discuss what should be done to stop the confrontations in Sa'ada.

The meeting decided that Sheikh Abdullah would contact President Saleh to encourage mediation of the tribes and religious leaders.

The meeting called for strikes and sit-ins by all civil society and human rights organizations if the fighting

continues.

Finally, al-Houthi's father spent months suffering in Sana'a while the promises made to him were unfulfilled. However, another statement by sources close to the scholar said, "Scholar Badr al-Din al-Houthi had left Sana'a for Nashour, in the province of Sa'adah when living became hard for him. He had spent over two months in Sana'a upon the request of mediators who sought to bring him to Sana'a. He did not meet the President as it was expected."

An official source announced that Badr al-Din al-Houthi left Sana'a suddenly although the government provided him with promises of safety. He violated all pledges he made to the State and moved back to Nushour Valley where he mustered fighters and incited them to attack police stations and checkpoints across Sa'adah province in an attempt to spark a new insurgency.

Badr al-Din al-Houthi said in a press interview with al-Wasat weekly at the beginning of this month, shortly before his abrupt return to Sa'adah, that he came to Sana'a two months ago in compliance with the President's request.

Al-Houthi called, through the newspaper, on the President to keep his word by releasing prisoners and stopping to pursue the followers of Hussein al-Houthi.

He also denied that his son claimed to be the Imam. "He was defending Islam from the schemes of America."

Badr al-Din al-Houthi confirmed that he was not neutral during the war. "My son was right. He was the reference of the Believing Youth and the fighting was to protect Islam."

Al-Houthi revealed his travel to Iran in 1993 and meeting with the Iranian President. However, he denied that he received support from Iran. Concerning his views on democracy, he said that he is supporting "justice" and "know[s] nothing but this name."

Al-Houthi blamed the Zaidi clerics who said his son was deviant and stray. "They are the followers of the State and fear its might." He questioned the killing of his son and considered that the suffering of the Zaidi sect will harden it because the sect's followers are "strong men and champions."

In this interview Al-Houthi, provided facts that his son did not receive any money from the President. He announced his readiness to return any money proven to have been given to his son. He agreed to meet the President when necessary and refused to say whether the President is legitimate or not.

The people of Hamdan, Sa'adah province have sent a message through the media, appealing to Yemeni and international public opinion as well as parties, political organizations and human rights watchdogs to break their silence and save the remainder of women, children and old men from the harsh war waged by the government's air and land forces.

large-scale battles with U.S. forces — an unusual development as insurgents generally favour hit-and-run attacks.

On Monday, dozens of insurgents fought U.S. and Iraqi forces in a remote area east of Baghdad. Two Americans and one Iraqi soldier were killed, the U.S. military said.

On Saturday, more than 40 U.S. soldiers and 12 prisoners were wounded when insurgents attacked Abu Ghraib jail west of Baghdad with suicide bombs, mortars and small-arms fire. The battle raged for around an hour.

Last month scores of guerrillas attacked a U.S. convoy near Salman Pak southeast of Baghdad. The U.S. military said it repelled the attack and killed at least two dozen insurgents.

### Iraqi parliament appoints Kurd as president

Disagreement over which Sunni Arab would be vice president held up a deal, but political leaders decided late on Tuesday to favour Yawar over elder statesman Adnan Pachachi.

Once the president and his deputies have been appointed they must name a prime minister within two weeks. Shi'ites and Kurds have agreed that Islamist Shi'ite leader Ibrahim Jaafari should be prime minister, taking over from secular Shi'ite Iyad Allawi.

Jaafari is expected to be officially appointed on Thursday, and will then name a cabinet. Disagreement remains on some cabinet posts, particularly the oil ministry which is coveted by both the Shi'ites and the Kurds.

#### Insurgent attacks

Many Iraqis have complained that politicians have let them down by taking so long to form a government. Several Iraqi officials say the delay has benefited Iraq's insurgents.

A U.S. soldier was killed in Baghdad when guerrillas ambushed a patrol with a roadside bomb and then opened fire, the American military said. On Tuesday, the military announced that four U.S. soldiers had been killed in attacks in Iraq.

Since the invasion in March 2003, at least 1,540 U.S. military and Pentagon personnel have lost their lives in Iraq.

U.S. officers say the frequency of insurgent attacks is falling. But in recent weeks guerrillas have fought several

### Sa'ada fighting hampers economic reform

The parliament approved the 2005 budget, which assured government's commitment to removing diesel subsidies. The draft budget increase was put at YR 19 billion with a deficit estimated at three percent. Revenue was estimated at around YR 761 billion, while the 2004 budget was around YR 681 billion. Expenses were put at around 836 billion.

Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajamal has said that it is necessary for his government to lift the subsidies on diesel and gas, alleging that they cost the treasury YR 150 billion per year. He pointed out that the government imports almost 70 percent of the local market's needs from abroad at a cost of YR 60 per liter, which is being sold to the people at YR 17 only. The government claimed that this low price encourage businessmen to smuggle the diesel to the neighboring countries. President Ali Abdullah Saleh says that he will continue the reform process, warning that oil is diminishing, and urging his government to look for other resources, recommendations that the World Bank had already made.

Now, however, the reform process is being hijacked by the crackdown on the rebels and the ability of the government to bring the Sa'ada confrontation to an end.

The government is committed to the World Bank to continue the reform process and lift the diesel subsidies. The World Bank remains dissatisfied with the government's performance in this regard. Another delay by the government will not make the World Bank happy.

In his visit to Yemen last February, former World Bank President James Wolfensohn warned of the urgency for the reforms if the country is to move forward. He clearly highlighted the fact that Yemen is still underdeveloped and with a population that is largely illiterate. He depicted a

gloomy scenario for Yemen if serious measure are not undertaken quickly to avoid an economic catastrophe.

Wolfensohn said that it was not enough for the government to analyze and realize the situation, but he stressed that it is time to improve the investment climate, promote good governance and enhance employment opportunities.

He also warned that Yemen is depending too much on oil and could face severe economic difficulties if other sources of income are not introduced. He highlighted the need to maintain macroeconomic stability, and also improve water management. He also pointed out that Yemen could face a disastrous water shortage crisis within a decade if proper precautionary measures are not taken.

Wolfensohn also encouraged the government to go on with its proposed reform plan in energy-pricing, which would result price rises of gasoline and diesel up to 50 and 100 percent, respectively.

The World Bank also warned, in a report released last September that Yemen's economy is facing grave challenges for which the government should not expect further support if reforms are not implemented.

"Yemeni authorities have not been able to seize the opportunity of rise in oil prices to maintain macroeconomic stability, advance economic reforms and lay foundations for strong non-oil based growth. Half way through the implementation of Country Assistance Strategy (2003-05), the signs are that Yemen is clearly slipping into 'Low Case' judging by three of the four CAS criterion," the report said. "Implementation of PRSP is unsatisfactory, progress in governance reforms is tardy and the macroeconomic framework is unsatisfactory. Through the deterioration of portfolio (the fourth criterion) is noticeable, it is below the cut-off points as of August

2004," it stressed.

The report pointed clearly to the unstable political situation which has constrained "the ability of the authorities to take advantage of strong gain in oil price to advance reforms in 2004. Politically, the ongoing global war on terrorism fought in the Middle East has energized Yemeni militant groups opposed to the war. Simmering anti-government sentiment was brought to a head on June 28 in the form of an armed rebellion. Though the rebellion has been crushed decisively by early September, the durability of the success could remain an issue." With fighting resumed and its future uncertain, it is unclear how much it would cost the already fragile economy.

On the economic front, the report said that "unexpected declines in oil price, came to light in February 2004, have triggered the fear that oil reserves may be depleted sooner than expected. Unanticipated declines in oil production from key oil fields could diminish oil export revenues of government and stress fiscal balance. The date of exhaustion of oil reserves has been advanced by nearly a decade to 2012 lending immediacy to launching a strategy to promote non-oil based growth."

The report said that reform agenda must also be revived urgently in areas such as education, and customs procedures, both of which contribute to macroeconomic stability. "Restarting stalled reforms of civil service, introduction of GST, phasing out of petroleum subsidies are vital to restore macroeconomic stability. Though the authorities are convinced of the direction of reform in these areas, commitment to a clear and robust implementation strategy and calendar is lacking," the report warned, demanding that the authorities should take a decisive action to restart stalled reforms to improve the lives of the 42 percent of the country who are poor.

# In brief

- Authorities at the Hodeida Port have seized around 40 tons of schoolbooks disguised as outdated papers before being trafficked to India.
- The books were for different educational stages and most are new editions.
- Yemeni Interior Minister Dr. Rashad al-Alimi and his Omani counterpart Saod Ibrahim signed a security agreement to enhance security cooperation on April 4.
- The agreement covers the control of borders from both sides and the exchange of information on several security issues.
- A number of unidentified men threw a grenade in front of the Contemporary Language Institute, which is located near al-Jomhuri Hospital, Taiz. The explosion resulted in shattered windows and damage to a bus while it was parked in front of the Institute.
- Abduljalael Radman al-Mikhlafi was murdered by Abdu Ghalib Othman, 55, on Sunday April 3 in Taiz over disputes between their families. The victim is the father of Abdulmalik al-Mekhlafi, Secretary General of Unionist Naserite Party.
- Nashwan Mohammad Sa'eed of Taiz al-Masbah Zone was killed last week by Wadhah al-Shar'abi, 20. The motives behind the murder case are still unknown.
- The town of al-Qaeda Ibb witnessed a tragic incidence when a child murdered his father in front of a hospital in the locality after being beaten by his father while his mother was hospitalized.
- Abdu No'aman Saleh, 45, one of al-Ma'afer locals, Taiz, committed suicide by hanging himself by own clothes and the real motives behind the tragic incident are still unidentified.
- The international workshop of the less developed countries that work hard to join the World Trade Organization was concluded Wednesday April 6 in Sana'a. The workshop was organized by the UN Conference for Trade and Development in cooperation with the ministry of industry and trade.
- Dr. Raofa Hassan Founder of Cultural Development Program delivered a lecture at the Egyptian Cultural Center under the title "civil community in Yemen in the age of globalization".
- In collaboration with the UNICEF, the media forum for childhood issues held on Sunday April 3 a workshop on girls' education and the role of media in supporting women to undertake schooling.
- Yemen is currently participating in the 15th Abu Dhabi International Book Fair through the participation of four Yemeni publishers with nearly 795 titles.
- Functions of the ninth meeting of the Yemeni-Tunisian Committee were concluded on Sunday April 3. Seven memorandums were signed in the meeting along with executive programs for a number of agreements.
- A memorandum of understanding between Yemeni Ministry of Public Health and Population and a Japanese medical foundation was signed in the Japanese capital of Tokyo. Under the memorandum, the Japanese medical foundation will establish a well-equipped and multi-specialization hospital in Yemen.
- An awareness program on children's rights was inaugurated April 4 at Sana'a University. The program was organized by Human Rights Ministry and Sana'a University in collaboration with the Swedish Organization for childcare, Rada Parnen.
- Functions of the special course on the role of media in facing crises wrapped up Wednesday April 6 at the Media Training Institute with the participation of 45 trainees.
- Preacher Amro Khalid completed his visit to Yemen after delivering several lectures for Yemeni youths, particularly those who claim to support al-Houthi's followers and those who returned from Afghanistan.
- A special workshop for funding industries and small enterprises started last Friday in Sana'a.
- Lawyers are still continuing their protest condemning the attack against the lawyer Mohammed Naji Allaw and Jamal Al-Jabi'c by some soldiers at the hall of the Capital City Appeal Court in the beginning of March. The Bar Association has started to implement their protests, including sit-ins, demonstrations, and strikes. These will continue until the authorities prosecute the people responsible for the attack.
- A number of armed tribesmen attacked the offices of Al-Waseet newspaper, forcing out all employees and disrupting the printing of a number of party and private newspapers. The police authorities rushed to the building on April 4 but they quickly withdrew, leaving the tribesmen to play with the printers, the office furniture and the building's equipment belonging to Haj Salem Al-Zagheer.

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## Story nights attract New Yorkers like moths to flame

BY MARY ANN D'URSO

There's a joke that goes around among prison guards. How do you know when a prisoner is lying? When he opens his mouth.

So began the last tale in a recent evening of stories about teenage dreams and eating dog biscuits, being robbed, working as a copy shop manager for Xerox and being a prison guard at Sing Sing.

The five 10-minute tales were each as different as their storytellers onstage at The Moth — a modern New York take on a tradition that stretches from Homer's epics to ghost stories around the camp fire.

Formed in 1997 in the belief that everyone is drawn to the heat of a good story, The Moth was the brainchild of writer George Dawes Green. Green wanted to recreate the feeling of community from his Georgia youth when he would lie in an overgrown backyard

with friends on summer nights and tell mesmerising stories.

The first meetings were in Green's living room. Since then, more than 35,000 people, through word of mouth, mailings and e-mail notices, have heard the call of the flame. Moth storytellers take to the stage about once a month in New York.

The Moth has also produced shows in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Aspen, Colorado and has a quarterly series in New Haven, Connecticut. Organisers are planning a trip to Boston later this year, and hope to fund a tour of several U.S. cities.

"People are starved for connection," said Lea Thau, executive and creative director of The Moth, which still sees itself as building community. "Blackberries, Palm Pilots and all the rest are wonderful at communicating information. I'm not sure they get us to understand our humanity more. I think that's what stories do."

Stories without scripts

Craving to hear the rich details of other people's lives, about 250 people pay \$20 apiece and pack various softly-lit clubs or lounges to listen to storytellers who include everyone from the glitterati to suburban mothers tell their well-honed stories, all gleaned from real life.

"I'm addicted," said one enthusiastic 30-something film editor who regularly attends Moth events because she loves the intimate arts atmosphere.

At Moth evenings, storytellers cannot read from scripts or notes and must tell stories around a predetermined theme.

On one recent night of pelting wet snow in Manhattan, singles and couples, mostly in their 20s, 30s or 40s, gathered at the club Crash Mansion to hear "New York Stories".

Actor John Ventimiglia from "The Sopranos" had the audience howling as he entertained with a story of being robbed in his apartment in the dead of night.

Writer Ted Conover captivated the crowd with jokes about prison life before telling a story based on the year he spent as a guard at Sing Sing prison researching his book "Newjack: Guarding Sing Sing."

The night's proceeds benefited The Moth's outreach programme, which works with high school students, youth programmes and adults in rehabilitation.

Sense of belonging

Graduates of the outreach programme, which helps people learn how to tell their stories, take to the main stage twice a year. Sometimes, Outreach alumni like audience members Ritchie DeSalvo and a young man who identified himself only as O.T. have their tales recorded on a CD of audience favourites.

"The programme gave me a sense of belonging to something," O.T. said.

For Isis Richardson, an 8th grader at the Bronx Preparatory Charter School, going through the outreach programme gave her a lot of "self-confidence speaking in front of people and not worrying that they will be thinking something about you".

At 14, Richardson, who dreams of attending Harvard to study law, is the youngest Moth storyteller ever to take to the stage. As she told about her after-school adventures with modelling, she transfixed the crowd with stories of shady companies looking to lure girls hoping to become models and extracting hefty fees from them.

"It felt really good," Richardson said after she stepped off stage. "At first I was a little nervous, but when I realised I couldn't see anybody (in the audience,) I calmed."

Conover, a veteran journalist, said that as his story moved along — about a prisoner who was convicted of rape, repeatedly professed his innocence and served years before being cleared by DNA tests — he could feel the energy from the audience.

"That's when the rush starts to build and people give you that feedback. The immediacy is a huge kick," he said.

Thau said an evening at The Moth, with its varied stories and settings, "will remind you that the world is vast and full of very different realities, and yet there's a common core."

—Reuters

## Despite the laws Private sector employees oppressed

BY YEMEN TIMES TAZ BUREAU

Very low salaries, monthly deductions, insufficient breaks and arbitrary dismissals are the most prominent problems associated with working for private sector institutions.

Abdussamad, who works for a painting factory, said laborers at the factory are mostly children who are paid between YR120-140 a day. "Despite the fact we at the factory are supposed to be provided with safety equipment and training courses to help us avoid risks at work, nothing was done", he said.

Ali Mustafa noted, "a certain amount is deducted from our salaries every month as an insurance but when we leave the factory, the employer does not pay us the money deducted as insurance". According to Ali, private sector institutions have a policy that prevents the employees from being paid their insurance unless they show insanity certificates.

"When someone is sick, his employer sends him to a certain doctor who in turn prescribes him cheap and useless medicines and grants him a very short break that does not exceed two days" said employee Hisham Abdu.

Mohammad who works for a tourist hotel claimed that employees are usually mistreated by their bosses and shown no respect.

These complaints by private sector workers compelled the Yemen Times to visit Abdu al-Hakimi General Manager of Taiz Social Affairs and Labor Office, who agreed that more attention has to be paid to issues of private sector workers.

Regarding the arbitrary dismissal of employees al-Hakimi said, "we have an arbitration committee that acts as a workforce court. This committee is

composed of some people representing the government, some members from the general union of Yemeni laborers and one member from the Chamber of Industry and Trade."

In response to complaints of the employee, the committee holds a meeting in the presence of both the employer and the employee and if the latter was arbitrarily dismissed, the committee rules that they should be compensated.

Al-Hakimi described two areas of labor law designed to reduce these problems. Firstly, all private sector workers are supposed to be paid an additional salary (equivalent to a monthly payment), and secondly, insurance payments are supposed to be refunded to the employee when they stop working with the company.

With respect to the working hours, al-Hakimi said: "the maximum number of hours is eight per day and we have published and circulated notes to all the private sector institutions about this maximum number of working hours. Workers should be paid for their overtime work. According to the law, if any employee works overtime on occasions and official holidays, a single day will be counted as two days."

According to the republican decree recently drafted, the minimum payment a private sector worker should be paid must not be lower than the lowest salary a public sector employee receives (YR8750). An inspection committee has been formed to report companies that violate the law.

If any one is injured at work, the company should compensate them, and health services should be offered for workers if the number of workers exceeds 50. Medical committees should be responsible for medical reports that assign the period of rest to sick employees, al-Hakimi added.

### Youth Economic Development Initiative program

## Help for unemployed youth

By Fahmia al-Fotih  
For the Yemen Times

In cooperation with the Girls' World Communication Center (GWCC), the Youth Economic Development Initiative program (YEDI) has held a ceremony to mark the graduation of its first group of young trainees. The ceremony was conducted under the patronage of the minister of Youth and Sport Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Akwaa.

Ms. Kabul al-Mutawaki, the head of YEDI, gave Yemen Times a brief idea about the program "The program is called YEDI and it is run by CHF-international organization and GWCC-a local organization. The program started in last January... We are targeting the youth who are not working either they have no job or they are not enrolled in schools or universities."

"The idea of the program is just to give these youths a chance to find a job and have a better social economic life. We are targeting 500 person (girls and boys) and the training we are giving them is all about administrative fields; basic management, accounting, sales and market-

ing, Photoshop, business planning and development and business English, photography, journalism photography. The trainers all of them are local and we give them also training of trainers coming international experts. We give them a training how to be a trainer in such subject. This is empowerment for trainers"

Mr. Ali al-Hadheri, trainer, told Yemen Times "It is a great idea. All of us we have sisters and brother who are without a job and they don't have a chance to have special job. It is really different rather than universities and academic way. We focus on the practical transmit most of topics. I have taught sales and marketing. Most new companies focus on the personal skills rather academic degrees, English and computer. The trainees were very active even the center is far from the city but they bear the long distance, as they want to learn. We do our best to lean them and if I get chance to help them in their practical life, I won't hesitate and I really cannot forget the management staff. They are helpful and open-minded."

Ms. Iman Ali, trainee, expressed her happiness about her graduation form

this program "I have a lot of benefits from this program. I get benefits in speaking English well and I have much about how to run a company and how to be a successful businessman in future."

Mr. Najeeb Kaid Abdullaah, trainee "I am completely happy to join such a course. I have learnt a lot, to know about business and how to deal be a businessman and how to be a successful businessman and how know people from other nationalities. I think this will help us much in future to find a job. I am impressed by the different ways teaching the information easily to the students. I need more courses like this. I'd like to be more qualified to find high-job vacancy easily."

Mr. Fouad A. Gohery, coordinator of Canada Fund Development Program for Local Initiatives, said "The program in Yemen focuses on the local initiatives and development in Yemen as a whole. The program started 10 years ago in Yemen and we are trying to do in Yemen is mostly to help the underprivileged sectors in Yemen and woman, disabled."

### Tender Notice

## Faculty of Engineering Phase (2) Sana'a University

Sana'a University inviting the local and international contractors who are well experienced in the construction of big projects. To participate in the tender for construction of the Faculty of Engineering Phase (2)

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Tenders are requested to prove with evidence their successful of at least 3 projects of US\$ 8-12 million cost for each during the last five years.

The interested companies can collect the tender documents starting of Saturday March 26 2005 till April 23 2005 from General administration for financial affairs (Alwadi Road) telefax: 01-464677 against non refundable amount of US\$ 2000.

Given that, tender bids submission must meet the following requirements:

1. Bids should be accompanied by a bid security "Bank guarantee or payable cheque" of a minimum of 2.5% of the total bid price valid for 90 days.
2. Bids should be accompanied by a copy of the Tax license renewed for 2005, along with the original for verification and insurance card with the original for verification.
3. Tender bids should be delivered in envelopes sealed with ted wax.
4. Tow copies of the submittals are to be delivered by hand or courier at the above address not later than May 24-2005 at 11:00 pm.

## إعلان مناقصة مشروع كلية الهندسة

المرحلة الثانية - جامعة صنعاء

تدعو جامعة صنعاء شركات المقاولات العالمية والمحلية ذات الإمكانيات والخبرات في مجال تنفيذ المشروعات الكبرى، للإشتراك في مناقصة تنفيذ مشروع كلية الهندسة - المرحلة الثانية ويشترط:

أن تكون الشركة المتقدمة قد قامت وبنجاح بتنفيذ ثلاثة مشاريع على الأقل خلال الخمس سنوات الماضية بقيمة 8 - 12 مليون دولار أمريكي للمشروع الواحد.

بالإمكان الحصول على مستندات المناقصة اعتباراً من يوم السبت الموافق 26 مارس 2005م وحتى يوم السبت 23 إبريل 2005م من الإدارة العامة للشئون المالية - طريق وادي ظهر مقابل مبلغ وقدره (2000 دولار) لا يرد.

ويشترط لتقديم العطاء مايلي:

- 1) يرفق مع العطاءات تأمين بواقع 2.5% بشيك مقبول الدفع أو ضمان بنكي صالح لمدة 90 يوماً من تاريخ فتح المظاريف.
- 2) إرفاق صورة من البطاقة الضريبية مجددة للعام 2005م وإحضار الأصل للمطابقة مع صورة كرت التأمين والأصل للمطابقة.
- 3) تقديم العطاء داخل مظروف مختوم بالشمع الأحمر.
- 4) تسلم مستندات المناقصة من نسختين إما باليد أو بالبريد على العنوان المذكور أعلاه، في موعد أقصاه الساعة الحادية عشر من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق 24 مايو 2005م. (يوم فتح المظاريف).









## Yemeni Press,

## A week in review

Presented by Mohammed Khidr

Al-Sahwa weekly,  
31 Mar.2005.

## Main headlines

- New oil scandal, the government squanders hundred million dollars
- In new clashes with the government, a number of al-Houthi followers fall dead including the leading figure Ahmed al-Daie
- In an incident deemed the biggest, the marginalized people camp in the capital catches fire
- Eritrean authorities arrest 14 Yemeni fishermen, seizing their boats
- The government offers impractical conditions to university professors
- Teachers union intends to file lawsuit against the ministry of education
- Security authorities in Ibb raise their military campaign
- Tribes of Nahd and Al Sulaiman wrap up their disputes

Columnist Zaid al-Shami wrote in his article that the constitution gives the citizen the right to express his opinion with legitimate peaceful means and the law has defined controls of expressing by demonstrations and marches. The law allowed that on condition it would not change into a means of chaos or riot or damage public and private properties. The law also obliged security authorities to take necessary measures and arrangements to protect the demonstrators and provide security for them on condition the side organizing the demonstration should notify the security authorities about the demonstration or the march.

Two weeks before limited demonstrations took to the streets I a number of major cities to protest to the sales tax law that the official media rushed to herald its benefits. The ministry of interior, security committee and official press speedily accused parties of the JMP holding them responsible for consequences of those demonstrations. To that, the parties of the JMP denied categorically any relation to that, confirming at the same time the citizen's right to peaceful demonstration to express his opinion. It was expected that the government would receive that denial and welcome it to indicate that the demonstrators do not represent a certain large segment of the people. Wisdom dictates that the government should have called parties of the JMP, the private sector and trade unions to dialogue on the sales tax in order to come out with joint vision. To the contrary of that the official press readily expressed astonishment of the JMP denial of having any relationship with the demonstrations and made the parties of the JMP target for its campaign holding them responsible for all bad conditions of the past, the present and future. This means that opposition parties now have no other choice but to go ahead to lead the masses with peaceful means and legally-guaranteed methods to express resentment towards the bad living conditions, the aggravation of poverty and absence of justice and equality.

Al-Muhaaradha  
(Opposition) weekly,  
organ of the National  
Opposition Council,  
31 Mar.2005.

## Main headlines

- Thorough study at the parliament on wages strategy
- National opposition parties welcome dialogue with ruling party
- Human right minister calls on those interested in our country to shift from appeals to action
- Tens of al-Houthi supporters arrested, others escaped after confrontations with government forces
- Yemen and France discuss support for democratic governance and enhancement of security in Yemen
- Workshop in Taiz on media training and qualification
- Yemen experiences water disaster

Lawyer Abdulaziz al-Samawi writes an article in which says those who thought that by the killing of Hussein al-Houthi the insurgency came to its end have been mistaken. The rebellion led by al-Houthi is not attributed to a personal ambition that could end by killing of the person. It is rather a collective ideological thought the generations have suffered much from and Yemenis have killed each other because of it

What has happened in the past and what is happening at present or in future in Saada and maybe in other parts of Yemen, confirm that fighting thought could be only with enlightened national thought and the use of force as the only means could have no avail and won't solve the problem.

Al-Tagamou weekly,  
organ of the Yemeni  
Unionist Congregation,  
4 Apr. 2005.

## Main headlines

- The world mourns the decease of the Pope
- Syria announces its full pullout from Lebanon territories
- Warplane crashed near Sana'a International Airport
- An attempted assassination against director Saadah security
- Violent clashes in Saudi Arabia

Writer Yahya Saleh says there is no difference regarding reforms coming from inside or the outside. The important thing is that they are done and to be implemented and that should not be in a selective manner but as an integrated system including all political, economic, social, cultural, educational and even security aspects.

In fact, the Arab regimes have, throughout decades, aborted the effectiveness of any reforms just for the purpose of tightening their grip on governing their peoples. The Arab regimes have devoted all potentials and destinies of the Arab peoples for the continuation of their stay in power and expulsion of vital forces and any opposition standing on their way. This situation has taken our Arab countries to a cull de sac and a state of backwardness in all walks of life. Some regimes have gone farther in rendering their republics into hereditary regimes and disregard the will and rights of the peoples. However, those regimes so easily abide by programs on economic reform imposed from outside by international organizations as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. They also obey instructions of foreign donor countries and organizations and implement them in detail. The reason of that is that the economic reforms imposed by outside would affect the peoples directly with their impact. When reforms are related to political, security and cultural aspects those regimes procrastinate and delay any measures leading to any changes or political reforms, whether resulting from local or international pressures. The reason is that such reforms would touch directly the ruling regimes and shake the land from under their chairs.

Al-Mithaq weekly,  
organ of the General  
People's Congress  
(GPC), 4 Apr. 2005.

## Main headlines

- The president welcomes results of Yemeni-Tunisian commission meetings
- Army and security forces surround reaming remnants of rebels in Razamat to force them surrender or face death
- Fish Wealth ministry resorts to justice to retrieve \$33 million from investors
- Roundtable conference on social development, work in Yemen begins Saturday
- American Deputy ambassador to Yemen regrets opposition's non-

response to GPC's initiative for expanding the woman participation

- Human Rights Minister asks the journalists to move to action and present a draft law alternative to present press law
- First conference on illiteracy eradication and diversified skills to begin on 11 April

Al-Mithaq editorial says the decision taken by the general committee of the GPC on 25 last March concerning dialogue with opposition parties and civil society organizations and the formation of a committee for this question, has received large-scale responses, some have been positive. The commission has last week praised the stances of some political parties and non-governmental organizations that welcomed the GPC's call.

The commission's decision is not for bidding but rather out of a genuine desire of the GPC's leadership on the importance of activating the dialogue among the political forces and increase in demonstration of credibility. The call expresses a genuine intention and sincere patriotic feeling. The GPC has no preconditions for the dialogue with opposition parties but it is necessary to be based on solid foundations which are almost agreed upon. Those bases are mainly the respect of national constants, the constitution and the law, in addition to the significant basis of serving the homeland, the citizens and enhancement of cohesion and the national unity. The expansion of dialogue scope to include parties of the national council, parties of the JMP and the civil society organizations, active in the political life, reflects the GPC's open vision to various active forces in the society and its keenness that all should participate in exerting efforts devoted to serving the homeland and the people. The decision also reflects the GPC's appreciation and deep understanding that the various active social forces are concerned with issues of the homeland and it is mistaken to presume that those issues are the interest of certain forces alone.

Al-Wahdawi weekly,  
organ of the Nasserite  
Unionist Organisation  
(NUO), 29 Mar. 2005.

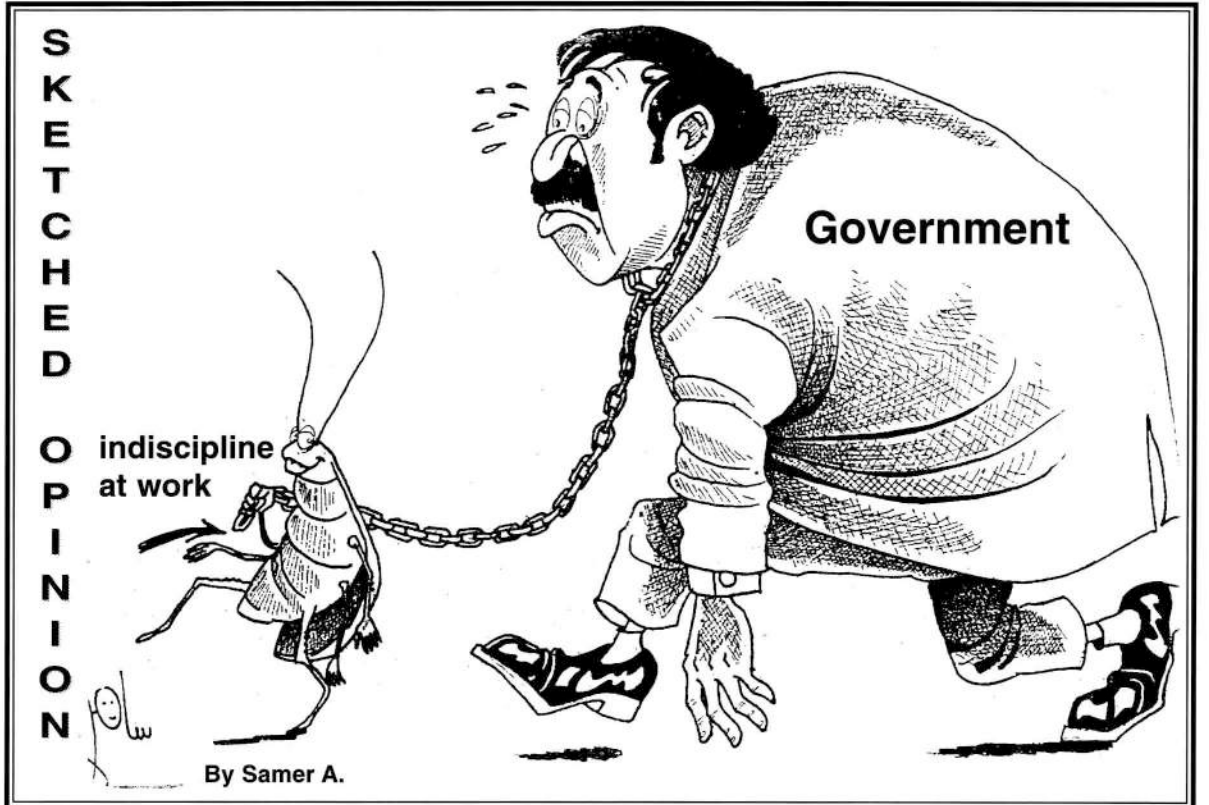
## Main headlines

- Security authorities launch military campaign on Razamat and Sha'fia areas in Saadah
- Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia gave instructions on attacking the British embassy in Sana'a
- Al-Atwani: political reform, demand of the NUO and the call for dialogue has not come through partisan channels
- Yemen hands over 25 wanted Saudis to Saudi authorities

Abdulaziz Ismael writes saying the recent developments in Lebanon is following two courses; the first is the explosions aimed at a certain sectarian and commercial area and the second is the attempts to internationalize the Lebanese question, as exposed in the report by the fact-finding committee regarding the case of al-Hariri assassination. This matter requires from all the Lebanese to take great precaution against what the fifth column is aiming at by such acts and practices.

The fact-finding committee report has expanded to discuss security, political issues and topics related to the internal affairs. This situation in fact necessitates warning by all Lebanese political forces and should be requested to investigate into the committee's tasks, which are confined to investigation into al-Hariri assassination. The report recommends the implementation of the UN resolution 1559 that targets Hizbollah and then the internationalization of the Lebanese issue and opening the way for the American intervention in the Lebanese internal affairs.

On the way leading to internationalization of the Lebanese issue, the American eyes are set on Syria. It has



either to comply with implementing all American demands regarding Iraq, the Palestinian cause and its national faction and the political reform according to the American-Zionist dictates, or otherwise the activation of the report by the fact-finding committee and continuation in raking fires of sectarian and ethnical conflict in Lebanon. Along all that accusation, fingers would continue to be pointed to Syria.

26 September weekly,  
organ of Yemen Armed  
Forces, 31 Mar.2005.

## Main headlines

- GPC's General Commission calls for joining forces for building and development of the homeland
- Security agreement with the Emirates, meeting of authorities of borders with Oman
- Tunisian foreign minister visits Yemen
- In a government comment presented by human rights minister, Yemen deals in transparency with international reports
- Saudi investors discuss establishment of projects in Hadramout
- FM to visit Russia and Belarus in mid April

The newspaper's editorial says the

new events of sedition in the governorate of Saadah have disclosed the ugly role played by those who would not like but fomenting seditions in the country. The newspaper says the new events have been instigated by Badruddin al-Houthi who has been urged by some to ignite fires and intrigues against the homeland. He and those instigating him are enemies to the republican, democratic pluralist system and deny the people's right to choose their rulers by their free will and via polling boxes. Those who do not want this homeland to entertain security and stability have found in that man their goals to push him towards committing new follies against the homeland.

## مسابقة أجمل صورة

ملاحظات	الزمان		المكان	الحدث
	إلى	من		
الدخول بدون أي رسوم	8:00 م	3:00 م	الخميس ٤ إبريل	معرض الصور الثالث - مبنى صحيفة اليمن تايمز
	12:00 م	9:00 ص	الجمعة ٥ إبريل	
	8:00 م	3:00 م	الجمعة ٥ إبريل	

## التصويت:

- سيتم التصويت على أفضل الصور من قبل زوار المعرض لعدد مائتين صورة تقريباً.
- التصويت من قبل الجمهور سيكون المرحلة الأولى للفوز في جوائز المسابقة والمحددة بنسبة ٦٠%، وسيتم إختيار الصور الفائزة (من الصور التي صوت عليها الجمهور) في المرحلة الثانية والأخيرة من قبل لجنة التحكيم (بنسبة ٤٠%).
- لكل زائر صوت واحد فقط، ولا يحق له التصويت أكثر من مرة.
- يسمح للتصويت من فوق السن السادسة عشر فقط وعبر بطاقة إثبات الهوية.

\* سيتم الإعلان عن الفائزين وموعد تسليم الجوائز في العدد رقم ٨٣٨، والذي سيصدر في تاريخ ٢ مايو ٢٠٠٥.

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## 72 hours in Socotra and 24 hours in Mukalla

By AMIN DIRHEM FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Since Yemeni unification, I have been longing to visit the Island of Socotra but it was not until this month that I was able to visit it.

I read a lot and watched films about Socotra but it was even better than I

expected. Roads are paved and asphalted according to international standards. I visited the natural sanctuaries defined under the Republican Decree No. 277 of the year 2000. On the island, the Environment Protection Authority has set up its own bureau in the capital city of the Island, Hadiboh.

There is also the Socotra Development and Protection Project which works enthusiastically to protect the local environment and achieve sustainable development. I found unmatched tourist attractions on shore and in the mountains. There are indigenous trees and birds that cannot be found anywhere else. There is a cave in the upper portion of

to Socotra which will keep the new generation of Socotra very healthy and away from such a bad habit as well as keep the island clean in very respect. On my way home, I stopped in al-Mukalla and found that despite the excellent works such as streets and corniches, Mukalla lacks public parks and children's playgrounds. I suggest to the governor not to forget the cultural aspect.



The unknown paradise



The writer is looking optimistically forward to seeing the future of socotra island

It is needed to establish a modern theatre as well as a public library and two cinemas accessed by the public throughout the year. There is only one good cultural center bearing the name of great singer Abu Bakr Salem Bal-Faqih who deserves such a token of respect. During my stay in Shahr, I tried to visit the Museum of renown poet Hussein al-Mihdhar but I was told it had been closed officially since the day of its inauguration. I would like the governor to order the Museum to be opened to the public and to add the names of artists Juma'ah Khan and Bakathir to the name of the museum. It is perceived during the recent years that there has been a healthy competition among capitals of provinces across the country.

In this regard, I have some comments, which I hope would please the concerned authorities: Establish a tradition of annual contest among Yemeni cities for the title, for instance, "The Cleanest Yemeni City" or "The Nicest Yemeni City."

Arbitrators should be experts and should set up standards and conditions for the contest as well as the assessment. Money allotment should be taken from the budget of local cleanliness funds to cover the expenses. Assessment and announcement of the winner city is to be in May every year and the prize is holding the festivals of the Reunification Anniversary in the honored city each next year.

During the one-year period, the city shall have enough time to prepare itself for the great anniversary. The government should permit international planes to land on Socotra airport in order to promote it. If this is done, the island will beat Sharm al-Sheikh, Sishel Archipelago, and other famous tourist resorts. We should make use of others' experiences and avoid repeating their mistakes. I perceived that price of tourist tickets for foreigners reach \$US317 while a ticket plus one-week accommodation at a five-star hotel in Kuala Lumpur costs \$700-800 and on the same airline, Yemenia.

the mountain extending for three kilometers. It has the potential to be a very significant tourist attraction. Along the land from Mouri near the capital Hadiboh, the runway stretches proud of its international standards. The airport, however, needs to be supplied with equipment so that it receives different airplanes from different international destinations. The Company should reconsider its prices in order to encourage tourists and foreigners residing in Yemen to visit Socotra. I call on Yemeni, Arab and foreign investors to come and invest on this island as its future is very promising particularly in environmental tourism. They must, however, adopt international standards to preserve biodiversity. Hadiboh is the capital of the Island. Nice buildings are emerging, including four two-star and three-star hotels. It is painful to see that the city is not clean. Cleanliness is a major issue and infrastructure should be provided for such as water, electricity, sanitary disposal network and urban planning. The area of the Island is estimated at 3650 square kilometers extending for 135 kilometers from east to west and 42 kilometers from north to south. The population is between 40 and 50 thousand people. The lowest temperature degree ranges between 17-25 and the highest 27-37 and the temperature peaks in May. Strong winds last between June and September annually and heavy rains fall in October and November. Socotra's people are very friendly and modest. They look forward to knowing the new with a sincere spirit. They have a special language in the spoken form only called Socotri language. They also speak fluent Arabic. I other problem that I observed was the number of people chewing qat in the capital Hadiboh and also in the mountains. I asked them how qat is transported to the island and they told me that Yemenia transports qat twice a week from Sana'a to Socotra and they chew qat the whole week. Isn't it awful that qat is transported by government carrier to this clean virgin island to spoil the Socotrais who should be kept away from qat. I urge Yemenia to stop transporting qat

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## اربح الذهب فقط

كيفية المشاركة في المسابقة

اشترى عبوة واحدة ١٥ كجم أو ٦٠ كجم من منتجات سمون صافي (سمون القسرية أو البنت الزرقاء أو البنت الخضراء)

١- استبدل غطاء واحد فقط ١٥ كجم محتوم عليه علامة من اقرب مركز استبدال واحصل على هديتك الفورية (حافضة طعام كبيرة أو صحن ملامين كبير وكذلك قسيمتين للسحب النهائي)

٢- استبدل غطاء واحد فقط ٦٠ كجم محتوم عليه علامة من اقرب مركز استبدال واحصل على هديتك الفورية (حافضة طعام متوسطة صافي أو طبق ملامين صغير وكذلك قسيمه للسحب النهائي)

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