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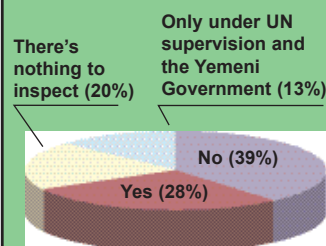
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## Readers' Voice

### Last edition's question:

Do you think the Yemeni government should allow USA to inspect Al-Eman University?



### This edition's question:

Many pro-government research centers conducted surveys on the best presidential candidate eligible to govern the country after the coming election. Do you think these surveys are neutral?

- Yes
- No
- I do not know

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# Yemen, Egypt sign bilateral agreements excluding security

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 17 — Yemen and Egypt signed 31 agreements on mutual cooperation between the two Arab countries on Wednesday evening.

Concluding the Joint Yemeni-Egyptian Supreme Committee's Sixth round of meetings that commenced Tuesday, both sides signed agreements, protocols, memorandums of understanding and accords on the launch of cooperation programs on education, health, water resources and sanitation, endowments and guidance, and industry and trade.

The bilateral programs focused on of public works, land transportation, energy and environment, tourism, youth and sports, agriculture, media, postal services, judicial systems, and foreign and expatriate affairs.

Other areas such as local administration, specifications and standards, exhibition organization, insurance monitor-

ing and solid-waste management were covered by bilateral cooperation programs, in addition to the future establishment of a Yemeni-Egyptian business council.

Yemeni Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal with his Egyptian counterpart Dr. Ahmad Nazif launched the Yemeni-Egyptian Businessmen Forum Wednesday.

In his speech at the forum, Bajammal confirmed his government's support for partnerships between private sector in both Yemen and Egypt. He stated that the private sectors in both countries have an important role to play in developing joint relations and enhancing various areas of cooperation between the two countries.

According to Bajammal, the mutual cooperation agreements signed by both governments mark a new phase in the history of Yemeni-Egyptian ties particularly in developmental areas. He called on businessmen and other pri-



Nazif

vate sector representatives in Yemen and Egypt to play a vital role in advancing bilateral ties between both Arab states.

For his part, Egyptian Prime Minister Nazif affirmed his govern-



Bajammal

ment's support for the Yemeni-Egyptian Businessmen Forum, emphasizing the pioneering role that the private sectors in Yemen and Egypt must play so that the wheels of development are pushed forward in their respective

countries.

The two officials inaugurated the First Yemeni-Egyptian Construction Forum held in Sana'a and scheduled to last for two days, from May 24 to May 25. As many as 50 Egyptian firms specializing in construction and engineering are expected to participate alongside many Yemeni firms.

Reaching the level of 125 million dollars during the past year, the volume of trade between Yemen and Egypt is rising. Evidence of increased bilateral trade is readily available with Egyptian contractors managing road construction projects and other public works in Yemen.

The meetings also examined the current situation in the Middle East, particularly in Iraq and Palestine, and how events in these two occupied Arab states impact security and stability in the region. Additionally, the talks reviewed coordination of efforts for combating terrorism.

## Appeals court commutes death sentence

By: Yemen Times Staff

HUDEIDAH, May 18 — The penal section at the Hudeidah court of appeals had on Wednesday commuted the death sentence verdict against Omar Ali Omar Faqira, killer of the 37-year-old Russian doctor Sanketa Elena. The penal court had on 20 April 2005 sentenced Faqira to death for premeditated murder.

The court of appeals in Hudeidah chaired by Judge Abdulkarim Abdulrahman Al-Barghathi changed the verdict to 8 years of imprisonment in addition to paying YR 350 thousand as wergild as well as paying YR three million as fees of lawyers. Meanwhile a judicial source at the prosecution of Hudeidah appeals court said the prosecution would appeal the verdict on basis that the defendant did not receive

a just verdict.

On the other hand a member of the Russian embassy in Sana'a told Yemen Times that the embassy was not satisfied with the appeals verdict and that the problem was that there was no lawyer representing relatives of the murdered and her husband had left Yemen following the death sentence against the defendant was issued. The husband had not retained a lawyer to follow up the case as he is convinced of the existence of justice. Moreover the embassy was not called to attend the final session of the court that spelled out the verdict.

A Yemeni court had in April 2005 decided a death sentence against the killer of the Russian doctor. The Judge of the court Abdulrazzaq Nouman had issued his verdict of execution against the defendant Omar Ali Faqira for murdering the doctor. The Russian doctor was working at the hospital of the killer's father, Dr Ali Faqira Al-Hayat Hospital. The killer committed his crime in March 2005 at her flat and stole her jewels.

The Judge confirmed that the murdered was blood-immune as she had entered the country under official authorities permission and in accordance with the Yemeni law.

## Contraband drugs comprise 50% of local market, study says

By: Adel Al-Khawlani

SANA'A, May 16 — A field study on the "Hazards of Smuggled Drugs" disclosed that the Yemeni medical drug market is flooded with contraband with nearly 50 percent of the market made-up of smuggled drugs entering the country through the Red Sea littoral. The findings were made public at a workshop held at Sana'a University this week.

According to the study, conducted by Dr. Ali Al-Dowa, sales manager at Al-Ra'afa Drug Foundation, most of the trafficked drugs and medical equipment originate from India and China and pass through the Horn of Africa into Yemen. In an interview with the Yemen Times, Al-Dowa noted that illegal drug traffickers exploit indifference on the part of the concerned governmental bodies to take kickbacks at the expense of health of the Yemeni people. "They commit crimes against humanity," he commented.

The study argues that large quantities of smuggled drugs are past their expiration date and are shipped by carriers that overlook international specifications and standards for drug storage shipboard. As a result, "these drugs are ineffective and expose the lives of Yemeni people, who prefer them for their low prices, to risk," the researcher stated.

Al-Dowa said the past two years saw an increasing percentage of smuggled drugs in circulation since the Yemeni market has favored the contraband due to



Drugstores flooded with smuggled medicines as their prices suit the public.

their lower cost.

The study criticized the relevant government authorities' indifference and negligence as they fail to exercise control over black-market drugs entering the Yemeni market. The study points out that it is impossible to find official tallies on the quantities of black-market medicine extant. Al-Dowa explained most of the contraband passes through Djibouti for

transit before arriving Yemen.

"Those medicines are being stored in miserable and unhealthy climates and environments, so they lose effectiveness at least, or become very poisonous," the study observes.

Dr. Abdu Shetiwa, a medical expert, attributed the phenomenon to lax procedures at customs offices. He observed that customs checkpoints tend to fine

traffickers trivial sums and fail to initiate criminal procedures against them.

He went on to say that the lack of some indispensable drugs on the formal Yemeni market encourages simple traders to form a "medicine mafia" that colludes with East Asian companies to fabricate imitations of quality-trade-marked drugs.

Continued on page 2

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## Regional forum reviews children's education in the Arab World

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, May 17 — The Arab Regional Media Forum on Children Rights that hosted myriad participants from the Arab countries concluded their second meeting in Dubai on May 4. The forum was a joint activity of the UNICEF regional office for the Middle East and North Africa, the Dubai Press Club, the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR), the Al Bayan newspaper, and other parties.

The forum tackled the issue of girl's education in the Arab world as well as children rights in general. The participants discussed this topic in order to become better acquainted with the situation of girl's education and to get acquainted with the role of media in defending children's rights. It was agreed that the media can further the rights of children most if they have a thorough knowledge of the general situation of children in the Arab world, particularly in regard to human rights. Girl's education in the Arab world in terms of enrollment, dropout rates, and educational inputs (e.g., facilities, sanitation, teachers, and curriculum), in addition to other interrelated factors, was discussed.

Successful strategies and experiences were reviewed with the aim of familiarizing the participants the best practices in education reform with regards to girl's education in the Arab world and in the world at large. One of



Participants in the forum.

the case studies looked at was the United Nation's initiative for girl's education.

A review of the role of media in intensifying the support and follow-up of girl's education was made as well as awareness of the distinctive obstacles that women face. The forum designated tasks for participants to follow-up on with the media in relation to the international initiative for girls' education.

The forum assessed select case studies on girl's education by hearing testimonies from media workers who had conducted field-visits in order to identify needed international initiatives in girl's education. There were also a number of studies presented on girl's

education including a Yemeni paper that was presented by the author: "Media facts and Indications over Girl's Education in Yemen." Other papers presented included one by Dr. Malak Za'lok examining girl's education in the Arab countries and one by the BBC journalist Safa' Faisal.

Unlike usual conferences and forums, a final statement was not delivered. The forum organizers determined that typically such meetings issue a final communiqué without any results down the line. Media professionals presented several media commitments in support of improving girl's education including film projects and written reports supporting girl's education.

## Yemen restores control of Al-Tewal outpost

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, May 17 — Saudi Arabia handed over to Yemeni Authorities the last bordering outlet of Al-Tewal which includes military sites and buildings in between the border mark 31-40 west. The handover took place according to Jeddah Treaty that put and end to a 66 years of disputes between the two neighboring countries. The treaty was signed on June 2000 and it concerns

the demarcation of international borders between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

The ceremonies of handing over took place in the presence of a number of security and military leaders from both sides. The ceremony also included signing the handover documents and the transfer of sovereignty over buildings and establishments as well as border guard in Al-Tewal Outpost. Thus, Al-Tewal Outpost has become part of Haradh District, Hajah

Governorate.

In a press conference released by Yemeni News Agency, Saba; Mohamed Al-Quosi, Deputy Minister of Interior said "so far Yemen have restored all sites and buildings between the land border marks 31-40. This reflects the will of both political leaderships and their common interest in setting strong basis for brotherly relations between Yemen and Suadi Arabia."

## Yemeni women's achievements highlighted

By: Nashwan Dammaj

IBB, May 16 — The General Secretariat of Arab Women Union (AWU) held a symposium on two themes: "Yemen's Unity: One of the Revolution's Achievements Reached by the Political Leadership's Will" and "Women's Arab Unity: a Goal Sought by Yemeni Women via Goodwill" on Tuesday.

The event, coinciding with the marking of the 16th anniversary of national unity, was held at Al-Rabadi Hall at Ibb University. In attendance were Ibb's governor, Brig. Ali Al-Umaisi; Dr. Ahmad Shujaaddin, rector of Ibb University; Ms. Ramzia Al-Iryani, chairwoman of Yemeni Women's Union (YWU) and the secretary-general of AWU.

Chairwoman of the YWU's Ibb branch, Sameera Al-Bahili, delivered a welcoming speech wherein she described the achievements realized by Yemeni women under the national unity.

"Institutional and educational works have to be given more precedence over party activities and all political parties and organizations must work together to serve the nation and overcome any difficulties or barriers posed to Yemeni women," Al-Bahili said.

In his speech Dr. Ahmad Shujaaddin confirmed that Yemen's reunification functioned as a distinguishing and historic move toward an improved life for Yemeni women. He noted that the reunification movement defended women as it likewise defended the achievements of the Yemeni Revolution.

"Women's political participation is of great importance in Yemen, particularly after the parliamentary elections in 2003," Shujaaddin continued. "The past years has seen great development in Yemeni woman's life, mainly in the democratic work."

He noted: "women's participation in parliamentary and local elections has increased from 18 percent in 1993 to 27 percent in 1997 and up to 43 percent of the total number of voters in the 2003

parliamentary elections."

Ramzia Al-Iryani stated that democracy and human rights are key demands worldwide and that these two demands can only be fulfilled after overcoming archaic social concepts, revitalizing the economy, enforcing the rule of law, raising popular awareness, and the recognition of women rights in real-life situations.

Al-Iryani urged Yemeni women to push political parties to reach a consensus on granting female candidates closed constituencies to enable them to compete with each other on a fair playing field.

In his speech, Brig. Ali Al-Umaisi stressed that: "We have to pride ourselves for what has been achieved by Yemeni women, particularly as the AWU Secretary-General is a Yemeni lady." He indicated Yemeni women have reached commendable achievements, compared to situations in neighboring countries where women are only allowed to vote in elections but not to stand as candidates.

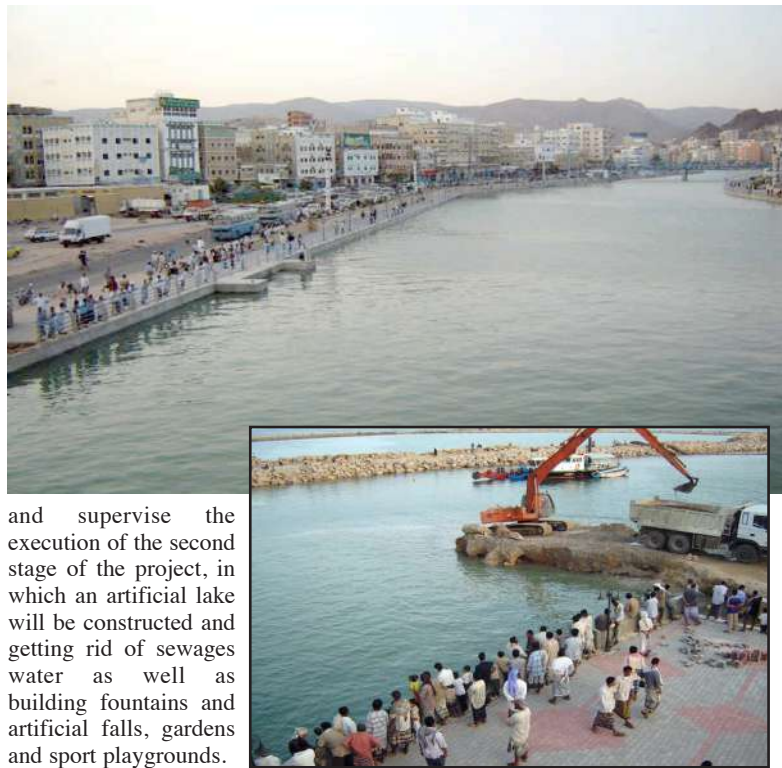
## Arab Sea water flow into Al-Mukalla khour

By: Saeed Al-Batati

ALMUKALLA, May 17 — The works in Al-Mukalla Khour, at the center of Al-Mukalla City, came to an end last Thursday as the last land-barrier that set apart the Arab Sea from the man-made tunnel (Khour) had been cracked. Hundreds of people gathered to see the moment at which sea water will enter the channel for the first time. The water flowed smoothly as planned by the civil engineers.

Implemented by Al-Amodi Group for Contracting, the Khour is considered to be one of the giant projects in Al-Mukalla with a total cost of 10,000,000 US Dollars. It is 1,583 m long, 95 m wide and 3 m deep. The total area of the tunnel is about 150,385 km sq. It is linked with three suspended bridges, two for pedestrians and the third for motors. The bridge for vehicles was finished recently costing around 6 millions US Dollars. It is the first suspended bridge in Hadramout Governorate.

President Salah has recently ordered the formation of a committee to follow



and supervise the execution of the second stage of the project, in which an artificial lake will be constructed and getting rid of sewages water as well as building fountains and artificial falls, gardens and sport playgrounds.

## 3 immigrants killed while crossing the Gulf of Aden

SANA'A, May 16 — Three Ethiopians were reported to have been killed while traveling to Yemen earlier this week, according to the UN refugee agency UNHCR.

The three victims are believed to have been beaten to death by the boat crew and their bodies were thrown overboard during the voyage. "This is yet another example of the extreme cruelty of the Somali smugglers, who seem to have no regard for human life and are only interested in making money" said UNHCR spokesperson Ron Redmond addressing journalists at the UN complex in Geneva on Tuesday.

The victims were among 335 Somalia and Ethiopians onboard of two boats arrived over the weekend in Yemen from Somalia. The two boats left Shimbale in Somalia on May 13 and arrived Yemen late at the same day. Only 35 people made it to the UNCR

reception center in Mayfaa in southern Yemen, Redmond said. "We don't know whereabouts of the remaining 300, but we are closely monitoring the situation on the ground," he added.

UNHCR says that not all new arrivals come to its reception center. Many decide to travel to another destinations if they survive the journey across the Gulf of Aden. "The group who arrived at our reception told harrowing stories of their voyage across the Gulf."

Several hundred people have died while attempting to make the crossing. From September of last year until last month, a total of 241 boats arrived from Somalia in Yemen, an average of 30 boats a month. Several hundred people died during these trips, although an exact figure was unavailable, UNHCR said.

Smugglers, fearing capture by the Yemeni Coast Guard (YCG), sometimes

throw passengers overboard before the boats reach the shore. "The seas are infested with sharks, and survival is nearly impossible," said UNHCR spokeswoman in Geneva Astrid Van. It is believed that each passenger pay the equivalent of between US \$30 and US \$50 to make the voyage.

On May 8, UNHCR said 39 bodies, mainly Ethiopian, were found near Belhaf. Survivors said the deceased were among those forced at gunpoint to jump from their boat.

*Continued from page 1*

## Contraband drugs comprise 50% of local market, study says

Abdulkhaleq Al-Kumaim, a businessman running four drugstores in Sana'a, observed that smuggled drugs carrying Indian and Chinese trademarks—including contraceptives and other medical items related to reproductive health—are in high demand because of their affordable prices. He added that only 10 percent of clients can afford to purchase drugs manufactured in Western countries like Germany, England, Ireland, Switzerland or the U.S. as the leading pharmaceutical companies copyright their products and charge monopoly prices for their products. The result of this system, coupled with import duties that the government assesses, causes Yemeni medicine importers to pay double the cost of popular imitations pro-

duced elsewhere.

Drug pricelists approved by the High Drug Authority at the Ministry of Public Health and Population facilitated the contraband medicine phenomenon to grow for the past twenty years as the black-market prices tended to be lower than the official list, according to Al-Kumaim.

Health-related violations are on the rise in Yemen due to lack of medical awareness in society as well as poor monitoring practices on the part of government authorities. In addition to the spread of the presence of expired drugs on the market, the nation endures another trend: the establishment of clinics, pharmacies and other medical facilities contrary to official health standards and

codes.

Yet, the government has taken some action to improve the health situation in the country. Recently, the Sana'a governorate's Public Health and Population Office closed twelve medical establishments, including clinics and pharmacies, for violating health standards and codes. The office confirmed that 9,000 parcels of black-market imitations of drugs were discovered in capital hotels in past few months.

Realizing the negative consequences of taking spoiled medicine, security authorities have made several arrests of drug vendors on the streets of the capital. In addition, investigations have begun into locating the parties supplying the vendors.

## Ebhar Foundation launches a creativity project

SANA'A, May 17 — Ebhar Foundation for Childhood and Creativity in collaboration with the Canadian Program for Developing National Efforts initiated the "Command and Creativity" project. The project was launched at the foundation headquarters last Saturday, May 13.

The project aims to train 20 girls, who are talented in the arts, in skills in the field of décor design and

drawing on various materials, and many handicrafts as well. In addition, the girls will receive training in marketing, accounting, and management.

Lasting for 2 months, the course will conclude by providing students with the resources necessary to sell their products, thus ensuring project continuity and sustainability, as well as supplementing the income of the targeted girls.

## 8 Yemeni fishermen caught in Oman

ALMAHRA, May 17 — Local sources in Almahrah Governorate mentioned that Omani Authorities caught 8 Yemeni fishermen by the end of the week. The fishermen were caught after they had entered to the Omani regional waters by accident, the sources affirmed.

Other 12 Yemeni fishermen were caught in the Omani waters a month ago. The 12 fishermen were set free along with their boats few days after the Yemeni Government had contacted the Omani Government in this respect.



# Saddam Hussein refuses to plead

Iraq's toppled leader Saddam Hussein refused to enter a plea at his trial on Monday after he was formally charged with the killings and torture of Shia villagers in Dujail, BBC reported.

The specific charges read out by Judge Raouf Abdel Rahman relate to Saddam and his seven co-defendants' alleged role in the crackdown on the village of Dujail in 1982 after a failed attempt on Saddam's life.

Saddam Hussein, 69, is accused of ordering the killing and torture of hundreds of Dujail villagers, including women and children, the illegal arrest of 399 people and the murder of nine people.

"After allegations of coming under an assassination attempt, you issued orders to security forces and the army to arrest residents and use all weapons against them," Judge Abdul Rahman said.

"As a result for your orders to use force against Dujail residents, nine people were killed in the first two days...and 399 others were arrested."

Saddam, who if found guilty could face the death penalty, refused to plead after hearing the charges.

"This statement cannot influence me or shake a hair of my head. What matters to me is the Iraqi people and myself," he said. "I am president of Iraq by the will of



(AFP Photo) Iraq's toppled leader Saddam Hussein refused to enter a plea at his trial on Monday.

the Iraqi people."

When asked if he was guilty or not, he said: "This is no way to treat the president of Iraq."

The judge then ordered the court to record that Saddam denied the charges and proceed to read out the charges against his co-defendants, starting with Barzan al-Tikriti, Saddam's half-brother and former head of the intelligence serv-

ice.

Judge Abdul Rahma read the same charges, adding a charge of murder for the killing of 148 Shia villagers from Dujail who were executed.

"All you said are lies, everything you mentioned is a lie," Barzan al-Tikriti said after hearing the charges.

Under the Iraqi trial system, the prosecution presents its case and the judges then decide on specific charges before the defense begins.

Witnesses for the defense were expected to testify later Monday.

Khamis al-Obeidi, one of the defense lawyers, said that dozens of witnesses, including some from Dujail, would testify to the former leader's innocence.

The prosecution presented evidence against Saddam, including audio tapes and signatures on execution orders linking the defendants to the Dujail killing.

But the defense lawyers insist that the signatures are forged.

The defense phase is expected to last at least a month. After that, there will be a long recess while the court considers its verdict.

Source: aljazeera.net

# U.S. renews full diplomatic ties with Libya

The United States renewed full diplomatic relations with Libya after removing it from its list of countries that support terrorism, AFP reported.

"I am pleased to announce that the United States is restoring full diplomatic relations with Libya. We will soon open an embassy in Tripoli," the U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in a statement.

Rice said that the renewal of ties was one of the "tangible results" of Libyan President Mummar Gaddafi's decision in 2003 to give up plans to make weapons of mass destruction.

The U.S. Secretary of State said that Tripoli had since shown a "continued commitment to its renunciation of terrorism", praising Libya for its "excellent co-operation" in the U.S.-led war on terror.

Rice also said that the renewal of ties with Libya is an example for Iran and North Korea, classified by the U.S. as rogue states and sponsors of terrorism.

"Just as 2003 marked a turning point for the Libyan people, so too could 2006 mark turning points for the peoples of Iran and North Korea," she said.

"We urge the leadership of Iran and North Korea to make similar strategic decisions that would benefit their citi-



The U.S. ties with Libya's leader Gaddafi were frozen for more than 25 years

zens."

## • "Significant step"

The U.S.'s decision to remove Libya from the list of state sponsors of terrorism will lift restrictions on foreign aid and arms exports, and is expected to boost economic relations between the two countries.

Tripoli praised the move as "a significant step on the way to strengthening links" between the two countries.

"This turns a new page (between the two countries), in the interests of both peoples," Libyan Foreign Minister Abdel Rahman Shalgham said.

Washington cut its ties with Libya in 1981, two years after protestors ransacked the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli.

An alleged Libyan-backed attack on a Berlin nightclub popular with Americans in 1986 prompted the U.S. to launch air attacks against Libya, killing more than 41 people.

The United States also blamed Libya for the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am flight over the Scottish town of Lockerbie, killing 270 people in the plane and on the ground.

In 2003, the Libyan government accepted legal responsibility for the Lockerbie attack and agreed to pay compensation to the families of the dead victims.

Libya is also believed to have helped Western intelligence agencies with information about the Pakistan underground nuclear network.

In September 2004, President Bush lifted many economic sanctions against Libya and allowed air flights to resume between the two countries.

# Iraq violence claims another 60

BAGHDAD — American forces killed more than 40 insurgents, including a known Al Qaeda operative, in five raids south of Baghdad, and militants downed a US helicopter during the fighting, killing the two soldiers aboard, the US command said on Monday.

The raids took place over the weekend in an area commonly known as the "Triangle of Death" because of the large number of insurgent attacks.

Insurgents also launched new attacks on Monday. They fired more than 30 mortar rounds at a British military camp in southern Iraq, wounding four soldiers. Elsewhere, 16 Iraqi Iraqis were killed, including eight police officers in southern Basra and one in a roadside bomb attack that hit an oil tanker in Baghdad, sending a large plume of black smoke billowing over the capital.

Four of the US military raids occurred on Saturday and Sunday around Latifiyah, 30 kilometres south of Baghdad, the US command said.

American soldiers and helicopters killed 16 suspected Al Qaeda insurgents, including one militant who allegedly had led an April 1 militant attack that downed an AH-64 US Apache helicopter and killed the two soldiers aboard in the Youssifiyah area, about 20 kilometres south of Baghdad.

A new Al Qaeda group had claimed responsibility for downing that Apache and posted a gruesome video on the

Web showing men dragging the burning body of what appeared to be an American soldier across a field as they shouted "God is great!"

During the Latifiyah raids, US forces killed Al Qaeda member Abu Mustafa and 15 other suspected Al Qaeda associates, the US command said. Abu Mustafa was wanted for "his leadership role" in the shooting down of an Apache helicopter on April 1, the US command said.

The deaths of those two US soldiers brought Iraq's weekend toll to seven American servicemen. They includes two US Marines who died on Sunday during unspecified "enemy action" in Anbar Province, the area of western Iraq that is the heart of the Sunni-Arab led insurgency. Two US Army soldiers also died on Sunday in a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad, and another one died in a roadside bomb in the capital on Saturday.

The seven fatalities raised to at least 2,443 the number of US military personnel who have died since the Iraq war began in 2003, according to a count by The Associated Press.

In other attacks Monday, militants fired more than 30 mortar rounds at a British military camp in southern Iraq, wounding four soldiers. Elsewhere, eight Iraqis were killed, including one in a roadside bomb attack that hit an oil tanker, sending a large plume of black smoke billowing over central Baghdad.

The mortar barrage occurred at about 4.30am on Monday at Britain's Camp Abu Naji in Amarah, 290 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, said British spokeswoman Capt Kelly Goodall. One of the British soldiers received a serious leg injury, but the other wounds were minor, said Holly Wheeler, a British Ministry of Defence spokeswoman in London.

On Monday, a drive-by shooting at about 8.30am killed four teachers who were heading to their school in a village near Balad Ruz, a town 80 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, police said. The attackers and the victims were both riding in minibuses, the private vehicles that charge small fees to transport the general public.

In central Baghdad, a roadside bomb targeting a police patrol missed the officers but killed one civilian, wounded four and set fire to an oil tanker parked nearby. "The explosion caused a huge fire," said police Capt Ziyad Naji. One man died in a drive-by shooting in Baghdad.

Roadside bombs exploded in two cities located north and south of Baghdad, killing one Iraqi civilian and a police officer, and wounding five Iraqis, police said.

Also, Iraqi authorities on Monday released 418 detainees initially arrested on suspicion of aiding or participating in the insurgency, a Justice Ministry official said Monday. Source: Daily Times

# A silver lining in Bush's new CIA pick?

The lack of a challenge to Hayden's nomination from the D.C. Democrats could be the final straw for voters craving the chance to stand up to George Bush.

By: Scott Ritter, AlterNet.

The decision taken by President Bush to replace Porter Goss as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was long overdue. Goss was one of the worst possible choices to hold such a critical position, in such a critical period of our nation's history. The many failures of the CIA in the years and months leading up to the terrorist attacks on the United States that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001, were illustrated in vivid Technicolor on that day.

And yet, in responding to these failures, the president not only gutted the CIA by creating an additional layer of bureaucratic morass known as the national intelligence director, thereby diluting the influence and authority of the CIA director, but then appointed a partisan political figure, Porter Goss, to the helm of this scuttled ship. Mr. Goss' tenure will go down in history as one of the worst ever (followed closely by that of George Tenet). That Goss needed replacing goes without saying. But the choice to replace him, Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, is mindboggling.

I'm not one of those who line up against the appointment of Gen. Hayden because he is a military officer. I have too much respect for the military and those who wear the uniform of the United States of America to ever collectively impugn their integrity by suggesting that the fact that a person -- an intelligence professional, no less -- is on active duty somehow makes him or her less fit to head the CIA.

Too many men and women of honor, serving on active duty, have held positions within the CIA for the idea that one's status vis-a-vis the armed forces somehow limits their ability to perform within the CIA. In fact, had Gen. Hayden been nominated for the position of CIA director prior to Sept. 11, 2001, I would have been a big supporter. After all, as an officer of active duty, he had sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, an oath I find very attractive when dealing with issues of intelligence that often blur the line between national security and individual civil liberties. In such situations, the only protection we the people have from abuses of power and authority is the Constitution and those sworn to protect it.

In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, Gen. Hayden had gone on the record regarding how assiduous the National Security Agency (NSA) was when it came to protecting the Fourth Amendment rights of Americans. This was at the time that he served as director at the NSA, America's largest spy agency, which, among its primary institutional duties, intercepts and monitors communications relevant to America's security, (i.e., "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized").

The abuses of power and authority that had occurred from the 1950s through the mid-1970s by the intelli-

gence and law enforcement services of the United States, including the NSA, were the subject of investigations conducted by congressional committees headed by Sen. Frank Church and Rep. Otis Pike, the consequences of which were sweeping reforms that limited the ability of the NSA and other agencies to violate the Fourth Amendment protections afforded American citizens. The end result of these investigations was the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, which created a framework, complete with a special court, to approve and monitor any activities undertaken by U.S. intelligence agencies that might construe a violation of an American citizen's Fourth Amendment rights.

Gen. Hayden, in an interview given to the media in 2003, claimed that the NSA was very careful in how it did its job, especially when it came to protecting the rights of Americans. "After Church and Pike, on this question, the ball and strike count on the agency is no balls and two strikes," Hayden said. "We don't take any pitches that are close to the strike zone. We are very, very careful. We can't go back to the American people with, 'Oh, well, we're sorry for this one, too.' We don't get close to the Fourth Amendment."

Of course, it turns out that Gen. Hayden is a liar. At the same time he was providing his glossy picture of NSA operations to CNN reporter David Ensore, Hayden knew that he had been, since early 2002, been conducting communication intercept operations under a presidential order that circumvented the FISA system he so falsely applauded, and that the Fourth Amendment rights of all Americans were under the direct assault of an intelligence agency so large and so secret it was, and is, virtually impossible for Congress to conduct even a modicum of oversight.

We now know that Hayden's attack on the Constitution goes far beyond the "limited program" described by President Bush when news of the program first leaked out in late 2005. The warrantless wiretap effort created by Gen. Hayden represents the most massive information collection effort ever targeted against American citizens, operating with a scope and depth that literally leaves almost no American unaffected.

What are we Americans to do? Congress has all but abrogated its constitutional oversight responsibilities mandated by the Constitution. The Senate Select Intelligence Committee has ceased to function in any capacity as an oversight body, with Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., and Sen. John D. Rockefeller, D-W.V., doing nothing to protect their constituents from the abuse of power taking place at the White House. The same can be said of Reps. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., and Jane Harmon. D-Calif., the chairman and ranking Democrat, respectively, on the House Intelligence Committee. The best Congress can muster is a weak threat by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Penn., to withhold funding for the NSA unless the Bush administration is more forthcoming in responding to requests by Congress for information about the warrantless wiretap program. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., acknowledges that what President Bush has done is unconstitutional, and therefore illegal,

but calls for "censure" of the president when impeachment is in order.

The complicity of the Republican majority in Congress (Specter aside) is understandable (yet unacceptable) given the partisan divisions that exist. However, the silence of the Democrats is deafening, only underscoring the reality that, at a time when a nation screams for voices of responsibility in the face of imperial overreach at home and abroad by a president long out of control, the best mainstream Democrats can offer is a promise to be "more hawkish" on issues of national security than their Republican counterparts. If the Republican Party won't seek to heal itself by reigning in the abuses of power conducted by the Bush administration, then it clearly demonstrates that it, as an institution, places partisan politics above constitutionally mandated checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches of government. And if the Democrats who are in power aren't willing to step into the void, then perhaps it's time a new generation of Democrats was elected in their stead.

This is why the candidacies of political insurgent "newcomers" like Marcy Winograd, a progressive Democrat challenging Jane Harman in California's 36th District are so important. As a conservative Republican, Marcy and I do not see eye to eye on a number of domestic issues. But on the larger picture of constitutional protections afforded American citizens, I appreciate her perspectives in challenging those for not holding the system accountable.

Unfortunately Jane Harman has been passive in the face of abuse of power. She is the senior Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee and yet has acted more like a "good partisan Republican" than a defender of individual civil liberties, not to mention national security (Harman voted in favor of the War in Iraq, as well as the Patriot Act).

If America is going to be in a position to heal the wounds brought on by the abuses of the Bush administration, then it will be up to Congress to lead the way. The Republican Party has shown itself incapable of respecting the separate but equal distinctions the Constitution draws between the executive and legislative branches of government, allowing for the unacceptable concentration of power in the hands of a president and administration that operate increasingly in imperial fashion. The only hope to break this "imperial presidency" is to create friction within Congress, and in all likelihood it will happen only if a Democratic majority in the House of Representatives is elected this November. But if the Democrats achieve a majority with people who are too often in lockstep with the Republicans, then it will all be for naught.

In a way, it could be a good thing that President Bush has nominated Gen. Hayden as the next director of the CIA. While Congress may fumble when it comes to confronting Hayden and the Bush administration on the issue of warrantless wiretaps and Fourth Amendment rights, the American media should have a field day.

Scott Ritter served as chief U.N. weapons inspector in Iraq from 1991 until his resignation in 1998. He is the author of the recently published "Iraq Confidential: The Untold Story of the Intelligence Conspiracy to Undermine the U.N. and Overthrow Saddam Hussein" (Nation Books, 2005).

# EU General Affairs Council discusses Iran, Middle East

European proposals on the issue of Iran's nuclear energy, developments in the Middle East and what will become of the European constitution in the future were the main issues discussed in Brussels on Monday at the European Union's Council of General Affairs. Greece was represented at the meeting by Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis and Deputy Minister Yiannis Valynakis.

Speaking to the press on the issue of Iran's nuclear energy, the foreign minister said that "we are in the middle of a considerable diplomatic initiative"

whose aim is for Iran "to have the nuclear energy it needs and for it to be, in parallel, a foregone conclusion that it will use it for peaceful purposes".

Commenting on the European proposals, Bakoyannis said that they comprise a package to Iran, which has both an economic and a scientific aspect.

As regards the nature of the package, she said that it will be binding for Iran and clarified, however, that the term binding concerns the diplomatic aspect of the issue and not the use of force.

On the question of developments in

the Middle East, the "25" appeared to agree with the need for the creation of a special fund in support of the Palestinians that will function independently from the Hamas-controlled Palestinian government.

On the part of Greece, Bakoyannis stressed the need for the activation of the EU to meet the needs of a humanitarian nature of the Palestinian Authority, while also stressing the need for a positive response from the government of Israel as well.

Source: Athens News agency



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# Immigrant nurses displace Yemenis

Over the years, the number of foreign nurses has multiplied dramatically in Yemen, reducing the chances for Yemeni nurses to employ the skills they possess. Locals complain of harsh treatment meted-out when under the care of foreign nurses, noting that Yemeni nurses would treat them with more sympathy and kindness.

By: Hakim Almasmari  
hakim\_almasmari@hotmail.com

Nasser Saleh, a 47-year-old from Sana'a man, complained about mistreatment when an Asian nurse treated him at one of Yemen's largest government hospitals. The language barrier between him and the largely foreign nursing staff caused them to handle him harshly, Saleh said.

"She treated me as if I was a prisoner and not a patient. Hospital patients need to feel secure and relaxed. This is part of good and decent treatment," said Saleh, who was admitted to the hospital earlier this year for serious chest pains.

Like Saleh, many Yemenis share similar feelings about Asian nurses, with patients often complaining that these nurses act callously as caretakers in hospitals and clinics.

Medical studies have demonstrated that an essential role of nurses is to put patients at ease, letting them know they are in caring hands. In this way,

patients relax and are more likely to be comfortable with their surroundings.

"I was given an injection for my fever and the foreign female nurse treating me was very rough. I tried to tell her to handle the situation smoothly, but she replied to me in her language and I didn't understand a word," said 34-year-old Atif Saleh, who has minor health problems. "I just hope these large hospitals will give Yemeni nurses a chance to use their skills," he added.

Yemeni society tends to favor anything foreign. Dr. Haytham Al-Gasaali readily admits that Yemen lacked qualified medical staff in the past, which resulted in the recruitment of foreign doctors in order to fill the gap in the medical sector. "Nowadays, things have changed, as Yemenis are more experienced and qualified," noted Al-Gasaali.

A pharmacist by trade, Al-Gasaali has worked in the medical field for more than five years. "It's time for the government to give its people a chance and open the doors for nationals. Yemenis deserve this chance," he



Al-Jamhoury Hospital, one of Yemen's largest, employs 41 of the estimated 900 Asian nurses working in government and non-governmental hospitals and clinics throughout Sana'a

added.

Al-Gasaali noted that more than 5,000 Asians – who easily could be replaced by local Yemenis – work in various sectors in the Yemeni labor market, resulting in increased poverty and a higher unemployment rate in Yemen, which stands at 38 percent, according to the UNDP 2006 report.

"Yemen has become a haven for foreigners who cannot find decent jobs in their countries," 39-year-old cancer patient Nagi Khalid said. "Our hospitals hire these foreigners not for their experience, but for the importance of giving the hospital a foreign face," he said.

According to medical sources within the government circles, the four largest government hospitals in Sana'a alone employ 641 Asian nurses, not to mention all hospitals in the city. The majority, 300, are at Al-Thowra Hospital, followed by Al-Sabae'en Hospital with 180, Kuwait Hospital employing 120 and Al-Jamhoury Hospital with 41.

Asian nurses immigrate to Yemen seeking a better future, as many of these labor immigrants have endured poverty in their native land. The Yemeni medical field presents greater

opportunities for advancement than some countries in Asia such as India, with less competition, giving Asian immigrants a better chance of obtaining work. This was clearly understood when talking to an Indian citizen residing in Yemen who preferred to be left anonymous.

"The reason why many Indian nurses come to Yemen is because they couldn't find a decent position in their country. This is life. Yemenis living in the Gulf, Europe and America did not go there for fun, but rather to seek a good future for themselves and their children," said Fatima Abdul Saboor, a Yemeni nurse who earns three times less than an Asian nurse with similar qualifications and experience.

Concerning compensation, Asian nurses earn four to six times more than Yemenis who have the same or an even higher degree and greater experience in the field on average. According to Al-Jimhoury government hospital sources, Asian nurses receive between YR 60,000-140,000 (\$300-\$700) monthly, while Yemenis with the same level of education and experience receive between YR 30,000-60,000 (\$150-\$300) monthly.

"I feel sad for those graduates who

strove day in and day out seeking a better future through medicine," said Sameer Mansoor, a Yemeni doctor resident in Germany. "They will get their chance if the government starts to realize whom is more important – its own people or foreigners," he added.

Striking a dissident note, a surgeon at a government hospital who requested to remain anonymous defended Asian nurses for their hard work and dedication. "Compared to other foreigners or even Yemenis working in hospitals, they are very hard working, giving their utmost effort to help people." He pointed out that Yemeni nurses are inclined to be tardy, whereas Indian nurses come and leave punctually.

Unlike Yemen, Saudi Arabia has prioritized the employment of its citizens in all labor sectors which has produced a strong economy and has enhanced prosperity among its people. In Oman, even if citizens lack the knowledge or expertise for a certain job, the government offers special, free training to prepare them for the needed position. These methods of insisting on the primacy of native employment over labor immigrants has opened doors to those struggling to succeed in their

own country.

Locals hope that the Yemeni government learns from other countries' experiences in building its citizenry's expertise and knowledge base and begins implementing programs that will prioritize the development of the domestic labor market. Foreigners currently hold many kinds of jobs in Yemen: teachers from Arab countries, nurses from Asia, street cleaners from Africa, doctors from many countries and even hairdressers from North Arabia. All of these positions could be filled with Yemeni workers if there was the political will for change.

The Yemeni government has taken the first step in improving the situation for Yemeni workers by terminating contracts with thousands of foreign teachers and hiring young Yemenis in their place.

Yet, the health sector remains largely the domain of immigrants even though thousands of Yemeni students annually graduate in the field, thus making work difficult to find, according to the Ministry of Education. Most Yemeni medical graduates lose hope and give-up searching for work, deciding to live their remaining lives in other professions.

## African babies 'dying at birth'

Some two million babies born every year in the developing world die on the first day of their lives, the Save the Children charity has said.

A report by the charity says most die from preventable causes, such as infections, a difficult birth or low birth weight.

It says many of the lives could be saved by simple, cheap techniques.

The charity also found it is safest to be a mother in Scandinavian countries - and most dangerous in African ones.

The findings come in the charity's annual report, State of the World's Mothers 2006.

It reveals that around 60 million mothers in the developing world give birth at home every year, without a skilled person to help.

More than three million babies are stillborn each year, and about four million die within one month, of disease or complications of childbirth.

Half of those die on the first day of their lives.

prospects for mothers and infants, despite limited resources.

Such countries improve their prospects for economic growth and development, says the report, which points out that babies who receive an unhealthy start in life tend to be sicker, less productive adults.

### Maternal welfare

The report includes rankings on how safe it is to be a mother around the world.

Factors such as maternal mortality, the percentage of women using modern contraception and adult female literacy rates are combined to make up the "Mothers' Index".

Of the 125 countries listed, Sweden comes first, while other Scandinavian countries dominate the top 10. The US and UK tie for 10th place.

Niger is at the bottom, with nine other



Africa is the most dangerous place for babies, the report says.

### 'Political will'

The charity argues that low-cost interventions could reduce newborn deaths by up to 70%.

It says an additional \$4.1bn (£2.2bn) per year from the international community could provide mothers with the information and services that could save their lives and their babies' lives.

Although 99% of newborn deaths and 98% of maternal deaths occur in the developing world, Save the Children says political will matters more than national wealth in tackling these deaths.

It says Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Eritrea and Tajikistan are among developing nations doing an "admirable job" in investing in services and education that improve the

African countries filling the 10 last places.

However, in another table the charity ranks 33 industrialised nations according to newborn mortality.

Here, the US performs badly, languishing near the bottom of the table alongside Hungary, Malta, Poland and Slovakia with five newborn deaths per 1,000 live births.

The researchers say there is a high degree of differentiation among survival rates for babies from racial minorities compared to whites in the US, with non-Hispanic black babies twice as likely to die as white babies.

There is also a greater wealth gap in the US than in many other developed nations, researchers point out.



## Invitation for Expression of Interest

The World Bank Office in Sana'a is announcing its need in Arabic-English and English-Arabic contractual translation and interpretation services.

Qualified individuals and translation firms are requested to submit their Expression of Interest. The package should include: (i) full credentials, (ii) samples of previous translation experiences (2 pages of written translation to and from both languages with the original text for evaluation), (iii) three verifiable references, and (iv) quotes for expected remuneration (per page and per hour of interpretation services). We do not stipulate ability to provide both services by the applicant, though this would be an advantage.

**Applications not complying with the above requirements will not be considered**

**Only short-listed applicants will be invited for an interview and skills test.**

Please submit your applications in **sealed envelopes clearly marked "Translation Services"** not later than May 31, 2006 to:

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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its project "Decentralization and Local Development Support Program (DLDSP)"



**Post Title: Local Development Associate/ SC-7**  
**Duration: 06 months (renewable)**

### Responsibilities

- Contribute in the development, review and improvement of all DLDSP manuals and materials on public expenditure management, this includes materials on: integrated planning, budgeting, procurement, implementation, asset management and monitoring and evaluation.
- Develop an annual work plan and ensure it responds to the field operations of the whole Mobile Team and the Districts Facilitation Teams (DFTs) in a manner that satisfies the requirements of the DLDSP.
- Provide mentoring and support to the DFTs as they carry out formal training sessions as well as on-the-job capacity development activities in public expenditure management with the district local authorities.
- Contribute to the facilitation of training of trainers as well as direct training in districts in all DLDSP produced manuals and materials for district local authorities.
- Work closely with the other Mobile Team members and the DFTs to strengthen the capacity of the local authority in the areas of integrated participatory planning, budgeting, supervision of project implementation, revenue development and collection procedures, financial reporting and accounting with a focus on the relevant departments of the district diwan, council and executive organs.
- Produce quarterly reports that describe the experience in the field and report against the annual work plan. These reports should point to specific substantive issues with the goal of informing policy and the strategy for the implementation of decentralization reforms.
- Perform any other related tasks that are of relevance to this scope of activity.

### Qualification

- A university degree in social sciences, such as public administration, public and international relations or any other related discipline.
- Minimum three years experience in the field of the implementation of local development, local government reforms as well as capacity development and specific experience in local level planning processes would be of significant value.
- He/she will have strong communication and training skills as well as analytical and writing abilities.
- Fluency in English and Arabic with proven communication and training skills.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O. Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: [registry.ve@undp.org](mailto:registry.ve@undp.org)  
The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 27th May 2006

**UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.**



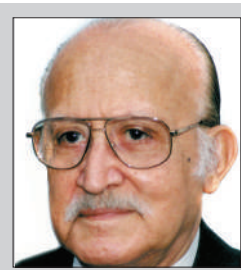
# A coalition government to supervise the election

In compliance with Article No. 5 of the Constitution stipulating the peaceful transfer of power, President Saleh declaration not to run for president in the upcoming elections functions as an introduction to a play staged before local and international public opinion after 28 years in power. The statesman devoted government institutions and property of the country to make persistent calls on him to stand in the poll under the allegation no body is eligible enough to replace him.

Al-Wasat weekly said last April that Hodeida Branch of the Political Security Organization prepares for a huge demonstration to insist on Saleh to back out on his decision. The paper added that sums of money estimated between fifty and two hundred fifty thousand Riyals were distributed to sheikhs, district chiefs and the governor henchmen to contribute in persuading citizens to register their names and signatures in lists planned to be forwarded to President Saleh and to take part in the demonstration.

Definitely, such behavior will be seen in other Yemeni governorates. The government bodies may put signatures in the poll boxes and there will be no need for voters to come to the voting centers. This confirms the upcoming presidential elections will be similar to previous ones by being merely formal and subjected to vote-fraud by mercenaries of the totalitarian regime who club and increase suffering of Yemenis as they say there is no alternative to Saleh. These mercenaries are likened to say "there is nothing better than unemployment, poverty and starvation and nothing easier than suicide, giving the opportunity to terrorism to buy the idle people".

These behaviors convince the Yemeni people that a development plan, conditioning a new leadership with scientific judgment and practical experience for establishing a modern state, is impossible. We have to be merry for being the poorest worldwide, as former Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Ahmad Sufan stated to Al-Ayyam Newspaper



By: Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Baidhani

on the seventh of March 2002. Most of the international loans and humanitarian grants are pocketed by officials without any monitor or accountability, as the Central Organization for Control and Audit announced and published in Al-Shumou Newspaper on the 24th of January 2004 and no official reacted.

Is this the type of governance that has no alternative? Yemen is living on a volcano due to break out as an inevitable result of unemployment, poverty, starvation and despair. The situation led university graduates to sell grilled durra on roadsides and join terrorist gangs in and outside Yemen. Besides, population boom threatens the strategic location of a country obliged to provide security and stability, considered key to reforms in a nation of armed civilians and armed forces belonging to the poor classes. The situation warns that these classes will join rebellion following the outbreak of the volcano of unemployment, starvation and animosity toward officials who plundered the country's wealth and stored it abroad.

So, our country is in need of a political qualification to help make available a good will for economic reforms from within a democratic regime hailing the opposing ideas in a collective leadership based on sound reform and not detentions and threats.

Also the country is in need of media qualification to liberate constructive criticism from the control of security apparatuses. This is due to enable opposition to disclose defaults of corrupt officials having negative impacts on the nation's wealth, grants and loans. In addition, there is a persistent need of administrative qualification to provide an efficiently trained administrative staff to shoulder the responsibility of the nation.

Another demands are associated with judiciary and unity qualifications. In case of the former, the country needs an independent judiciary qualified enough to run investment affairs to gravitate Arab and foreign capitals. The judicature must be separated from the executive while control and audit apparatuses must be qualified to be

capable of referring any corruption suspect to court without consulting the executive. These apparatuses must be separated from the presidency powers. With regard to the latter (unity qualification), efficiency and competence must be the standard for occupying posts and not family, ethnical or racial relations. It is impossible for a country, suffering discrimination between citizens and lack of work specialization, to cope with technological advancements of the era.

I remember that when I was Vice President of the Republic and Prime Minister, I selected competent people to help in building the new state, most of whom were from Sana'a and the surrounding areas. As the contemporary state is the goal, its means should involve science and competence plus continued improvement.

After confirming the evidence of vote-fraud in presidential elections and the president's use of public money and security and media apparatuses, it is impossible for the country to have free and fair elections until a coalition government supervises all the electoral stages and under an international monitoring. Aired debates between presidential candidates are necessary to help people select the most eligible one who can build a contemporary state with stable development to achieve security and peace. The country does not need anything more important than security and peace to protect corruption or a backward tribal and military state driving Yemen to catastrophe.

I made a bid for presidency and proposed a debate with President Saleh to ask him how he led the country to catastrophe and how he can rescue the country from this catastrophe. By this, we did not undervalue efforts of Saleh who worked harder for the sake of the nation and no soul can afford more than its capability. Last but not the least, every candidate must give an oath on his health and prove legitimacy of its sources.

*Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Baidhani is a well-known Yemeni politician. He was the Vice Chairman of the Revolution Council after the 1962 revolution, a former Vice President of the Republic and Prime Minister. He currently resides in Egypt.*

# Salvaging the Iraqi Government

Repulsing the occupation forces and defeating terrorism are interrelated. Elections were the potential gateway for the elimination of both George W. Bush and Osama Bin Laden from the world stage.

The Iraqi elections took place months ago and witnessed an eye-catching voter turnout and serenity which was a source of surprise for observers. These elections embodied Iraqis' wish for the restoration of their freedom and the rebuilding of their war-shattered country.

What made the elections a great success was the dilemma of the American administration, for it, in general, and the Neo-Conservatives, in particular, have made Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and spreading democracy the only reasons for occupying Iraq. As to the claim that Iraq possessed WMD before the American invasion, inspections by the American administration, ludicrously, bore-out that Bush's claims were baseless.

The accusations of relations between Saddam's regime and Al-Qaida had fallen short from the first days of war. Ironically, the American occupation is now held responsible for bringing Al-Qaida, Al-Zarkawi and the shades of global terrorism into Iraq. Bush's administration has no more entreaties to play upon either in front of the American People or international public opinion except that of 'spreading democracy'. Thus, with ever increasing of war losses, the only choice left was to calm down the political situation in Iraq.

Excepting Al-Zarkawi's group, elections seem to have been the general desire of all parties. America and Britain, who are the main players, wanted to have a window for a political solution in an attempt to slow



By: Abdulbari Tahir

down the spiraling level of popular resistance and create the impression that democratic transformation in Iraq had been realized. The fulfillment of the promise of democracy suggests at the victory of America in Iraq. The task, according to Bush, has been performed. Yet Iraqis, whatever their tendencies, see that elections are the best means by which they can respect each other. Their wishes will be met in this regard with the evacuation of American forces, or at least, with the creation of a timeline for evacuation.

It is likely that the demand for fixing a deadline for withdrawal of the occupying armies is the cause for the high voter turnout. Moreover, this was the reason for the Occupation armies to provide an atmosphere of security, peace and stability to the country.

Yet, every party in this deadly political game has its own calculation. Shiites claim to be the majority sect, while Sunnis declare that they are a key party that should not be ignored, especially in regards to the resistance. Kurds seem to be the most united and coherent party.

Though most parties tended to accept the democratic option, continued violence seems to be inescapable. The two warring parties, America and Britain on one side and Al-Zarkawi and his group on the other, have bid on "terrorism" more than betting on democracy and peace. As for Al-Qaida, leaders refuse democracy entirely. Similarly, Bush wants Iraqi democracy to have all the formal aspects of a democratic government with a fake core in order to retain American bases in Iraq indefinitely. According to the *Washington Post*, playing upon the differences between Sunnis and Shiites and changing the techniques of control, in addition to hinting at dividing Iraq, expresses such sinister aim.

Thus, the inchoate Iraqi government is stillborn because of factional and partisan differences. It is known that elections were conducted with the same factional and partisan inclinations even within the same sect. There are many sub-groups comprising the Shiite sect and this indicates that the sectarian game is conditional and can be bypassed when engaging in national political dialogue. The

occupying forces play on the idea of sectarianism and this danger of sectarian division threatens the whole region, not solely Iraq. The Arab world is built upon tribes and factions together with prehistoric affiliations undermining modern attitudes and civilization.

Iraq aspires to get rid of American colonizers and the terrorist attacks of Al-Zarkawi, but this can only be achieved when Iraqis dismiss sectarianism and eliminate factionalism. They should agree on distributing the ministerial posts according to honesty and capability, not according to cronyism. What is surprising is that some parties want Iraq, which thousand years ago was the birthplace of solidified and united city-states and empires, to be divided according to factional and partisan biases.

Factionalism will always persist, but the manner of dealing with it is the most important thing as it can divide people creating moments of discrimination, extermination and marginalization allowing various fake and false identities to dominate. Al-Zarkawi and his followers play roles that are more dangerous than those played by American and British armies in creating discord. They place Shiites on equal footing with Crusaders, targeting Iraqis, Shiites in particular, more than targeting American or British occupiers. The occupation forces, though cruel and violent, gather people indirectly to defend their national Iraqi identity, while Al-Zarkawi gather people according to factional and religious bases. The two warring parties, even when they attack each other, support and complement each other and each party finds in the other party a justification for its existence.

The important task at the moment is to disintegrate the mechanisms of the factional address. The demobilization of factional Shiite and Sunni militias, rationalizing the political agenda, avoiding factional divisions and putting to the interest of Iraqi people first is the only safe plan for defeating both the occupation armies and terrorism.

Thus, forcing-out the occupation forces and defeating terrorism are interrelated. Elections were the gateway for removing both Bush and Bin Laden from Iraq's future. Bush and his Neo-Conservative fellow travelers have resorted to alluding to the artifice of civil war and factional division. Bin Laden, Al-Zarkawi and Al-Dawhri openly call for holy war and factional extermination and they wage a hellish war against the majority of the secular and Shiite factions in Iraq.

*Abdulbari Tahir is a Yemeni Journalist and the former chairman of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate.*

# National deal or travesty?

The Yemeni national deal seems to be in recession now. In fact, it has lost all significance as the September elections lie only four months ahead. What is important is that there is no content in the deal itself. A detailed analysis would help to shed light on the basics of the deal.

The problem in Yemen, like other Arab countries, lies in the fact that the presidential post is not open to the public. The post will presumably be granted to a ruler who has dominated it for the past 28 years. The elections are dealt with as a legal hurdle for retaining power and not as an opportunity available for all.

Moreover, prospects for change are not promising. Internal forces seem to lack the willpower for political change. External change is destructive and Iraq is a good example of that. Depending on the above, the perspectives of the deal could be based on two principals: the ruling bloc and the opposition. The message that the ruling forces are circulating is that alternatives for the present regime will be either religious



By: Mustafa Ragih

extremism or anarchy. This suggestion is justified by the absence of previous peaceful political transitions, and the lack of awareness in this respect. As for that, the external powers concerned with the Yemeni affairs are offering the option of freedom instead of the impossibility of an imminent presidential reshuffle. They demand that a modern independent judiciary is the least that Yemeni society deserves. Transparency in parliamentary elections and giving a free hand to civil society organizations is also suggested. Opportunities for business people are also to be provided in order to pave the way for the democratic change. All these demands are meaningless in the place of a postponed process of peaceful transfer of power, at least for the time being.

The internal parties have tackled the national deal from a different perspective. Following the announcement of President Saleh on 17 July 2005 that he will not nominate himself for the presidency in the upcoming election, Yasin Noman, the Secretary General of the Socialist Party, belittled the value of this announcement as he thinks that

what matters now is how to arrange for a peaceful transfer of power. He prudently asserted that the president is throwing stones into a stagnant pool.

When the opposition represented by the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) declared their agenda, there was speculation that there was a deal in the offing and that President Saleh would accept key points mentioned in the opposition's program. In particular, it was expected that Saleh would accept the points concerned with constitutional amendments and the shift from a presidential form of government to a parliamentary one. However, other points dealt with transforming elections from the individual representative system to admixture of the individual and proportional system. A neutral electoral committee and the expansion of empowerment of local councils' authority were also demanded in the program. Another important point was that the president was to leave his post as head of the supreme judiciary council's board and to give the judiciary the chance to appoint their board from among themselves. Lastly, the other part of the deal was that Saleh would be announced as the national candidate of the entire Yemeni political spectrum and of the civil society organizations.

This deal was not successful:

President Saleh and his regime cease to recognize it anymore. They do not even feel that they are in need of it. They refused to budge on the status of the election committee considering it a "red line" that should not be crossed. Furthermore, instead of making concessions in accordance with the opposition's proposals, the President addressed the military forces and incited them against journalists and against the opposition. He used this vital national institution to threaten those who yearn for change. These behaviors do not leave much space for the opposition to compromise. Their alternative was to leave behind their old methods of confining themselves to their physical premises and the issuance of political statements. They had to reach out to their constituency and be more aware of their problems.

Last week, Mohamed Qahtan, the speaker of the JMP said: "We hope that we should not be compelled to undertake Samson's option." Qahtan was commenting on the public alternative. However, this is an incorrect assessment because resorting to the public as an alternative is natural and an inevitable strategic option that cannot be relegated to the election time only.

*Mustafa Rajeh is a Yemeni journalist*

## Letters to the Editor

### Inspecting Al-Iman University

I could not believe when I saw the news about the US administrations demand to inspect Iman university. I did not know things have gone to that extent where US has to go to that limit to ask the inspection of an educational institution in Yemen like Iman university and the Yemen authority will allow something like this to take place.

The people of Yemen and its gov-

ernment should take a stand and say to Bush's administration, its a matter of principle and national pride.

What Bush's administration will ask after? Order the university to change its curriculum and do not allow students from outside Yemen to study in Yemen?

What a shame!

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# Education For All

## Good policy, good meeting the literacy (Part-I)

### EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 (6/9)

When 164 governments adopted the six Education for All (EFA) goals in 2000, they espoused a holistic vision of education spanning learning from the first years of life through adulthood. In practice, achieving good-quality universal primary education (UPE) and gender parity, two of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, has dominated attention. As the United Nations Literacy Decade unfolds, the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006 aims to shine a stronger policy spotlight on the more neglected goal of literacy – a foundation not only for achieving EFA but, more broadly, for reaching the overarching goal of reducing human poverty.

• **Change begins with strong political commitment. Governments should have explicit literacy policies focused on schools, adult literacy and the literate environment**

• **Strong, coordinated government leadership is needed, integrating all concerned ministries and sectors, dovetailed with local implementation and community ownership**

• **Partnerships between central and local government and civil society are essential to put literacy on all agendas.**

Drawing on insights of part III of this report, Part IV calls for a three-pronged policy approach to literacy, encompassing the achievement of UPE, the scaling up of youth and adult learning programmes, and the development and enrichment of literate environments. Part IV also discusses essential features of sound policy and the role of government in scaling up adult literacy programmes.

#### Good policy, good meeting the literacy

As this Report shows, countries face a daunting task if they are to take their commitments seriously: close to 800 million people are unable to exercise the right to literacy and survey data suggest that the figure may be much higher. Large numbers possess weak literacy skills after several years in school, or lose them over time. Even in highly developed countries, certain particularly disadvantaged groups may be held back by low education levels. In both developed and developing countries, globalization and the growth of the knowledge economy are creating demand for new literacy skills. In addition to the EFA literacy goal's quantitative target focused on individual skills, a broad understanding of literacy implies the wider aim of building literate societies.

Literacy is more than a single goal; it is at the centre of the whole EFA endeavour.

That is why this Report calls for a three-pronged strategy encompassing (a) quality schooling for all children, (b) scaled up literacy programmes for youth and adults, and (c) the development of environments conducive to the meaningful use of literacy. This approach recognizes both the individual and the broader social dimension of literacy. For the poorest countries, sustained investment in universal, good-quality primary education is critical. But simply waiting for UPE will not suffice. Youth and adult literacy programmes must be scaled up. Appropriate language, book, media and information policies are needed to develop environments in which literacy can flourish and be valued.

#### Strategic imperatives

Strong and sustained political commitment to the three-pronged strategy for literacy is the starting point for stepping up progress. This Report calls on governments to develop explicit literacy policies for all three foundations of literacy, and to place literacy firmly within education sector plans and poverty reduction strategies. Only then are the necessary institutional, human and financial resources likely to be provided.

Explicit policies imply political commitment. This is urgently needed for youth and adult literacy beyond formal school systems. Regardless of learner motivation, regular attendance of literacy programmes ebbs without constant public support. Where significant gains have been achieved, both national and local leaders have stressed the value of literacy for nationbuilding and development. Political commitment, popular enthusiasm and attention to language of instruction all played their part in the success of mass literacy campaigns. Broader public policies and wellcoordinated partnerships have also been key to positive outcomes. Whatever the preferred route, the scaling up of literacy programmes has to be part of a major national endeavour. Business as usual is not enough. Relatively few governments have coherent, long-term national literacy policies encompassing attention to governance, programme design and delivery, human and financial resources, and the promotion of an environment in which individuals are encouraged to become literate and to sustain their skills.

Strong leadership. Ministries of education have prime responsibility for literacy policy: they are best placed to integrate literacy into education sector strategies, promote lifelong learning, coordinate publicly financed programmes and partnerships, and regulate accreditation systems. In practice, responsibility for literacy is often shared by several ministries.

Botswana, Eritrea, Namibia and Thailand are among countries where education ministries have well established adult or non-formal education units overseeing literacy programmes. Burkina Faso and Morocco have set up separate state structures for literacy and non-formal education to better coordinate policy. In many countries, management structures are decentralized and aim to coordinate public, private and civil society literacy providers. In others, independent national agencies oversee adult literacy. Central guidance and coordination has to be dovetailed with local implementation and community ownership. Initiating literacy campaigns, national programmes and broad partnerships is complex: national, regional and local management structures need to be set up, materials developed, and coordinators and facilitators recruited and trained. India's district-

level Total Literacy Campaign, launched in 1992, is a successful example of a highly targeted, large-scale national programme. It mobilized community resources and set up centres offering continuing education. By March 2003, 98 million adults had become literate through this campaign. In most countries, however, literacy activities are small and run by NGOs, including religious bodies. They face challenges similar to those of larger programmes in terms of funding, staff, materials and community support. Scaling up local good practice is particularly difficult. In Ghana, for example, an expanded training programme requiring joint backing by government and NGOs could not finance those incentives, such as transport and meal allowances, that pilot programmes had demonstrated to be important.

Partnerships are vital. They are diverse, involving religious groups, trade unions, private companies, universities, the media and local authorities. Partnerships are often threatened, however, by fragmentation or even competition. In Uganda, for example, while the government has encouraged pluralism in literacy provision, many initiatives operate without reference to each other and tend to be limited in coverage. Senegal's 'faire-faire' model is managed by an agency set up to outsource adult literacy provision to NGOs and small entrepreneurs. Despite serious programme quality problems, this approach is spreading to other West African countries. In Brazil, the government's Literate Brazil Programme relies on close partnerships with local governments and large NGOs with experience in adult literacy. In many Asian countries, community learning centres combine education with community development activities, enabling constructive partnerships between government and civil society. Putting literacy on everyone's agenda, clarifying the roles and responsibilities of different agencies, and establishing national coordination mechanisms among and between providers are essential for effective literacy programmes.

The nuts and bolts of youth and adult literacy programmes

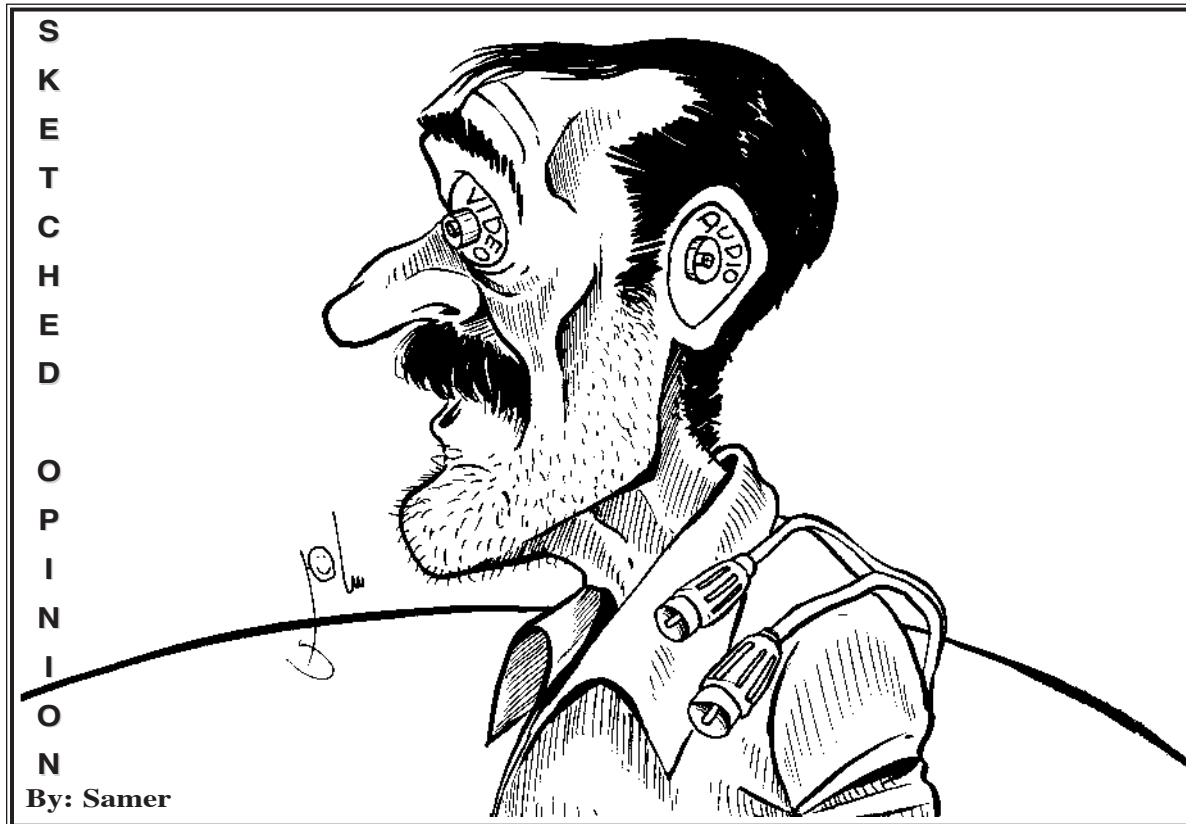
**Literacy is more than a single goal; it is at the centre of the whole EFA endeavour**

Learners' knowledge and wishes should inform adult learning programmes and be their starting point – an axiom that is not applied uniformly. Whatever their objectives, all such programmes require attention to curriculum and pedagogy, learners' schedules, the training and status of literacy educators, the learning technology used and the language of learning, as well as to the broader environment in which individuals practise their literacy skills. The following are some essential dimensions of good practice.

1. Curricula and pedagogy: relevance, learning materials and participation

A relevant curriculum is conducive to better learning outcomes. Curricula must respect and build on the demands of learners and their diverse circumstances.

Sensitivity to the adult learner's cultural background, mother tongue and life experience is required.



Understanding how men and women use their literacy skills in various settings can provide valuable insights for the design of appropriate literacy programmes. A recent study in Ghana, for instance, showed that among the uses to which learners put their newly acquired literacy skills were helping children with homework, administering medical prescriptions properly, communicating with government offices, writing letters, reading religious texts and opening savings accounts. To respond to such diverse needs and motivations, clear, appropriate and realistic goals should define the 'why' of the curriculum. From this should flow the 'what' – specific learning objectives that provide clear statements of intent for learners, expressed in terms of skills, their application and wider social engagement. The curriculum should strike a balance between relevance to local contexts and to wider opportunities. A frequent mistake is to incorporate training for income-generating activities too rapidly into literacy education, and using instructors insufficiently qualified to deal with both. Literacy teaching is often hindered by a lack of learning materials. In Senegal, a study found that many literacy classes were taught orally. Adult literacy books tend to be characterized by poor content and design. They may also contain images and themes that seem to validate inequalities, as in the case of primers that focus on women's domestic roles and ignore their participation in agriculture or the labour market. Participatory, learner-centred methods are essential for adults. Critical pedagogy argues that, for true learning to happen, the voices of marginalized groups must be heard and fully engaged in the learning process. The norm, however, is still a formal, basic skills approach with emphasis on mastering reading, writing and numeracy within a specified time.

#### 2. Organizing learning groups

As adult learners are largely voluntary, family demands, agricultural cycles and other circumstances can affect programme attendance. To minimize this problem, programmes must have sensible timetables, use suitable locations, and be sensitive to age and gender issues (for example, to attend literacy courses, women must often seek the agreement of the male head of the family). Uganda's strategy calls for training 40,000 literacy instructors, at least half to be women, in reaction to a situation in which 70% of adult illiterates are women while most literacy educators are men. In Burkina Faso, child care is provided to enable mothers to concentrate on their courses. In India, the Mahila Samakhyas

Programme in Uttar Pradesh and the Women's Development Programme in Rajasthan run residential literacy camps so that women can be free from domestic pressures while they learn.

Most literacy programmes run 300 to 400 hours over an average of two years. A survey by ActionAid and the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) suggests, however, that to achieve lasting literacy, about 600 hours are needed, delivered in two weekly sessions of two to three hours. Funding shortfalls and dependence on external donors make it hard for many programmes to provide such regularity. The library is an ideal place to offer family literacy programmes, as it provides materials for all age groups and reading levels. Although often underresourced, libraries and community learning centres can offer space for classes as well as reading materials. In Botswana, village reading rooms have been set up to extend library services to literacy programme graduates.

3. Literacy educators: improving their status Instructors are vital to the success of literacy programmes, but they are paid little if any regular remuneration, lack job security, have few training opportunities and rarely benefit from ongoing professional support. Many have no previous teaching experience. Unless the professional development of literacy educators and their trainers is taken seriously, progress towards more literate societies will be severely constrained. This matter must be given national attention in literacy policy and practice.

It cannot be something added on if resources permit. Training of literacy educators, where it exists, is often in a national official language while their work is carried out in local ones. Training in numeracy teaching is especially rare and inadequate. Most non-formal training courses last one to two weeks, include no assessment and generally give no accreditation. In Uganda, for example, educators in the government's functional adult literacy programme receive a few days of training with very little supervision. Training of trainers for adult literacy educators is also neglected; where it exists, it tends to be overly formal, without attention to practice. Formal training programmes for literacy educators often run from one to three years. Delivered through institutions or through open and distance learning, such courses, leading to accreditation, are common in southern Africa and parts of Latin America, and are starting up in Asia. Their contribution to the professionalization of literacy educators is profound, but they are too lengthy to enable the rapid scaling up of

literacy programmes. Interesting training innovations exist. Mozambique offers literacy educators with Grade 7 schooling the chance to upgrade their formal education and eventually be employed as full-time teachers in literacy programmes. In Brazil, certain courses lead to certification as specialist teachers in adult and youth education. Some training programmes include provision for ongoing support following the training. Out of sixty programmes surveyed for this Report, over one-third offered some follow-up. Worldwide, conditions of employment for adult literacy educators are very poor, especially compared to those of teachers in formal education. This situation results in frequent turnover, with serious implications for programme quality. The GCE/ActionAid survey, covering sixty-seven programmes around the world, revealed that half of the literacy educators involved were paid an honorarium or stipend, 25% received the national minimum wage and about 20% were unpaid. Most programmes paid between one-fourth and one-half of a basic primary-school teacher's salary. Survey respondents cited better pay and training for literacy educators and more reading materials as primary concerns.

4. New learning technology: recognizing constraints

Distance learning and information and communication technology (ICT) can provide opportunities for informal and non-formal literacy learning by adults, though access to technology is highly uneven in many contexts. China, India and Mexico have conducted adult basic education using radio and television broadcasting.

Locally produced interactive radio instruction and community radio can promote exchange between learners and programme providers, especially for widely scattered or mobile communities such as nomads. South Africa is experimenting with computer software for teaching literacy, but this is not an affordable option for large-scale provision with very low literacy rates. Cuba's 'Yo, s\_ puedo' programme, using radio and video to enrich literacy teaching, has been adopted in several Latin American countries and New Zealand.

Given constraints in access, ICT and distance learning have more immediate potential for offering professional development to literacy educators rather than for running programmes per se.

Although television is not accessible to much of the world's population, it does reach large audiences in many countries. Its potential as a channel for promoting literacy is considerable.

# Is Europe turning toward a strong euro?

By: Melvyn Krauss

European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet made news at the press conference following the May meeting of the ECB Governing Council not by what he said, but by what he did not say. Trichet, who on occasion has protested increases in the strengthening of the euro, refused to object to its recent appreciation even when encouraged to do so by several reporters.

Is this a sign that the tide is turning in Europe in favor of a stronger euro? Or does it simply reflect the fact that the ECB now intends to enforce its old policy of not commenting on exchange rates whatever the circumstance?

Two factors point to a possible turning of the tide. One is the fact that crude oil now sells at \$75 a barrel. Second,

Europe's economic recovery is progressing to the point where exports are no longer the sole source of growth.

Indeed, with sky-high prices of crude oil and base metals like copper, aluminum, and zinc, the rising euro has become a shield for Europe's ongoing economic recovery. These commodities, after all, are priced in US dollars. Because the euro has appreciated against the dollar, the euro price of crude oil and base metals has increased at a slower pace than their corresponding dollar prices. As the escalation of dollar commodity prices continues, so will European interest in a stronger currency.

The recently rising euro also has helped keep down European long-term interest rates – a key determinant of economic activity – as inflationary expectations deteriorated somewhat in the euro-zone area. During April, the rise in inflationary expectations and the

euro's appreciation occurred more or less concurrently. The yield on the 10-year German bond, which might have been expected to pop because of the deterioration in inflationary expectations during this period, barely moved. This is a big plus for sustaining economic recovery.

Should Bush and Bernanke cause investors to lose faith in US financial assets at some point, the rising euro will help shield European interest rates from the consequences.

Still, politicians and maybe even some central bankers continue to be concerned about the currency, because they fear that a stronger euro could stifle exports, thus weakening overall economic performance. But this fear is likely to diminish as Europe's recovery broadens past exports into the economy's domestic sectors.

In fact, there is evidence that this is now happening. Surveys indicate that

business confidence is up throughout the euro-zone economy, indicating that a domestic investment boom may be around the corner. Likewise, the new ECB growth forecasts may show the internal economy strengthening. In short, the fear that a stronger euro could kill the only goose laying the golden eggs is likely to recede in coming months.

Of course, not everyone in Europe can be expected to be equally enthusiastic about a stronger euro. The euro zone is a vast area comprised of different nations with different cultures, histories, economies, politics, and so forth.

Germany, with its history of a strong deutsche mark and very competitive costs, likes the strong euro more than, say, its partners, France and Italy, which have histories of weak domestic currencies and non-competitive export costs. The mere existence of a common currency is no guarantee that everyone will

agree about what its value should be.

Still, even in the traditionally weak-currency countries, changes afoot suggest that a turnaround in political attitudes and public opinion toward a stronger euro may be on the horizon.

The recent election in Italy of a center-left government led by Romano Prodi is a case in point. Not only did the Northern League – an important component of Silvio Berlusconi's ousted right-wing coalition – favor a weak euro, but it also favored pulling Italy out of the euro altogether. It is now out of power.

So is Berlusconi himself, who favored a weak euro to compensate for Italy's economic inefficiency and the complete lack of reform during his years in office. Prodi, a convinced European, is less likely to favor a weak euro.

Another promising change in Italy has been the appointment of Mario Draghi as Governor of the Bank of Italy. Draghi, a

respected MIT economist, favors economic reform and understands the role that a strong euro plays in spurring it.

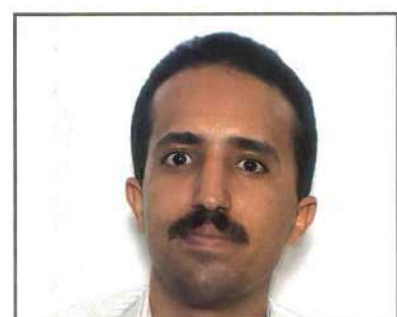
Economic reform must be financed somehow, and if the funds are to come, at least in part, from outside the EU, the euro must be a strong currency. Draghi replaced Antonio Fazio, whose corrupt protectionist practices in Italy's banking sector had both discouraged capital from coming into Italy and depressed the euro.

In the current global environment, the case for the strong euro is becoming increasingly apparent. Mr. Trichet's silence at the May ECB press conference on the rising euro could be a tacit acknowledgement of this new reality.

*Melvyn Krauss is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.*

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Tareq Mansoor Abdulla Noman



Mahmood Mohamed Al-Maktary



Ahmed Abdul Jabbar Ahmed Haider



Yahya Ahmed Abdulla Al-Ahwal



Ahmed Ali Mohamed Sa'ad



Ahmed Mohamed Al-Nowairah



Ali Abdul Salam Al-Ra'adi



Ali Mussad Mohamed Amran



Ali Taleb Mohsein Al-Agtam



Anwar Yahya Mohamed Hiba



Aref Abdo Abdulla



Bushra Mahmood Taher Mohamed

SAFER

# SEPOC honors exemplary employees



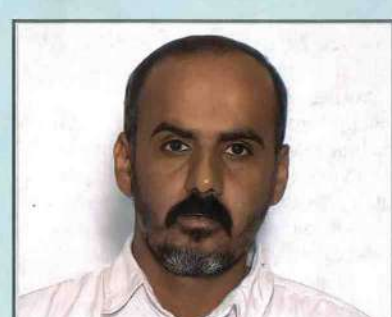
Abdulla Mohamed BaRahim



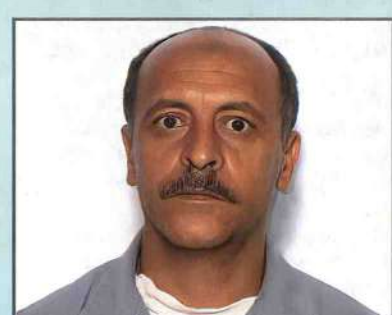
Hussein Hussein Mohamed Idris



Abdu Mohsin Ali Al-Maghrebi



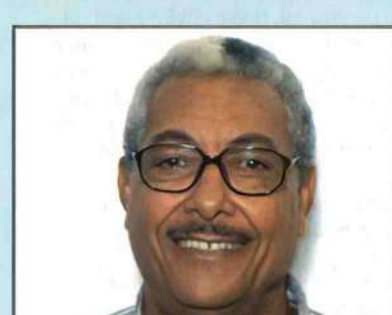
Turkey Saleh Ahmed Al-Bakry



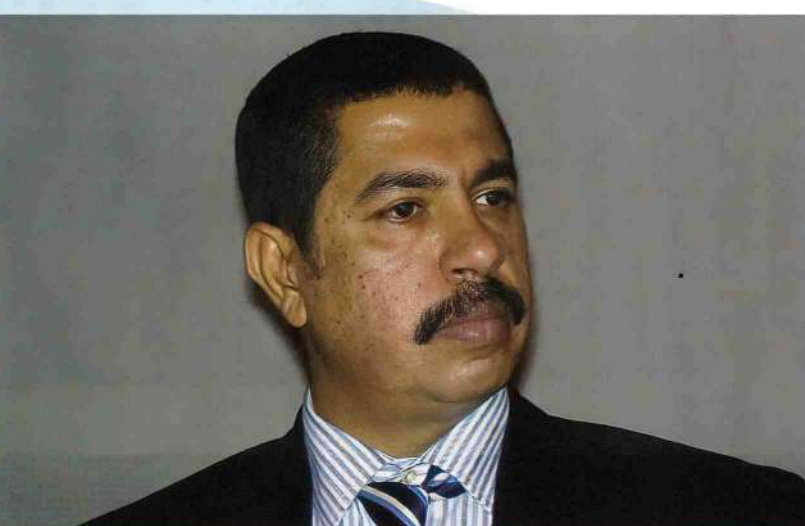
Mosaed Hussein Mohamed Jerwash



Abdulla Hassan Hassan Bassaid



Shaakeb Yahya Mohamed Al-Harazi



Khaled Bahah, Minister of Oil &amp; Minerals



Dr. Amattarraq Hummad, Minister of Social Affairs &amp; Labor

Safer Exploration and Production Operations Company (SEPOC) staged on Wednesday May 10 its Outstanding Achievement Award Luncheon at the Sana'a Movenmpic Hotel on the occasion of the World Labor Day. During the luncheon, SEPOC recognized 43 employees who demonstrated outstanding performance and achievement during the past year.

The special recognition program honored employees in three different categories, Outstanding Achievement Award, Special Achievement Award and Executive Manager's Award. Employees were nominated for the Outstanding Achievement Award by their respective department managers and selected by the Executive Manager, Vice Executive Manager and an Awards Committee. On the occasion, SEPOC Executive Manager Engineer/ Mohamed Hussein Al-Haj gave a speech in which he said:

"His Excellency Minister of Oil & Minerals  
Her Excellency Minister of Social Affairs & Labor  
Members of Parliament  
Members of Al-Shoura Council  
Members of the Managing Committee  
Dear Guests  
Attendees

"I greet all of you and welcome your joining us to celebrate the recognition of the outstanding employees of SEPOC.

"It is my great honor to be particularly nominated by His Excellency President of the Republic Marshal Ali Abdullah Saleh, may Allah save him, to assume duty as an Executive Manager for SEPOC. I am rejoiced to be amongst you to celebrate the recognition of the outstanding employees of SEPOC. In my opinion, this recognition is not only for the outstanding employees but also for all of their colleagues in various inland and marine work sites. These employees' commendable efforts and attitudes, along with their recognized colleagues, contributed to the success of the Company's activities. This is manifested in the most difficult circumstances which the Company has undergone especially those noted by all MOM's staff who either supervised or participated in the turn-in of Block (18) from the former operator to SEPOC. Here, I am going to briefly explain what the former operator did at the turn-in on November 14, 2005:

Sadiq Hassan Abdul Hamid  
Senior Mechanical EngineerIbrahim Ahmad Al-Hassani  
Production SuperintendentSadiq Abdul Raqib Radman  
Deputy Purchasing ManagerTalat Ali Mohamed Al-Jabali  
Treasury Manager

- Uninstalling the computer programs and withholding the passwords to access computers.  
- Expatriate employees left oil facilities and field while operations were going on.

"Having God-gifted determination and volition to assert themselves after twenty years of being marginalized, the Yemeni employees proved themselves to be, in such situations, up to the responsibility for operating facilities in inland and marine sites and the head-office and for protecting the lives of employees and the safety of properties despite the shortage in workforce needed for normal operation of facilities. How critical the condition of these Yemeni heroes was!

"The tasks of SEPOC's employees are too difficult especially with the fact that we are going to supervise the implementation of the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Project within Block (18). As these Yemeni heroes displayed their ability on Nov. 14, 2005, to tackle such a task through proper training and qualification as well as the introduction of equipment, devices and IT systems previously unavailable, we will be able to run the operations of SEPOC pro-

fessionally for the better.

"I should not forget to praise the complete support bestowed on SEPOC by the political leadership, MOM leadership, and the governmental and non-governmental entities concerned. I would like also to praise the good relationships and continued cooperation between SEPOC and the other oil companies operating in the Republic of Yemen. We are keen to provide the necessary facilities for the companies wishing to export oil produced in their blocks through SEPOC's land and marine facilities. Moreover, it is extraordinary important to appreciate the efforts of all employees who contributed to the establishment of this Company since the very beginning and those who built up the facilities of this Company twenty years ago and operated them. Yet, some of them left the company, others passed away, and the rest are still working at the moment in these old-new facilities.

"I thank all those who supported SEPOC, locals in the Block, those along the pipeline, and those offshore, and onboard the floating terminal. I thank them for all the support and cooperation they showed to make SEPOC succeed. We promise you never to lose your good opinion. Thanks go to the MOM and to the supporters of this Company."

activities," Minister of Oil & Minerals noted.

On behalf of President of the Republic, the Minister of Oil & Minerals officially authorized SEPOC to expand activities in Block (18). He pointed out that SEPOC is a national company that has to operate on the basis of the modern management, and avoid any outdated thoughts and pay closer attention to human resources.

On her part, Minister of Social Affairs & Labor Dr. Amattarraq Hummad expressed her happiness at the awarding ceremony, indicating the first of May is the day of Yemeni laborers everywhere and site. "All the Yemeni provinces and governmental institutions and sectors marked the occasion, honoring the Yemeni laborers who pursue precious efforts to build their society. From his sweet, the Yemeni laborer watered his beloved country," She added.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor stated that SEPOC assuming duty following turn-in of the former operator is a partial step toward development and prosperity of the country. "We take pride on our national companies for being up to the responsibility and commitment despite real challenges," she



Engineer Mohamed Hussein Al-Haj, SEPOC Executive Manager

said. "Awarding the outstanding employees is due to encourage others to work hard."

According to Ms. Hummad, the government reconsiders laws and legislations to cope with changes and comply with international conventions approved by Yemen.

Employees were selected for this award as per the following basis:  
- Contribution to the overall success of (Safer Exploration and

Production Operations Company)

- Leadership ability
- Initiative / Creativity
- Dependability / Reliability

37 Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented, with each recipient receiving a cash bonus and a certificate recognizing her/his selection.

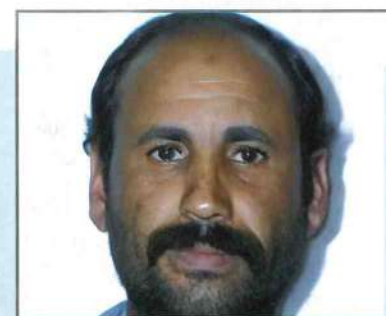
In addition to the Outstanding Achievement Award recipients, Five other employees were chosen by SEPOC's Executive Manager Engineer/ Mohamed Hussein Al-Haj to receive Special Achievement Award

On the other hand, One employee was chosen by SEPOC's Executive Manager Engineer/ Mohamed Hussein Al-Haj, to receive the Executive Manager's Special Recognition Award. This Award was given to recognize the employee who best exemplifies the performance criteria mentioned above. The recipient was given a special certificate and cash award recognizing his selection.

Recipient of 2005 Executive Manager's Special Recognition Award is:  
Khaled Abdullah Al-Madani Engineering & Projects Manager

Engineer Khaled Abdullah Al-Madani  
Manager of Engineering & Projects

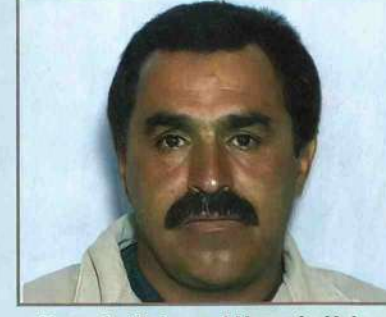
Fadel Abdorabo Al-Massry



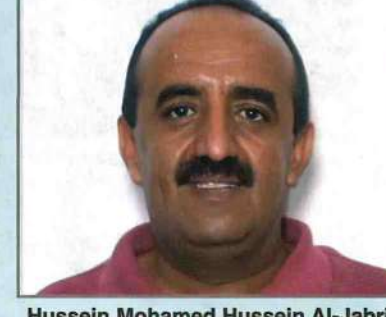
Hamood Najji Saleh Al-Yajori



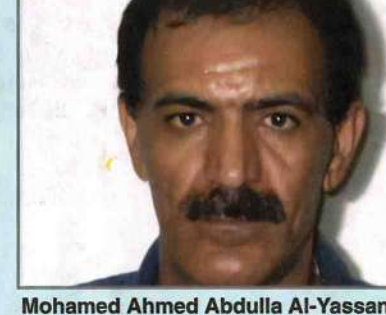
Haza Ali Othman Ghalib



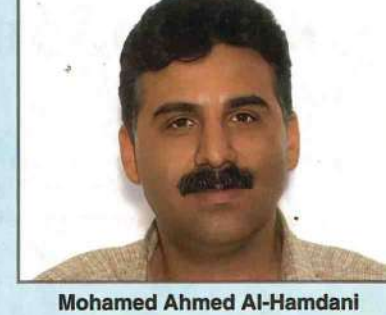
Hussein Mohamed Hussein Hajar



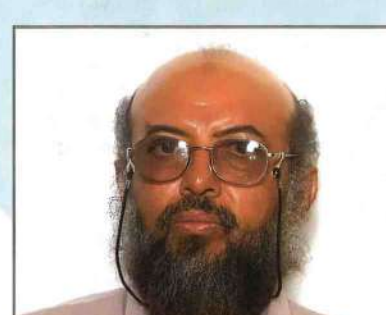
Hussein Mohamed Hussein Al-Jabri



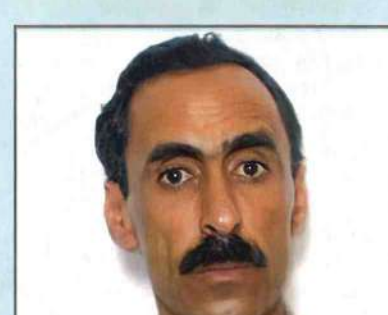
Mohamed Ahmed Abdulla Al-Yassani



Mohamed Ahmed Al-Hamdan



Mohamed Shaher Mohamed Abdulla



Mohamed Saleh Nasser Al-Hewati



Mohamed Alawi Mohamed Ahmed



# The private sector allowed recruiting 10% Registering foreign labor

Reported by:  
Mohammed Khidr  
Ismael Al-Ghabiri

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor in Yemen undertakes many important tasks related directly to labor force, especially the national workforce. Foreign labor affairs are also directly dealt with by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor particularly regarding granting them work permits that facilitating their obtaining of residency permits as a legal procedure for their stay and work in the country. The ministry is also meant with drawing up plans for development of human resources and contribution to alleviate of unemployment.

One of the important institutions of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor is the Social Affairs Office (Work Office) in the capital and its branches in other governorates of the country. It has so many tasks to undertake and various services to offer. To shed light on the nature of this Work Office, Yemen Times has interviewed the Office's Director-General Ali Abdullah Al-Dailami.

The man is specialized in philosophy and sociology graduated from Sana'a University and has been working for the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor since 1977. He has

office is not specialized just in dealing with foreign labor. It has many other specialties and tasks. For instance the office tasks extend to productive families, societies and cooperatives, employment of foreign labor, the arbitration committees that settle disputes between employers and their employees, especially those who had been fired from their jobs in an arbitrary way and had not paid their service rights as stipulated in the law. The office has other tasks such as social security, issues of inspection and other duties related to the office work particularly after issuance of local rule in 2000, which defined the tasks of the social affairs ministry's duties in this regard. "With regard to foreign labor, we as offices of the Social Affairs and Labor Ministry carry out all the tasks assigned to us all over the governorates and the present tasks of the ministry are the planning and implementation of all projects. Labor inside the capital secretariat is dealt with via the work office which grants work permits and in cases of violation, the office authorities stipulate taking legal measures against persons committing such violations." The Work Office director-general said.

He has also said that the offices have the right to replace foreign labor by local labor, whenever expertise and qualifications required by local



Mr. Ali Abdullah al-Dailami.

permit for a foreigner who is staying in Yemen for five years.

The Yemen Times asked him about a new strategy concerning granting work permits to persons working for government institutions, international organizations and embassies of foreign countries to which he replied, "The ministry is keen on cooperation with the international organizations. There are in this regard various types of permits which are issued by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. The Ministry issues an official memorandum acknowledging that

Yemen is almost a unique example in this regard. The issue of a work permit does not take a long time. As soon as an application received from any concerned institution, all procedures are finished in the same day. All procedures are completed easily and there are no complications whatsoever.

## Statistics

On statistics concerning the work accomplished by the Work Office in 2005, Mr Dailami has said there were 650 male job seekers and 50 female job seekers. There were 540 males who got job opportunities and 117 females got job opportunities. As for work permits for non-Yemenis, the Office issued 613 for males and 511 for females. The number of newly issued work permits they amounted to 84 for males and 149 for females and renewing of permits amounted to 34 for males and 20 for females.

Mr Dailami also touched on cases arising from problems concerning workers rights in some establishments and the role of the Office in solving them. He said many of the cases are settled by the labor administration that is concerned with settling disputes arising between employers and workers. He emphasized that most of issues of dispute happen for the local labor. The foreign labor is organized with contracts between owners of the establishment or company. Those establishments are mainly keen on meeting the terms of the contract with the foreign worker and it is very rare that disputes occur between the two contracted sides as the worker is granted all his rights before the end of his term of work for them.

## Regional foreign labor

Meanwhile, the Director-General of the Work Office has requested from private sector establishments to cooperate with Social Affairs and Labor offices by providing information on the foreign labor they employ. It has been learnt that some private sector institutions employ foreign labor without informing the ministry and that would result in imposing big fines on the foreign worker and sometimes the foreign worker is employed by those establishments for more than five years without his having a work permit. He asks any person working without having a work permit to ask his employer to get him a work permit in order to avoid any legal accountability, especially when travels by passports authority or any relevant establishment.

On the other hand Mr Dailami said the labor law No. (5) for the year 1995 has defined the legal proportion of foreign labor by 10% against 90% local labor and that this proportion is allowed for the private sector establishments. Concerning the public sector he said it does not employ more than 3-4% of foreign labor and thus this proportion is not applicable to it. For investment companies there is the investment law that defines foreign labor for investment companies and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor has created a special office at the General Authority for Investment to deal with this question. For international organizations the proportion of foreign labor may amount to 100% and the oil employs 50% as local labor and depends on specializations.

Nonetheless, Mr Dailami said there were many violations committed at private sector institutions and there is a section at the work office for inspecting such violations. There are measures taken in cases of violations such as imposing a pecuniary punishment amounting to 20 thousand Yemeni riyals on a foreign worker working without a work permit.

In conclusion, Mr Dailami appreciated Yemen Times initiative for conducting the interview with the Work Office at the capital secretariat, affirming it would serve giving the Yemeni citizen and the foreign worker information and an idea about the tasks taken by the office and the measures it takes regarding its various duties.



Mr. Ali Abdullah Al-Dailami (R), talking to Yemen Times reporter Mohammed Khidr .

assumed several posts at the ministry in more than one governorate in Yemen before assuming his present post.

## Foreign labor

At the beginning we asked Mr Dailami on how the office could manage dealing with such large-segment of people from different Arab and foreign nationalities working in Yemen.

Mr Dailami said the social affairs

labor market, are available.

## Decentralization

On whether the work offices own the authority to issue work permit or if the process centralized, Mr Dailami said the ministry has authorized the offices in all governorates to grant work permits without consulting the ministry. The only exception where the ministry interferes is after the fourth renewal of the permit. In this case the ministry decides granting the

person does work for a certain international organization and thus he is granted a permit free of charge. With regard to work permits granted to persons working for public sector institutions, the fees charged for them are half the amount compared to amounts for persons working for private sector establishments."

"Are there intentions to reduce procedures of granting work permits?" we asked Mr Dailami. He said he believes that the republic of

# The private sector holds conference on human development in Yemen

Mahyoub al-Kamali

The first conference on investment and human development is to be held in Sana'a between 27-29 May 2006. The private sector in Yemen has taken the initiative of holding the conference that is expected to be organized by al-Gubari Investment Group.

The conference aims at the establishment for a new economic stage in both sectors of investment and human development. That is expected to prepare the investment climate and environment leading attraction of many Arab and foreign capitals and preservation of

domestic capitals. The conference is to be attended by many local and regional parties.

A press release issued by the organizing group clarified that the event would be as a launchpad that would contribute in the few coming years to the establishment of many huge investment projects of joint Yemeni and foreign capital.

The conference is scheduled to discuss many issues related to investment and the role that government bodies and institutions in Yemen could play for easing the measures presently followed and the legislations facing the investor and his protection, through "Sana'a Principles Declaration", particularly investment courts and

the one-window system.

It is also expected that the conference would come out with many recommendations towards pushing Yemen inside the circle of world competition among the countries of more attraction of investment.

According to economic reports, the average rate of growth of private investment has witnessed a retreat in comparison with the annual rate of growth for both the general investment and total investment. During the years of the second five-year plan the average of private investment versus the total investment had receded to 57% in comparison with around 59% in the year 2000.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its project "Decentralization and Local Development Support Program (DLDSP)"

**Post Title: Assistant Field Operations Manager/ SC-7**

**Duration: 06 months (renewable)**

### Responsibilities

- Make sure that the District Mobilization Teams (DFTs) prepare and submit annual work plans.
- Prepare a schedule to monitor and assist the DFTs to implement their work plans.
- Make sure that the DFTs submit their monthly and quarterly reports to DLDSP.
- Play a substantive role in the development and improvement of DLDSP manuals on public expenditure management cycle.
- The DFOM will undertake a significant role in the facilitation of training of trainers and other DLDSP's formal and in-formal capacity development sessions.
- Assist the Field Operations Manager to maintain direct contact with the DFTs and understand their level of progress in general, the areas where they are struggling in order to respond accordingly.
- Assist the Field Operations Manager to maintain direct contact with pilot districts (District Director & General Secretary) and ensure responsiveness to their realistic needs that are in line with the goals of the DLDSP.
- Assist the Field Operations Manager to have regular contact with the relevant MOLA staff and the Ministries of Finance, Planning and Civil Service.
- In the area of public expenditure management and in particular of procurement and implementation, DFOM is expected to suggest possible coordination with other project such as (the Social Fund and Public Works Project) to improve the DLDSP resources on these topics.
- Organize the flow of lessons learnt through the observation of the operations of local authorities, the feedback and experience of DFTs.
- Perform any other related tasks that are of relevance to this scope of activity.

### Qualification

- A university degree in social sciences, such as public administration, public and international relations or any other related discipline.
- Minimum three years experience in the field of the implementation of local development, local government reforms as well as capacity development and specific experience in local level planning processes would be of significant value.
- He/she will have strong communication and training skills as well as analytical and writing abilities.
- Fluency in English and Arabic with proven communication and training skills.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org.ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: [registry.ye@undp.org](mailto:registry.ye@undp.org)

The deadline for receiving applications is Saturday, 27th May 2006

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.



## Business In Brief

The minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdulkarim Al-Arhabi discussed with Dr Mohamed Kouhene, representative of World Food Program (WFP), the new country program 2007-2011 and the basic agreement according to which the relations of cooperation between Yemen and WFP is determined. The WFP has in the new program allocated an amount of \$ 48 million to support the two sectors of education and health in Yemen.

Professor of mechanical engineering at Sana'a University Dr Mohammed al-Bakheeti said preparations were underway at the Ministry of Industry and Trade for convening a plenary meeting soon. The meeting would include leading officials of the ministry and a number of researchers, specialists and academicians from Sana'a University, specialized in industrial fields.

Dr al-Bakheeti pointed out there is a serious endeavor by Sana'a University and the Ministry of Industry and Trade for the establishment of integrating relation between the ministry and specialists from the University and also for finding the required integration between the public and private sectors in local industrial areas.

The Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Khalid Rajih Sheikh has read before the parliament four texts of draft laws for reforming economic relations especially in the trade area that was based on granting licenses beforehand and support. The new draft laws are meant for tackling those relations and their serving of transparency in relations between the producer and the consumer. The Minister has considered them as basic part in the process of reform.

The parliament approved referring draft laws of domestic and external trade, consumer protection and regulation of agencies and branches of foreign companies to the parliamentary committee on trade and industry to be studied and present the parliament with reports on them.

A delegation representing International Organization of Transparency and the world bank is expected to visits Sana'a to acquaint itself with the executive efforts and steps implemented by the Yemeni government in the agenda of political elections, support form Yemen's efforts in areas of judiciary reform, fighting corruption and enhancement of freedoms and human rights.

On the other hand, an extensive media campaign would be launched soon for awareness about dangers of corruption to be and it will include including all media instruments. The campaign would focus on the negative impact of corruption and the government and popular efforts for exterminating them. It is to be mentioned that the government adopts many programs for combating corruption and protecting the public property and its plan includes many strict measures in the future.

## Exchange rate of some currencies

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	196.4800	196.7600
Sterling Pound	369.4600	369.9900
Euro	251.7100	252.0700
Saudi Rial	52.4100	52.4800
Kuwaiti Dinar	679.4300	680.3900
UAE Dirhem	53.5000	53.5800
Egyptian Pound	34.0700	34.1200
Bahraini Dinar	521.4200	522.1700
Japanese Yen	1.781081	1.783619

Source: [www.centralbank.gov.ye](http://www.centralbank.gov.ye)



Mohammad Ali Othman National School- Taiz



## Distinct job opportunity

Mohammad Ali Othman National School - Taiz announces its need for a school's Deputy principal.

The applicant should fulfill the following requirements:

- 1- Should have a University degree or higher degree.
- 2- Should be fluent in English, writing , reading and speaking.
- 3- Should have an experience in educational field not less than ten years, preferable an experience in the same field of the job.
- 4- Should be free for a full time job.

The School grants remunerative salary in addition to Cash and fringe benefits. Candidates should present their applications within ten days from the date of publication of this announcement to the following address:

Tel:04/232370 - Fax: 04/221940  
e-mail: moneer@hsagroup.com

Applicants will be informed about the time and place of interview.

## Expression of Interest

**Demand Side Financing (DSF) Interventions  
Basic Education Development Project  
Credit No. 3988-YEM and Grant No. TF-053721**

The objective of this technical assistance is to determine the causes of low demand-side in girl education and the obstacles that led to reduced girl enrolment and continuation through preparation, train the assigned staff of the girl education sector, produce a package of specific and clear interventions, raise demand-side of girl education, and develop an impact assessment plan for interventions.

This request for expression of interest follows the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business and Dg Market dated of Feb.2, 2005. The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and Multi-Donors Trust Funds toward the cost of Basic Education Development Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit & grants to payments under the contracts for the above-mentioned.

The Project Administration Unit now invites individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.).

The selection of consultants will be in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004". Chapter V. individual consultants. Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat.-Wed. From 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by June 7, 2006.

Ministry of Education  
Basic Education Development Project  
Project Administration Unit  
60 m Southern Rd. -Bait Meyad  
Tel: 00967-01-619160, Fax: 00967-01- 619219.  
Email: info@bedp-yemen.org

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ثلاجة ثلاثة أبواب

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Invitation for bids  
Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Public Health and Population  
Health Reform Support Project Credit 3625

**Supply, Deliver and Install of Local Area Network (LAN) for  
Ministry of public Health and Population (MOPHP) and  
Health Management Information Systems (HMIS)**

This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue no. (607) on 16th May 2003. Al-Thawra Newspaper issue no. (13944) on 28th May 2003. And Yemen Times issue no. (641) on 12th June 2003.

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of its Health Reform Support Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Supply, Deliver, and Installation of local area network (LAN) Ministry of Public Health and Population and Health Management Information Systems (HMIS).

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supply, Deliver, and Installation of:

**Local Area Network (LAN) for Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP) and Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) Bid No. (39).**

Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: procurement under IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Credit Administration Unit (CAU) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm** during official working days.

A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD\$ 50.00**. The method of payment will be in cash and documents will be submitted by hand.

Bids must be delivered to the address below by **11:00 a.m. on 19th June 2006**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of minimum (**US\$2,000**). Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **11:00 am on 19th June 2006**.

Credit Administration Unit  
Health Reform Support Project (HRSP)  
Ministry of Public Health & Population  
P.O.Box 1330-Al-Hasabah-4th Floor  
Sana'a -Republic of Yemen  
Tel: +967(1) 252224  
Fax: +967(1) 251622  
E-mail: [hrrsp@y.net.ye](mailto:hrrsp@y.net.ye)

Invitation for Bids  
Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Public Health and Population  
Health Reform Support Project Credit 3625

**SUPPLY, DELIVER, INSTALL AND  
COMMISSIONING OF ELECTRIC GENERATOR 500  
KVA FOR AL-HODEIDAH MALARIA PROGRAM.**

This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in United Nations Development Business (UNDB) issue no. (607) on 16th May 2003. Al-Thawra Newspaper issue no. (13944) on 28th May 2003, and Yemen Times issue no. (641) on 12th June 2003.

The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of its Health Reform Support project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Supply, Deliver, Installation and Commissioning of Electric Generator 500 KVA for Al-Hodeidah Malaria program

The Credit Administration Unit (CAU) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Supply, Deliver, Install and Commissioning of:

**Electric Generator 500 KVA for Al-Hodeidah Malaria Program Bid No. (86).**

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information form Credit Administration Unit (CAU) and inspect the bidding documents at the address below from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm** during official working days.

A complete set of bidding documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **USD \$ 50.00**. The method of payment will be in cash and documents will be submitted by hand.

Bids must be delivered to the address below by **11:00 am on 18th June 2006.00** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of minimum (**US\$2,000**). Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below at **11:00 a.m. on 18th. June 2006**.

Credit Administration Unit  
Health Reform Support Project (HRSP)  
Ministry of Public Health & Population  
P.O.Box 1330-Al-Hasabah-4th Floor  
Sana'a -Republic of Yemen  
Tel: +967(1) 252224  
Fax: +967(1) 251622  
E-mail: [hrrsp@y.net.ye](mailto:hrrsp@y.net.ye)

# Announcement

**The Ministry of Oil and Minerals  
organizes a scientific discussion and  
lecture on Wednesday, May 17 in the  
big hall of the ministry building.**

**The lecture will center on the**

**Hazards of using low quality car  
fuel and the ways and techniques  
for improving its quality and  
characteristics.**

**The lecture will be delivered by  
Dr. Yahia Ali Al-Badawi**

**All interested in participating are  
welcome in order to enrich the subject  
and achieve the main  
goal of the activity.**

## Expression of interest for supplying the United Nations Development Programme



**The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is updating its supplier database for the following products and services:**

- Authorised dealers of vehicles: 4WD, Sedan, Pick-up, Truck
- IT equipment: PCs, Printers, Network equipment, original Software licences and Toners
- IT consulting and training services, webmaster, networking specialist
- Photocopy machines
- Telecommunications equipment, fax, switchboard, telephone sets etc.
- Geographical Information Systems Provider (GIS)
- Electronics / Air conditioners
- Office refurbishment, light construction, windows, doors, painting services
- Office generators
- Office furniture, carpets and curtains
- Cleaning materials, detergents etc.
- Small electrical appliances: fans bulbs and fluorescent light tubes etc.
- Fuel, petrol
- Security services, guards and accessories
- Medicine for humans
- Medicine and accessories for dogs, rabies vaccine, shampoo, tick collar etc.
- Mine clearing safety equipment, Fragmentation Jackets etc
- Engineering: Water management, construction, pipes, water works
- Engineering: Architect design and assistance
- Engineering: Building and construction
- Printing and layout (documents, banners, PR material)
- Plumbing services
- Electrician, electrical installations

A Supplier Profile should be submitted by interested suppliers to the address below & must specify the name and address of the company; contact person, telephone, fax and E-mail & should provide information about its products, services, resources, qualifications, financial liquidity, assets, experience & a copy of the company's commercial registration ID from Chamber of Commerce. The profile must be received by UNDP on later than **3rd June 2006**.

Invitations to bid and any subsequent purchase order will be issued in accordance with the rules and procedures of UNDP. UNDP is not obliged to invite any particular supplier to participate in future bidding exercises.

Interested suppliers should forward their profile; labeled "UNDP Vendor" including the documentation listed above to:

UNDP  
"UNDP VENDOR"  
Off sixty road, near Alawqaf complex  
Sana'a, Yemen  
Attn: Ms. Nesreen AL-Hibshi  
E-mail: [nesreen.al-hibshi@undp.org](mailto:nesreen.al-hibshi@undp.org)  
Tel : +967 1 448605  
Fax : +967 1 448841



## Basketball Championship for President Cup kicks off

By: Yemen Times Staff

Basketball competitions for the President Cup started this week at Ahil Sana'a Club's closed Hall. The event is organized by the Yemeni Basketball Federation (YBF) and involves 10 teams who qualified for the championship following meetings held at the level of governorates.

Teams who qualified for the championship are: Ahil Sana'a, Ahil Al-Hodeida, Sha'ab Ibb, Saqr Taiz, Mina Aden, Tale'at Shebam, Al-Mukalla and Al-Ahmadi team from Rada'a.

Secretary General of the YBF Mujahed Al-Sarahah indicated they are to conduct a draw to divide qualifiers into two groups on the basis of teams' achievements during the past season.

The past season champion Sha'ab Ibb is to top the first group while round winner Ahil Sana'a is to be on the top of the second group, plus another four teams to be added to each group.

According to Secretary General of the YBF, group mates will play each other and first and second placed teams from both groups will qualify for the quarterfinal. The first group's first-

placed team will meet the second-placed one in the second group while the second group's first-placed team will encounter the second placed one in the first group.

To identify the champ, winners in the quarterfinal will meet each other in the final while losers will play for the championship's third position.

## YVF honors first-grade team champs

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

Yemeni Volleyball Federation (YVF) awarded champions of first grade teams for the season 2005-2006, the competitions of which concluded on April 28. Shabab Al-Qotton Team won the title for the first time, Al-Shurta came second and Al-Shu'ala from Aden third.

As part of the awarding ceremony, held at Al-Ahli Club in Sana'a, the winner scored a 3-1 victory over the

second-placed team in a wonderful meeting, as players on both sides demonstrated excellent individual tactics.

Exemplary players throughout the tournament: Sameer Al-Zawyah from Sayoun Club, Sa'eed Rabe'e Ba Attwah from Shabab Al-Qotton, Khaled Mohamed Maqbouli from Ahil Al-Hodeida, Assar Jalal Shafiq from Al-Shu'ala, Mohamed Ali Mohamed from Khanfar and Adeeb Maja'ali Awadh from Al-Mina received a bonus

cash and other prizes.

Second and third-placed teams Al-Shurta and Al-Shu'ala obtained cups and silvers while the winner received the tourney oblique plus gold medals.

Chairman of YVF emphasized the game has improved in different aspects and players showed strong competitions throughout the season, which added special taste to the tourney. He pointed out that teams performed in a parallel way with one other.

## Pellizotti claims 10th Giro stage

Italy's Franco Pellizotti dug deep to edge out his rivals in an uphill sprint finish to the 10th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Tuesday.

The Liquigas rider beat Russia's Vladimir Efimkin and Kazakhstan's Serguei Yakovlev into second and third at the end of the 190km stage.

Phonak's Axel Merckx had led after attacking 15km out, but found himself overtaken in the final 200m.

Ivan Basso finished in the main peloton but retained his overall race lead.

Basso is still one minute 34 seconds clear of second-placed Jose Gutierrez.

Meanwhile, Pellizotti's first ever Giro stage win sees him move to fourth place in the overall standings, just behind former Giro winner Damiano Cunego.

"I won the stage and I moved close

to the top spots in the standings," said Pellizotti.

"It's a great day for me."

Pellizotti managed to keep Merckx within striking range despite his early attack, and was able to keep himself at the head of the 10-rider grouping which swept past him at the final bend.

Merckx finished 11th, 13 seconds behind the leader.

"I came near to victory, now I am exhausted and disappointed," said Merckx.

"I was caught close to the finish line, but this is the sport."

Australia's Bradley McGee was forced to withdraw from the race earlier in the day.

The Francaise des Jeux rider had been struggling keep pace with a fast-moving peloton because of a suspected sciatic nerve problem after a recent crash.

McGee climbed off his bike after 60km of the stage.

Source: news.bbc.co.uk



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3	50,000 ريال	7	500,000 ريال
4	90,000 ريال	8	600,000 ريال
5	100,000 ريال	9	700,000 ريال
6	190,000 ريال	10	900,000 ريال
7	200,000 ريال	11	900,000 ريال
8	290,000 ريال	12	900,000 ريال
9	300,000 ريال	13	900,000 ريال
10	490,000 ريال	14	900,000 ريال
11	500,000 ريال	15	900,000 ريال
12	690,000 ريال	16	900,000 ريال
13	700,000 ريال	17	900,000 ريال
14	900,000 ريال	18	900,000 ريال
15	900,000 ريال	19	900,000 ريال
16	900,000 ريال	20	900,000 ريال
17	900,000 ريال	21	900,000 ريال
18	900,000 ريال	22	900,000 ريال
19	900,000 ريال	23	900,000 ريال
20	900,000 ريال	24	900,000 ريال

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**المصرفية ..**

**مزيداً من**

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# In which fields should women work?

By: Yasmeen Abdullah Al-Haddad

First of all when we talk about women, we should remember that we are talking about a creature of Allah SWT. She is not only part and parcel of society; but of life itself which does not dry up. She is society and its foundation; its builder; and the keeper of generations. She is the mother of the present and founder of the future.

In the past, women have had access to different fields of work and activities during her life. As we all know, it was not just housework that took up her time. She was a presence in wars, on farms, in medicine and there were those who were the wives of the prophets and companions.

Nowadays some say women should stay at home. Others, however, believe she should go out into the world and share in the building of civilizations and achieve her goals in all fields, thereby putting a sound foundation

within society to help in her country's development.

In my opinion, whatever women are wherever women work; they will always be the builders of generations.

Those who believe she is best working in her home must know that this is based mainly on the premise that a woman builds the life of her children and future generations. It is based on a woman planting and sowing the seeds that are imbued into immovable roots within these generations that will spread goodness. As a housewife she is a mother who teaches her child how to carry their responsibilities and their burdens.

At the same, for those who believe that a woman should work out in the world, a woman also brings up and raises generations because her job serves her society. If she is a teacher she acts as the mother of her students. If she is a doctor she acts as a mother of her patients by whose side she stays when they are sick. If she is a writer she

sparks the imagination within the mind of her readers and their children as well.

Wherever she is found, a woman is the backbone on which society depends to move forward. She is the breeze that refreshes souls.

An important point that needs to be stressed is that a woman spends more than twelve years in studies at school plus four to seven years at college or the university. This is so she can work and hold down the responsibilities this demands of her; it is not just to go back home to forget all that she has studied.

It is necessary that women have solid aims and goals, since her role in society is significant. I hope people will put an end to the misconception that a woman must be confined to her home and not allowed to participate in jobs outside that prison. A woman...she is the heart of life.

I don't just say this because I am a woman. I say it because it due to me and to all women in this country.

Am I right?

# Ali Abdullah Saleh: The man who respects people's will

By: Dr. Mazin Mahdi Al-Gifri

How nice it is to remember those brilliant moments in one's life that have had a great impact on Man. What is most beautiful is to have reasons for these moments to linger giving impulse to those pleasant moments and rhythms of time. The promulgation of the Republic of Yemen, and the subsequent dawn of May 22nd is so dear to our hearts.

It is the brilliantly historical portrait of the president Ali Abdullah Saleh raising the Yemeni unity flag over the sky of the homeland. How wonderful to see these beautiful historical moments of the restoration of Yemen civilization, and

restructuring of a single Yemeni homeland.

Could we easily accept the decision of this man with all his accomplishments, not to nominate him for the next presidential election when, today, we need him for than ever. No... How could we possibly agree during this difficult time when our people need a man who skillfully steers this ship through various stations of construction safely and peacefully? How can we agree when his achievements still continue to bear fruit, strengthening, developing, and building progress?

We will not accept an alternative to this man, whose unique characters have been proven in many ways materializing in his sagacity, tolerance, political experi-

ence, wisdom and foresight. No... We will not accept an alternative to him or another captain to steer the ship of achievements.

Carry on with the march, Father of Ahmed. Does his Excellency the president know why we want to pay allegiance to him again? It is because we love the unity which he symbolizes. We love in our hearts the democracy for which he stands. It is because we need more progress and development; because he is the leader of developing progress.

People know well that Ali Abdullah Saleh the president of the Republic always respects the will of the people. Since the people are determined to pay allegiance to him again, he must accept this, because he serves the will of people.

# Youth: Unrealized rights

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

The absence of youth issues in the media clearly indicates there is a crisis in this society. Undoubtedly Yemeni still lack the proper realization, exploration and investment in its youth's potential. The young of Yemen need to have their faculties sharpened; they must be socially and educationally qualified and protected against modern life's illnesses and intruding cultural trends. Yet, despite strategies adopted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in connection to this, the problem remains unresolved. The malady is still cureless, since the essence behind it is not theoretical or philosophical in nature; it is based on solid, measurable social and educational deficiencies.

The Republic's president has realized this fact for quite some time and has ordered the establishment of the Union of Yemen and the Student's Union. He further declared the year of 1987 as the landmark for an actively functioning student Scout Camps. His aims explicitly interpreted the need for proper qualifications and the need for necessary mechanisms implemented to help realize Yemeni youth creativity and productivity in this society.

However, one of the major challenges to all this is the annual rate of population growth that is inconsistent with development measures in all sectors. The other is that those of the older generations, having already received their opportunities to become part of this developing society, are not themselves helping to pave the way for those that are coming fast behind them. Instead the new generation finds itself in the grasp of a monopolization of work opportunities, hindering any role that the youth could portray effectively in society.

This cuts across all sectors and areas of employment. In the media

this can be seen in the way writers and columnists barely concede space for a new comer to explore creative writing and its outlets. Just take a look at the unobservable changes in some media sectors in the past fifteen years beyond the superficial decorations and updated modern equipment.

But the concept of monopoly goes beyond this and has developed into a type of philosophy even in the political arena. This has then deprived the Yemeni youth from actually realizing their full potentials and rights that would allow them to contribute in the overall development of our society. The scarcity of work and the few opportunities they are allowed have been exploited by and older generation bent on achieving their own self-centered goals and maintaining the status quo.

There is no denying this older generation's contributions to the progress of this country. However, the up and coming Yemeni youth of today must be given the opportunity so that it may adapt the pace of development in the country to new and up to date requirements in this modern world.

Unless practical steps are taken from now on, the tangled youth issues will remain unresolved. Specialized institutions must be set up to meet all the requirements of this generation, offering real outlets for their energy and initiatives to increase productivity and creativity. These institutions however, must first be purged of traditional restrictions in such a way to enable the younger generations to implement their modernized visions of the future of this country.

Despite the government's efforts, projects fall short of the mark and do meet the real needs of our youth. The difference lies in that in Yemen as opposed to other nations of the world, the strategies to address the needs of the younger generations are all short-lived and do not tackle the issues in the long term.

More comprehensive, detailed planning is required to handle the various aspects of the youth in this country. We must provide for them all the means possible to enhance their capacities, sharpen their capabilities and skills so they may go on to play a vital role in this society.

## Don't you know my love !!!

By: T. Abdul Nasser Al Abdali

Don't you know my love  
That you are always in my mind!!  
Whenever day comes  
You will always be in mind.  
How can I forget you?  
And when I do my work  
I feel you as my guide.

Don't you know my love  
That you are always in my mind!!!  
Do thou feel the love in side  
Or has your love for me died?  
Oh my life , I feel the darkness  
When you aren't by my side  
And I don't really know  
Whether the sun hides or shines.

Don't you know my love  
That you are always in my mind?  
Don't you know what I feel  
I sometime can't see or hear,  
Because I think of you  
And my friends mock me  
I feel it's so unkind.  
But no matter, how hard the challenge  
My solace is the thought of you  
Pictured in my mind.  
Don't you know my love  
That you are always in my mind?

## Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

### ACROSS

- 1 At the drop of \_\_\_\_
- 5 Kind of drum
- 9 Kind of kitchen
- 14 Caffeine source, typically
- 15 Voice below soprano
- 16 "... cast pearls before \_\_\_\_"
- 17 A certain quarter
- 20 Take care of
- 21 Opera staple
- 22 Sodium chloride
- 23 Gun in the garage
- 25 Unoriginal response
- 27 A certain quarter
- 34 They may be split for soup
- 35 "The correct way" in Chinese philosophy
- 36 Investigate (with "into")
- 37 Room offerer
- 38 Appall
- 41 Superman's enemy Luthor
- 42 Flavoring that tastes like licorice
- 44 Venusian vehicle, e.g.
- 45 "\_\_\_\_ that the truth!"
- 46 A certain quarter
- 50 Actor Ray

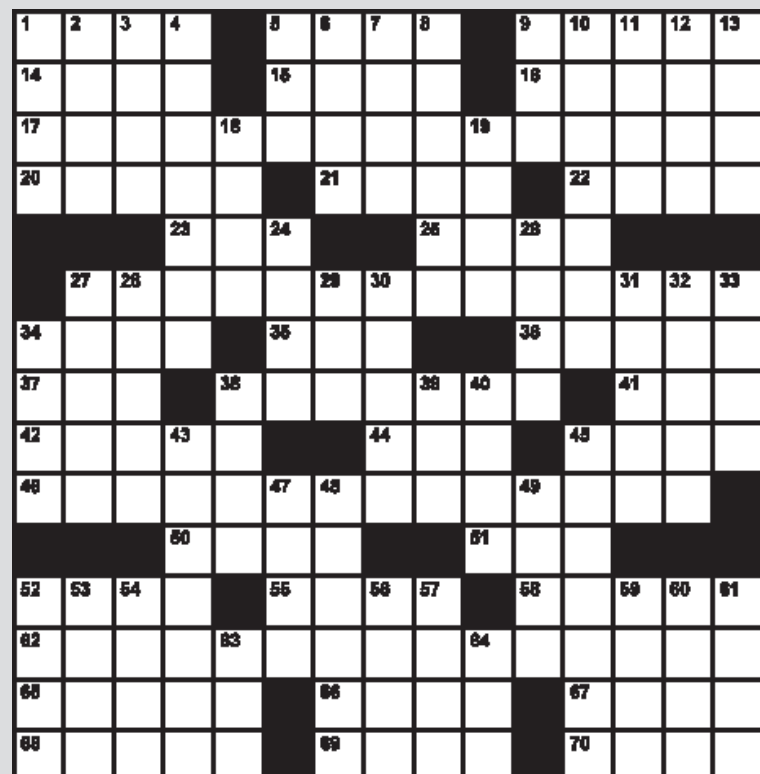
- 51 It starts in early Apr.
- 52 Chess piece
- 55 Exactly (with "to")
- 58 Suggestive of the mysterious
- 62 A certain quarter
- 65 Show indifference, in a way
- 66 Rider of the lost ark?
- 67 Cowardly Lion tormentor
- 68 Largo or presto, e.g.
- 69 African antelopes
- 70 RR depots

### DOWN

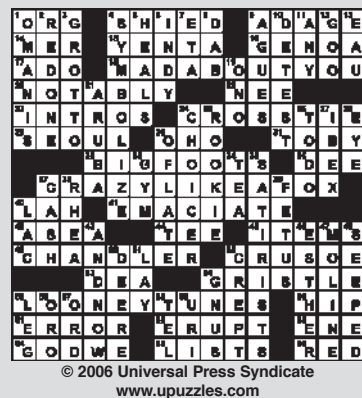
- 1 New Testament chronicle
- 2 "Battle Hymn of the Republic" writer
- 3 On the sheltered side
- 4 Some pieces of Sanskrit religious literature
- 5 Howl, as at the moon
- 6 Romeo
- 7 Culinary directive
- 8 Former Union
- 9 Computer key
- 10 Absolutely fabulous

- 11 Ginger on "Gilligan's Island"
- 12 Designation for J.F.K. airport
- 13 Word with empty or mare's
- 18 Pirouette pivots
- 19 Every relative?
- 24 A presidential power
- 26 Actress Lamarr
- 27 Finnish monetary unit
- 28 "My Beautiful Laundrette" writer
- 29 Thole filler
- 30 Discussion medium
- 31 Stan's "Babes in Toyland" partner
- 32 Roasters
- 33 On deck
- 34 "La Vie en Rose" singer Edith
- 38 Command to a dog
- 39 "\_\_\_\_ Were a Rich Man"
- 40 Like some memories
- 43 Comedy genre
- 45 Bears witness to
- 47 Dutch export
- 48 Making mention of
- 49 Functions
- 52 It may be shady
- 53 Dull discomfort
- 54 Not so hot?
- 56 Shortened flight type
- 57 Seesaw sitter of verse
- 59 Public upheaval
- 60 Tiny little bit
- 61 Relative of Eve
- 63 One of a Freudian trio
- 64 Puzzled comments

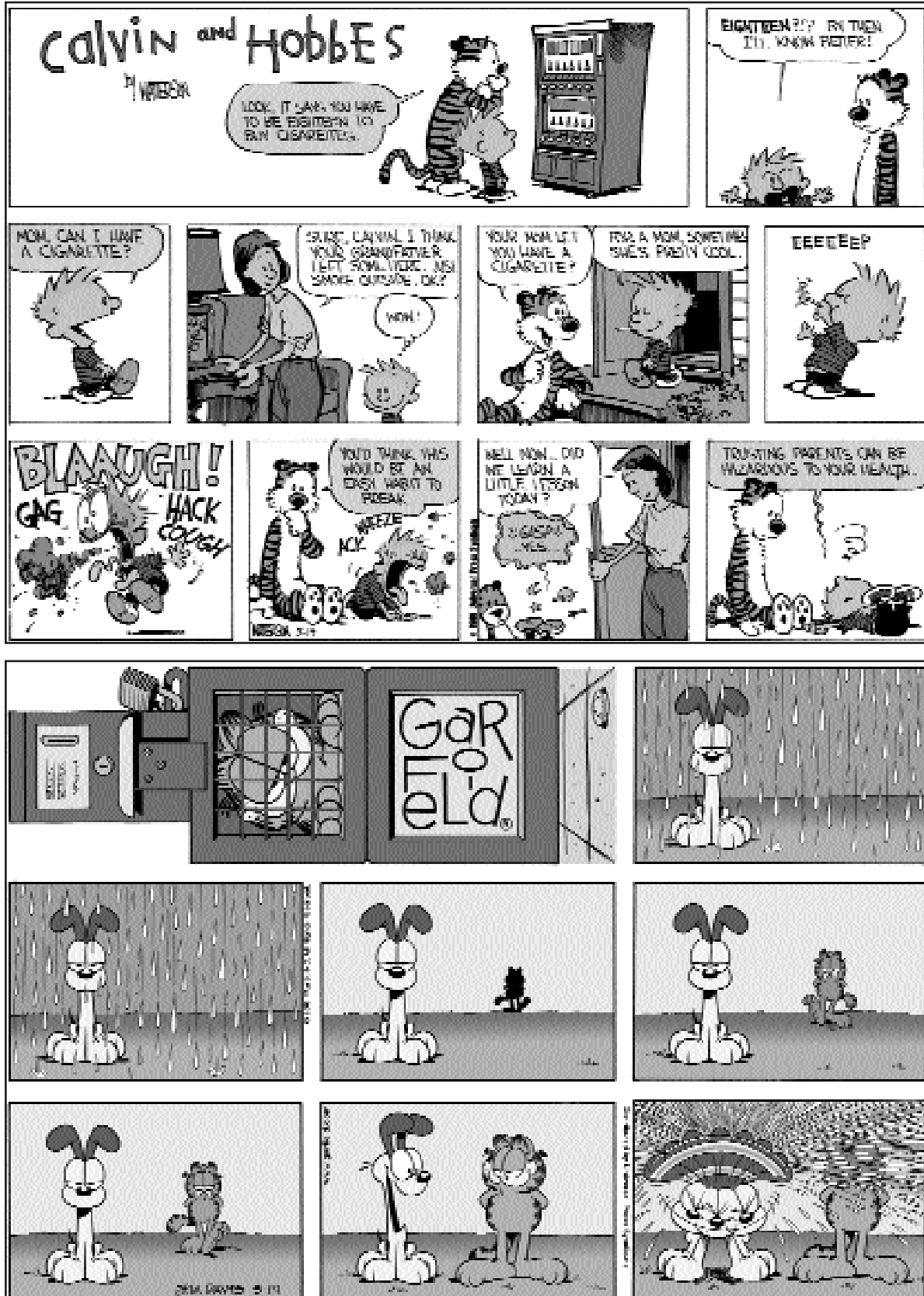
"SPARE A QUARTER?" by Cole Cooke



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**إعلان** - خبرة عملية - سنوات في أحيي والتسويق في مدى الشركات في الخليج - القدرة على عمل دراسات إستراتيجية وإبحاث في التسويق للشركات - القدرة على التطوير وفتح منافذ وقنوات التسويق لإزيادة المبيعات - حسن الشكل والمظهر - يرغب في العمل في مجال التسويق كمدير في الصين أو في إحدى دول الخليج أو أوروبا للتواصل: ٠٩٤٩-٣٠-١٠-٦٢١-٧٣٢٨

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# Minarets in Sana'a: Unmatched in architecture

By: Yemen Times Staff

Yemen is a main part of the Islamic world as it was one of the first countries to respond positively to the call of Islam. Yemen sent its delegations to the Prophet PBUH to declare their embracement of the new religion and to support the Prophet in spreading Islam. Therefore many mosques were built around the country upon the directives of the Prophet PBUH. Books of history mention that Yemenis were professional in architecture and that many Islamic cities like Fustat were modeled after Sana'a. Therefore, it is no wonder to know that Yemenis excelled in building worship shrines and particularly the construction of minarets.

In his "The Minarets of Sana'a City," Dr. Ali Saif mentions that the minarets of Sana'a are for the first time mentioned in 881, specifically the minaret of the Grand Mosque in Sana'a which was built upon the order of the Prophet PBUH. According to narrations, a portion of the mosque with its eastern minaret collapsed but Mohammed bin Ya'fur rebuilt it in 881.

## The twin minarets of the Grand Mosque:

The Grand Mosque has two minarets one of which on the eastern side and the other on the western side. They are still



A panorama of old Sana'a scattered with many minarets.

standing at present. The eastern minaret stands at the southeastern corner of the encircled yard of the mosque. It consists of a square pedestal with 5.75 in length. The 10-meter-high base of the minaret has a door on the northern side opening into the yard. A cylindrical portion tops the base, which resembles the minaret building style prevalent in Iraq. This part is plain with small holes for light to enter. This minaret has a balcony with harmonious decorations in the form of geometrical shapes.

above the balcony is an octagonal portion with one window each. Atop the minaret lies a dome with a ball-ended iron spire.

The western minaret of the mosque is in the southwestern side of the mosque. It still has its own architectural characteristics since it was rebuilt in 1206. It has a square pedestal, which is 4.25 meters long with a door to the south. Some 5.5 meters of the base is built out of stone while the rest is built out of baked bricks. Above it is an 8-meter

cylindrical portion with small holes for light. This portion ends at a balcony with 12 facets set on wooden props.

The city of Sana'a has many other old minarets towering among other buildings including those of Aqeel Mosque, Al-Madrasa Mosque, Al-Qubba Al-Muradiyah, Al-Fulaihi Mosque, Saladin Mosque, Qubbat Al-Bukairiyah, Qubbat Talhah, Mosa Mosque, and Al-Abhar Mosque all of

which show a great deal of craftsmanship. Some of them are more magnificent in terms of architecture and decoration than the twin minarets of the Grand Mosque.

## Elements of construction and ornamentation

A typical Sana'a minaret has the following main parts: base, body, balcony, dome, pole, staircase, and spires.

The base is that which underlies the whole minaret and its size must be in proportion to the height of the minaret in order to withstand the weight. It is always square in shape with the lower part of it usually built out of stone and the upper part of baked bricks.

The body of the Sana'a minaret is different from those found in Iraq and other Muslim countries. In Sana'a, most of them are multifaceted.

A small dome on top of the minaret is considered to be a major components. In Sana'a they are either hemispherical or multifaceted in shape.

The dome has usually a spire standing in the center with a crescent turning toward the Kaaba.

Another important part of a minaret is its pole (the core) on which it depends. It is built of stone first and then of baked bricks. The staircase depends on the pole, which gives the whole structure binding force even at time of earthquakes.

There are other minor components such as arches, entrances, windows, etc.

More so, the decorations of the minarets reflect the aesthetic sense of Yemeni builders and architects. They are of different types: geometrical, scriptural, interwoven, etc. they adorn different parts of the minaret starting from the base upward.

## Children Charitable Bazaar in Sana'a



SANA'A, May 17 – Shudhab Foundation for Development and Childhood (SFDC) organized a charitable Bazaar in the American School in Sana'a and the bazaar's revenues will be allocated for preparing three first aid rooms in three social houses.

Mariam Ibrahim, Executive Manager of SFDC, said the idea for making such an activity came to mind after a field visit paid by the foundation to some social houses in order to know closely the preliminary needs of orphan children. She also confirmed that "there are shortcomings in health services, particularly first aid services and it is necessary to supply them."

"We are going to make more charitable activities whose revenues will be allocated for social houses and delinquents' centers", she added. The bazaar was attended by a number of Arab and Foreign female diplomats.

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