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# Peaceful transition of power not expected soon

SANA'A, Dec. 28 — The Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies organized a debate on December 27th under the title "Prospects of Peaceful Transfer of Power in Yemen". Professor Mohamed Al-Afandi, head of the Center, headed the debate. Representatives from the ruling party, Joint Party Union and independents participated in this debate.

A number of papers, tackling the peaceful transfer of power, prospects and obstacles that obstruct its future development, were introduced.

In his paper (Transfer of Power: prospects and ability), Mr. Mohamed Ali Al-Sarari, member of the political department at the socialist party, reviewed the Yemeni developments following Yemeni unity in 1990. He spoke of the multi party system, and press freedom, supposed to exist in a democratic environment. This environment was considered a distinctive achievement for the United Yemen among the region's countries at the



Some leaders of opposition parties discussing peaceful transfer of power.

time.

However, Al-Sarari believes that achieving democratic practice is still receding, and the indicators are not encouraging. He pointed to the serious set back that Yemen experiences today. He noted the methods of totalitarian certain unacceptable behaviors, hence, changing the democratic practices into hollow logos, devoid the prospect of being a peaceful means for change.

The working paper defined four aspects indicating the negative dealing of the ruling party with democracy. These four points are: rejection of a participatory approach in decision making, decline of democratic practices in public rights and legislations, deterioration of Yemen's reputation is internationally, and the efforts to bring back a single party system. The working paper claims that the regime seeks to make constitutional amendments to strengthen individual control of power. Al-Sarari did not expect any prospects for peaceful transfer of power, because

the mechanism of obtaining and exchanging it is still not within the Yemeni constitutional practices.

He added that obtaining legal power does not take place through the majority, but by other methods. These include domination over military and security forces and influential tribal fanaticism. The constitutional texts for obtaining power on the other hand remains as nominal procedures and cover, to escape blame of other effective international powers.

Continued on page 3

## Hussein Al-Ahmar threatens to establish new political party

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Dec.28 — Sheikh Hussein Bin Abdullah Al-Ahmar, an MP and a member of the People's General Congress Parliamentary Bloc, revealed to Al-Nas weekly his intention to establish a new party if the People's General Congress (PGC) would not change its current policy.

Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar, son of Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar speaker of Parliament and head of Islah political party, expressed his doubt that the PGC will implement the decisions concluded from the Seventh General Conference held a few days ago in the city of Aden.

He emphasized the importance of holding the government accountable if decisions of the PGC's Seventh General Conference are not applied.

Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar, who strongly objected to the recent economic reforms program, ascertained that he devotes his efforts for serving the country, however, there are some PGC leaders who hate his presence in the ruling party.

"The election of the PGC general secretaries during the Seventh General Conference experienced a number of violations, particularly in the party reshuffling process at the level of constituencies and provinces" Sheikh Al-Ahmar said, pointing out the ruling party violates its bylaws in clandestine and not in public.

He affirmed that democracy in the PGC and other parties is still junior and has not been embodied with its real concept on political leaders.

According to Sheikh Al-Ahmar, democracy in Yemen has deteriorated over the last few years due to the absence of balance between political powers in the country. The PGC is strongly present in the political arena due to the presence of President Saleh and this party is destined to deteriorate in case the President resigns, he noted.

"President Ali Abdullah Saleh is the main pillar for the survival of the PGC in the Yemeni political arena," he commented.

Concerning his misfortune of not winning a post in the PGC's General Secretariat, he said, "my nomination was upon the request of the President



Hussein Bin Abdullah Al-Ahmar

who convinced me and my father despite my objection to the suggestion."

He confirmed that he could not win because of his stand against the dose reforms, lifting subsidy on oil derivatives, as well as his support for the eradication of corruption.

It is claimed that Sheikh Hussein Al-Ahmar was dropped from the list of backed candidates in the political leadership because of his objection to the party's current policies and his advocacy for firing corrupt officials from their posts.

## Clashes continue in Saada

SAADA, Dec. 28 — Fierce clashes are still going on between the government troops and Al-Houthi followers in the northern Yemeni province of Saada.

The government was reported to have used and will use air weapons and other kinds of heavy arms to thwart the attempts of Al-Houthi followers who move toward the Governorate Headquarters to avenge for prisoners, who they say have been subjected to torture and abuse.

Bloody confrontations broke out in different areas such as Qa'a Al-Saeed, Nishour and Al Salim where locals took control of military vehicles with their machineguns in Al-Salim.

In addition, locals killed a number of government troops in Qa'a Al-Sa'ed dominated the sites where they were previously entrenched with some mercenaries. Three locals were injured in the operations, but not seriously.

Saada Governorate officials pleaded for locals help to stop the creeping of Al-Houthi angry followers toward the city center, but the locals rejected the officials' pleas.

A large number of fighters from different districts in Saada joined Al-Houthi followers after they heard of tortures and abuses practiced against detainees in jails. In a communiqué to



Yahya Al-Houthi, MP

the Yemeni people in and outside the country, Yahya Badriddin Al-Houthi, Sa'ada MP, talked about what happens to Al-Houthi followers who are detained in Saada prisons.

"We heard of your reactions and strong denunciation of such a flagrant crime that contradicts values, principles, legislations, conventions and ethics," Yahya Al-Houthi said in his communiqué to the public.

"Because of the government's practice of media silencing, we could learn only of seven death cases and eleven injuries, irrespective of several people being subjected to severe beating and maltreatment." He added.

## German tourists missing in Yemen

SANA'A, Dec. 28 — Five German tourists have been reported missing in Shabwa province, some 460 kilometers (280 miles) from the capital Sana'a. The five German tourists who are from the same family (a man, who is presumed to be deputy of Germany Foreign Affairs, and his wife and three children) have been in Yemen since Dec. 24 according to German Foreign Ministry spoke man Martin Jaeger.

"They were traveling in a group, in which one vehicle fell behind," Martin said. He added that the ministry had set up a crisis cell to deal with the case, which was attempting to acquire more information and establish relevant contacts. "We will do everything we can to find the family," He added.

A government official stated to Reuters that Yemeni tribesmen seized five German tourists belonging to the same family on Wednesday in the third kidnapping involving Westerners this year. A Yemeni official told Reuters that authorities were negotiating with the kidnappers' tribe to release the Germans. However the kidnappers are demanding to free some members from the kidnappers' tribe who are in jail on criminal charges including murder. Other media sources said that the kidnappers belonged to Al-Abdullah bin Dahha tribe, some members of whom were arrested two months ago after a clash with another tribe. The bin Dahha tribe has accused the government of favoring the second tribe.

It is worth noting that two Austrian tourists were kidnapped last week in the Marib region, east Yemen. Another group of tribesmen captured two Swiss tourists last month. Both kidnappings were aimed to put pressure on the government to free jailed relatives, and all tourists were released unharmed.

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## Gulf education ministers hold consultative meeting

ADEN, Dec. 28 — Functions of the Third Consultative Meeting of education ministers in the Gulf States kicked off on Wednesday in the Yemeni economic city of Aden. The event is organized by the Gulf Cooperation Council's Education Office in cooperation with the Arab education ministers.

Educational officials mentioned that Gulf states education ministers would discuss issues related to developing and improving the education system and the educational experiences in Yemen, Bahrain and Oman, mainly those related to schools of the talented students.

In addition, they are due to discuss and study the strategies and plans of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Education Office in the field of educa-

tion improvements to cope with the cognitive and scientific advancements seen all over the world.

Dr. Abdulaziz Bin Saleh Bin Habtour, Deputy Education Minister, clarified that his ministry set the necessary arrangements to make functions of the Third Consultative Meeting a success.

He pointed out in a press statement that Aden was chosen for hosting the meeting because of the varied features the city enjoys, either in the sense of its historic and tourist sites and climate or the investment features as this city is the trade and economic capital of Yemen.

Dr. Abdulkhaliq Al-Qarni, Director of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Education Office has arrived in Aden,

heading a delegation to take part in the meeting. Dr. Al-Qarni signaled out the meeting will discuss a number of subjects related to improving the joint education work of the member states and review the distinctive and pioneering experiences in the field of education to ensure the exchanges of knowledge and educational experiences. The meeting, he added, will assess the level of implementing the recommendations of the previous conference, attended by education ministers from the member states.

Dr. Al-Qarni described the Yemeni-Gulf relations as distinctive, praising the efforts pursued by Yemen and its effective role in the activities of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Education Office.

## Yemen participates in Khartoum culture year

KHARTOUM, Dec. 27 — A number of Yemeni cultural events took place this week in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, marking Yemen's participation in the city's 2005 Arab Culture Capital activities. Events commenced with the opening of a variety of galleries and exhibitions for plastic arts, books and traditional heritage, including pieces representing a wide range of creativity across generations of Yemeni culture.

Approximately 50 Yemeni intellectu-

als, artists and thinkers took part in the event, portraying Yemen's cultural landscape in miniature. Among the personalities were Minister of Culture and Tourism Khaled Al-Rowashan, Deputy Minister of Culture Hisham Ali bin Ali and poet Ismail Al-Warith. Also included were Dr. Nizar Ghanem, Cultural Advisor at the Yemeni Embassy in Khartoum, and singers Mohammed Atroosh and Omar Ba Wazir.

Yemeni culture week in Khartoum also featured poetic recitals by Izzi

Maswa'I, Abdul-Rahman Ibrahim and Al-Harith ibn Al-Fadhl. Additionally, several cultural, intellectual and historical lectures were given by Yemeni participants Hisham Ali bin Ali and Dr. Nizar Ghanem on Yemeni-Sudanese relationships and Yemeni modern literature.

Last year, Yemen hosted Arab Culture Capital activities, which extend 12 months and exhibit the richness and diversity of Arab culture from the Arab Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean.

## Yemeni elections debate overcome FES's evaluation meeting

SANA'A, Dec. 27 — The German foundation Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) organized a meeting to evaluate its work in the previous years in Yemen since establishment of its office in 1999. However the meeting went into a different direction as the political parties and non-governmental organizations participating in the meeting requested that FES participates in monitoring the coming elections. The meeting, which took place last Tuesday in the Taj Sheba Hotel, was attended by a huge gathering of media, political figures and activists. FES has been operating in Yemen for more than 6 years in affiliation to the regional office in Amman, just recently this year the local office has officially become an independent country office.

The German foundation explained to the attendees that it welcomes new proposals for the year to come and that their main fields of work are political democratic culture, social justice, international co-operation, scientific research, educational support, and social development and media training.

Mr. Felix Eikenberg FES Sana'a resident representative stated that FES supports local organizations and authorities interested in various activities. He said that the foundation was named after the first democratically elected president after the end of the German empire and hence it encourages democracy and freedom of press. However, in response to the demands to monitor the Yemeni elections he said that they couldn't because they are not an independent establishment, as they are affiliated to the Social Democratic Party in Germany.

In his interposition, Hafiz Al-Bukari, a prominent Yemeni journalist said "We hope that Friedrich Establishment will provide German experts to train the Yemeni journalist. They are in need of help to be trained to build their estab-



Participants in the FES's meeting

lishments on strong basis, in order to find secured funding resources for their papers." Al-Bukari pointed out to the importance of concentrating on administrative journalists training, to raise them from their eminent state of anarchy.

He called the establishment to send Yemeni journalists to Germany to acquire skills, like that of the USA experience of (International visitor). Bukari also said that the Friedrich's Establishment had previously invited the deputy head German syndicate to visit Yemen. This project was done in cooperation with the Yemeni journalists Syndicate and resulted the training a number of economy journalists for a week.

However majority of the session turned into a political debate about the coming Yemeni elections and political situation in general. Mr. Mohamed Altieb, member of the ruling party in the Shoura Council, Mohamed Qahtan, head of political department in Islah political party, Mr. Abdulghani Abdulgadir from the Socialist party, Dr. Mohamed Almaqalih, head of the 'Yemeni Human Rights Observation' and a number of representatives of civil societies, all spoke of the necessity of

participation of Friedrich Establishments in monitoring the elections, even if in an indirect way, by depending on the Yemeni non governmental organizations. They praised the Establishment's role in supporting the civil societies since the establishment of the office.

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung is an international non-profit German non-governmental organisation committed to the principles of social democracy. It was founded in 1925 to be the oldest political German foundation. FES has offices in more than 80 countries. It implements a cultural democratic political program throughout the world, and is also interested in promoting awareness, and believes in the importance of political participation. FES has ten offices in the Middle East, in each of Yemen, Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan, Palestine, Lebanon Tunisia and Israel.

The foundation receives annual 6 million euros from the German federal Ministry for Economical Cooperation. This funding is dedicated to the foundation's activity in the area. FES also derives other funds through cooperation projects with the European Union and the German Foreign Ministry.

## Terror combating tops Interior Ministry's agenda

SANA'A, Dec. 26 — The 16th Results of the conference of Interior Ministry officials, concluded on Monday, stressed on the importance of establishing cooperation between different security apparatuses to encounter terrorism that causes great concern to the State's security and stability.

Participants in the conference insisted on the government, the Parliament and the civil community organizations to be quick in issuing the draft law for the organization of arms bearing. Also that the Parliament should be given priority for the issuance of such a draft law that has been awaited for a long time and passing it will help control security infringements in the country.

Abdulqader Bajammal, Prime Minister, confirmed that combating the crime in its sorts and levels

requires more solidarity and the building of confidence bridges between the police and the society. Eradicating crime, Bajammal noted, requires more coordination between the security authorities and apparatuses, emphasizing the deployment of security troops in the Yemeni coasts to fight terrorism.

Over the last few years, Yemen could manage to maintain the national security and stability that is the fruit of security cooperation between Yemen and other countries, mainly the U.S. The U.S. lavishly supported the Republic of Yemen in security areas, particularly the coastguard forces. It also offered training scholarships for the Yemeni police on how to fight terrorism. Additionally, a number of U.S. and British trainers supervise the training of Yemeni troops in several Yemeni military and security units.

## Media consultative meeting in Aden

ADEN, Dec. 27 — A consultative meeting was held in Aden on media training in Yemen. The meeting's theme was "Requirements and development perspectives of media training". The Media Training and Qualification Centers in Sana'a and in Aden organized the meeting, which was attended by a number of media representatives. Dr. Al-

Suhibi, Aden's Governor, addressed the meeting and talked about how the advancement and spread of international satellite channels has lead to rapid spread of information. He stressed on the need to follow up with the technology advancement to develop capacities of the Yemeni media. He also spoke of the technical training of the media staff.

"Our information capabilities should be promoted to introduce the quick and specific knowledge to the citizens." He said.

Abdulla Naser, Dean of the media Institute in Sana'a pointed that the meeting comes within a series of meetings that were held in Sana'a Aden and Taiz, to discuss matters of training and qualification programs.

## Yemeni banks encouraged to integrate

SANA'A, Dec. 27 — While inaugurating the Yemeni Banking Guide, recently issued by Al-Nukhba for Public Relations and Advertising, Ahmad Mohamed Al-Khawi, Chairman of Yemeni Banks Society, stated that the Yemeni banks have to reconsider the processes of integration and capital raising to create banking units capable of funding public and

private sectors' projects. According to him, the Yemeni government encouraged four national banks last year to join the process of integration, which is a successful step for qualifying other banks for the international competition.

These processes, he confirmed, will help attract the Yemeni capitals invested abroad, particularly as Yemen possesses numerous

investment opportunities. He emphasized that banks should take into account the reasons that ensure their survival and ability to compete in the local and international banking markets. Al-Khawi said the process of integration will help make available big financial institutions to diversify its services and reach them to the simple customers.



## Job Announcement

The Embassy of The United States of America announces for an immediate job opening.

### "Residential Guard"

The position is located in the Local Guard Program, Regional Security Office, American Embassy, under the immediate supervision of the Head Guard and the general supervision of the Assistant RSO. Employee will perform guard duties to safeguard U.S. Government personnel and residences on rotating shifts.

#### Required Qualifications:

**Education:** Completion of secondary school is required.

**Prior Work Experience:** One to two years of experience in security related fields is required.

**Language Proficiency:** Level II (good working level) English is required.

**Knowledge:** Knowledge of security procedures and protection measures.

**Ability:** Ability to follow instructions, and be reliable in attendance and performance.

**Grade/Salary:** \* EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP- DD (to be confirmed by Washington)

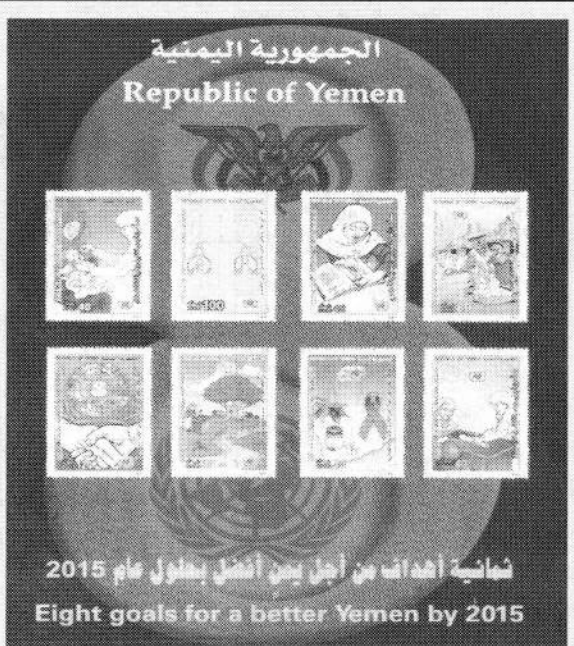
Ordinarily Resident: FSN-02.

**How to apply:** All Interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sana'a. Yemen, Tel: 755-2000, Fax: 303-182 no later than January 11, 2006.

**NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**

## Postal Stamps on the UN 60th Anniversary and MDGs

SANA'A, Dec. 27 — UNDP and UNIC launched officially 9 postal stamps on the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations and the 8 millennium goals under the theme of "Eight Goals for a better Yemen by 2015". Through the close cooperation between UNIC and UNDP 80,000 stamps were produced. 80% of those stamps will be sold at the Yemeni Post offices, while the remaining (20%) of the stamps along with 450 folders will be distributed to UN Agencies in Yemen. UN HQ in New York and other high level government officials. UNIC Sana'a, which was behind the idea from the beginning, played a key role in achieving this work. However UNDP Sana'a which supported the whole process financially, made all efforts to translate this work into a real one.





## Accused journalist pardoned

SANA'A, Dec. 25 — Mr. Mohammed Abdu Saeed, member of the Parliament, said he has forgiven Mr. Abdul-Wadood Al-Matari, editor-in-chief of Al-Rased newspaper. In a statement to the Yemen Times, Mr. Mohammed Abdu Saeed Anam said he has forgiven Mr. Al-Matari and will support him.

The Capital Western Court issued on December 10 a verdict against Al-Rasid weekly newspaper. Its Editor-in-Chief Mr. Abdul-Wadood Al-Matari was sentenced to two-month suspended imprisonment. The paper and its editor were accused of insulting Mr. Mohamed Abdu Sa'eed, a Member of



Mr. Abdul-Wadood Al-Matari

Parliament and head of the well-known Hayel Saeed business group.

On the other hand, the General Secretariat of the Yemen Writers Union expressed grave concern about Mr. Abdul-Wadood Al-Matari, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Rased newspaper.

The General Secretariat of the Yemen Writers Union condemns any act of aggression against journalists who show their opinions. The law guarantees protecting journalists from abusive treatments. The government and Ministry of Human Rights should protect all kinds of freedom and stand against any aggression against civil freedom, said the General Secretariat.

## Campaign against early marriage in Yemen

SANA'A, Dec.28 — A special workshop was organized to discuss the results of a study on early marriage last Tuesday.

The workshop was organized by Oxfam-GB in partnership with the Gender and Development Research Center of Sana'a University and was based on a study conducted earlier this year by a number of researchers and supervised by Oxfam-GB Yemen

Program. The workshop was held in Dhamar where 50 of the academics, researchers and those who are interested in Dhamar University participated. The study included Hudaydah, Coastal Hadramout, Hadramout valley and Sana'a. It tackled the social system, poverty, early marriage, and its link with development, psychological health and psychological health. It also

tackled the relation between early marriage and human rights, in addition to the role of awareness and its mechanisms.

The researchers and academics in the governorate confirmed that they would carry on a campaign to fight early marriage because of its negative economic and social impacts. Emphasizing the importance of total participation of stakeholders and to adopt a human rights approach in this campaign through combating violence and discrimination against women.

## Negligence of Mocha Port raises concern

SANAA, Dec. 27 — The government recently authorized governors of Hadramout, Hudaydah and Aden to prepare a plan for the projects, procedures and required decisions to profit from the World Bank's Project aimed at developing Yemeni ports.

However, concern was raised because of the exclusion of Mocha Port, which is one of the oldest and most famous Yemeni ports. Despite the fact the port is ignored by the concerned parties, it has been playing an important economic role over the last years and provides services for a wider geographical area and a great portion of population.

It is worth noting that Bajammal's government has taken a surprising decision during the early phases of

implementing the World Bank project for developing the Yemeni ports. Under this decision, Mocha Port was transformed into a military port.

However, the Parliament thwarted the application of this decision and invalidated it under the pretext that it causes harm to a large portion of population having old trade relations with some countries located in the Horn of Africa.

The Yemeni Craftsmen Society questioned the reality of the economic and national goals of Bajammal's government which intend to edge out the role of Mocha Port and deprive the city of Makha and its neighboring areas of benefiting from the port and the World Bank Project.

## Islamic Relief in Yemen carries out qurbani project

SANAA, Dec. 27 — The Islamic Relief in Yemen is implementing the project of Qurbani for the year 1426 (Hegira Calendar) in the Yemeni governorates of Hudaydah, Lahj, Abyan, Ibb and the city of Sana'a with a total cost of 35 thousand Euros (US \$41,000).

The project targets the poorest families, widows, orphans and people of special needs. Sacrifices will be distributed to around 21840 individuals during Al-Adha Eid days. In a statement to the Yemen Times, Khalid Al-mulad, the Islamic Relief Yemen Representative, confirmed that 5kg of mutton will be given to each targeted family during the Al-Adha Eid



Khalid Al-Mulad

days.

The project will be implemented in coordination with the charitable societies, local authorities and district chiefs to select the targeted families. The project is one of a series of varied programs adopted by the Islamic Relief-Yemen.

It is worth noting that Islamic Relief has been working in Yemen since 1998, on Ramadhan and Qurbani projects, which have benefited over 25,000 people so far. Last year's Ramadhan Program distributed \$32,000 worth of food to over 8,000 poor and needy Yemenis. Qurbani distributions in 2002 benefited another 4,000 needy people.

## Land unlawful seizing continues

The continuous seizing of lands through unlawful means has been the nightmare of many simple citizens in Yemen. Yemen Times has reported in more than one occasion of such incidents latest of which was the kidnapping of the son of Yemeni businessmen. The conflict was relating to land disputes in Hudaydah, Aden and Sana'a. Most recently the sons of Abu Sab'ah were victimized physically and morally after the looting of their land by some influential figures. The Civil Society

Organization's Collation (Etillaff) issued a press statement condemning this particular case. The Collation stated that it has proof of the case details and that it was an unlawful abduction of land and a clear violation of human rights and international agreements.

The Collation also declared the necessity of tackling this issue seriously by authority and concerned bodies and recording the violations in order to monitor the progress or regress of property ownership rights in Yemen. It also urged

the lobbying against such unlawful acts and called upon other organizations to take action in awareness and advocacy on the national and international levels.

The Yemeni Civil Society Organizations Collation is a network of a 15 prominent Yemeni civil society organisations working in human rights, training, research and media. The collation includes the Yemeni Female Media Forum, Sisters Arab Forum, Arab Human Rights Foundation among others.

Continued from page 1

## Peaceful transition of power not expected soon

He showed several characteristics that enable the ruling party to continue in power. This takes place through legalizing constitutional procedures to control the electoral processes by forming the Supreme Commission for Elections and its affiliated committees. This consequently leads to controlling election results.

Al-Sarari called the Joint Meeting Parties to introduce a political procedural scheme that would pave the way for conducting free presidential elections. It should stipulate a supreme election committee and its related committees on equal basis. It should also constitute terms for freeing official media and preventing them from being bias. "Public funds are not to be used and state institutions should remain neutral", he said. Army forces are

also to remain entirely neutral. International and local effective sponsorship is to be assured, and their remarks and evaluations are to be respected. Independence of judiciary system is also to be guaranteed. All these terms are to be converted into legal and constitutional texts and a legal formula is to be approved for the procedure of transfer of power, after the declaration of election results.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Faqih, Political sciences lecturer at Sana'a University, reviewed in his paper, (prospects of democratic change), the state of democratic practice in Yemen. It tackled its past, present and future practices. He attributed the plight of the democratic practices to the 1990 constitution. "It lacks strong democratic qualities and the democracy introduced by the

constitution formed is trivial and dominated by the two ruling parties then." He said.

Al-Faqih criticized the present democratic practices and said that they do not fulfill the democratic standards. It is suffering a great inability that will evacuate democracy from its contents. He pointed to the confusions in securing freedom of partisan and syndicate formation. Absence of free economy, the restrictions on freedom of speech, and influence of state over official media are some of the flaws in the current democratic system. The anarchy in the voting and nomination system, freedom and fairness of elections and acquiring information other than the formal ones are also absent.

Mr.Yahia Shoj'a'a, head of the research and studies center criticized the way the

ruling party deals with concept of peaceful transfer of power. He commented it is done through hollow slogans and words only. He confirmed that it is a national commitment, practice.

He defended the ruling party against the criticisms directed to it, assuring that they believe in peaceful transfer of power, within the constitution. He said that freedom is being practiced in the country, and even the president is subject to criticism. He admitted that there are some flaws in the democratic practice and held all responsible for the flaws. He asked the opposition to live to their commitments by positively dealing with the democratic practices. He asked them to observe the national interest and not the partisan interests.



### Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquid natural gas processing plant at Balhaf which will export 6.7 million tones of LNG per annum. The company headquarters are in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will participate in the development and management of the project.

Candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni Nationals

#### Technical Instructors - Reference No. 038

Yemen LNG is looking for experienced technical instructors for the implementation of a training program which will be conducted at YLNG training centre in Sana'a. This program will train and develop young trainees to become technicians at the company production plant and facilities at Balhaf.

Reporting directly to the Head of Technical Training, Yemen LNG Company is looking to recruit a number of instructors to participate in training of 200 young Yemeni technicians and operators to work in Balhaf, Shabwa. Duties will include preparation and delivering of training materials in production, maintenance and safety as well as monitoring of progress of the trainees using "Job Competency Training Models". The incumbents will also be responsible for identifying specific training needs and preparing remedial action plans and monitoring/supervising "On Job" training activities. The incumbents will prepare and administer weekly tests; weekly activities report for supervisor review and participate in Training Centre's weekly meetings. Candidate should hold a Bachelor Degree in engineering and have minimum of 10 years experience in Oil and Gas Industry in a supervisory level and a minimum of 5 years experience in training or development as instructors. Instructors must possess good organization skills and good level of initiative and team spirit.

Deadline: Tuesday, January 31, 2006

#### Recruitment Officer - Reference No.039

Reports to the Head of Recruitment, the job holder will develop and place job advertisements on the company's website and in the Yemeni media, reviews CVs to screen candidates for 1<sup>st</sup> interview in liaison with line management, conduct personal interviews and prepare assessment reports of candidates' attributes and suitability against the requirements of the job, make short list of recommendations, organizes recruitment assessments including medical tests and interviews for Line Management, administers spontaneous applications database, review CVs regularly, prepare and send appropriate letters to candidates, maintain statistics of recruitment activities, prepare weekly status report, quarterly/yearly activity reports.

Candidate should have Degree level education and an HR-relevant additional qualification would be advantageous, experience with Recruitment and Personnel Management, fluent in English and good report-writing skills. Mature with strong communication and interpersonal skills and has strong commitment to business ethics principles and recruitment practices and able to use standard computer software such as MS Office, Visio, Access etc.

Closing Date: 22nd January, 2006

Applicants should send their CV in English with a short covering letter explaining why they believe they are qualified for any the above posts to:  
The Human Resources Department  
Yemen LNG Company  
P.O. Box 15347  
Sana'a, Yemen

Candidates may apply by e-mail to: [HR@YEMENLNG.COM.YE](mailto:HR@YEMENLNG.COM.YE)  
Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by Yemen LNG.

[WWW.YEMENLNG.COM](http://WWW.YEMENLNG.COM)



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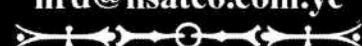
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# Yemeni students in UK: Victims of indifference

Over the last 10 years or so, hundreds of Yemeni students have been given scholarships by the Yemeni government and were sent to study in the UK, both for undergraduate and postgraduate levels. During this period, the relation between students and the Yemen Embassy in London has been a weak and fragile one. This relation, unfortunately, is deteriorating steadily resulting in serious consequences that affect the ability of students to succeed in their studies - the ultimate purpose of them being sent abroad. While this problem was observed during my studies in the UK, similar problems may be found elsewhere, i.e. between Yemeni students and Yemen embassies in other countries.



By: Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammag

Nevertheless, the relation sometimes gets better and sometimes gets worse depending mainly on the personal perception of the embassy's staff concerned. For example, in order to discuss their problems, especially those involving the embassy, students always demand general meetings with the embassy's staff to take place in regular bases. While such meetings have been taking place in the past, there were two main problems: the first was that such meetings were occasional; for example, the students would be invited whenever a new ambassador is appointed. The second problem was that the embassy would invite only students who are personally known to the staff organizing the meeting. Regarding the first problem, the students would have no similar chance to meet again, allowing them to follow up the results of previous meetings. As for the second problem, few students would attend such meetings, losing the opportunity to meet the wider circle of Yemeni students residing in the UK. The loss and the disappointment of the uninvited students are surely greater. The lack of a single representative body for the Yemeni students in UK has been a real challenge and indeed contributed, as indicated by the embassy, to the later problem. For although some attempts to create such as representing body, like that of the Yemeni Students Association in the UK (www.yemenistudents.org.uk), the

project is struggling to stay a live due to lack of support and coordination. However, the students argue that the formation of such body is very difficult if the embassy does not play a role in gathering the students and coordinating between them. On the other hand, the embassy does not see this as "one of its official responsibilities", as a senior staff of the embassy once stated. The debate is still going on

## It all boils down to money

Most of the Yemeni students receive their allowance and tuition fees (if any) through the embassy. The embassy, thus, constitutes the one and only means for them to get their money. Many students claim that the embassy does not play an active role in solving, or even attempting to solve, their academic problems. These include the inability to find suitable institutes or universities and not receiving their scholarships and allowances fully or on time. While the former issue is usually solved by the students themselves, the latter issue is of a great importance since the scholarships and the



Yemeni Embassy premises, Cromwell Road, London.

allowances themselves do not meet the financial requirements of institutes and universities in the UK. The students receive approximately half of the required fees and about 70% of the accommodation fees. They have to find other sources to fund the rest of the fees, in addition to their pocket money and other academic expenses. While some students depend on their families for financial support, others have to fund themselves either by carrying out some part-time jobs or seeking support from other educational organizations. Knowing their conditions, some of the universities would adopt flexible arrangements with the students allowing them to complete their studies, as well as, to pay their fees in parts. While the embassy has nothing to do with such financial problems, the students claim that the embassy, being aware of these problems, could have played a positive role in convincing the government to support the students fully. Not only that, they even claim that the embassy sometimes delays the payment of their allowances, or tuition fees, with no understandable reasons. In fact, the embassy has been accused many times of investing this money in banks and using the interest for personal gains. This has been a continuous rumour but real evidence could not be shown. "No smoke without a fire," the students would insist.

## Beggars in the land of mist

It has happened in the past that the students would have to beg (I do really mean it) for their money. This took the form of having to continuously phoning or travelling to the embassy for several times in order to get their money, which could have easily been sent

either by post or by bank transfer. It has also happened that some students, due to the irresponsibility of the embassy staff in charge, have been under tremendous pressure from their universities because of the negative letters sent by the embassy to their universities. In these letters, the embassy informed the universities of the inability of students to pay their fees fully. As a result, some students were threatened by their universities to suspend their studies. It is sad to note that the embassy was not obliged to send such letters at all. They were sent intentionally for personal purposes; an attitude which was seen by the students as blackmail. Students who did not get along with the embassy staff directors (mainly for their rightful demands) were subjected to intimidation and indifference. Unfortunately, their complaints to other staff and officials, including the ambassador, were usually ignored. The embassy usually states that the students' affairs are not their responsibility and that they are "merely acting as a postman delivering the fees to the students." The students on the

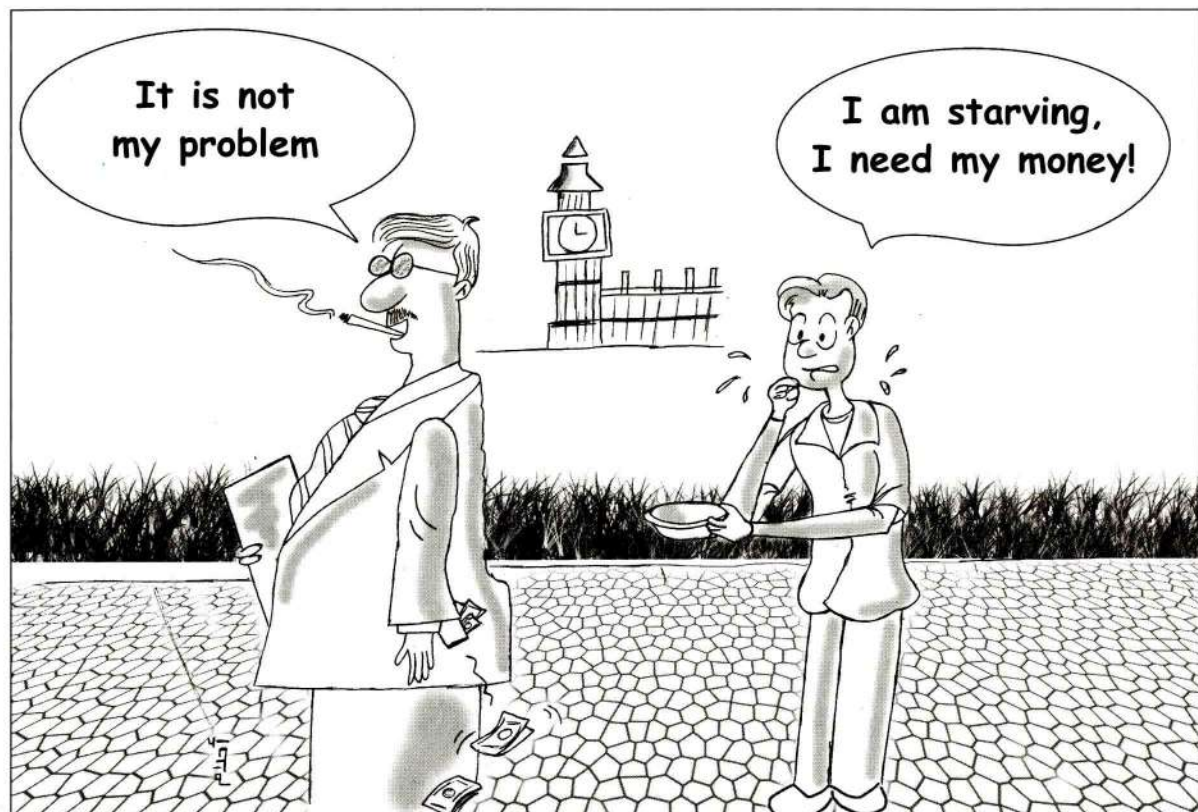
above is clearly influencing the Yemeni embassies abroad in dealing with Yemeni students. However, in our UK example, it has been suggested many times by the students that the government should send students abroad with full financial and academic support, even in the expense of reducing their number. Unlike what is happening now, the government also should send only talented students abroad regardless their families' names or positions.

## Yet, there is hope

One must admit that that there were times when the embassy was aware of the problems facing the students and the arrangements they had to do with their universities. The embassy then acted responsibly and helped to ease the pressure on the students, many of whom have completed their studies and returned back home. However, there were also times when the students have greatly suffered not because of anything, but because of the ill treatment of their affairs by the embassy. In some cases, this had forced some students to terminate their studies and go back

## Debate of responsibilities

Despite their efforts, the students have never received enough attention or help from the embassy. There has always been a tension between the two parties. The students see the embassy as the genuine representative of their government of which they expect to receive the necessary help and aid. Conversely, the embassy and its staff see the students as a "source of trouble and an additional burden distracting us from our official duties" as one of the embassy staff once told me. The students, in return, see no conflict between their demands and such duties.



The author among other Yemeni students in one of the demonstrations for Palestine in London, 2002.

other hand started to see the embassy as a source of threat, added to their list of problems. "A hostile postman," one of the students had told me once describing the embassy's claim.

## Is sending students abroad costly?

The recent government vision in limiting the number of students being sent abroad is totally wrong and baseless. The government claims that the cost of sending young Yemenis abroad is too high and not worthy. This claim fails immediately if one is to compare it with other government unnecessary expenses, such as renewing officials' cars regularly and military spending. The status of the educational system and the level of high-education in Yemen today cannot, by all means, support the rapid advances in many fields of study, and therefore cannot be a real alternative. Moreover, the advantages of sending Yemeni Students abroad are far beyond achieving academic qualifications. Even if excellent universities exist in Yemen, sending students abroad should remain a strategy of the government if real constructive changes are being sought for the national development process. The students abroad learn and achieve many experiences outside their universities that are of a great benefit to the country.

It seems that the government's vision

home. I have sadly witnessed some of these cases myself.

Nowadays, there are still many students who have to deal with the embassy in order to get their allowances, in addition to those who deal with the embassy for other reasons. Now that a new ambassador has been appointed to the UK, Mr. Mohamed Naser Mustafa, we hope that the embassy will call again for a meeting with the students, where their problems will be discussed and the embassy's previous performance in this regard will be evaluated. Most importantly, we hope that regular meetings of this form will take place in the future. The Yemeni students in the UK are expected to take the lead in putting efforts to participate in the future of Yemen. This vision should be realized both by the embassy as well as by the students.

\* Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammag is the Editorial Consultant of Yemen Times. He was one of the founders of the Yemeni Students Association in UK. He is a poet and short-story writer, with many literature publications, some of which have been published in English. He is also a research fellow at the Institute of Computing, London South Bank University, UK.

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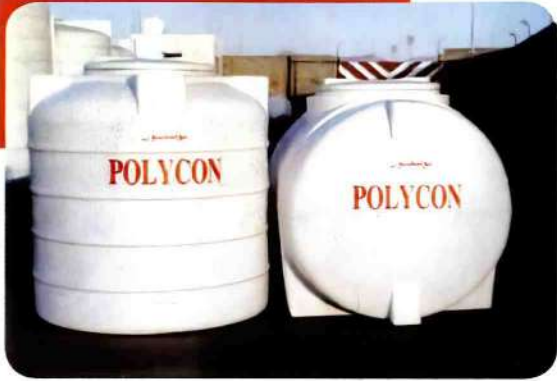
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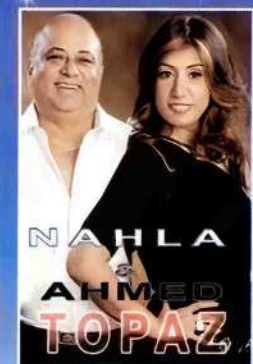
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The Headquarters of the company - Abu Dhabi, UAE



Indian President Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, with Sheikh Hamid Bin Zaid Al-Nihian, Sheikh Nihian Bin Mubarak and the Chairman of the Company at the inauguration



## Following the good reputation and expansion in the Arab Gulf NEOPHARMA launches its pharmaceutical products in Yemeni markets



Decorating the Dias, from left to right: Dr. Mohamed Al-Namrooti, Mr. Binay Shetty, Mr. Khalil Al-Jabal, Mr. Ali Mohammed Al-Jabal

This week the medical and pharmaceutical circles witnessed the launch of Neopharma's pharmaceutical products in the Yemeni market. On this occasion, Neopharma and Al-Mufaddal Pharma jointly organized a grand symposium at Movenpic hotel. It was graced by the presence of distinctive doctors, pharmacists and also by marketing and manufacturing specialists having a concern in the field of medicine.

### Welcome by the hosts:

Dr. Mohamed-Al-Namrooti, Regional Business Manager - Neopharma, welcomed the guests, He was addressing the gathering on behalf of Neopharma as well as Al-Mufaddal Pharma. He further briefed them with the present success of Neopharma in the Arab and International markets.

Dr. Namrooti further stated that Neopharma was established two years before as the first medicine manufacturing unit in Abu Dhabi. This was a positive and reliable outcome since the latest medicine manufacturing equipments and methods were used. Hence, making Neopharma the most advanced drug manufacturing unit in the Gulf region and Arab world.

### Perfection in Quality

Dr. Namrooti stated that Neopharma was based on the main motive of providing quality products to its consumers. Due to which it acquired a handsome reputation amongst the doctors and the patients. He further affirmed that at Neopharma all the processes right from the beginning of making of the product to the packing are done on preset automatic machines without any manual interference.

Dr. Namrooti further confirmed that since its establishment Neopharma has placed its emphasis on recruiting professionals who are of international caliber and widely experienced. The R & D (Research and Development) cell of Neopharma has always played a pivotal role in its journey towards success right from the establishing stages. Neopharma's quest for the best and keeping in tandem with the international standards helped it acquire the manufacturing rights for many drugs from international companies. During its short span, it has achieved many an accolades for maintaining the international standards. Neopharma initiated its exports to the countries in the Gulf region, Arab countries and also to the European Markets.

### Together We Smile

The gathering was further informed about the company's Administrative and Productive capacities. The speech by Mr. Binay R. Shetty, Director of the company, followed a 30 minute documentary titled "Together We Smile".

The documentary educated the gathering of the huge premises of the company in Abu-Dhabi. The inauguration function attended by the Indian President, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Sheikh Hamid Bin Zaid Al-Nihian and Sheikh Nihian Bin Mubarak Al-Nihian was also filmed in this documentary. The massive capacity for production with highly skilled and experienced staff using the latest technology based laboratories with ultra modern quality control measures meeting international standards were also showed in the documentary. All this was watched by the guests who appreciated the use of modern day technology for the betterment of mankind. Concluding the



A number of doctors and pharmacists listening to explanations about the products

Neopharma products for cardiac disorders and internal medicines are satisfactory to patients and doctors



The Regional Manager Dr. Mohamed Al-Namrooti, addressing the gathering

documentary was the award winning ceremony of the Distinctive Businessman for the year 2005 received by the Chairman of Neopharma, Mr. B. R. Shetty handed over by Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zaid Al-Nihian, Custodian Prince of Abu-Dhabi.



Mr. Binay R. Shetty - Director, Neopharma

A future five year plan to make Neopharma the biggest drug manufacturer in the Middle East and Africa



Distinctive presence of women doctors at the launch of Neopharma

### Welcoming Neopharma

Dr. Abdullah Abdulkhalik, Head of the General Authority for Drugs - Yemen, Said: "We in Yemen welcome the registration of Drug making companies who successfully meet the international standards set

for the manufacturing of medicines. Since, Yemen is also a member in the Medical Committee of Gulf Co-operative Council (GCC), countries from the Gulf region are always welcome".



Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zaid Al-Nihian, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, handing Mr. B. R. Shetty, Chairman of the company, the prize of the distinctive businessman for 2005.

Dr. AbdulKhalik added that Neopharma is known for its latest manufacturing methods and it has also been registered centrally throughout the Gulf region. All this is because of its unraveling strategy to meet the international standards effectively. Thus it has also achieved International Certifications by receiving the American and European Standards. And even in the Gulf it has proved to be a distinctive identity maintaining very high quality measures.

### Neopharma - A Brief Introduction

Neopharma is a massive drug-manufacturing unit, based in Abu-Dhabi the capital of UAE. It is one of the most advanced technology based drug manufacturing unit in the entire Gulf region. The company is owned by Arab Investors, hence making it a complete Arab Venture.

Neopharma caters to several therapy areas, namely Cardiac, Internal, Pediatric, Respiratory Diseases, Body Pains and all kinds of anti-biotic needs. It will produce eye and skin medicines very shortly. The company is on its way to becoming the first in the region to produce Insulin and Vaccines using bio-technical methods. The doctors who prescribe Neopharma medicines and patients who consume it are having a positive image of the company in terms of quality and price also.

Products from Neoplasm are of a high quality. They are in conformity with the standards set by World Health Organization (WHO). These products are already moving in the Gulf region and the Arab World. It has obtained the European Standard Quality Prizes from Belgium, Canada and Switzerland. Now it is seeking recognition from "FDA" and the European Union to start marketing its products in Europe and USA.

Neopharma is looking forward to becoming the largest drug manufacturer in the Middle East and Africa region during the coming five years. This they want to achieve with their never ending quest for maintaining quality and catering to the wide areas of the pharmaceutical society.

Mr. Essa M. Al-Shuga'a  
Field Sales Supervisor,  
Al-Mufaddal Pharma.

Mr. Shuga'a will be supervising the sales for Neopharma products in the Yemeni market.



# Arab world's first parliament meets in Cairo

CAIRO (Reuters) - The Arab world's first regional parliament held its inaugural meeting in Cairo on Tuesday but officials say it could be many years before the new institution gains enough clout to influence events in the region.

The 88 members, four from the parliaments or advisory councils of each Arab League member, met at the league's Cairo headquarters for a session addressed by Secretary-General Amr Moussa and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The interim parliament has no binding legislative authority and can give its opinion only on matters referred to it by the Arab League council, which represents Arab governments.

Based in Syria, it will meet twice a year.

Rawhi Fattouh, speaker of the Palestinian legislature, said the parliament would be valuable only if it kept an eye on the actions of Arab governments.

"It must be a monitor of Arab executive institutions, but if it is just a union of parliaments then it's not going to be important," he told reporters at the meeting.

Some Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, do not have elected parliaments, so their representatives in the Arab parliament are drawn from appointed advisory councils which have little



Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak (R) greets Secretary General of the Arab League Amr Moussa during the opening session of the Arab Transitional Parliament in Cairo Dec. 27. REUTERS

regional disputes.

The new interim parliament has five years to draft the arrangements for a permanent Arab parliament.

Arab League officials say they hope the permanent parliament will eventually have teeth, possibly through direct elections similar to those held for the European parliament.

Mubarak called the inaugural session "a historical occasion which opens new horizons for joint Arab action".

In the two-day opening session in Cairo, the 88 members are expected to elect a speaker and other officers.

"It's only a start, but the European parliament started small too. It's part of a trend away from an Arab League which exclusively represents governments," one official said.

Under Moussa in recent years, the Arab League has increasingly brought civil society groups into discussions.

"We have several regional parliaments -- the European Parliament and the African Parliament. The Arab parliament will be looking at them and their experiences and what they can learn from them," said Arab League spokesman Alaa Rushdi.

power.

Some of the elected Arab parliaments are dominated by the executive or ruling party and rarely challenge the government.

The concept of the Arab parliament was part of a package of institutional changes promoted by Moussa as a way to make the Arab League a stronger and more effective institution.

But Arab heads of state have not approved other aspects of the package, including an Arab court of justice and an Arab security council to handle

# Gunmen kill Iraqi forces, blasts in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Guerrillas killed 10 Iraqi policemen and soldiers in attacks north of Baghdad on Monday, while in the capital five major explosions left at least eight dead and one U.S. soldier was killed on a patrol.

It was one of the bloodiest days in Iraq since the largely peaceful election on December 15, when rival ethnic and sectarian groups took part in a vote for a new parliament. By night-fall, at least 20 were killed and over 40 injured.

In the capital, five people were killed and 15 wounded when four car bombs exploded in quick succession as civilians traveled to work in the morning, the U.S. military said.

It later said one U.S. soldier was also killed in the city when a rocket-propelled grenade hit his patrol vehicle.

In a market in a Shi'ite neighborhood of Baghdad, a parked motorbike loaded with explosives blew up, killing at least three and wounding 23 others, police said.

Iraqi police and soldiers bore the brunt of other attacks.

In the second major assault on Iraqi security forces in four days, guerrillas stormed a police checkpoint north of Baghdad, killing five policemen and wounding four.

Al Qaeda's wing in Iraq claimed responsibility. It said it killed or injured all 20 policemen present -- differing from police accounts.

The attack seemed to have been carefully planned and staged.

Gunmen jumped out of a minibus and started firing mortar rounds and rocket-propelled grenades at the checkpoint in Buhriz, a small town about 60 km (40 miles) from the capital, police said.

As they got closer, they also began hurling hand grenades.

At least six guerrillas were killed in several hours of ensuing clashes, police said.

A main road leading to the checkpoint was also laid with roadside bombs, delaying backup police forces sent in to help.

"They attacked us from all sides," said one police officer at the scene. He said he saw at least 10 guerrillas killed.

## Frequent targets

Further north, in the small village of Dhabab, gunmen shot dead five Iraqi army soldiers in separate, but apparently coordinated attacks as they left for work or went about their morning routine, the army said.



Iraqi policemen view a destroyed car after a series of car bomb attacks in central Baghdad, Dec 26. REUTERS

In Falluja, a suicide bomber threw grenades at police recruits outside a training center, killing two before detonating his explosive belt and killing himself, police said.

The area northeast of Baghdad where Monday's attacks occurred -- especially the citrus grove-fringed Diyala province -- is known for frequent violence, including execution-style assassinations of those with ties to U.S. forces.

The governor of the restive province was wounded in an assassination bid on Monday when a makeshift bomb hidden in a cigarette kiosk exploded near his motorcade, his office said.

His driver was also wounded and an aide was killed. Al Qaeda claimed responsibility for this attack too.

## Violent christmas

Violence in Iraq has surged in the past few days after a lull in attacks during the election, partly due to an informal truce by some Sunni Arab insurgent groups and strict security.

On Christmas Day, at least five Iraqis and two U.S. soldiers were killed in car bomb explosions and mortar attacks.

The bloodshed came after partial parliamentary election results threatened to deepen severe sectarian divisions.

The results show the incumbent Shi'ite Islamic bloc in a strong lead in crucial areas like Baghdad, despite a large turnout by Sunni Arabs who had boycotted a previous vote.

The United Iraqi Alliance -- the largest bloc in the Shi'ite and Kurdish-led government -- is expected to clinch about 130 of the 275 available seats, based on the latest election data.

Thousands of Sunni Arabs have taken to the streets in recent days, cry-

ing foul over the results and demanding fresh elections.

Behind the tough talk, however, Sunni Arab politicians are said to be jockeying for powerful positions within the coalition expected to form the next government.

# China plans only 4 reactors at 2 new nuke plants

BEIJING (Reuters) - China is going ahead with four reactors at a pair of planned nuclear power plants previously scheduled to have 10 generating units between them, official media reported on Tuesday.

One of the plants, at Hongyanhe, Dalian, in the northeastern province Liaoning, would consist of two 1,080 megawatt reactors at a cost of \$2.8 billion, the China Daily said.

The second would be built at Haiyang in the eastern province Shandong and have two 1,000 megawatt reactors.

The same newspaper reported in July that the Liaoning station would have four reactors while the Shandong plant would get six, each of 1,000 megawatts.

On Tuesday it made no mention of plans to build the remaining reactors in later project stages.

The Liaoning plant, which is scheduled to generate electricity from 2011, was expected to cost less than previous reactors because it would rely on domestic technology for its design, the China Daily said on Tuesday.

China has been seeking four foreign reactors under an \$8 billion contract but has indefinitely postponed that program because of high prices, sources have told Reuters. Westinghouse Electric Co., a Pittsburgh-based unit of Britain's BNFL, is vying for the contract against France's Areva and Russia's Atomstroexport.

China Guangdong Nuclear Power

Group and China Power Investment Corp., one of the country's major electricity firms, will each control a 45 percent stake in the Hongyanhe venture, with the remaining 10 percent divided between Liaoning Energy Investment Group and Dalian Construction Investment Co.

"We expect to get the final go-ahead from the National Development and Reform Commission by the end of this year," an official from CGNPG was quoted as saying. The commission is China's top economic planning authority.

China Power Investment Corp. and China National Nuclear Corp. would jointly build the Shandong plant.

# Israel strikes Gaza after threatening buffer zone

GAZA (Reuters) - Israeli warplanes hit targets in the Gaza Strip early on Tuesday after threatening to enforce a buffer zone to stop militants firing rockets at Israel from territory it evacuated three months ago.

Helicopter gunships and fighter jets struck at least nine targets, cutting off electricity to a town in northern Gaza and blowing deep craters in half a dozen roads.

The Israeli army said it targeted two offices of the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group from President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction, and a bridge used to reach an area used to fire rockets at Israel. There were no casualties.

The attacks came after Israeli leaders vowed to enforce a no-go zone in the north of the strip, but the army said Tuesday's air strikes were a specific response to Palestinian rocket fire rather than aimed at enforcing the buffer zone.

The assaults were launched after Palestinian rockets hit farming communities in Israel. The army said it struck al-Aqsa buildings because the group was involved in the rocket firing.

The makeshift rockets fired by Gaza militants rarely cause casualties, but could complicate Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's campaign for re-election in a March ballot on the strength of a Gaza pullout he had said would boost Israel's security.

Haaretz newspaper said the army would "take more aggressive action in northern Gaza," to carve out a zone to prevent rocket firing on Israel.

"NO-GO ZONE"

The Israeli army has been given the go-ahead to enforce the zone near the Gaza border with Israel and has urged Palestinian police to evacuate positions, a request rejected by the Palestinians.



An Israeli army artillery piece fires a shell toward the northern Gaza Strip from its position near Kibbutz Nahal Oz, just outside the Gaza Strip Dec. 26. The Israeli army fired artillery rounds into fields in the Gaza Strip on Monday after militants slammed two rockets into Israel, Israeli and Palestinian security officials said. REUTERS

Israel's threat to enforce the zone has recalled the "Security Zone" it established in southern Lebanon to prevent rocket fire by guerrillas. Unlike in Lebanon, Israel says it will not use ground troops, only airstrikes and shelling.

Rocket fire has continued despite Israel's withdrawal from Gaza after 38 years of occupation. Gunmen call it a response to Israeli strikes and the violence has soured hopes the pullout would lead to a quick resumption of peacemaking.

Defiant militants said they would step up the barrages if Israel attempted to curb rocket fire with airstrikes.

"Any attack on our people on any part of Palestine will be met by a decisive and violent reaction that will not be limited to a time or place," a state-

ment issued by the al-Aqsa brigades, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Resistance Committees said.

Sharon has ruled out any talks on statehood in the West Bank and Gaza until Palestinians disarm militants, a process that is meant to start under a U.S.-backed peace plan.

The stakes are high for Sharon ahead of the March 28 election, for which the ex-general is standing on a platform of ending conflict with the Palestinians after quitting his rightist Likud to move toward the political center.

Opinion polls show Sharon would win re-election, but more violence could strengthen his main rightist challenger, Benjamin Netanyahu, who denounced the Gaza pullout as a surrender to Palestinian militants that would only encourage attacks.

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## Words of Wisdom



The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle

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

OUR  
OPINIONSynergy of  
economies

The recent Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in Abu Dhabi proved a success by all standards. Not only did it reflect much greater harmony between the six partner countries, it also concluded with practical steps forward. It is true that each of those countries are economically well off, but the synergy resulting from the cooperation between all of them together would prove tremendous. I wouldn't be surprised in hearing that the common currency project is up and running by 2010 as planned. Almost all of the barriers standing against such progress, such as Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's struggle with the WTO, have been eliminated. Although politically speaking the GCC countries may not have the same stance relating to certain issues of the region, and even worldwide and in some issues they seem to be going haphazard, yet the economic harmony seems promising.

Having such a strong economic power in the region sounds good. It would automatically enhance the economy of weaker countries in the region, such as Yemen. This is a natural consequence because it would be important for the Gulf countries to have stable neighbours. Otherwise the Yemeni people who are suffering from many economic problems would consequently unload their burden in their neighbours land, one way or the other. However, the commitment displayed by the GCC countries to enhancing Yemen's economic is unwavering. Something that all the Yemeni people, especially the private sector duly appreciate. This is the very reason the Asian South-South cooperations and the D-8 Countries Cooperation exist. Economically powerful Asian countries realised that their strength is incomplete until the countries of the region are doing relatively if not equally well. This is why, for example, during the 1998 Asian crises, the region worked together and prioritized aid from and to the Asian countries rather than from the west or other international monetary institutions such as the World Bank.

It took more than a decade since the establishment of the Council in 1981 for the gulf countries to come around their differences and stand on common grounds. However, the way from this point onwards can only be forward. The only fear is that this collusion would be influenced by political disturbances. For example, the dispute that took place between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia earlier this year when the former joined the USA without consulting with the other GCC countries, an issue that led to internal friction in the union for some time. This means that the GCC countries should make it a point to stand together and stick to their union in spite of political or cultural differences. In all cases the GCC countries have a very good chance at succeeding at doing so, because of the similarities in orientation and cultural backgrounds. Good luck for the coming plans of the GCC, and let us hope this is a real "quantum leap" like never before.

Nadia Al-Sakka  
Editor-in-Chief



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First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991  
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf

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- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion and Op-Ed pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
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## Press Law in Yemen (Part 1)

The Press Law in Yemen has just returned to the circle of discussion after it was neglected for a long time now. This law has been pushed to the light just after the President has returned from the U.S. where he was demanded to protect rights of opinion expression and freedom of the press. A freedom, which is confined by oppressive laws and operates under bias judicial authorities.

The Shura Council has moved in the preplanned direction, leaving behind an impression to the foreign countries that it works for the sake of freedoms and rights. It tends to announce a new dawn of freedoms contained in the Press Law set by indecent people in the current authority. This council serves like a stick at the hands of the Security Intelligence System and is mostly used when there are political needs. The law that has come out in a culture of oppression is merely an additional product of the continued war between the regime, on the one hand, and self-expression and press freedom, on the other, a battle that started in 1990.

The last ten years witnessed a severe war between the regime with its security intelligence system and the new opposition composed of journalists and political writers. It took the freedom of expression as a new battleground because it seems different from the media war preceding 1994 crises. This new war broke out after the opposition was weakened post 1994. The Yemeni Socialist Party and the Islah Party composed this opposition, the former defeated in the 1994 and the latter explored the effects of the exploitation practiced by the regime and some other smaller parties. This led empowering the security intelligence system further than the political and journalistic oppositions and some civil community organizations topped by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate.

The supreme security intelligence authority formed field teams to wage war against the press and expression freedoms. These teams are firstly: The



By: Abdurrahim Muhsin

Security and Intelligence Team; this team launched its campaigns after 1994, starting with the capture of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf, writer Ali Al-Sarari, lawyer Mohamed Al-Mekhlafi and journalist Ahmad Al-Sofi (opposition leader in the past and currently a ruling party member. This team also attacked Abu Bakr Al-Sagqaf, intellectual, the

late writer Zain Al-Sagqaf and captured and tortured an unexpected number of journalistic and opinion writers. This team used different means of threat through post, the electronic e-mail and faxes against several male and female journalists, in addition to the storming of Ahmad Al-Haj's office and practicing pressure on newspapers and media means.

Secondly: The Information Ministry Team; this ministry posed challenge to all the Yemeni journalistic writers and filed indictments against them with treason as its core. This ministry proved to be a main part of the internal oppression systems and tended to pursue practices other than its national tasks and responsibilities. It forwarded reports to the prosecution, accusing editors and journalistic writers of treason. Al-Thawri Newspaper faced the largest number of charges, as 13 suites have been filed against it until 2005, followed by Al-Ayyam and Al-Shura papers, the last of which was closed more than once and its chief editor was imprisoned for one year. Regarding Al-Nihar paper, its managing editor was subjected to a terrorist operation.

The Ministry of Information contributed to flooding the market with newspapers, funded by the political and nationalist security apparatuses, but it refused to grant permissions to any opposition or independent newspapers.

Thirdly: State-run Newspapers Team; these papers are supposed to be possessed by the whole society, so, they should not be partial to any political party or organization, whether ruling or opposition they are, but the constitutional dominance and fraudulent democracy

changed them into foes. The 26 September weekly, affiliated to the Ministry of Defense, topped the governmental newspapers that play the role of terrorizing intellectuals. Most of the materials contained in this paper are controlled by the regime. This newspaper is still beyond the defense ministry's control, particularly after it recently covered events of the ruling party's Seventh General Conference and the political and national reforms project presented by the opposition.

This paper violated the constitution, the military and political parties and organizations laws and all the writing-related conventions. It plays a partisan role for the interest of a certain individual and wastes large sums of money for the sake of combating democracy and the freedoms of press and expression. Al-Thawrah daily comes second in the sense of boosting power of the individual. In case of a crisis relation between the regime and the opposition, it tends to play the role of a launch pad for firing destructive missiles and forgets that fact that it was established for serving society and the social peace. It fights writers who criticize the performance of government officials.

Fourthly: Regime Newspapers such as Al-Mithaq, 22 May, Taiz and Al-Masila which play a negative role contravening the humanitarian values for curbing any opposition activities.

Fifthly: The Prosecution and Judiciary Team; the ruler started to exploit the judiciary in 1998, and Al-Thawri was the first paper to be tried on unreasonable charges under the Article No. 103 of publication bans.

The prosecution continued to receive all the suits contrived by the Ministry of Information and some malicious officials and upheld unjustifiable sentences against opinion and journalistic writers.

**Abdurrahim Muhsin is a well-known Yemeni journalist and opposition activist. Established the anti-regime movement called "Irrhalo" which means get out. He was a former media person of the presidency office until he was dismissed recently and harassed because of his opposing attitude and writings.**

## Iraq after elections, deepened rifts

By: Hosam Sirri

Now that the parliamentary election in Iraq have taken place in a, generally peaceful atmosphere and a relatively high turnout, the outcomes are rather disappointing. The initial results announced by the Supreme Commission of Elections showed a large victory for the (Shiite Islamic alliance) Slate, while the Sunni and the secular slates did not achieve much in the results. The Kurdish slate, on the other hand, came out as expected, since it did not face a serious competition in the Kurdish scene. The bottleneck is that the election results, as it seems, puts the nation back on the confrontation track.

New alliances are in the creation now. And there are many choices for each party. The Kurds will side with whoever shows inclination to work with them toward achieving their goals. While the Sunnis are willing to work with whoever seems to be ready to offer them a fair position in the new regime, they violently resist being marginalized. And they are concerned about the growing Iranian influence in Iraq. The Shiites, on their part, believe they regained their just full right in ruling the country in which they are a majority. Now it seems that the Sectarians and the Sunnis have a common goal and it is in their interest to ally together in the face of the large Shiite block. Moreover, while the Shiite government has the official armed forces support with the help of their parties' militias, the Sunnis believe that their power

comes from supporting the well-trained and well formed resistance to enable them upset and undermine any gain achieved by the Shiites. This falls in the hands of Al-Zarqawi movement that will benefit from such disagreement. Considering this, the American position seems very hard. They need to achieve elections results acceptable to all and to lead to a stable Iraq so that they are able to withdraw a main portion of their forces. They cannot leave while the country is in such a shamble state. And reaching an acceptable solution is not an easy one. They need the help of the region's powers to put pressure on the Iraqis to reach a just and acceptable agreement.

But what could be the main reasons behind the current situation in Iraq? For one, even though the Sunnis voted in large numbers yet, most women in the rural Sunni areas did not, due to social traditions, which consider that women should not take part in politics. In addition to the unstable security situation in most Sunni areas that made people refrain from venturing to go to vote.

Yet, a sizable number of Sunnis did not take part in the election because they think the election under occupation is illegitimate, in which they meet with the resistance point of view. And many Sunni rural areas with very few or did not have sufficient ballot boxes. On the other hand, many boxes were located in far away areas, which make it hard for the voters to go to the polling stations. Another reason could be attributed to the fact that some Sunnis refused to participate in the voting process out of the belief that the election

by itself is illegitimate while fighting is still raging in Sunni areas and towns. Even though the Secular block crosses the sectarian barrier, but it did not make much of headway because most of the sectarians are urban residents who, in general represent the intelligentsia and technocrats. They generally mistrust the election and its outcome because it is taking place under foreign rule.

On the other hand, the Shiites went in huge numbers to the election polls, in response to the call from their religious leader who ordered them to vote and told them that taking part in the election is a religious duty. While on the contrary, the Sunni theology does not have religious hierarchy that has the right to interfere in their daily lives. Most of the Shiite voters were from the rural areas where education is limited, as well as from cities poor areas, such people follow the instructions of their religious leaders and many Shiites voted for fear that if they do not they will be outcaste by their fellow Shiite sect.

As for the cheating and rigging in the election there are many accusations of violations, whether right or wrong, they are forming a big block. While Mr. Hakeem warned before the election from wrecking the ballots (if his alliance losses) he did not complain when they won. There are accusations against the independent electoral body of not being fair and just. Such an accusation led a number of its members to resign their posts.

**Hosam Sirri is a journalist and political analyst in Iraq**

## Letters to the Editor

Tragedy of the murdered  
bus driver

What is that crime the driver had committed so that he can be shot dead for a traffic violation? Of course it is wrong but to kill some one for doing so is not legal. The main reason behind this from my humble view is that, the police force doesn't know their duty and what they should practice for their people.

Dear all police and all other national forces:

Your duty is to save people life and the country but not

kill them!!

Allah will send you to the hell because you have killed innocent soul for no reason!! If you think that you are powerful enough to escape the punishment of this life don't forget that you will escape form our God!!

Sheikh addeen yousuf  
subbary@yemen.net.ye

## Winds of change

My name is Ali M. Saleh, I am 17 years old, born in the United States, and my parents are originally from Yemen. I

have never been to Yemen but my father tells me a lot about my country and how difficult it's to live there. I do not really appreciate to hear about what is happening there, it saddens me and I just keep wondering why is that happening, although, all the countries that surround Yemen are very well off and wealthy.

I am really looking forward for a better living conditions in that valuable country and hopefully one day I will visit Yemen soon and get a completely different ideas

about it, and that I am going to school and hoping one day I will make a change.

Ali Saleh  
abuyemen05@hotmail.com

Dear Ali,

It makes me happy to see that you are willing to make a change in your country once you have an opportunity to do so. I strongly believe that the future of this country depends on the young brave souls like you. I wish you all the best in your studies and life to come.

—Editor

Marginalization  
in Yemen

By: Saeed Al-Mikhlafti

Social seclusion imposed on the Yemenis of African origin is a weighty burden that prevented their social integration in the Yemeni society. Despite the elapse of more than four decades since the beginning of the revolution which, one of its prominent goals was to obliterate differences and privileges among society classes, there is an increased segregation and social, economic and political marginalization of individuals and families of this group.

It is true that the laws do not differentiate between Yemeni citizens as such, but government policies and plans have not included any practical dimensions for the realization of social integration of the marginalized people in general, not this segment in question alone.

Yet, Yemenis of African origin as a social segment are the most marginalized. Children of this community are not able to enroll in basic education schools, let alone the general and higher education. The parents do not possess the money to pay for school fees or school uniform, in addition to their inability to provide money to pay the prices of stationery and notebooks needed for school. No government, or non-governmental organization or institution has ever offered to provide the essential requirements for enrollment of these people children in schools to learn, resulting in their inability to be employed in institutions that would provide for them the suitable income and decent social status.

Jobs usually require high scientific qualification and linguistic and technical skills that the children of the poor people could not obtain, let alone the children of this marginalized community, who are subjected to the highest portion of racial discrimination.

Residential projects, built recently for this marginalized group by initiative or assistance of some non-governmental sides, do not serve their basic issues particularly that of the social integration. Those residential projects may have in a sense contributed to increase the state of their segregation. They appeared somewhat to be similar to the Jews ghetto in Europe. There and then the Jews were subject to racial practices and could not find safety but within the walls of the ghettos. Thus, the social relationship with the marginalized people in Yemen remained without any change except the increase in feeling of hatred and racism. There is no equal or good relationship with individuals of these people; no one shares their joys or sorrows. Their economic conditions are very bad. This, in addition to the social marginalization, forced them to bury their dead people in a simple way without any funeral ceremonies. How could one who has lived his entire life without a decent lodging, have after his death a grave to be noticed by others? How can we know about their funerals when we do not mix with them and share them their sorrows and joys? The ignorance of our society has lead to some people allegedly claim that the marginalized people in Yemen eat the flesh of their dead. This allegation is based on the fact that no visible cemeteries or graves of this cast exist and that people of others social groups have hardly seen any of the marginalized people's funerals. Supposedly, we might believe the allegations said about these marginalized people, it is then the duty to query and wonder why their behavior is restricted to eating flesh of only their own dead people?

Up until now, the Yemeni society has never heard of a case where individuals, children or members from these marginalized themselves have been mysteriously disappeared and it was blamed on one or more of this community. Providing answers to the above questions and queries concerning this human group would reveal how much these people are tyrannized by our society of which they are a part. It would show that they were not only exposed to marginalization and human, social, economic and political oppression but also to violation against their human values. The only justification for all that may be the ignorance of the some people in the society who do not exert efforts to search for facts from their original sources, or they deny and dislike justice and fairness.

It would be very useful if the parties interested in situations of the marginalized groups in the Yemeni society have rushed to establish a database about the conditions and circumstances of these groups. Especially the marginalized Yemenis of African origin as they constitute the largest among the Yemeni marginalized groups and the more oppressed and racially segregated. This database would surely help those interested in defending the rights of such groups to obtain accurate information. This information would also help them be acquainted with the actual problems of such groups and work out scientific and practical visions and proposals to solve them. The database can enable specialists to contact donors and supporter parties to finance implementation of projects concerning the marginalized segment of the Yemeni society.

**Saeed Al-Mikhlafti is a writer and social researcher, he works as a manager in the General Authority of Rural Projects. He is a member of the Yemeni philosophical and Social Society.**



## “Monkey See, Monkey Do” - Not An Islamic Ideal (2/2)

It's reckless to assume that a dispensation for fighting under certain conditions negates all of the other Islamically mandated rules of warfare, but this is seemingly what the extremists believe. A much more coherent understanding of this dispensation to fight is that if attacked, one can fight during the sacred months but only in an Islamically lawful way (i.e. no killing of non-combatants, women, children, etc.) Indeed, the Qur'an is quite clear that there are limits that are not to be transgressed (Qur'an 2:190 and 5:87), and these limits are made quite clear in the noble Sunnah. A useful analogy can perhaps be drawn using the verse which allows Muslims to eat the food of the People of the Book (i.e. Jews and Christians). Upon hearing this Qur'anic ruling, do we assume that all other previously mandated dietary prohibitions are thereby suspended in regards to the food of the People of the Book, so that we can drink their wine and eat their pork? Certainly not. However, this is essentially what the militant Jihadis are doing with Qur'an 2:194.

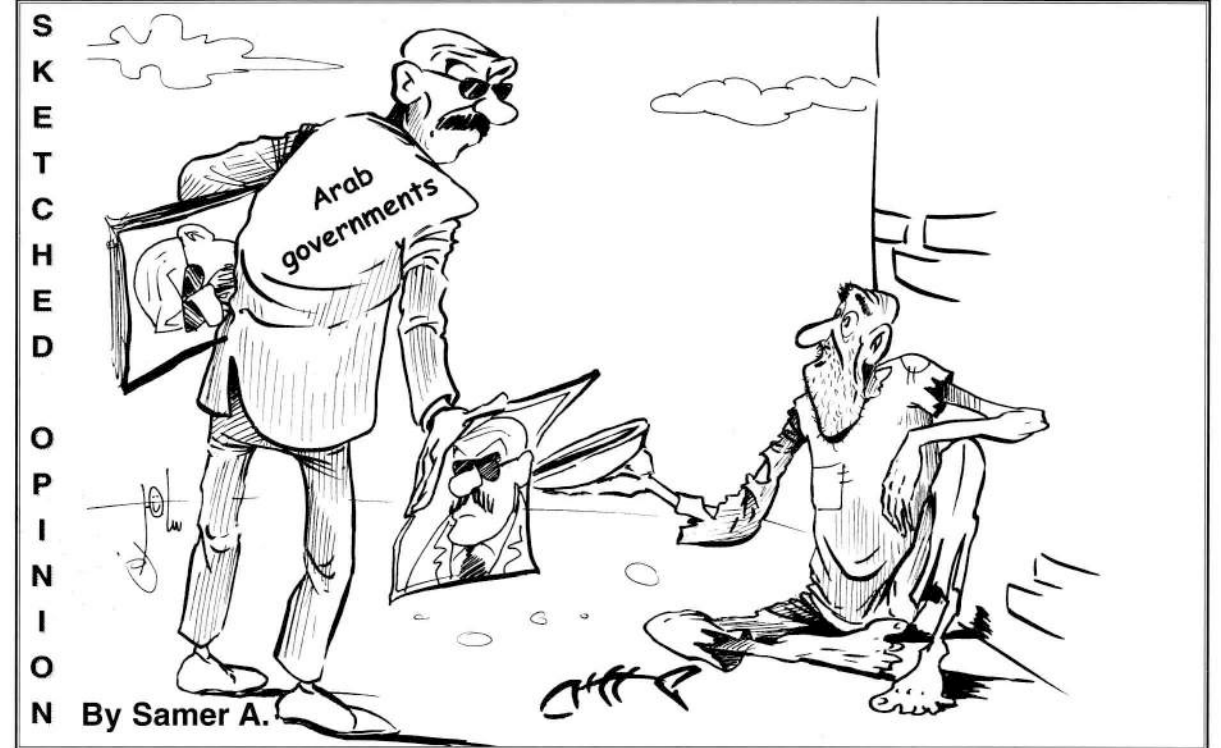
Not only is their logic flawed, but they seem to lack even a basic understanding of the Prophetic way, which is to be patient while enduring injustice, gentle in the face of harshness and merciful whenever possible. If our methodology in life is just to return the harm of whoever harms us, we're no better than a bunch of animals. Instead of striving to be the "best (religious) community raised up for mankind" (Qur'an 3:110), these days Muslims seem to be struggling to avoid being one of the worst. What happened to the spiritual state (hal) of the Companions, the mere site of whom would cause people to embrace

Islam? What happened to the noble chivalry (futuwwa) of Saladin that earned the respect of the Crusaders? What happened to the magnanimity shown upon the conquest of Mecca? If contemporary Muslim Jihadists conquered a disbelieving city, does anyone think for a moment that they'd even consider showing a drop of the mercy that the Prophet — may God bless him and grant him peace — so graciously employed in such abundance? Recent events have clearly demonstrated otherwise. If bloody revenge was ever justified, it was when the young Muslim community was first being established in al-Madinah and the very existence of Islam was at stake. So if barbarity and the killing of non-combatants wasn't justified back then, on what basis could one sincerely believe that it's justified now? Reflect on that...

So what are the limits if this Pandora's Box is opened that says we can do to "them" whatever they do to "us"? If they rape, kill and mutilate our little girls are we going to do the same to theirs? To me it's shocking and despicable that we even have to explain such things to seemingly God-fearing Muslims. We seem to be plagued by a tendency to rip a single Qur'anic verse out of context and then build an entire methodology upon it — complete with simplistic understandings and shallow interpretations. In regards to massacring Russian schoolchildren, ostensibly in revenge for crimes that the Russian government and army have undeniably committed, the Jihadi militants seem to conveniently forget about Qur'an 53:38. This verse establishes a moral principle that is well known in Islam, which is that "no bearer of a burden shall bear the burden

of another". Take that into consideration before someone dupes you into thinking that killing innocent people, much less children, can somehow be justified as an act of revenge. Unfortunately, we also have Neanderthal pundits, commentators and non-Muslim religious leaders here in America that endorse the one-sided and baseless Qur'anic interpretations of these Muslim extremists. They want to convince the world, or at least the American people, that such extremist interpretations are inherent to Islam. Once a monolithic Islam is identified as the problem, rather than an aberrant interpretation of it, they can justify their bloody campaigns against a largely innocent Muslim community. Ironically, in adopting the same heretical school of Qur'anic interpretation as Osama Bin Laden, they seek to justify the very atrocities that they claim to abhor—but that's a topic for another day.

No doubt, Muslims are facing a deep spiritual crisis. Islam has been hijacked and turned into an ideology in pursuit of worldly success instead of a religion meant to purify the soul and focus one's life on Almighty God. That's really the gist of it, I feel. The key to winning the so-called "War on Terror" is winning the war on ignorance. By equivocating the "War on Terror" label, I hope it's obvious, based on what's already been stated, that I don't deny that there are "Muslim terrorists" out there. Rather, like many people, I'm rather cynical about the conduct of what so far has been a rather selective war on terrorism. Indeed, a blind-eye is being turned to other great atrocities in the world and problems that cost far more human lives are being ignored. In the hands of ideologues who seemingly believe that military force can solve



many of the world's complex problems, the "War on Terror" has been expanded to include not only countries that are seemingly uninvolved, but carried out in gross violation of the very international laws that the terrorists are guilty of violating. Unfortunately, we live in an age where well-intentioned criticism is often considered un-patriotic—especially when coming from a Muslim. Being a good citizenship these days seems to mean shutting up and climbing on the bandwagon. Critical thinking and moral courage seem to be in short supply. Finding a semblance of them is as tough as finding an honest man in Congress. We only hope that our attempts to understand the motives for a crime are never understood to be endorsements of it. In order to develop reasonable, coherent and viable solutions to the plague of ignorance and extremism that we're facing, we need to study the sources, context and motives behind the crimes. Simple solutions are bogus solutions, and most of the tough

problems facing the human race can't be solved by using military force.

As a God-fearing and morally upright community, we've got to join together and bring our resources to bear in order to refute with a vengeance these extremist "Protestant Muslims" and their flaky "Do-It-Yourself" religion that has cast aside over 1,400 years of peerless scholarly tradition. In this undertaking, it's crucial that we stay balanced, moderate and true to our blessed tradition. We don't want to come across sounding like a bunch of limp-wristed peaceniks that condemn violence in all forms and preach that Islam only teaches peace. Rather, we need to explain the high moral standards of our faith; that it is a religion that primarily emphasizes not only the infinite mercy of God but encourages mercy between all human beings. Indeed, Islam condemns terrorism, murder, hijacking, kidnapping, taking the law into your own hands and so on. None of this is compromised by the fact that we also have a "Just War" theory which is

extremely similar to the ones advocated not only by various churches, but by international law as well. Our beloved Prophet was sent as a mercy to the worlds (Qur'an 21:107), so we have to save Islam from the reckless few that have made a large part of humanity feel that it's a scourge rather than a blessing.

Pray hard...

\* *Abdurrahman Squires is an American Muslim, originally from San Diego, California, who embraced Islam back in 1992. A former officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and life long student of history and religion, he has traveled extensively throughout the world. His travels included a four-year stay in Kuwait, where he became active in writing about topics related to Islam and comparative religion. He currently lives with his wife and five children just outside Orlando, Florida, where he works as a networking and telecommunications engineer.*

# The power of opportunities

By: Samar Mujalli

Seeing is not the only power of sight and recognizing things, it is also the power of seizing the chance. We all have our lucky breaks and golden opportunities. Most of us are lucky and have them more than once during our lifetime. But, the question that should be asked is: do we really go after these precious opportunities? Do we really try hard to achieve our goals? Well many people would say these are difficult questions to answer, because Yemen is not a country full of opportunities. I have to disagree with them. It is true that Yemen is not a very civilized country but that does not mean that there are no job opportunities for people who want to achieve something in their lives other than sitting and waiting for success to come to them.

Most wealthy people in the world started from nothing, however, they worked hard to achieve what they want. When you ask anyone of them about his/her success story he/she will never tell you I was lucky or I was sitting in front of the television when an opportunity knocked my door.

There are a lot of excuses that people use to explain their failure. They might say that their circumstances didn't help them or they didn't have the perfect family. In a respond to that I will tell them the story of Amal Engad. As a child she lived in a society where women were not appreciated or considered an affective part in evolution. She never cared about that or anything else she only cared about helping people and making her country a better place. She cared about people who were less lucky than we are, people who have any kind of retardation. She worked hard to make them feel as an effective part of the society and she did that by opening a school for them and charging them for little money. She opened a home for them when no one else did. She is definitely a successful

person but the only difference between her and other successful people is that her success helped a lot of people not only herself. So, after knowing her story this excuse is not acceptable any more.

Another question that we should ask our selves is: Are scientists, doctors, engineers, etc. Better than us? Are they

creatures from another plant? Here we find another lame excuse. People might say that successful people are gifted or have bigger brains. We all know that this is not true. Recent studies of human ability proved that every person is genius in one way or another. You just need to find the area that you are a genius in and you must

be convinced that every person has a great ability. Even disabled people have this ability and the greatest example of this is Al-Bradoni. His blindness never kept him from writing poems. Although he didn't see the beauty of nature and the beauty of people, he wrote a lot about them because he saw the beauty of living.

His poetry was and still is one of the greatest of all times. So, what could all of this tell us about ourselves, we are speechless towards this kind of determination? If we have little of that determination, we would have been living in the moon.

Finally, I just want to add one more thing. Success has many faces, a

mother who raised her children good is a successful person, a teacher who made his/her students understand and benefit is a successful person, and a cleaner who made his country clean and beautiful is a successful person. We just need to find our own success and define it, as we want neither power nor money can define it.

## Future Youth

Voices of tomorrow delivered today!!

### Big City, Narrow Minds

By: Issmat Al-Akhali

Sex Sex Sex Sex Sex!

There, I said it. If Sigmund Freud was alive, he would say that the culture and social norms in Yemen subconsciously revolve around Sex. The taboo that engulfs the subject helps fuel its prominence in the minds of every person living in Yemen. Mutual tension between the sexes brews deep as the apparent lack of knowledge drives the country to lock itself in a strict policy of segregation. The social divide grows wider while society surrenders its progress for fear of the unknown.

In Yemen, girls/women talk about boys/men, and vice-versa. The problem is that boys and girls do not talk to each other, so no one is cross-referencing their information. We find ourselves trapped in perpetual stereotyping, and framing each other in pre-defined square boxes that fit the image we create about the opposite

sex.

The very first form of instilling social norms, positive or negative, in Yemen's youth is the school system. Why do we feel the need to enforce segregation in our schools? Are we afraid that we did not raise our children with the value systems and moral concepts they require to make basic decisions regarding what is right and what is wrong? Yet, as a predominantly Muslim country, we are the first to use (or abuse?) our religious affiliation to put ourselves on a pedestal of moral superiority in contrast to other nations.

Perhaps the reason society enforces segregation is to combat what is deemed as the natural tendency of opposite sexes to want to connect, interact, and explore each other intellectually, spiritually, and physically. Then again, if the tendency is "natural", then who is responsible for making us feel "unnatural" about it? Is it Government?

Religion? Guardians? Parents today are less traditionally inclined than their parents, and their parents less

than their grand parents.

In a free-market economy, buyers and sellers are allowed to interact freely and determine their own best interests. Equilibrium between supply and demand is achieved in homogeneity. If segregation was a choice, not a rule, there are those who believe that society will eventually realize a similar effect.

If the cloak of mystery cast by segregation is revealed, then perhaps both sexes in Yemen will eventually come to stand in front of each other, naked of presumptions, and realize that both are equally creatures of flesh, thoughts, feelings, and mutual misunderstandings.

Only then can we, as a society, begin to truly grasp the reins of progress and ride our civic chariots into the future.

\* *Issmat Al-Akhali is an editor for ShababYemeni. ShababYemeni is an initiative by a group of inspired Yemeni Youth made specifically for the Yemeni Youth. SY could be contacted at: shababyemeni@hotmail.com*

### The awakening

By: Yousef Al-Aater  
alaater@hotmail.com

Eve can have the man she admire  
The wood-porter danced with the lass  
The poet had the naiad in his bed  
The maiden is no more by the scrutinizer  
But all these trials I didn't let pass  
When my animalistic urges contented  
The stars were still radiant  
The ocean was still affluent  
And the wood was still abundant  
My pleasure was much to be described  
Because I had my sanity satisfied  
With the stars my eyes were confined  
To the surf my ears had listened  
And the thorn I sniffed  
Eve can have the man she admire  
And at this time  
The thing that went astray  
Is now at hand



Prof. Dr. Al-Tarb to the Yemen Times:

# “The Central Bank of Yemen measures unsuccessful, extempore & impetuous”

Interviewed by: Mohammed Khidr

At the monetary and banking level in Yemen, this month has witnessed dramatic events and changes. At the end of the first week of this month, economic and banking circles were surprised with the shocking news of the Yemeni Watani Bank for Trade and Investment declaring its bankruptcy and the immediate action taken by the Central Bank of Yemen in taking control of the bank. The Yemen Times has not spared time to monitor the event and thus it has published front-page news and reports on the event in addition to later reports in its effort to follow up developments of the event. As part of our effort in this regard, the newspaper managed to interview the economic expert and international adviser in administrative development Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb. Through its questions particularly on the Watani Bank event, the newspaper discussed with him about this, and other economic problems, sounding out his opinion about them. Following is text of the interview.

**YT: Let's start with the most recent event the GPC conference. What could be concluded from the closing communiqué of the General People's Congress 7th conference?**

Al-Tarb: The GPC has emphasized its adherence to democratic values, respect for the constructive role of opposition, involvement of civil society organizations in drawing up policies and fulfillment of developmental plans. Therefore the lessons derived from the results of the Egyptian elections might be reflected on a number of Arab capitals unless the

ruling parties there comprehend the necessity of modernization and change in favor of their societies. Converting words into actions is the actual wager in reforms, fighting corruption and enhancement of wise administration to create the state of law and order. That also would create job opportunities, alleviation of poverty and limit dependence on oil.

**YT: How do you explain the Central Bank of Yemen's (CBY) decision of taking control of the Watani Bank?**

Al-Tarb: Yemen is not the only or first country to face a problem with one of its banks. There are other countries that experienced more dangerous problems in this respect, as what happened years ago for a number of Japanese banks and in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand classified under the term of Asian Tigers countries. Egypt had also faced such a problem as some banks were incapable of providing liquidity for their clients. Nevertheless, those countries considered the problem a national one rather than just banking. They treated the subject in a professional way and studied responsibility in order not to create confusion and non-confidence in banks. The central bank had provided liquidity and funds.

I believe what happened with the Watani Bank is something regrettable but the CBY's handling of it was not successful, but rather extempore and rash. It could have supplied a 30% amount withdrawn from banks' securities when opening credits or accepting deposits. In addition it is required to give an official statement assuring for the clients and depositors mentioning that the national banks are performing their banking activity



Prof. Abdulaziz al-Tarb

actively and good reputation and that customers' deposited funds are preserved and stable.

The finance market is living a state of anxiety and banks and correspondents demand for full coverage, as what happened after blasting the French oil tanker Limburg. Therefore the least of what the CBY could do to correct its wrongly taken measure is to issue a statement to assure depositors and banks, as well as the monetary market. Leaving the matter to speculations and rumors issued by irresponsible sides would harm the economy and the country that attempts to attract regional and international investments.

**YT: How do you assess the economic condition of Yemen today?**

Al-Tarb: To be frank, the economic condition of Yemen is very weak. It needs a revolution and new blood have to be pumped to participate in the process of reform and modernization. This is similarly applicable to political life.

We need more channels to be made available for the private sector, as the Yemeni economy needs to break up

stagnation, which, coupled with inflation has been keeping a firm grip on us in the recent past. Mismanagement, corruption, sheer negligence and carelessness have left a negative impact on our development. Corruption and breaking of the law have playing their negative role on our economy.

**YT: What can be done to help solve or rather improve the situation?**

Al-Tarb: Implementation of administrative decentralization will lead to major benefits in all government institutions and governorates. Timely good planning and proper monitoring are integral and are basic components of the management process. We do not have any of these elements, although we are now in the 21st century. Economic development also depends on security and stability. Investors should feel that their assets are safe and that they are free in their dealings. Unless the rule of law prevails, very little can be done to encourage investment. There is another important factor with negative impact on investment. Under pretext of control, many persons play the role of intruders in economic activities, simply because they want to share the pie without exerting efforts to earn it. We need to free business from bureaucratic meddling and cumbersome paperwork. Finally, we must push ahead with the privatization process. However, this is to be done with complete transparency and according to the book. I suspect that much of corruption and favoritism could be part of the picture.

**YT: Aden free zone, why is it not flourishing?**

Al-Tarb: The Dubai Company is

taking over the management of Aden port and the free zone though there is a number of remarks and views about that decision.

The other key factor in investment is embodied in trust, and confidence in decision. Investors have trouble trusting our rules and whether we are serious in applying them. They mistrust the decency and character of the persons in charge. I am not trying to put the blame on anyone. I am just stating the facts as I see and hear them and weighing things in my capacity as President of European Marketing and Promotion Authority (EMPA) in the Arab world and the chairman of the Arab Group for Investment (AGID).

The gap between what our officials say and what they do is so enormous. The relationship between what they say and the rules they enact have become almost irrelevant. We have to work on the credibility of the system. The investment law has many advantages on paper but requires credibility.

Moreover, there are practical problems such as multiple responsibilities and authorities in charge of the free zone.

It appears that we do not know what we want; we are really not ready for that. I believe the liberation of the Aden harbor is the first step we have to take in the right direction. Even this we have been unable to accomplish. In other words we have done nothing to market or prepare a promotional campaign for that.

**YT: Any further comments?**

Al-Tarb: I think Yemen can secure a good development prospect provided we can streamline the bureaucracy. I cannot overemphasize this matter but it is a must and urgent question ahead of the elections of 2006.

## Vocational training in 2006

The ministry of Technical and Vocational Training begins in 2006 the second preparation phase for of the map of vocational education in Yemen.

This phase includes providing modern supplies and equipment to be employed during the preparation period. The aerial surveys via satellites will be used to locate the sites and centers that the first phase had already defined in addition to become acquainted with other Arab and foreign countries experiences in this field.

The phase also includes training and qualification of the staff that would undertake preparation of the map. The technical education map would give an image of the current situation of this type of education in Yemen.

It will form one of the ministry's contributions aimed at drawing the future steps for establishing new vocational institutes and community colleges in addition to determine new specialties that are compatible with the labor market needs. This also depends on the population density, the geographical areas and outputs of basic and secondary education that represent major inputs in vocational and technical education.

It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Technical and Vocational Education had finished implementation of the first phase. This phase included preparation of surveys of institutes and centers of the ministry in the governorates provincial capitals and districts. It also included determining potential schools of basic and secondary education and studying the relationship between them and the vocational education system.

## Worldlink International and Hasco & Shell Marketing Organized Road Safety Week

World link International and Hasco & Shell Marketing are road safety conscious companies, and their contribution to improve the Road Safety in Yemen and raising the awareness level of its importance and the commitment to improve the driving is very much visible from their leadership.

These are the closing remarks from Colonel Yahya Zahir, director of traffic department Taiz, as the Chief Guest during the Grand Gala and Prize Distribution Ceremony of the Road Transport Week 17-21 Dec 2005, organized at Taiz Tourist Club on December 20th 2005 by Worldlink International and Hasco & Shell Marketing, with the close liaison with the Department of Traffic and Ministry of Transport-Taiz Governorate.

During the Road Safety week 17-21 December 2005, the emphasis was on implementation of various initiatives and to simplify them to ensure fast learning by drivers. It was ensured that all the messages are passed on to the drivers are in Arabic.

Mr. Mirza Mohsin Beg, Lubricant Supply Chain Manager, for Hasco and Shell Marketing, during his speech and presentation, emphasized the importance of Road Safety, raising the awareness level and following the policies and procedure. He also showed the slides during his presentation to highlight the importance of wearing Seat belt and not using Mobile phone during driving. He also described the importance of "easy to use" Drivers Journey Management plan, Vehicle Inspection Checklist and Route Hazards identification. He also urged the participants from different walks of life to use seat belts and not to use mobile phone while driving, as it hampers the concentration.

During the ceremony, the Outbound Logistics Manager for Shell Lubricant Supply Chain, Middle East & South Asia (MESA), Mr. Salman Parwez, also addressed the audience by tele-conference. He



thanked Colonel Yahya Zahir for his personal commitment in improving the traffic conditions in Yemen, specifically in Taiz. He also appreciated the efforts of the team of Worldlink and Hasco and Shell Marketing for organizing such a mega event, which is the 1st of its kind in the MESA region. During his speech, he reiterated the importance of Road Safety procedures and its ground level implementation.

Mr. Mohamed Ali Bawazir, Business Development Manager, advised Yemen times that World Link International has joined hands with Hasco and Shell Marketing to improve the safety of their Road Transport operations in Yemen. They arranged the drivers defensive driving training and other Safety

related courses to improve awareness. They ensure that the trucks provided to Hasco and Shell Marketing meet the Road Safety prerequisites, e.g. first aid box, fire extinguisher and seat belts with defensive driving trained drivers. He also informed that Worldlink International would conduct such events in the future as well.

Colonel Yahya Zahir, in his address as Chief Guest stated that Worldlink International and Hasco & Shell Marketing are the pioneers of Road Safety Procedures implementation in Yemen. This initiative is an important turning point in private sector and such an effort is also required from all other major companies to contribute in controlling the number of accidents in Yemen, considering the number of casualties from traffic accidents, which are increasing every year due to no awareness of Hazards on the Road. Within last ten months the death toll hit a ceiling of 1840, and more than nine thousands injured.

He very much appreciated the campaign to ensure that the Shell Policies of wearing Seat belts while driving, No Smoking, Engine On-Mobile Off and Road Safety Policies are strictly adhered to by their drivers and also the procedures of Drivers' Journey Management, Vehicle Inspection and Route Hazards Mapping are implemented in letter and spirit.

At the end of the ceremony, Colonel Yahya Zahir distributed the awards to the drivers performed well during the year 2005.

Other participants during the ceremony were the representative from Ministry of Transport, the President and drivers of Association of HV and Taxi drivers and Transport Union - Taiz Governorate, representatives from Shell, Traffic Offices and the speakers from Spacel and Sabafon, the GSM operators in Yemen.

For contacts: Worldlink@y.net.ye



Award deliveries



Drivers during the course



Mr. Mohammed Ali Bawazir



Col. Yahya Zaheer



Mr. Mirza Mohsin Beg



WLI &amp; HASM team organized the RT Week



Drivers at the courses



# Yemeni anti-revenge cartoon film to be screened

A cartoon film about revenge in Yemen will be completed this January, said Ramzia Al-Eryani, Chairwoman of the Yemen Women Union. Revenge is a major problem in Yemen that hobbles development and jeopardizes social security.

Entitled "Peace Outside our Village," the film sheds light on the detrimental impact of revenge on society in general and on girls' education in particular.

"Because of frequent revenge incidents in Yemen, especially in the eastern provinces, we used to explain the serious effect of revenge at workshops we organized," Al-Eryani said. The union's effort focused on the effect on families and on women especially, as revenge affects mothers who lose their supporters or offspring.

She described how the idea of the film came into being. "We thought about an effective way to pass on an anti-revenge message to people, especially youngsters and youth. We decided to produce a cartoon film."

The film originally was intended to consist of 30 sections, 15 minutes each. According to local estimates, production costs would be approximately \$25,000.

But there was a problem, as there was no possibility to produce it in Yemen. "We could produce flashes, but not cartoon films," Al-Eryani recalled. "Therefore, we contacted cartoon-producing companies in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt and Egypt's offer was the cheapest," at \$1,200 per minute.

"We could hardly believe it. This upset our plans. There was also the cost of incidental music and other technicalities."



Mrs. Ramzia al-Eryani

Instead of 30-section serials, the whole piece was reduced considerably, limited to 18 minutes.

The Yemen Women Union received \$22,000 in donations and managed to collect the remaining \$3,000.

The film is expected to debut the beginning of 2006 and be launched in the presence of many NGOs and donors as the first Yemeni cartoon film.

Film scenes depict Yemeni environment and culture: the design of the houses, the traditional costumes of the people, etc. The spoken language is simple Arabic, not reflecting any particular dialect, nor the very standard Arabic.

Al-Eryani said that if they get enough financial support in the future, they will do a better job next time. "Hopefully, when people see this film, they will think seriously of funding similar ones," she added.

The film relates the story of a young girl named Salma, accompanied by a hoopoe, a symbol for Yemen. The hoopoe was the messenger of peace from King

Solomon to Bilqis, the famed Queen of Sheba.

Salma lives in a revenge-torn village while the nearby village is peaceful and has a school. She goes to the vicinity of the school with her sheep and peeps into a classroom, sighing as she sees children studying.

She asks the old men in her vengeful village, "Why should we be like you? Why shouldn't we be like them (the peaceful village)?"

Her question reflects the irony of so-called wise people, who actually do not resort to justice and judiciary in connection with revenge cases.

"The film is a trial," concluded Al-Eryani. "We hope it will be successful."

## The old city of Haz, a story of glory

By: Ahmed Saleh Al-Shariqi

About 30 kilometers North West of Sana'a, Haz is a historic city in Hamdan County, Sana'a Province, near Qa'a Almiqab in old Mikhlaq Aqial. Its name was mentioned more than once in old Yemeni scriptures as the city of Hagarn. It was described by the famous Yemeni historian Al-Hamdani in his book "Description of Arabia", as a great pre-Islamic antiquarian site.

Visitors can see the remains of its old wall and other relics. It was the Metropolis of Althulth Hamdan of the Union of Samaie tribes. Today the site includes ruins, sculptures and old Yemeni Musnad scripts on the stones.

I realized in my field visit to Haz that it is an important archeological spot that contains a huge wealth, especially its famous palace, whose chiseled stones tell of its greatness. It



Old dilapidated city awaits exploratory activities and preservation.

also contains the remains of the old superbly built canal, that used to bring water to the palace from what is known today as Bani Matar area. The palace is the oldest remaining building in Haz. It is a square 6 meters high building, in the northern road. Its lower part rises to 3-4 meters, formed of vertical stones. The average size of these is 80 by 40 centimeters. The upper parts were rebuilt in the Islamic period. On the southern side of the lower entrance of the palace, there is a broad staircase made of trimmed stones.

A Russian orientalist mentioned that Haz was a religious and political center for Khamlan and base for the rulers of Bani Batta'. They used to worship god (Talib Riam) and their main temple used to be in this city. Bani Batta' used to bear the title of King of Saba Thi Raidan.

As for the importance of the city, it is considered to be one of the most inspiring sites for historical studies and architectural works. The great number of inscriptions, arabesques and the remains of the old buildings are some of these stimulants for study.

The inhabitants often find old relics when they make unintended excavations. There are many underground passages and canals,

which date back to pre-Islamic eras. Orientalist Glazer confirms that the number of discovered sculptures amount to 99, distributed as follows: 76 sculptures are of architecture, 20 sculptures are amulets and 3 others unidentified.

Glazer says that he had seen some inhabited houses that contain many paintings, scripts and parts of the Yemeni architecture which are in a bad condition.

This city is one of the most outstanding architectural sites, which contains a lot of sculptures with historical significance and needs more attention to unearth its secrets.

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This city is one of the most outstanding architectural sites, which contains a lot of sculptures with historical significance and needs more attention to unearth its secrets.

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## Acupuncture: the best of complementary medicine

Acupuncture came to Yemen in 1965 when a team of Chinese acupuncture practitioners arrived in Sana'a. At that time, people were not familiar with this kind of treatment and the majority did not know much about it. Therefore, very few people visited Chinese acupuncturists who mainly worked in Al-Jumhuriyah Hospital in Sana'a. Perhaps the media at that time did not inform people about acupuncture treatment.

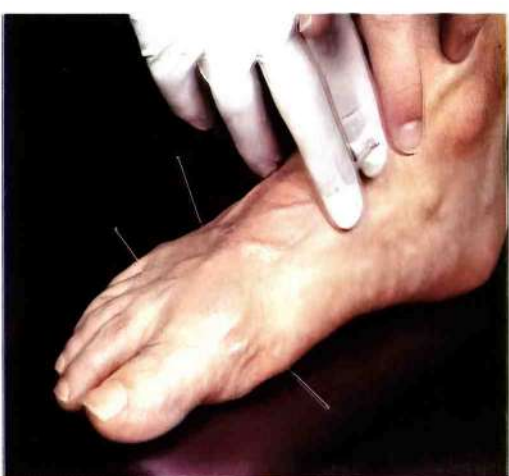
Additionally, acupuncture seemed to be a strange treatment to some people, while others did not attach value to it.

However, a few years later, medicine in Yemen began improving. The media presented different programs on diseases, medical consultations, health, etc. People began learning different ways of medical treatment, including acupuncture.

Dr. Mohammed Ali Asda, neurologist and acupuncturist, said acupuncture's beginning in Yemen was not encouraging, but with more enlightenment, people realized the importance of this kind of healing.

In Yemen, acupuncture healing is not expensive compared with developed countries such as the U.S. and Japan. As acupuncture began in Yemen, treatment seemingly was free, whereas now days, it costs 400-500 rials. A visit to an acupuncturist in the U.S. costs \$50-60, \$70 in East Asia and £20-30 in some other Western countries.

Some people turn to acupuncture when they have hopeless cases. Abu Ahmed, age 50, said he tried acupuncture once when he found no cure for his illness. Of course, acupuncture is considered complementary medicine. Here in Yemen, most people prefer visiting acupuncture clinics when they find no improvement in their health conditions. This is because acupuncture is considered mainly a complementary medicine. However, in most



Patient undergoes acupuncture in his foot

cases, acupuncture proves well.

In acupuncture, the practitioner inserts solid, thin needles at appropriate points of the body. Needle length varies from half an inch (1.27 cm). Acupuncture treatment is safe, but some people get scared when they first see the needles, thinking they are painful. Improper needle insertion or a defective needle may cause pain and soreness. In fact, it all depends on the professionalism and experience of the practitioner.

According to Western medicine, acupuncture works by stimulating the Central Nervous System to release chemicals into the muscles, spinal cord and brain that can alter biochemical processes in a way that may relieve pain, stimulate healing and promote physical and emotional health.

Both Eastern and Western medicines agree that acupuncture can help treat a wide variety of illnesses by relieving pain and symptoms associated with these illnesses. Acupuncture can help with conditions as diverse as abdominal and bowel problems, allergic reactions like hay fever, anxiety, arthritis, back pain, depression, kidney disorders, knee pain, labor pain, migraines, pre-menstrual syndrome, rheumatism, sciatica, shingles, sinus problems, skin and other conditions. Some research shows that acupuncture can regulate and balance the endocrine system and hormone levels.

By: Koichiro Matsuura  
Director-General of UNESCO

Are we on the threshold of a new age – that of knowledge societies? The scientific upheavals of the 20th century have brought about a third industrial revolution, that of the new technologies, which are essentially intellectual technologies. This revolution, which has been accompanied by a further advance of globalization, has laid down the bases of a knowledge economy, placing knowledge at the heart of human activity, development and social change.

Yet information is not knowledge; and the incipient world information society, will only fulfil its potential if it facilitates the emergence of pluralistic and participative knowledge societies that include rather than exclude.

Does this mean that the 21st century will see the development of societies of shared knowledge? As underlined by the UNESCO World Report Towards Knowledge Societies, coordinated by Jérôme Bindé and just published in six languages, there should be no excluded individuals in learning societies: for knowledge is a public asset that should be accessible to all. Knowledge has two remarkable qualities: its non-rivalry and, once the period of protection under intellectual property rights has lapsed, its non-exclusivity. The first illustrates a property of knowledge already highlighted in the observation of Jefferson: "He who receives an idea from me receives instruction himself without lessening mine; as he who lights his taper at mine, receives light without darkening me." The second signifies that anyone can make free use of knowledge belonging to the public domain.

There is a clear awareness today that the development of societies

predicated on the sharing of knowledge is the best way of waging effective war on poverty and forestalling major health risks such as pandemics, of reducing the terrible loss of life caused by tsunamis and tropical storms, and of promoting sustainable human development. For new modes of development are today within our grasp: these are no longer based, as in the past, on "blood, sweat and tears", but rather on intelligence, the scientific and technological capacity to address problems, intellectual added value, and the expansion of services in all sectors of the economy, which should be conducive to civic development and, in response to the risk society, the growth of a forward-looking democracy.

However, five obstacles stand in the way of the advent of societies of shared knowledge:

- The digital divide: no connection means no access. True, the number of Internet users is increasing all the time, having reached close on one billion. Yet two billion people are not connected to an electricity grid and three-quarters of the global population have little or no access to basic telecommunication facilities.
- The cognitive divide, even deeper and much older, constitutes a major rift between North and South, as it does within every society.
- The concentration of knowledge - particularly high-tech knowledge, as well as large-scale scientific and educational investment - on restricted geographical areas, reinforcing the brain drain from South to North as well as North-North and South-South directions.
- Knowledge exists to be shared; but once it is converted into information, it has a price. How is the necessary balance to be struck between the universality of knowledge, implying accessibility to all, and respect for intellectual property rights?
- The development of societies of

shared knowledge is today hampered by the deepening social, national, urban, family, educational and cultural divides affecting many countries and by the persistent gender divide reflected in the fact that 29% of girls on the planet do not attend school and that women are under-represented in the sciences.

To overcome these obstacles, the nations of the world will have to invest massively in education, research, info-development and the promotion of learning societies. What is at stake is the destiny of every country, since nations that fail to invest sufficiently in knowledge and quality education and science jeopardize their own future, running the risk of finding themselves drained of vital brain power.

What are the practical solutions proposed in the report Towards Knowledge Societies? Here are some examples:

- Invest more in quality education for all to ensure equal opportunity. Countries should earmark a substantial share of their GNP for educational spending; donor countries should raise the percentage of development aid intended for education.
- Governments, the private sector and social partners should explore the possibility of introducing progressively, over the 21st century, a "study-time entitlement" giving individuals the right to a number of years of education after the completion of compulsory schooling. In this way, everybody would have access to lifelong training and would be given a second chance in the case of having left school early.
- While increasing investment in scientific research and in quality research geared to future challenges, there is also a need to promote practical and innovative approaches to the sharing of knowledge, such as the collaborative. This new virtual institution, telescoping laboratory and collaboration in one word, enables


researchers to work together in crossfrontier scientific networks. This innovation, to which we owe the deciphering of the human genome, could change North-South relations in the scientific field and curb the brain drain.

• There's also a need to promote linguistic diversity in the new knowledge societies and turn to account local and traditional knowledge.

But can the South afford knowledge societies? Are they not a luxury reserved for the North? One could of course reply by paraphrasing Lincoln: "If you think knowledge is expensive, try ignorance!" Should we not draw the lesson from the success of many countries in the world? Some have invested massively over several decades in education and scientific research and have succeeded in substantially reducing absolute poverty. Certain have already overtaken many rich countries in terms of their per capita GDP. Others, which were already among the most advanced countries, have further boosted their chances globally, while continuing to raise their level of sustainable human development.

Can it be said that a world that now devotes a trillion dollars annually to military spending lacks the means to promote knowledge societies for all? Substantial funding for education and knowledge could also be released by bold reform policies aimed at reducing non-productive expenditure, improving the efficiency of public services, streamlining bureaucracies, eliminating ineffective grants and combating corruption.

To meet the challenge of a world deeply divided by disparities of all kinds, and to address the contradiction between the global nature of our problems and the partitioning of knowledge, there is no alternative to knowledge sharing. To paraphrase an African proverb, knowledge is like love - it is the only thing that grows by being shared.



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## Yemen football down to 139th in world ranking

SANA'A, Dec. 23 - For the fifth consecutive month, our football national team is going downward on the FIFA World Ranking. Our country's team went five steps back in the FIFA monthly classification for December 2005, ranking 139th. The national football team was the 134th in November and was the 124th in the year before the last. This deterioration is cited after our team lost fifteen points of its record, which

contains now 310 points.

Internationally, the Brazilian team is still topping the list of the FIFA classification for the fourth consecutive year. The Tunisian team continued its supremacy in the Arab World with 685 points, occupying the 28th position worldwide. The Egyptian team displaced the Saudi team from the second position among the Arab national teams.



## Arab Sports Press Union delegation meets Yemeni Officials

A delegation of Arab Union for Sports Press (AUSP) headed by the vice-chairman of the union Mohammed Abdul Qader met last Monday with the Minister of Sports and Youth Abdul Rahman Al-Akwa'a. The AUSP official briefed the minister on the ongoing developments in the union in light of the latest elections of a new executive office that held in Amman with participation of 15 Arab states. For his part, Al-Akwa'a discussed with the AUSP official the current situation of the Arab union expressing readiness of Yemen to coordinate with the union to enhance ties of the relations between various

the Arab sport bodies. The delegation, which arrived to Sana'a on the same day, stressed in the meeting on the role of the Yemeni interim commission of the sports media association in the creation of an Arab united vision over the sports press. The delegation has also met with the Minister of Information Hussein Al-Awadi. During its visit to Yemen, the delegation will hold talks with Yemeni officials in the ministries of Information and Youth and Sport regarding the ways of developing the sports media works in the Arab and national levels. The Association work in the coming period will be also discussed.

## Egypt down Uganda

Egypt's national team defeated Uganda 2-0 in the match they played on Tuesday within LG Egypt friendly Championship currently underway in preparation for African Nations Cup which Egypt will host on January

Cairo (ArabSport) - Egypt claimed a 2-0 win over Uganda on Tuesday in the match they played within LG Egypt Cup which Egypt hold in preparation for African Nations Cup.

Amro Zaki scored Egypt's first goal in the minute 44 when his colleague Ahmad Hassan passed him the ball before he adds the second in the minute 66 after Abdul Thaher Al Saka passed him the ball to place it right into Uganda's net.

Egypt will meet Senegal in the final match on Thursday after the latter defeated Ecuador 2-1 on Tuesday too, and thus Ecuador will play Uganda on third place classification.

It is noteworthy that this friendly tournament comes within Egypt's and Senegal's preparations for African Nations Cup which Egypt will hold from January 20- February 10.

Source: <http://www.arabsport.com>



## Zamalek take part in Sweis Int'l Friendly Tournament

Cairo (ArabSport) - Zamalek team management approved on the invitation they got to attend the international friendly tournament which will be held on January in Switzerland.

On the other hand, the negotiations with the new foreign coach are about to succeed and it has been said that he is a Brazilian one called Zomario, however, there are another nominated

called and he is from Portugal and they will decide which coach to contract next week.

The team will hold their trainings at Al Sikah Al Hadid stadium instead of Helmi Zamara because it is under construction in the meantime.

Source: <http://www.arabsport.com>

## Kings' Abdur-Rahim breaks jaw in game

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Sacramento Kings forward Shareef Abdur-Rahim suffered a broken jaw in a game with the Portland Trail Blazers, the team said.

A decision on how to repair the fracture will be made this week, the team reported on its website.

Abdur-Rahim's injury occurred during the third quarter of Monday night's

game with Portland.

The 29-year-old player had averaged 16.5 points in starting all 27 of the Kings' games this season.

## Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

### ACROSS

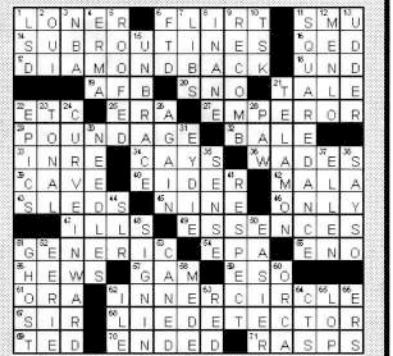
- 1 Mushroom parts
- 5 At the stern
- 10 Some farm animals
- 14 "To Sir With Love" songstress
- 15 Prefix for sonic
- 16 Wisecrack
- 17 Teapot
- 18 Parts of complete works, perhaps
- 19 Gorb's domain
- 20 Rocky
- 23 Suffix with Darwin
- 24 Word with foreign or legal
- 25 Hardly ordinary
- 28 Tentacle
- 32 Part of some addresses
- 35 "Super..." (Rick James hit)
- 37 Centers of activity
- 38 Mauna Loa's locale
- 39 Rocky (II)
- 42 Raines or Fitzgerald
- 43 Cathedral protuberance
- 44 Word with jack or label
- 45 Initials of Jekyll's creator
- 46 Wal-Mart employee
- 48 Chin attachment?

### DOWN

- 1 Crab feature
- 2 Autobahn cruiser, perhaps
- 3 Novel underpinning
- 4 Seaweed-wrapped delicacy
- 5 Cooling-off time
- 6 Rorschach test feature
- 7 People withdraw from them
- 8 Glenn of the Eagles
- 9 Hobart is its capital
- 10 Word with vice or bomb
- 11 Force from office
- 12 It's made at a birthday party
- 13 Quick on one's

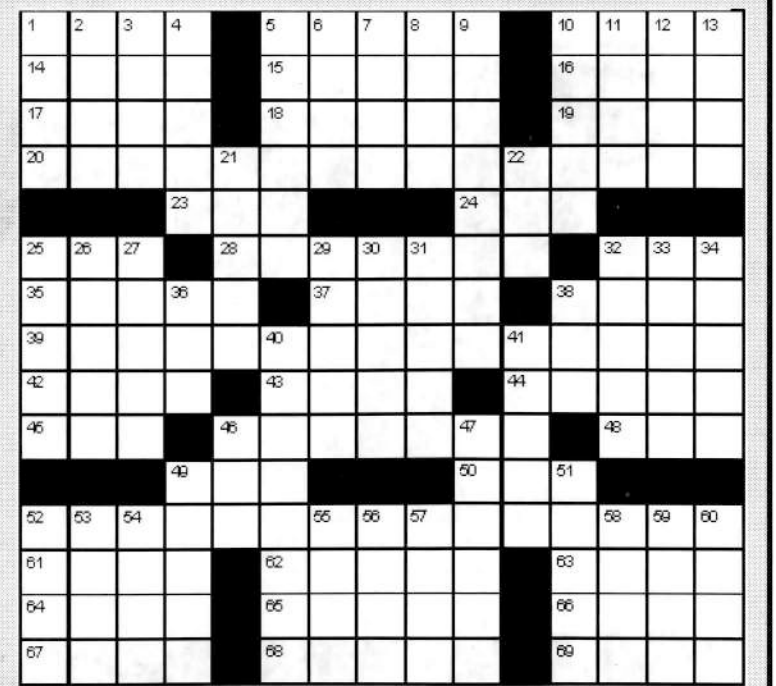
- feet
- 21 Japan's third largest city
- 22 Mississippi mud, e.g.
- 25 Put forward
- 26 Marching practice
- 27 Dingles
- 29 Split to be joined
- 30 It makes a clicking noise
- 31 Group of eight
- 32 Playful sort
- 33 Toast spreads
- 34 Lifted by the wind, e.g.
- 36 Sawbones' gp.
- 38 Snookums
- 40 Things often put into a pool
- 41 Rangoon's land
- 46 Metro maker, once
- 47 Good diner patrons, e.g.
- 49 Monetary unit of Poland
- 51 Become slippery, in a way
- 52 Pate de gras
- 53 Major or Minor constellation
- 54 It helps you focus
- 55 Where the drinks are?
- 56 Shepherding pig of film
- 57 Bud holder
- 58 Turner, the
- 59 Sweater Girl
- 60 Nefariousness
- 61 Sound stages

### PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER



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### "TRIPLE FEATURE" by Mary Thompson



## Football helps Mid-East peace

Israeli politician Shimon Peres hailed football as a great contributor to Middle East peace today (AEDT) when a combined Israeli and Palestinian team arrived in Spain.

Movie actor and football fan Sean Connery was also on hand in Barcelona to promote tomorrow's "Match For Peace", a friendly against La Liga champion Barcelona at the Nou Camp stadium.

"Football is a great contributor to the peace process," Peres said.

"I think all of us are coming here with one message and that is peace has a future."

The "Peace Team" includes Israeli internationals and Palestinian players from the occupied West Bank.

Connery said: "What we really need is to get back some of the optimism we had five years ago (in the Middle East peace process) and I'm sure there's going to be a change in the climate within a week."

The Barcelona squad is packed with outstanding players such as Brazil's Ronaldo, crowned European footballer of the year in Paris this morning, Cameroon international Samuel Eto'o and Argentine prodigy Lionel Messi.

The match against Barcelona has been three years in the planning and is backed by the Peres Centre For Peace, a foundation set up by Peres.

The "Peace Team" will be coached jointly by newly-appointed Israel national team coach Dror Kashtan and

Palestinian coach Jamal Hadeideh of Tulkarm.

Kashtan said in a statement: "I hope that this game is only the first of many other joint sporting ventures which will take place in the future."

Israeli players in a 15-strong group include national team captain Avi Nimni, veteran defenders Arik Benado and Alon Harazi, and Israeli Arabs Abbas Suan and Walid Badir.

The 12-strong Palestinian contingent comprises West Bank players including Palestine national team captain Haldin Mahed Ali Aloara.

Source: <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au>



### معهد الفاروق

### Al-Farouk Institute Of Languages & Computer

مسابقة رقم : 54

Contest No : 54

(A) Domesticated  
(L) Opposite of male  
(F) Show, disclose  
(A) Sticky stuff  
(R) Give out  
(O) Nimble  
(U) Imagined  
(K) Do again

Answer & winner  
Of contest (53)

(A) Nags  
(L) Smelly  
(F) Elated  
(A) Thin  
(R) Exit  
(O) Frown  
(U) Blouse  
(K) Rooted

Vahban Saleh

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## Camel Racing: a Yemeni historical sport

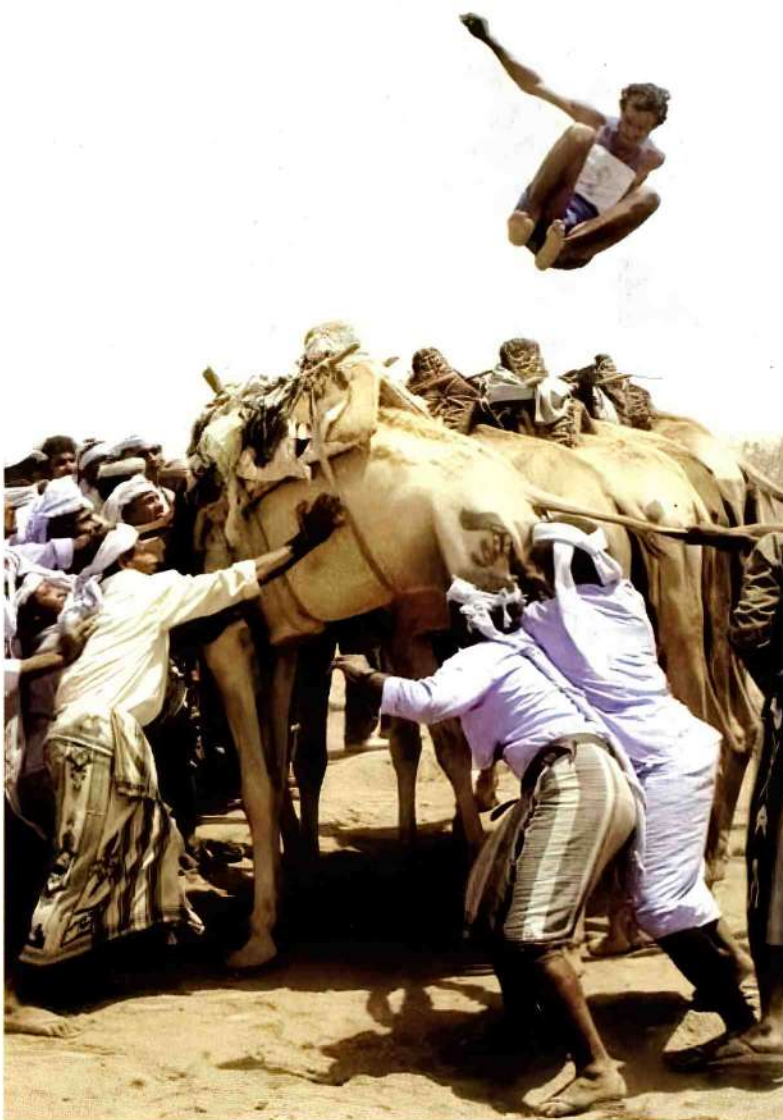
By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri & Adel Al-Hadad

Camel racing (Al-Hagen) is one of the historical and traditional sports that is practiced by Arabs, especially Yemenis. The relationship between Camel and Arabs is more than that between an animal and jockey; it is, rather a stronger friendship. For Arabs, the camel is a symbol of the strength that overcomes all hard challenges of the harsh desert environment, and for that, the camel is known in Arabic as the ship of the desert. Camels can travel vast distances in desert, drink from waterholes far more bitter or saline for others and eat almost anything, regardless of how tough or how thorny they are. For Bedouins, the camel can be considered as a member of the family that transport them, and feed them with milk, meat and hair. It is always said that Bedouins bones and body are very strong because they drink camel's milk every day.

Camel racing is a very long tradition in Arabian Peninsula, especially in Yemen. However, what distinguishes Yemen from other Arab countries in this regard is that Yemen has many kinds of camels' races and a variety of festivals. Camel racing in Yemen includes many activities. For example, in Al-Husineah Festival, which is the most famous festival in Yemen for Camel racing, the high jump over camels is one of the most interesting sports of the festival.

### Al-Husineah Festival:

Although camel racing (Al-Hagen) is very old sport, the government started to take care of it officially only in March 1987 when the first camel racing in the town of Al-Husineah, located at Al-Hudaydah province, took place. Nevertheless, it is said that Al-Husineah Festival had been running for centuries.



The high jump up over camels.

(Source www.dailytimes.com.pk)

The main aim of this festival is to rebirth historical sports, such as; camel racing, horse racing, long distances races, high jump up over a row of camels. The latter sport is the most popular one where a number of camels are lined up and a sportsman runs and jumps high over them. Although this sport could be hazardous, no safety precautions are usually taken. In fact the sportsmen performing this kind of jump prefer not to wear a crash helmet.

It is a pity that Al-Husineah Festival was stopped for four years. As a result, the town of Al-Husineah's dreams were also stopped. Nevertheless, Al-Husineah people are still practicing this sport since it is well rooted in their traditions. It is worth mentioning that the Fifth Camel Race Festival was held in Thamoud area in Hadramout governorate on the 16th of November, 2005.

### Al-Husineah Festival again:

After being postponed, preparations for Al-Husineah Festival are under way. The festival is expected to take place in the near future. The coming festival will focus on historical sports of Al-Husineah area. Nevertheless, many governorates will take part in the festival such as, Haja, Shabwa, Hadramout, Marib, Taiz, Abin, Al-Maharah, Lahj, and AL-Gawf. Nabil Al-Hubishi, the manager of Youth and Sport office in Hudaydah, told the Yemen Times that the preparations of the festival are continuing in order to assure its success and distinction. He also stated "the festival will gather more than 192 participants from different governorates of the Republic". As for making the festival unique, he added: "A modern racetrack dedicated solely for the festival has been built according to international standards." In addition, the Al-Husineah Festival will include a horse race, where more than 205 horsemen will participate, and of course jumping over camels will be there for sure.

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## Pussycat, pussycat, where have you been?!

In essence, creation is harmonious by nature. Living beings can accommodate each other including beasts that only kill to eat.

Many Yemenis have developed the habit of keeping pets at home. In earlier times, and even today in rural areas, Yemenis kept domestic animals in sta-

bles and on farms for food and trade. Although raising cattle and sheep mainly is done to utilize the animals' milk or meat, many Yemenis take a friendly, sometimes even loving, attitude toward the animals. Many families have given their goats, sheep and even cows pet names and talk to them as if they are best friends.

Of course, raising pets of a heavier weight is not very feasible in the cities. Urban Yemenis raise smaller pets such as cats, birds and sometimes dogs. Unfortunately, some people still treat cats and dogs cruelly. Nevertheless, others have created a bond so strong that they take their pets with them wherever they go.



Above and under

## Tsunami: one year later



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