

## Bush invites Saleh to G-8 Summit

By MOHAMMED AL-QADHI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has been invited to take part in an event during the G-8 Summit that will take place in the US next month, an official source said on Saturday.

The official source confirmed that President Saleh has been invited by US President George Bush to participate in an event that will take place on June 9 at the Sea Island, Georgia whose main focus is the US Greater Middle East Initiative for reform and change in the Middle East countries.

Saleh, according to the official source, would highlight the democratic experience in Yemen as well as its efforts in the international coalition to crack down on terrorism.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia announced their boycott of the event. The only Arab countries that were invited to the event are Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan and Algeria.

A statement from the White House spokesman Scott McClellan said "Bush looks forward to a discussion of how the G8 can support political, economic and social freedom in the greater Middle East". "The President anticipates that the G8 will respond to calls for reform from the region with offers of concrete support that will help reformers."



Protesters pile on top of each other to dramatize the condition of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison facility, run by the U.S., during a protest outside the U.S. embassy in Manila last week. It is expected that similar protests will take place to demonstrate against US policies ahead of the G8 summit to start on June 8 in Georgia, USA and to which President Saleh was invited. Protesters are expected to condemn the occupation of Iraq by the U.S. and British forces and will call on the US government for the immediate withdrawal from Iraq.

REUTERS

To be organized by several Yemeni female leaders:

## US embassy to face female demonstration

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A number of Yemeni civil society female leaders are to organize a peaceful demonstration on Thursday May 27 to take place near the US Embassy in Sanaa. The demonstration is also expected to go to the UNDP office and the UK embassy in the city.

According to a press release issued by the main organizer of the protest, the Yemen Female Media Forum, the demonstration will protest 'the crimes committed by US soldiers against Iraqi prisoners'.

The demonstrating women will also demonstrate as a symbol of solidarity with Iraqi women who suffer due to 'what they are facing of assaults and random missile attacks such as those that took place in Falluja, Karbala, and Najaf'.

The demonstration is expected to start the Sabeen arena and head to the UNDP



office where they would hand the resident representative a letter of protest for 'being silent despite atrocities of the US against humanity and human rights' and the group will then continue to the US and UK embassies where they will present the ambassadors of the two countries letters of protest against the 'ongoing occupation of Iraq.'

## At least 7 hurt in grenade blast at Yemen market

SANAA, May 23 (Reuters) - At least seven people were hurt, some of them seriously, on Sunday when an unidentified man hurled a hand grenade at a car parked in a crowded market in the Yemeni capital Sanaa.

Witnesses told Reuters the assailant had apparently been trying to rob a shop in the market and threw the grenade when the shop's owner became suspicious.

A Web site run by the country's ruling

party said police were searching for the man.

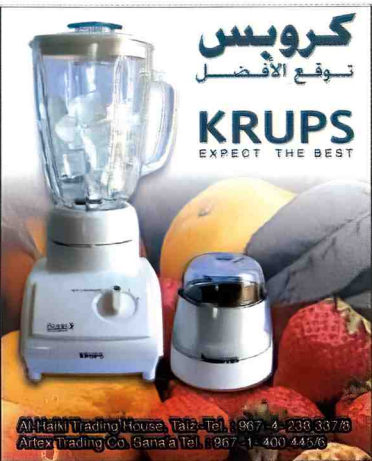
Yemen, which has witnessed a spate of attacks on Western targets by followers of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, is awash with weapons — a legacy of several civil wars.

The government has tried to crack down on the bearing of arms in the capital, but their efforts have had little success in the majority of the vast country.

## YJS appeals to President on journalists imprisonment

By MOHAMED BIN SALLAM  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate,



in a statement issued last Thursday, May 20, called for suspension of the imprisonment of journalists Mr. Jalal Al-Sharabi, former Editor-in-Chief of "Al-Asboua" weekly newspaper, sentenced to three-month imprisonment (suspended), and Mr. Naif Hassan and Foad Al-Rabadi, who were sentenced to five months.

"The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate has been following with great concern the series of court trials of journalists working at governmental, private and political party-affiliated newspaper, as well as registering an increased number of reports and claims from journalists of threats, aggression and intimidation", said the statement.

"The YJS follows also with concern the reciprocal campaigns between the official press and that of the opposition, which represents a serious unprecedented practice, isolated from the principles of the profession. The provocation, intimidation, threatening and dismissal from work have extended to the slander, degradation and defamation not only of those working in the profession, but also others", the statement elaborated.

The statement concluded by extending an urgent plea to all journalists at the various official, private and party media organizations, to all political and opposition leaders, and to interested figures and intellectuals who are concerned with the shaping of public awareness, to seek that our journalism should become more free and unrestricted. "We want journalism to administrate dialogue and to practice constructive and responsible criticism, and not to get even or to settle previous personal grudges and political disputes. The Yemeni journalism family, of all sorts of political affiliations and goals, strongly believes that the profession is above any other considerations, conflicts and disputes", said the statement.

The defending counsel of Jalal Al-Sharabi, Mr. Naif Hassan and Foad Al-

Rabadi, chaired by famous lawyer Mohamed Naji Alaow, intends to submit appeals against the courts' verdicts, and to postpone the implementation of verdicts until the highest judicial proceedings are carried out.

The verdict of Sana'a Western Court came as a surprise to the press circle, which is already suffering from a set of restrictive measures against its freedom. The verdict, to imprison the three above-mentioned journalists, received wide condemnation and led to discontent from all political and social circles and civil society organizations.

The Press Freedom Protection Center, chaired by lawyer Mohamed Sadeq Al-Odine, issued a similar statement expressing its great concern about the future of journalism and freedoms of expression and opinion, especially in the light of the increase in the

arrests of journalists and multi-source violations against the press and journalists. The Center renewed its demand that the government abide by its obligations and commitments stipulated in international conventions, pacts and protocols, signed and ratified by the state, concerning protection of human rights and support of press freedom.

The statement called on civil society organization, political parties, various unions, activities, advocates and representatives of international human rights organizations to immediately react and to declare their utter solidarity with Yemeni journalists in confronting this "fierce attack", and to organize activities to protest against the repressive policy and violations.

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## In Brief

### Two Al-Qaeda suspects arrested

Press sources unveiled that two suspected members of Al-Qaeda Organization were arrested a few days ago in Marib Governorate by the Political Security Apparatus.

These arrests come amid various calls from different authorities to expeditiously settle the situations of 200 other detainees inside Yemeni prisons accused of involvement with Al-Qaeda, amid surprise at the reluctance of the State Authority to at least transfer some of them to the judiciary, as it previously stated it would.

### Center for receiving fish products in Aden opened

#### ADEN BUREAU

Minister of Fisheries, Dr. Ali Mohammed Majwar, on Sunday 23 May opened in Aden a center for receiving and preparing fish. The center's capacity is 200 tons, funded by the State Establishment for Fish Services and Marketing, Aden branch. The project includes two halls for fish preparation, another for receiving freezing equipment and a fourth for packaging fish products in conformity with international specifications. The project aims at making a practical start in investment for exporting fish to European markets. The Minister had made an inspection tour of the central laboratory and listened to detailed explanations offered by the laboratory officials on its tasks concerning the examination of fish quality before exporting fish products abroad.

### First guide on Non-Governmental Organizations in Yemen Times

Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) recently issued a guide for the non-governmental organizations in Yemen. It is considered the first related to the organization working in the field of human rights, development of democracy, women's and children's organizations, and cultural and environment centers.

The 270-page guide consists of primary information about the various organizations, parties, international and foreign organizations working in Yemen, especially details such as names, addresses, telephone numbers, emails addresses, general objectives, and the scope of work of these organizations.

#### Faculty of Arts

### launches cultural activities

Sunday, 23 May 2004, Taiz- Mr. Mohamed Al-Hayajum, Under-Secretary of Taiz Governorate, and Dr. Mohamed Al-Sofi, President of Taiz University, attended the launch ceremony for the cultural activities program of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University, which has been prepared within the framework of activities to mark "Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital, 2004".

The several-day activities consist also of several lectures including lectures about Islamic and Arab civilization and the social effects of the Anglo-American occupation of Iraq.

### Oman recovers Yemeni antiquities

Saturday 15, May 2004- The Public Authority for Antiquities, Museums and Manuscripts and Yemeni Interpol have recovered five historic Yemeni artifacts, which were seized by Omani authorities at the Yemeni-Omani border last February.

The five pieces were stolen from Shabwah and Marib in an attempt to smuggle them abroad before the smuggling operation was foiled at the border, especially since the trade of smuggling antiquities in Yemen has flourished in recent years. The 5 pieces weight about one and half tons.

## YR120 million worth projects at Mowaseed Al-Hujareah

#### Taiz Bureau

Thursday, 20 May 2004, Taiz - Mr. Mohamed Al-Anisi, Under-Secretary of Taiz Governorate, accompanied by Mr. Hussein Hazeh, Director-General of the Education Office, and Sheikh Jaber Ghalib, Head of PGC, Taiz Branch, inaugurated the 70-thousand cubic meters Al-Malees water barrier. The barrier cost 20 million Riyals, and was funded by the state.

They also inaugurated the Bani

Jaber electricity project, which consists of a 300 kv generated station, 25km high voltage network, 25 km low voltage network and 25 transformers. The 6.7 million Riyal project will provide electricity for more than 1600 homes.

Then, the three officials attended the inauguration of Bani Jaber School, which was funded by Public Works. A small carnival was held inside the school yard to mark the occasion.

## Role of school social workers in Taiz evaluated

#### Taiz Bureau

24 social teachers of both genders participated in activities in the first evaluating meeting on social integration among schools' students. The meeting was organized by French DIA Organization in cooperation with the Education Office during the period 24-25 of this month.

Mr. Ayoub Al-Qaseme, Social Activities Official of the organization, said that the meeting came within the framework of follow up and contact with social workers who have previously attended a workshop in the field of social integration held by the organ-

ization. He pointed out that the meeting consisted of reviewing and going over experiments and activities of teachers in order to evaluate their role in implementing what they had acquired in the workshop, and to discuss any obstacles that they faced in schools. In addition, several new suggestions concerning summer activities were presented, which the students would carry out during their summer vacation, supported by DIA Organization.

Teachers and supervisors from Taiz Education Office also participated in the supervision and administration of the meeting.

## Yemeni Hotels Union's 1st meeting held

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The first meeting of the Yemeni Hotels Union was held last Monday at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sana'a. The meeting was inaugurated with the slogan "For the establishment of a unified professional framework for Yemeni Hotels."

The meeting signaled the achievements of the 5 year old Yemeni Hotel Federation since it was established on 16 February 1999.

The Chairman of the Union, Mr.

Alwan Al-Shaibani, said the efforts were exerted to eliminate the problems and obstacles faced by Yemeni hotels and find ways to promote tourism and hotel service development throughout the country.

"Noting the fact that tourism is slowly picking up after the stagnancy noticed in the last three years, we are committed to work as one team toward improving the conditions of the hotel and the tourism industry in Yemen," he said.

Mr. Mohamed Fadla, Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism, also gave a state-

## A massive rally and one million signatures against Israel

Monday, 24 May 2004, Sana'a- Sana'a secretariat witnessed a massive rally against the barrier Israel is currently constructing inside Palestinian territory. The barrier is perceived as another form of land grab against Palestinian lands by the Israelis.

The rally came to crown the one-million signature campaign of the Canaan Association. The rally began marching from the headquarters of the association to the office of the UN. It was headed by a number of social, political and media figures and representatives of labor unions and civil society organizations and members of the diplomatic corp.

Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Habtour, Vice-Minister of Education and Col. Yahya

Mohamed Abdullah Saleh, Chairman of the Canaan Association, and a number of dignitaries sent letters to Mr. James Rawly, Resident Representative of UNDP in Sana'a, consisting of one million signatures protesting against the racial barrier the Israelis are constructing inside Palestinian lands, along with a legal petition addressed to the International Court of Justice and a condemnation letter to Mr. Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of UN, as a means of protest of the Yemeni citizens to the segregation policy the Israeli occupational forces are practicing and demanding an end to the killings, tormenting and crimes imposed on the Palestinians by Israeli occupational forces.

## President's nephew seriously injured

#### TAIZ BUREAU

Saturday, 22 May, 200, Taiz- Republican Guard Major Taiseer Saleh Abdullah Saleh, 35 years old, received serious head injuries when his car overturned after leaving the road while he was driving on the Al-Barah - Taiz highway.

A helicopter was immediately rushed

to the site and transferred him to a hospital in Sana'a. The 7-million Riyal car was totally ruined.

Yemen Times learned that Deputy Chief of Traffic Police in Taiz, Col. Abdulkareem Wahaish, was dispatched to the site to determine the cause of the accident. Preliminary findings suggest that the high speed of the vehicle led to the accident.

## Continued detention of member of Salafi sect

Political Security Apparatus continues to detain Sheikh Hussein Omar Mahfoudh, one of the moderate scientists and leaders of the Salafi movement.

Sheikh Mahfoudh was arrested by some officers from the Political Security Apparatus on 18 April in the Sheraton neighborhood when he was coming out of a mosque following noon prayers.

Sources said that the sheikh was

also detained last year, or subpoenaed for questioning only, as he described it, after his name came up during the interrogations of some detainees suspected of terror-related activities.

Sheikh Mahfoudh is the Director of "Abin Al-Ameer" Institute for Legislative Sciences in Sana'a, and he was the Editor-in-Chief of the Islamist Forum and an official at the Yemen "Hekmah" Charity.

## Training course organized by US Embassy concluded

#### ADEN BUREAU

Thursday, 20 May, 2004, Aden- The 4-day training session for journalists, organized by the Embassy of the United States of America, in cooperation with the Association of Graduates of US Universities, has concluded. It was held at Aden Hotel with the participation of 25 journalists from various official, private and independent Yemeni newspapers. The trainees received lectures and practical applications on how to formulate more precisely news articles and press reports.

Dr. Sherry Ricchiardi delivered a lecture on how to depend on reliable sources and how to reconfirm the accuracy of news and reports as well as on the correct and proper methods to print them.

At the conclusion of the training course, Dr. Ricchiardi said, "I am very pleased to be here today in Aden. I have felt, during the period of my stay, that I am among my family and people, as I have not felt a stranger or encountered a sense of loneliness. I simply

hope that I have been able to convey the intended message and information."

Regarding the level of Yemeni journalism, Dr. Sherry said that journalism in Yemen is more advanced in comparison to other Arab newspapers. She also said that journalists throughout the world are considered as one community, which was clearly expressed when she handed out necklaces bearing the globe. "We all live on this planet", she said. She also pointed out that there ought to be more meetings in the future.

Dr. Sherry Ricchiardi is a prominent writer at "American Journalism Review", a specialized magazine in international information issues. She won the award of the National Press Club for one of her press critique works. She is currently teaching at the Faculty of Journalism at the University of Indiana in the USA.

The Cultural Attaché at the US Embassy, Mr. John Balian handed out at the end of course certificates to the trainees.



## Abuses in Guantanamo, Abu Gharib & Arab Prisons Debated

#### Yemen Times Staff

The Sister Arabic Forum (SAF) and the National Authority for Defending Human Rights and Freedoms ran a roundtable discussion last Thursday at the Yemen Times premises on the question of detainees in the prison of Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and Guantanamo prisons in Arab countries as well as Abu Gharib.

Mohammed Allaw of the National Authority said what happened in Abu Gharib prison was just an impulse test to see if the Arab nation is still alive or not and the result was that it is already dead. "I was expecting that the Iraqi people will rise and go to destroy the prison. Unfortunately, that did not take place and the response in the Arab countries was not that encouraging at all," he said. He criticized the Arab regimes for not following up their citizens in Guantanamo prison; he said

Britain could get its citizens back despite the fact they are Muslims. "In Yemen, one prisoner came back from Guantanamo prison to another Guantanamo in Sana'a," he stressed. Allaw reiterated the Sana'a Declaration concerning those detainees on charges of terrorism which demanded an end to the limbo of the detainees, providing adequate support and assistance to their families and other demands. He criticized the statement of the Minister of Interior, who said last week that there are 48 prisoners who are currently under interrogation. He said this is a new crime invented by the government of Yemen.

On his part, advocate Khaled al-Anisi demanded that the Arab people should defend themselves after the display of the crimes of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners. Miss Amal Basha of the SAF elaborated on the question of torture and the lapses the Yemeni govern-

ment has gone through; she said Yemen ratified a number of international human rights treaties but without real implementation. She demanded that the government should allow NGOs to go to prisons and follow up torture incidents so that perpetrators can be held accountable and their crimes are made public; "If such violations are not a policy of the political regime, why do we not bring the perpetrators to justice before the public," she asked.

She said that she could hardly get permission to go to the female prisons and that she got a personal permit from the Minister of Interior so as to provide legal assistance only, not to report the abuses. Basha said that poverty and unemployment is the real headache which could bring the scenario of Abu Gharib to every Arab country.

Discussions then were run by the audience.

## Parliament compels Government to cancel an oil sale contract

BY ISMAIL AL-GHABIRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Monday, 17 May, 2004- During a parliamentary session, in presence of some members of the government, excluding the Prime Minister and Minister of Oil and Minerals, MPS rejected the deal to sell the government's share in oil sector no. 53, Shabwah Governorate, to Dove Oil Company.

The sale contract had generated a

lengthy argument and had developed into a dispute and contest between the government and parliament.

In an unprecedented development, MPs voted unanimously in favor of cancellation of the contract, based on the report of a parliamentary commission which consisted of members of the oil and development, finance, constitutional, and planning committees of the parliament. The commission concluded that the sale contract was not in the best interests of the country. This is

contrary to the previous decision of the government to go ahead with the contract.

The MPs threatened to hold a vote of confidence in the government of Prime Minister, Mr. Ba Jamal. They threatened to withdraw the trust of his government if the sale contract was not permanently nullified. The Prime Minister previously cast doubts on the legality of the proceedings and the constitutional procedures through which the parliament had approached this issue.

## Readers' Voice

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

### This edition's question:

Do you think the UN Security Council can succeed in endorsing June 30 handover in Iraq?

- Yes, if no complications emerge
- Differences on final political control over foreign troop, in particular, could delay the date
- Security Council members could iron out their differences

### last edition's question:

Do you believe that the Arab summit this time has produced something new?

- No, it is the old stuff over again 75%
- I don't care 21%
- Yes, they have produced some new things this time 4%

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Ashraf Aljailani in the USA:

# Story unveiled

By Shaker Al-Ashwal  
New York Correspondent  
Yemen Times  
YALNET@aol.com

In his speech in Buffalo, President Bush said that the case of the "Lackawanna Six" shows why America needs the Patriot Act to remain in force. The six Yemenis who pleaded guilty to aiding Al-Qaida are now serving prison sentences based on their attendance at an Al-Qaida camp in Afghanistan. While promoting the renewal of the Patriot Act, President Bush will not visit Kent, Ohio and will not be mentioning Ashraf Al-Jailani. Thanks to the provisions of the Patriot Act, the Yemeni national has been held without charge, in a Pennsylvania prison, for more than 18 months.

Ashraf's story would not have surfaced had it not been for the activism of his wife, Michele Swensen; Michele has launched a campaign to free her husband. Her campaign includes a website devoted to freeing her husband (www.helpashraf.com), an aggressive letter-writing campaign, and appearances in functions where she speaks about her husband's legal ordeal.

Ashraf Aljailani, a geochemist who holds a master's degree and speaks four languages, was arrested at his workplace, the GOJO plant. The FBI alleged that he has ties to terrorists and

planned to blow up GOJO Industries' Cuyahoga Falls plant, where he worked for two years prior to his arrest. More than a year and a half later, he has not been charged with any terrorist-related activity, and has not even been directly interrogated by the FBI. The FBI, however, continues to visit his wife, sometimes to ask her to identify the pictures of Middle Eastern men.

In the legal realm, Ashraf Al-jailani has been held despite repeated court orders to release him on bail. Judge Walt Durling has ordered his release and has asserted that he is held without enough evidence. In one of his rulings, Judge Walt Durling ordered the custodial authorities to "take Al-Jailani's passport and track him with an electronic monitor, but release the Yemeni native who has been held without charges for more than a year." The FBI has submitted evidence against Al-Jailani which alleges that he would be of monumental threat to the community according to Roger Charnesky, the FBI agent who testified in his case. Durling found the evidence unsatisfactory and determined that "there is no direct evidence linking the respondent to terrorism, only certain indirect 'links' to others known or suspected of being associated with terrorists." When judge Durling asked why the FBI has not questioned Al-Jailani, Charnesky said that the bureau assumed Al-Jailani

would simply lie. The answer shocked the judge, especially considering that the government deals with suspects who lie all the time. Michele Swenson informed me that Ashraf has stressed his willingness to cooperate with the FBI and to take a polygraph test, but the FBI has not taken him up on his offer. As he did last March, U.S. Immigration Court Judge Walt Durling ordered Al-Jailani freed on bond for the third time, but the government intends to appeal against his decision. Judge Durling believes that "the Bureau will persist in detaining this respondent no matter this court's ruling."

More than 18 months later, Ashraf feels that he has been abused, and mentally and emotionally tortured. His suffering in prison is now more complicated by the loss of his 3 children Amina, 7, Layla, 5, and Sami, 3, to government custody after their mom, Michele, suffered from a depression. The family has been shattered by his arrest, the children's removal and Michele's hospitalization. Michele, whose depression has been made worse by the removal of her children from her care, has found herself leading a campaign to reunite her family again. She is now leading a war on two fronts: one to free her husband and the other one to regain custody of her children who are now being cared for by foster parents.

Since his detention, Ashraf has been

represented by attorney Farhad Sethna, an Akron immigration lawyer. Mr. Sethna has been frustrated by government tactics. In a recent interview, he indicated that the government is "playing such a dirty game, throwing dirt at him and trying anything to make it stick." "They don't charge him, they don't interview him, and he's not even a material witness in any of their other cases."

For many attorneys, these are strange times in the U.S.; many never imagined the draconian laws that have been imposed. "The government can lock up any non-citizen on no evidence, or very little evidence, and throw away the key," said David Leopold, who teaches immigration law at Case Western Reserve University. How many times around the country has this happened?" he asked.

Ashraf's ordeal can hardly be explained or justified in the name of national security. Government officials acknowledge that most Arab and Muslim immigrants swept up in counterterrorism sweeps have no ties to terrorism. Whether the government will finally give up and become convinced that Ashraf does not pose a security risk to the community or to his employer who is willing to hire him again remains to be seen. For now, Michele will have to continue to struggle to answer Layla's pressing question "When is baba coming?"

## Sanaa Turkish Schools hold graduation ceremony

Yasser Al-Mayyasi  
Yemen Times Staff

The Sanaa Turkish Schools held their graduation ceremony on Thursday 20 May at the school's campus in Sanaa to celebrate the graduation of the first batch of secondary school students and also to bid farewell to the current academic year.

The celebration was attended by many parents and all teachers and management staff along with representatives from the Ministry of Education.

The celebration included several diverse displays including a play performed by students of the school plus several songs sung in English,

Turkish and Arabic.

The ceremony also included a fashion show exhibiting traditional costumes from Yemen, Turkey and other Islamic and Arab countries. Additionally, a scientific exhibition presenting the work of students was also inaugurated.

In his opening statement, the Director, Mr. Faruk Yanik, said that the Sana'a Turkish Schools depend in their curriculum on the latest available technology and exploits the talents and potential of students, especially in the use of computers.

"We have been able to attain the third position in the world in the international competition held last ISPO held in Turkmenistan" he said.

## Japanese cultural activities in Sana'a

The Japanese embassy has scheduled many cultural and social activities to be held in Sana'a during the period between July and December of this year to mark "Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital 2004".

According to the embassy, the events will aim at making Yemenis more familiar with the cultures and traditions of Japanese society. A number

of artists and individuals will be coming from Japan to launch activities including presentations of Japanese films, dances, sculptures, manuscripts and dress.

The activities will also focus on promoting Yemen-Japan cultural dialogue and presenting a positive image of Yemen-Japanese friendship.

## Celebrations in Aden

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Governorate of Aden has set up a complementary festive program on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the National Day of Yemen.

"The celebrations come as a reflection of the importance of this occasion to the life of the Yemeni people, and as a continuation of the advancement and improvement of services and the development renaissance in the economic and commercial capital of Yemen, Aden during the past 14 years", said the Mayor of Aden.

"The festivities include the inauguration and laying foundation stones of more than 30 projects in various fields

at a cost of more than 5.9 billion Riyals, of which 11 projects are in the education sector at a cost of 950,177,298 Riyals", Dr. Al-Shaibi added.

The Mayor cited one of the activities taking place on this anniversary, which is the laying of the foundation stone for the third phase of Aden Sewage Project. It is considered one of the most significant projects, at cost of 1.6 billion Riyals. In addition, other projects are scheduled either to be inaugurated or have foundation stones laid to in the fields of electricity, transport, industry, trade, local administration and social affairs and various others.

## Social Securities Insurance:

# The guarantee for stability of family living conditions, but?

INTERVIEWED BY  
ABDULRAHMAN AL-JAAFARI

Since the Law of Social Insurance is a collecting money law, it bears many flaws that would lead to loss of context in an insurance operation. The law is intended to secure living conditions for citizens when they retire or when workers encounter severe injury or are accidentally infected with serious crippling illnesses compelling them to retire early. Since the articles of the law are not providing decisive text and they could carry more than one explanations or definitions, it is negatively reflected on the liability of the law. This requires the amendment of the law. The social insurance system is in an advanced form in many countries, especially west-



Mr. Awadh Ahmed Al-Haij

ern countries, and there is nothing wrong in learning from them.

To shed more light on social insurance, Yemen Times' affiliated "Family and Development"

Magazine presented the following questions to Mr. Awadh Ahmed Al-Haij, Director of Public Corporation for Social Insurance, Taiz Branch.

**Q: The Social Security Law was issued several years ago. What are the standards required to implement the law, especially in economic sectors?**

**A:** Social security is one of the primary concerns facing families and society. The social security corporation is seeking to resolve it, and to ease the consequences of security evasion because it constitutes an apparent threat to an important working segment of society: the workers in the private sector and their families. Laws have been created in order to cover all members of the society under the umbrella of social security.

**Q: How could the law be implemented since many of the employers in the private sectors evade paying social security for their employees?**

**A:** Social security evasion is a true problem facing the corporation. It must be confronted through the collective

effort of all members of the society. The problem is due the lack of security awareness among the evaders. The corporation continues to exert its utmost efforts, through available capabilities, to spread and increase the level of awareness of the importance of social security among the security evaders without having to resort to legal measures against them, to the extent permitted by the law.

Workers in the private sectors are granted the right of social security under Law No. 26, 1991. The law has been implemented since its issuance. At one time, the number of registered workers at the corporation, Taiz branch was 37,000, but the current figure stands today at 15,720.

The corporation is currently implementing the law on employers with at least one or more employees. Moreover, several awareness campaign programs are carried out either through various media organizations and

through published booklets on the importance of social security, combined with having an intensive plan in place to increase the number of insured workers in the private sector in social security.

**Q: Will social security be implemented at retail stores, restaurants and workshops?**

**A:** Of course, all the above-mentioned sectors and others are covered under the law. The main objective is to ensure that everyone is covered and included.

**Q: What is the amount deductible from the paycheck of a worker?**

**A:** 15% of the whole salary, 6% to be paid by the worker and the remaining 9% to be met by the employer.

**Q: Are there serious measures intended to impose permanent, direct screening processes on the renegade**

sectors to abide by and to implement the stipulations of the law?

**A:** Yes, there will be a continuous monitoring operation. All major companies with large labor force are enrolled at the corporation and regular on-site inspections are performed by the corporation to check on the accuracy of submitted figures on the number of employees and wages in each company. The problem remains in the security evasion by small businesses, individual entrepreneurs, private professionals and free businessmen. In the event of encountering procrastination, the corporation refers to legal administrative procedures and other judicial pursuits against them.

**Q: What are some of the corporation's achievements, in Taiz branch, during last year?**

**A:** As I previously stated, there are now 15,720 registered members at this branch, representing 547 companies and establishments. Their dues are collected annually. The revenues for the year 2003 reached 615,238,549 Riyals. 762 retired people collect their pension checks monthly. The amount paid to retired citizens during 2003 was 38,478,606 Riyals and the sum of 19,527,153 Riyals was paid as a one-time payment to 200 insured at the branch. This is no doubt reflects that the corporation carries its responsibilities legally and ethically, irrespective of doubts cast by those evading joining the corporation.

**Q: What about the retired who at the end of each month receive 500-1000 Riyals. Where is the problem?**

**A:** This problem of the low pension of the retired has been discussed during a broad meeting with the leaders at the corporation and families of the retired. There is a decision to be issued soon to increase their pensions to meet the high living conditions of today.

## Announcement

### The Higher Council for Motherhood & Childhood Child Development Project

Higher council for Childhood and Motherhood (HCMC) invites applications from interested Yemeni citizens to be enrolled for a distance education Diploma course on Early Childhood Development. It is a one year course organized by University of Victoria, British Columbia Canada.

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1. Either have passed a bachelor course in English medium instruction or have obtained TOEFL certificate (or the equivalent)
2. Must have a bachelor degree in any field
3. Be interested in the field of Early Childhood Care and Development
4. Be able to work in expansion of Early Childhood Development Programme in Yemen after completion of the course
5. Be able to participate in Early Childhood Development related research activities after the completion of the course
6. Be able to work independently in promoting the ECD philosophy in Yemen
7. The applicant should be under the age of 35 years
8. Be able to afford the time required for the study (which involve assignments)
9. Applicants from different governorates is encouraged.

Interested applicants, please send a copy of your CV along with copies of your certificates to the following address:

**Project Manager**  
**Higher Council for motherhood & Childhood**  
**P.O. Box: 16939 – Sana'a ROY**

**Closing Date: 2 weeks from advertisement**  
**All costs related to the course will be born by HCMC**



# مايو 22

بمناسبة احتفالات الشعب اليمني بأعياد  
الوحدة اليمنية 22 مايو نرفع  
إلى فخامة الأخ/



On the occasion of the Yemeni People  
celebrations of the Unity Day 22nd May,  
We present to

## H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen

and to all the Yemeni people the warmest  
congratulations and blessings on this glorious  
occasion, with our best wishes for maintaining  
the achievement of more successes and  
achievements under His Excellency's wise  
leadership and

Many Happy Returns

Al-Hakeem's Tea Company-Aden

Andulhakeem Al-Hashimi General Manager

Hayder Hameed Al-Hattami

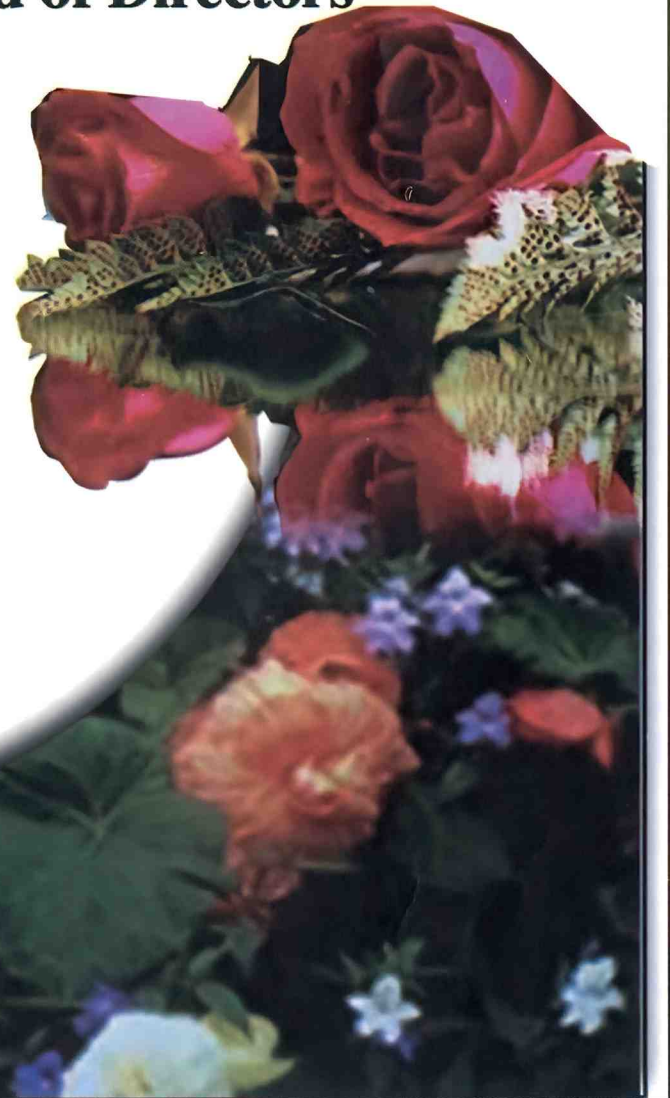
Chairman of the Board of Directors

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رئيس الجمهورية

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني  
أحر التهاني والتبريكات بهذه المناسبة  
الوطنية المجيدة مع أطيب التمنيات  
بمواصلة تحقيق المزيد من النجاحات  
والإنجازات تحت قيادته الرشيدة  
وكل عام والجميع بخير

## شركة حكيمز عدن تي

عبد الحكيم الهاشمي - الرئيس المدير العام  
حيدر حميد الحطامي - رئيس مجلس الإدارة





# Holiest Shi'ite shrine in Iraq damaged in attack

NAJAF, Iraq, May 25 (Reuters) - The Imam Ali shrine in Najaf, the holiest Shi'ite site in Iraq, was damaged on Tuesday by rockets or mortars, witnesses said — a development likely to spark outrage among Iraq's Shi'ite majority.

One of the entrances to the shrine was damaged in the attack. It was not clear who fired the missiles. U.S. forces have been fighting Shi'ite militiamen loyal to rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr in Najaf and other Shi'ite areas.

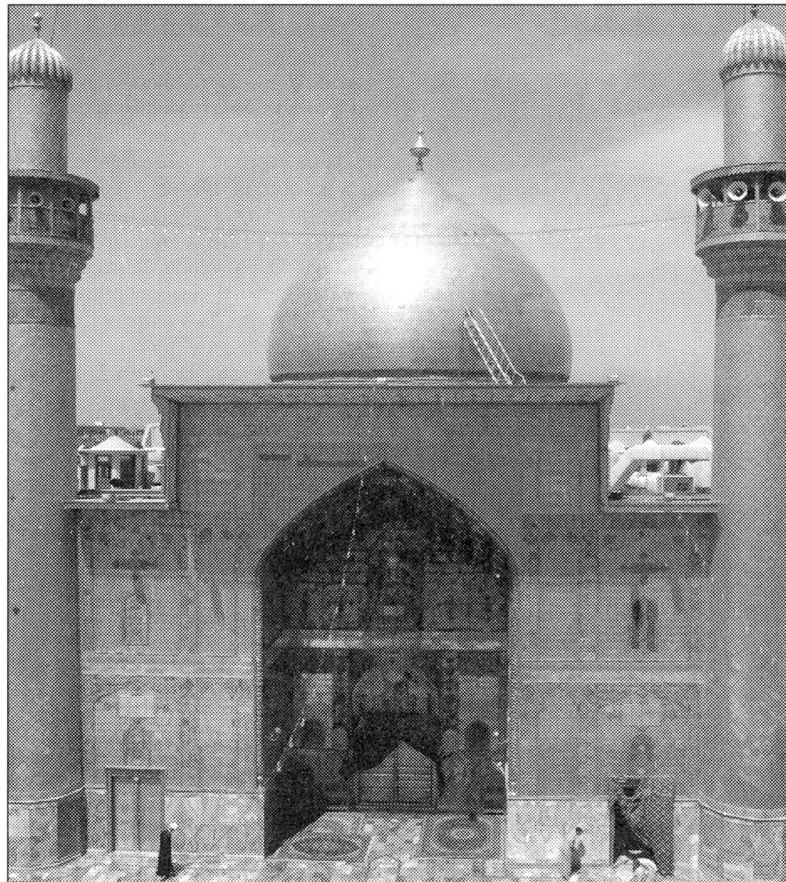
Ahmad Shebani, Sadr's representative at the shrine, said five or six missiles had hit the building.

U.S. Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt said U.S. forces were not responsible for damaging the mosque. "The coalition forces had no involvement in the damage to the Imam Ali mosque," he told a news briefing in Baghdad.

Witnesses said three people had been wounded in the attack, none seriously.

Sadr visited the shrine after the attack to personally inspect the damage, as crowds of supporters chanted.

Earlier this month, the vast gilded dome of the shrine was damaged in fighting. The U.S. military and Sadr's militiamen blamed each other for causing the damage.



Iraqi Shi'ite Muslim clerics arrive after a blast at the shrine of Imam Ali in the holy city of Najaf May 25. The Imam Ali shrine in Najaf, the holiest Shi'ite site in Iraq, was damaged on Tuesday by rockets or mortars, witnesses said — a development likely to spark outrage among Iraq's Shi'ite majority. REUTERS

# UNRWA says Israel destroyed 45 buildings in Gaza

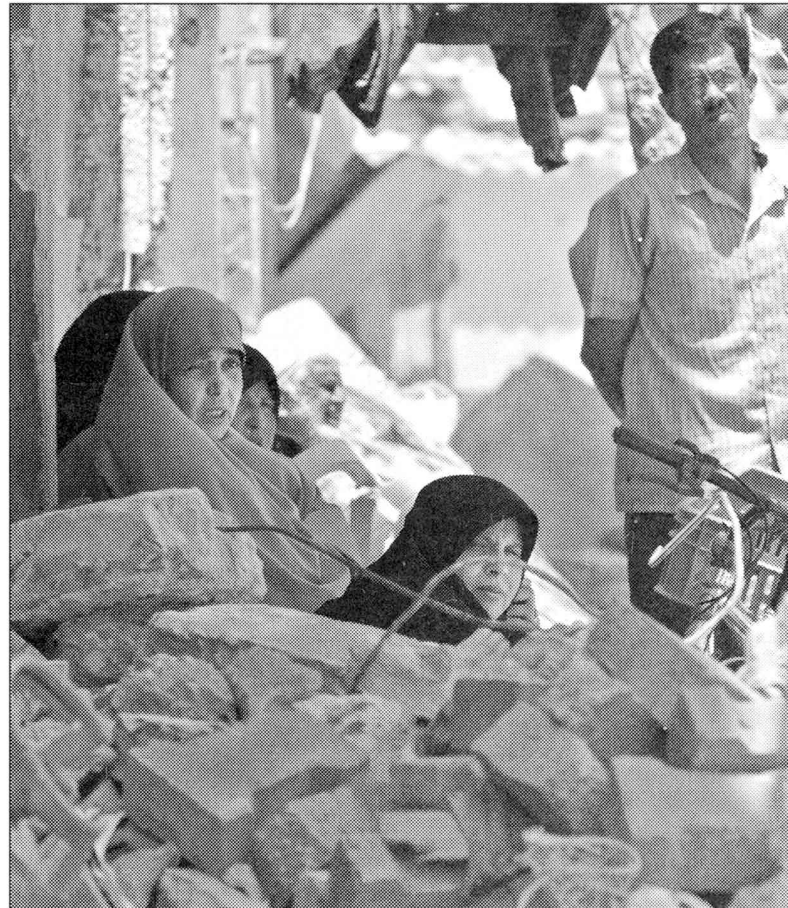
GAZA, May 25 (Reuters) - The Israeli army destroyed 45 Palestinian buildings, making 575 people homeless, during a six-day operation in a refugee camp in southern Gaza, the U.N. relief agency UNRWA said on Tuesday.

Human rights groups initially estimated that the army had demolished 180 buildings in the Rafah camp, a militant stronghold.

UNRWA, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, also said Israeli forces had destroyed a total of 155 buildings in Rafah over the past month, leaving 1,960 people homeless. It described the period as one of the most destructive in Rafah since a Palestinian uprising began in September 2000.

The Israeli army said its forces destroyed or badly damaged 56 "structures" in Rafah, including homes, warehouses and gunmen's posts, in the latest raids.

It said the destruction occurred when troops blew up tunnels used by militants to smuggle weapons across the border from Egypt, exchanged fire with gunmen or needed to clear a way around mined roads and boobytraps. Israel came under intensive international criticism for its actions in Rafah during the operation, which the army said was aimed at finding and destroying smuggling tunnels dug under homes.



Palestinian women sit on the rubble of their house at the Rafah refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip, May 25. REUTERS

# Arab leaders promise democratic, social reforms

TUNIS, May 23 (Reuters) - Arab governments, responding to a U.S. campaign for Arab democracy, promised on Sunday to carry out political and social reforms in an oil-rich region which includes some of the world's most repressive rulers.

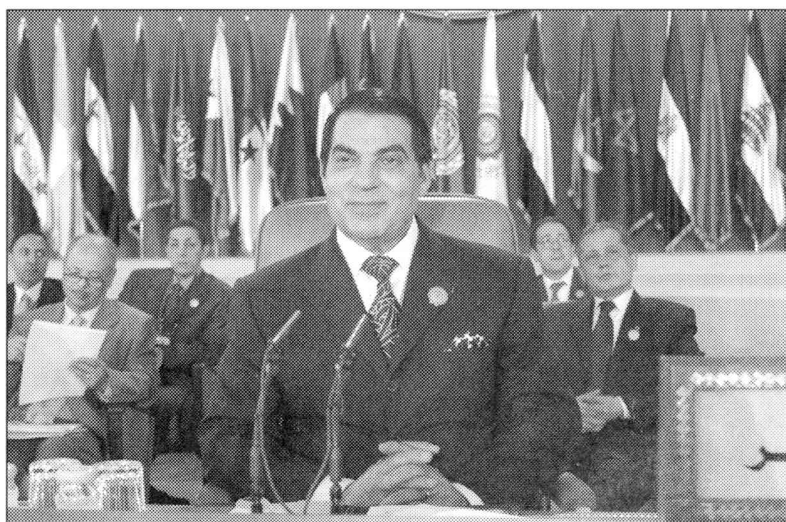
In documents read out at the end of a two-day Arab summit in Tunis, the 22 Arab League members promised to promote democracy, expand popular participation in politics and public affairs, reinforce women's rights and expand civil society.

Foreign ministers had already agreed to the reform agenda and the impact of approval at the summit was diluted by a decision that heads of state would not personally sign the key reform documents yet.

Few heads of state were still present at the end of the summit. Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi walked out on Saturday in protest at the agenda.

Conference delegates said some governments preferred the approval process to go through national institutions, such as parliaments and cabinets, before heads of state sign on.

Human rights activists and analysts say they doubt the Arab leaders intend to act on their promises with much enthusiasm. "Their attitude is 'Reform yes, but not on my watch'," said a senior Western diplomat monitoring the summit.



Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali attends the closing session of the 16th summit conference of the Arab League Council in Tunis May 23. REUTERS

The resolutions on Iraq and the Palestinians are unlikely to satisfy Arab public opinion, which had hoped for something more decisive, analysts said. The leaders expressed solidarity with Syria in the face of U.S. economic sanctions and criticised any attempts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict without reference to all U.N. resolutions.

That was an indirect rebuke to U.S. President George W. Bush, who in April gave Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon assurances that contradict U.N. resolutions on Palestinian refugees and

international law on settling occupied territory.

The United States, without withdrawing the concessions to Israel, later said negotiations would settle such matters.

On Iraq, the Tunis Declaration summarising the views of the leaders said the United Nations should have "a central and effective role...in order to end the occupation and arrange the stages of transferring sovereignty to the Iraqi people".

## No Arab Troops in Iraq

It did not call for an immediate end to the U.S.-led occupation or set any timetable for restoring sovereignty.

Iraqi officials have said they want Arab troops to replace U.S. and British forces but Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa said this would not happen under present conditions.

"What exists now is an occupation and Arab countries do not take part in the occupation of another Arab country...In present circumstances there is no resolution on that and I don't think any participation is probable in the near future," he said.

In separate detailed resolutions, the Arab countries said they "condemn the inhumane and unethical crimes and practices committed by troops of the occupation forces against Iraqi detainees" and that both the perpetrators and those responsible for the abuses should face trial.

They condemned the excessive use of force by occupation troops, as well as the "terrorist explosions which kill hundreds of innocent Iraqis".

The closing session began more than 90 minutes later than expected because of wrangling over the procedure for signing the reform documents and over whether to mandate a small group of countries to represent the Arab world at the Group of Eight summit next month, delegates said.

A pan-Arab newspaper said on Sunday Washington had invited at least five Arab states to the G8 summit on Sea Island, Georgia, where a joint initiative for reform in the Arab world will be launched.

The London-based Arabic daily al-Hayat quoted diplomatic sources in Washington as saying that invitations went to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Yemen and Morocco. Moussa said each nation would speak for itself at

the G8 summit.

The commitment to democratic change appears in three different documents, in slightly different forms.

The Tunis Declaration, apparently the latest formulation, says Arab governments will "continue reform and modernisation in our countries, keeping up with rapid international changes by reinforcing democratic practices and expanding participation in politics and public affairs".



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# Bomb explodes outside Baghdad hotel, two wounded

BAGHDAD, May 25 (Reuters) - A suspected car bomb exploded on Tuesday outside a Baghdad hotel used by foreigners and close to the Australian embassy, wounding at least two people, witnesses and police said.

Witnesses said a stationary car exploded outside the Karma hotel. The blast was also close to an Australian military checkpoint near the embassy.

The hotel was not severely damaged in the blast, although several windows were blown out. Guerrillas fighting the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq have often targeted hotels used by foreigners.

Haitham Youssef, a hotel waiter standing among shattered glass in the lobby, said no Westerners had been in the hotel when the bomb went off.

"We only had a few Egyptians and Jordanians staying in the hotel, and we had a newlywed Iraqi couple but they left right after the blast," he said.



A U.S. Army soldier yells at journalists to leave the site of a suspected car bomb explosion in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad May 25. A suspected car bomb exploded on Tuesday outside a Baghdad hotel used by foreigners and close to the Australian embassy, wounding at least two people, witnesses and police said. REUTERS



# Iraqis sceptical on Bush speech, want U.S. out

BAGHDAD, May 25 (Reuters) - Iraqis reacted with weary scepticism on Tuesday to promises from President George W. Bush of a peaceful and independent future.

Iraq's defence minister said he wanted U.S. troops out within the year, to be replaced by newly trained Iraqi forces.

In a televised address to assure increasingly doubtful American voters that his project in Iraq was on track, Bush said U.S. forces would stay on and even be reinforced to stabilise the country after a handover of formal power to an interim government on June 30 and Iraqi elections in the new year.

Shortly before Bush spoke, Washington asked the United Nations to endorse a plan that would give U.S. forces an open-ended mandate to stay in Iraq, renewable in a year.

But Iraqis, from the streets of Baghdad to the ranks of the U.S.-installed administration, made clear they wanted a final end to 14 irksome months of occupation as soon as possible.

"In terms of the timeline for the presence of multinational forces to help us establish security and stability, I think it will be a question of months rather than years," Iraqi Defence Minister Ali Allawi said in London. He said Iraqi forces would probably be ready to step in before the mandated year was up.

## abu ghraib to go

Welcomed by many Iraqis as liberators from Saddam Hussein, U.S. troops now face frustration among people tired of violence and economic hardship in one of the world's most oil-rich nations. Many are also furious at soldiers' abuse of prisoners.

Bush said he would demolish Saddam's former torture centre at Abu Ghraib, outside Baghdad, which has become newly notorious as the site of humiliating tortments inflicted by American troops on naked and terrified inmates and captured on camera.

Among protesters outside Abu Ghraib on Tuesday, Hussein Omeir said: "The problem is not with the building but what goes on inside. We want them to change



U.S. President George W. Bush prepares to speak in a televised prime-time speech at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, May 24. President Bush outlined plans on Monday to hand over power to a friendly Iraqi government and promised with Iraqi approval to tear down the infamous prison where American soldiers abused inmates. The president used the prime-time speech on television to try and convince Americans that he can turn around the deteriorating situation in Iraq with just five weeks to go before the United States plans to hand over power to an interim Iraqi government on June 30. REUTERS

the rules, not pull down the building."

Bush said that violence, like the assassination of the head of the Iraqi Governing Council last week and a Shi'ite uprising, would likely get worse during the transition to Iraqi rule.

U.S. tanks were in action before dawn south of the capital on Tuesday, battling Shi'ite Mehdi Army fighters around the town of Kufa. At least 11 people were killed and 22 wounded, hospital staff in Kufa and the nearby holy city of Najaf said.

A doorway at the holiest Shi'ite Muslim shrine, Najaf's Imam Ali mosque, was slightly damaged by what appeared to be rockets or mortars.

Aides to radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said several people were hurt in

the incident likely to upset believers across the Middle East. It was not clear which side fired the explosives.

## France wants changes

A soldier whose death on Monday was announced on Tuesday was at least the 580th American to die in combat since the invasion. A leader of Iraq's Turkmen minority was assassinated in a drive-by shooting in the northern city of Kirkuk, police said.

The draft U.N. resolution, distributed by the United States and Britain, is expected to be broadly adopted.

France and Russia, which opposed the war, want unspecified changes and said the transfer of power must be genuine. "It is a draft — a draft which should be discussed and improved," French Foreign

Minister Michel Barnier said on Tuesday.

Germany, another war opponent, called Washington's plans "a good basis" for consensus. An Iraqi party headed by Ahmed Chalabi, a former U.S. favourite now openly hostile to Washington, said on Tuesday the draft U.N. resolution did not give Iraqis enough.

U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi was due to name a government in a week or so, representing Iraq's various communities.

A Washington Post-ABC poll on Tuesday showed Bush's approval rating down four points in a month at 47 percent. Only four voters in 10 approved of his Iraq policy, the lowest ever, and 65 percent thought the United States was "bogged down" in Iraq.

# Jail for Frenchman linked to Madrid bomb suspect

PARIS, May 25 (Reuters) - A Paris court sentenced a Frenchman with links to a suspected Madrid train bomber to four years in prison on Tuesday for abetting a network of Islamic terrorists in Europe.

David Courtailler, a French convert to Islam, was found guilty on charges of conspiring with criminals engaged in a terrorist enterprise. Two years of his term were suspended.

Courtailler, 28, has been linked to Jamal Zougam, a key suspect in the Madrid bombings which killed 191 people in March.

The court also convicted Algerian national Mohamed Chaouki Baadache on the same charge and sentenced him to the maximum 10-year term. A third man, Frenchman Ahmed Laidouni, received a seven-year term.

An order was issued for the arrest of Courtailler, who lives in eastern France and was not in court after being granted bail. Lawyers for both Courtailler and Laidouni said they would appeal the verdict. Baadache did not immediately announce his plans.

The prosecution had sought a six-year term for Courtailler for his role in helping Islamic radicals around Europe after undergoing military training in an Afghan guerrilla camp.

Courtailler's lawyer attacked the verdict as "legal virtual reality" and said there was no proof linking his client to any act of terrorism.

"He has really been convicted for what he may have been able to do, not for what he has done," Philibert Lepy told reporters, adding his client had already spent around a year in jail and so faced only a further year behind bars.

"Not only was there no murder, no crime or attack...but there was not even a proven example of an actual attack being prepared," said Patrick Baudouin, lawyer for Laidouni.

## drug addiction

Courtailler denied taking part in any

conspiracy. He converted to Islam in 1997 during a stay in the southern British resort of Brighton after fighting alcohol and drug addiction.

Within three days of his conversion, a stranger gave him an airline ticket to Afghanistan and 1,000 pounds (\$1,800) to undergo guerrilla training in Afghanistan. The prosecution said that on his return to Britain he carried out orders to act as a linkman for Islamic militants in Europe.

The prosecution said that among them was Jamal Zougam, who is in detention in Spain and suspected of playing a role in the March 11 bombings in the Spanish capital.

Courtailler told the judge during the trial that he had no recollection of meeting him at a Madrid mosque, and said he was unable to remember why he had been found in possession of the phone number for Zougam's mother.

During the trial the court heard that Courtailler received bank transfers from suspects linked to Algeria's militant Islamic group, the GIA.

A fake British driving licence in his name was also discovered along with explosives and detonators in the home of a man named Moinul Abedin, arrested in November 2000 in the central city of Birmingham.

Abedin was later jailed for 20 years for bomb making.

Prosecutors said Baadache had "operational contacts at the very highest level" with known Islamic militants during his time in charge of a volunteers' hostel in the Pakistani city of Peshawar. At least 15 French nationals passed through.

Baadache's telephone number in Peshawar was regularly contacted by numerous Islamic militants, including Rachid Ramda, a suspect France wants to extradite from Britain for his alleged role in a series of deadly bombings in France in 1995.

The court also heard that Laidouni had devoted himself to helping terrorist networks since returning from Afghanistan.

# Blast injures seven in central Moscow



Victims of an explosion sit in an ambulance in central Moscow, May 25. A small bomb fastened to a lamp-post exploded in Moscow, injuring seven people. Russian news agencies said the device may have been detonated to target a passing car, some of whose passengers were hurt. REUTERS

MOSCOW, May 25 (Reuters) - A small bomb fastened to a lamp-post exploded in central Moscow on Tuesday, injuring seven people, police said.

Russian news agencies said the device may have been detonated to target a passing car, some of whose passengers were hurt.

"At around 10 a.m. there was an explosion," said a police spokesman. "Seven people were injured, including passengers (of a car) and passers-by. The explosives were tied to a lamp-post."

Gang violence is frequent in Moscow and business disputes linked to organised crime often end in bloodshed.

# Candidate signs up for Russia's Chechnya election

MOSCOW, May 25 (Reuters) - Chechnya's election race kicked off on Tuesday as the first candidate signed up to replace the murdered head of the troubled Russian region, but the Kremlin has yet to signal who it will back.

Khamid Tagirov, an unemployed man, is politically unknown and has no chance of winning a poll where the candidate backed by President Vladimir Putin will have total control over the state apparatus.

A warlord from rebels who have been fighting Moscow's rule for a decade claimed responsibility for the May 9 killing of Akhmad Kadyrov, which shattered Putin's plans for regulating the conflict.

The poll is set for August 29, and speculation is rife over who Putin will back. It may well be a relative lightweight like the head of the interim parliament Taus

Dzhabrailov, allowing Kadyrov's son Ramzan to be the power behind the throne.

Ramzan is one of the strongest figures in the region through his control of thousands of militia fighters, but is considered too young to stand for president. The burly 27-year-old boxer has had a series of meetings with Putin since his father's death.

"Khamid Tagirov has submitted the documents. He is currently unemployed, though he previously worked in a furniture factory. He is from Grozny," Buvay-Sari Arsakhanov, deputy head of the Chechen election committee, said by telephone from Grozny.

Kadyrov's election win last October — in a poll criticised by observers for heavy bias — was hailed by Putin as a major step on the path to peace. All Kadyrov's major rivals were forced or

persuaded to pull out of the race.

But the conflict grinds on and the last few weeks have been the bloodiest for Russian forces so far this year, at least two policemen died on Tuesday and Russian special forces maintained their "special operations".

Witnesses said special forces arrested 27 young men in a southern suburb of Grozny after the killing of four soldiers the day before.

Whichever candidate is chosen, he is bound to maintain the Kremlin's policy of refusing to negotiate with the rebels, who Putin calls "international terrorists".

The election commission's secretary said some 15 candidates were likely to stand, five of whom had a real chance of victory. Analysts say among the strongest candidates are Moscow-based businessman Malik Saidullayev, Kremlin adviser Aslambek Aslakhonov and Dzhabrailov.

# US floats UN draft on Iraq future; US troops stay

UNITED NATIONS, May 24 (Reuters) - The United States on Monday asked for U.N. endorsement of a hand-over of power to an interim Iraqi government but proposed U.S. forces there be allowed to "take all measures" to keep order and set no date for them to leave.

The U.S.-British resolution, distributed to the 15-nation U.N. Security Council, would back the formation of a "sovereign interim government" that would take office by June 30. It says that government would "assume the responsibility and authority for governing a sovereign Iraq."

The draft emerged several hours before President George W. Bush's televised speech on Monday mapping out his plans for Iraq, where attacks on occupying forces have thrown into doubt prospects for a peaceful transfer to democratic rule.

As part of the transition process, U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, now in Baghdad, is due to name a president, a prime minister, two vice presidents and 26 ministers soon. They would stay in office until elections for a national assembly, expected to be held by January 2005.

No vote is expected until Brahimi reports to the council. But most council members expect the measure to be adopted, perhaps with some amendments. "No one is in a position to vote against," said one envoy.

The definition of sovereignty, particularly on the role of foreign troops, is a contentious issue, with the Bush administration attempting to assure U.N. members they would not be asked to approve an occupation under another name.

## CRITICISM FROM FRANCE

The text endorses a U.S.-led multinational force, which would have "authority to take all necessary measure to contribute to the maintenance of security and stability."

But the draft has run into criticism from France, Germany and others, who opposed the Iraqi invasion last year. It does not give a definite timetable for the foreign force to leave but calls for a review after a year. An elected Iraqi government, after January, can also call for such a review.

A review, however, is similar to an open-ended mandate and does not mean the force would leave unless the Security Council, where the United States has veto power, decides it should do so.

Deputy U.S. Ambassador James Cunningham acknowledged there was no authority for Iraq to ask foreign troops to leave.

But, quoting earlier remarks from Secretary of State Colin Powell, he said, "The United States has said we will leave if there is a request by the Iraqi government to leave."

## 8,000 IRAQI PRISONERS

The resolution is silent on several points — whether the Iraqi military can refuse to go into battle and on the current interim constitution, although U.S. officials say it stands until a new constitution is crafted.

A senior U.S. official said the resolution should not dictate too many details to a future Iraqi government and that military arrangements would be worked out in a separate letter between the U.S. command and the Iraqis.

The measure also does not mention the 8,000 Iraqi prisoners in U.S.-run jails and what would happen to future prisoners. The senior official said this would be worked out between Iraqis and U.S. authorities.

The resolution defines a "key" role for the United Nations in the political sphere but allows Secretary-General Kofi Annan to decide whether to return U.N. staff to Iraq, depending on security. The United Nations has no permanent foreign staff in Iraq since last October, two months after its offices in Baghdad were bombed, leaving 23 dead.

On oil, the draft resolution says Iraq would have control over its oil revenues. But it would keep in place an international advisory board, which audits accounts, to assure investors and donors that their money was being spent free of corruption.



## Key Mozambique fugitive detained in Canada-media

MAPUTO, May 25 (Reuters) - Mozambique's most-wanted fugitive has been detained in Canada where he fled this month after escaping from jail a second time, national media reported on Monday.

Anibal dos Santos Junior, sentenced to 28 years in jail last year for the November 2000 killing of investigative journalist Carlos Cardoso, was arrested by International Police (Interpol) at Toronto airport, the influential daily Noticias reported.

Cardoso, 49, was murdered while investigating the disappearance of \$14 million in privatisation funds from one of the country's commercial banks four years earlier.

His death revealed a web of organised crime and corruption in the former Portuguese colony.

"Mozambique will seek his extradition back home through Interpol and diplomatic means," Noticias reported, but offered no further details on the arrest, which was also reported by state radio and other newspapers.

Mozambique police said they had not yet verified the report.

Dos Santos escaped from jail a second time on May 9. The Mozambique's attorney-general's office said last week the fugitive got away with the help of police and an investigation was already under way.

Dos Santos first vanished from prison in September 2002 while awaiting trial and fled to South Africa, where he was caught and returned to Mozambique last year — days after he was convicted in absentia for his role in the Cardoso murder.

# S.Korea's Roh accepts prime minister's resignation

SEOUL, May 25 (Reuters) - South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Goh Kun on Tuesday, setting the stage for a cabinet reshuffle as he resumes full duties after two months in impeachment limbo.

Goh, who served as acting president during Roh's impeachment trial, resigned on Monday after he had declined repeated requests from the presidential Blue House to nominate three new cabinet ministers.

The replacement of the unification, culture and health ministers, which had been expected this week, would be put off for a month, Roh said at a cabinet meeting on Tuesday after what local media said was a clumsy return to office by the president.

"It looks a little difficult to have the cabinet reshuffle until after the middle of June," Roh said, according to a pool report.

Three top members of the Uri Party, which Roh joined last week, are expected to join the cabinet in a move widely seen as grooming them for national leadership. The Uri Party won a majority of seats in a parliamentary election last month.

Roh denied media reports that the reshuffle would involve other posts.

As he resumes his duties after his impeachment was overturned on May 14, Roh faces the challenges of reviving a stagnating domestic economy, deploying troops to Iraq and a process that could involve deep cuts to the U.S. military presence in South Korea as the allies grapple with North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Finance Minister Lee Hun-jai, who is also deputy prime minister, would be acting prime minister, an official at the prime minister's office said.

Having expressed his intention to resign earlier this month, Goh has said ministerial nominations by an outgo-



South Korean Prime Minister Goh Kun waves to government officials as he leaves his office after a ceremony in Seoul May 25. South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Goh on Tuesday, setting the stage for a cabinet reshuffle as he resumes full duties after two months in impeachment limbo. REUTERS

ing prime minister would be inappropriate.

"The president accepted the resignation today," a Blue House official said.

## No Post-IMPEA Chment honeymoon

Before the cabinet meeting began, Goh, a technocrat with more than four decades of public service, said his intentions had been to leave after the election and before the start of a new parliamentary session.

Roh is expected to nominate Goh's successor at the end of the week, another Blue House official said. Parliament, which begins a new session on June 5 with a new pro-government majority, has to approve the nominated candidate.

The president is widely seen as favouring Kim Hyuk-kyu, a former provincial governor and a long-time member of the opposition Grand National Party (GNP).

Kim switched to the Uri Party this year and was elected to parliament in the April 15 election.

The opposition GNP has been critical of Roh's expected nomination, saying Kim's sudden party switch showed he lacked integrity and the skills to serve as prime minister.

South Korea's conservative mainstream newspapers criticised the presidential office's handling of Goh's resignation and the cabinet reshuffle.

The Chosun Ilbo newspaper said on Tuesday that the administration's disregard for the constitution triggered Goh's resignation and confusion over cabinet nominations.

"Demanding Goh nominate the new cabinet ministers is a blatant attempt to borrow his name, not conduct that respects the prime minister's constitutional power," the Chosun said in an editorial.

## Blast kills one, injures 16 in Indonesia's Ambon

JAKARTA, May 25 (Reuters) - A bomb explosion killed at least one person and injured 16 others on Tuesday in Ambon, the main city of Indonesia's Moluccas islands where clashes between Muslims and Christians erupted last month, police said.

Moluccas police spokesman, Endro Prasetyo said the bomb exploded early on Tuesday near an open market in the port city located around 2,300 km (1,440 miles) east of Jakarta.

"From the bomb, which exploded near the open market, one person was killed and 16 others injured, and out of those 16, two suffered serious injuries," Prasetyo said.

At least 36 people were killed last month in a renewed cycle of religious violence in Ambon. It was the worst fighting since early 2002 when Muslims and Christians signed a peace pact to end three years of conflict that killed around 5,000 people.

The police spokesman also said there was a rumour of a bomb planted near a church but officers did not find any explosive devices there.

Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation with around 85 percent of its 220 million population following Islam. Ambon, like many areas in the country's east, has a roughly equal proportion of Muslims and Christians.

Although violence has largely subsided in Ambon over the past month, sporadic gun shots and explosions are still commonplace in the once scenic city where many areas are still in ruins after years of fighting.

## Grieving Bangladeshis frustrated by new ferry tragedies

DHAKA, May 25 (Reuters) - A Muslim cleric preaching at a mosque near the banks of Bangladesh's notorious Meghna river sums up his frustration after yet another deadly ferry disaster.

"Leading funeral prayers for ferry victims has become an annual duty for me," said Moulana Abdul Aziz. "I am tired of doing this job."

At least 74 people died and about 130 are missing — believed drowned — after two ferries sank during a sudden storm on Sunday near Chandpur, 170 km (106 miles) southeast of the capital, Dhaka.

About 100 passengers were rescued or managed to swim to shore.

As relatives of the dead buried their loved ones on Tuesday, authorities once again vowed to crack down on an industry that sees around 1,000 deaths a year.

The finger of blame was being pointed at ferry owners, captains, passengers and even non-human elements such as the weather and God.

"Wrongly designed and poorly managed ferries are to be mainly blamed for most river tragedies," Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain told Reuters on Tuesday.

"Storms may be an act of God, but we have also many things to do for our safety."

The ferries sank at about the same time just one km (half a mile) apart. The double-decker Lighting Sun — with 250 passengers — was heading to Dhaka from Madaripur, while the Diganta — with about 50 aboard — was sailing from Gournadi to Narayanganj, near the capital.

Rescuers and salvage workers managed to refloat the Lighting Sun and pull it to shore on Monday, but they have yet to find the smaller Diganta.

The Meghna is one of Bangladesh's four major rivers along with the Brahmaputra, Jamuna and Padma and has been the scene of more than a dozen ferry disasters in the last two decades.

As so often in the past, the water-

ways that provide a lifeline for Bangladesh also too frequently become a deathtrap.

"We will sit down again with the ferry owners and relevant officials including meteorologists to enforce the steps already taken to minimise disasters," Hossain said.

Bangladesh ferries are frequently overcrowded with crew selling extra tickets to supplement paltry pay. Safety standards are lax and inspectors frequently turn a blind eye in exchange for backhanders.

About 400 people were killed and hundreds unaccounted for after a triple-decker ferry sank in the Meghna in Chandpur in July last year.

On Tuesday unclaimed corpses were being laid to rest in Chandpur. Near the funeral site stood dozens of women and children still awaiting news of their missing relatives.

"Only Allah knows if they will come back," said Mumena Begum, who was looking for her husband and a daughter.



Rescuers search for survivors near a capsized ferry that carried 300 people in the river Meghna, near Chandpur 170 km (106 miles) southeast of the capital Dhaka, May 23. Police said eight bodies had been found so far. Villagers and fishermen in motor boats picked up at least 35 survivors and another seven were plucked from atop the hull of the upturned ferry, which was floating partly submerged in the river. REUTERS

UNAIDS



## Vacancy Announcement

The Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS  
Invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the post of National UNAIDS  
Country Coordinator

UNICEF WFP UNDP UNFPA  
UNDCP ILO UNESCO WHO World Bank

### key responsibilities:

The National UNAIDS Country Coordinator (UCC) operates within the UN Resident Coordinator system to support the work of the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS. The primary role of the National UCC is to support the joint UN response to HIV/AIDS at country level. Particularly through Facilitating and strengthening the links between the UN system, government, civil society, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

The National UCC supports the efficient functioning of the UN Theme Group mechanism (including the Technical Working Groups and other relevant forums) to ensure coordination and communication within the UN and between the UN, government and all other development partners. The National UCC will support the UN Resident Coordinator and the Chairperson of the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS to provide the following:

- 1) Civil society engagement and partnership development;
- 2) Leadership and Advocacy for effective action on the epidemic;
- 3) Strategic information required to guide the efforts of partners;
- 4) Tracking, monitoring and evaluation of the epidemic and response; and
- 5) Financial, technical and political resource mobilization.

### Post Requirements:

#### a) Knowledge and experience:

Extensive experience in managing and implementing development cooperation programs. Experience in working with UN system organizations in technical programmes, or in public health is an asset knowledge of development issues and of the application of research findings to meet the requirements of developing countries. Thorough understanding of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and its implications. Knowledge of the UN system of organizations and their delivery mechanisms an asset.

#### b) Professional Competencies:

Advanced University degree in development economics, social or physical sciences, public health, public administration, management, or similar academic preparation required.. Excellent knowledge in written and spoken English and Arabic.

#### c) Managerial Competencies:

Leadership qualities, integrity and interpersonal facilitation, analysis, presentation and writing skills; excellent interpersonal, negotiating and consultative skills to facilitate coordination and participation of various collaborators.

Interested Candidates who strictly meet the post requirements may submit their applications by mail to the Operations Unit, UNFPA, P.O. Box 7272, Sana'a or Fax them to 01/449198.

The post has been classified at NOD level however, the organization has the right to recruit below that level depending on qualification and experience.

The Deadline for receiving applications is Saturday 29 May 2004.



## Words of Wisdom



As a society caught in the endless transition from a traditional way of life to none trying to catch up with a set of values which are often the subject of controversy and confusion, to say the least. One such value is integrity. It was a big thing in the old days, this integrity business. But today, it has been often compromised, and we see people 'selling' their integrity. Think of it, would you sell yours?  
Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf, (1951-1999)  
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR  
OPINION

## 'Tangible' results

The definition of 'tangible results' when talking about the Arab summit held last week is somewhat of question and dispute, although Arab leaders say that the summit was a landmark in the history of Arab meetings. They claim that the results were indeed quite 'tangible' and historic.

On the other hand, people in the Arab world are disappointed and have already lost hope that there could be any results at all, let alone 'tangible' results. But the definition has different interpretations, which show the huge gap between the public and their leaders.

Some suggest that the only way such summits will have tangible results is when Arab leaders get closer to their peoples and inspirations. The issue is a matter of trust too. Arab leaders may think that if they do something that angers the USA or others, they will lose power like Saddam did because they don't trust that their people will come to their defense.

In conclusion, the only possible way out of this humiliating situation is to simply let others who don't have a dark history of oppression of the people take over and take the tough and challenging decisions that may rise to the level of expectations.

On the other hand, some leaders may think that it is impossible to survive after they leave power because they think that some would tempt to seek revenge for certain acts they committed. They have accumulated a lot of hatred and disgust over the years and they have hence created so many enemies.

"The whole people are their enemy" some friend of mine told me. How can such a leader escape his destiny? Some may suggest that those leaders can only leave power after they get an amnesty and exemption from possible lawsuits against them in the future for corruption or crimes.

It is eventually up to the leaders to decide how they shape their future and their countries' future, but it is for them to understand the consequences of doing or not doing things that are needed to bring about stability to their rule.

In an era that is moving so fast, it is almost undeniable that Arab leaders will have to act and act decisively on major issues locally and in the scope of the region. They will have to take them for their very survival and to limit the widening gap between them and their people.

Courage and appropriate evaluation and analysis of the situation must apply to ensure that they don't drag the area to more instability, weakness, and suffering. The people have had enough and time is running out before a possible full-scale explosion of emotions and actions occurs.

They need to think about it and revise their definition of 'tangible results' and instead bring the real 'tangible results' that Arabs everywhere are waiting for.

The Editor

## From constrained to creative &amp; from reactive to proactive

By A. SALLAM QASEM  
sallam\_8@hotmail.com

Tired and bored of hearing the same statements of Arab leaders' disagreement as every summit approaches, then their pre-written decision at the end of the summit, we, the Arab people, are doing exactly the same, but at the other end of the spectrum. "Arab nations are frustrated, and angry", "Arab nations stormed to the street protesting against the injustice laid upon them by their regimes, the West, and Israel". I believe all of us have heard the above statements many times, repeated again and again, for many years and many events. What interests me in the above statements are two points: one is the reaction mentioned, "protesting"; the second is us being reactive.

To repeat the same steps and expect different results is naive. To just storm into the streets in furious moments, shouting out your thoughts once more and expecting an action from the Arabic regimes is, to be polite, naive. I am not suggesting we don't protest, but don't just protest with high expectations, because it will simply frustrate you even more. We need to think out side the box, the very small box of our current list of reactions. We need to

think with long term solutions and consequences in mind. We go to the street and we come back home satisfied and content about ourselves. We have just paid our duty to the cause, it is time to go home, and forget all about it again.

I am not asking for daily protests, or unrest and constant worry. I am calling for consciousness in all our work towards goals, to start actions with results in mind, to vary in our reactions to ensure success. Instead of only marching in the streets condemning the death of Ahmed Yassin, for example, how about we collectively finance an author to write an accurate biography about the sheikh. Instead of protesting against price hikes, how about starting a pressure campaign on members of parliament from each of our respective regions to demand opposition or modification. Instead of being limited by protesting, how about more limitless, out of the box, more effective and results focused, alternatives.

The more important point in this article is "being reactive" in the first place. Arabs are reactionary, Yemenis are reactive. I am not trying to be rude, but to criticize bluntly a hindering attribute. The fact is we always react, we almost never pro-act. I have never heard of a protest in support of Ahmed Yassin in recognition to his efforts

before he was assassinated.

As normal people, we forgot, we get busy going through our normal life routines, then out of nowhere, in our perception, America invades Iraq, Israel Kills Ahmed Yassin, and so on. Then we remember. We feel obliged to react (if we didn't help them before, at least let's show them some sympathy). We "react". We feel better about ourselves (although the situation still as is). We forget again.

Nobody could ask the whole Arabic population to just keep focusing on these events, and forget about their daily lives. But what we could do is specialization, something similar to the concept of "Farth Al-Kifaeh" in the Islamic Shariah, where a group of specialized people devote their time to accomplish a certain task, but it is the obligation of the whole nation to support them. Otherwise, everybody is responsible for the consequences. For example, we should not wait for the government to fix our economy. We should support independent organizations to research how to fix our economy, to come up with plans and recommendations, and then help in implementing those recommendations. We should support such organizations financially and morally, because otherwise we would just keep protesting, and they will just keep ignoring us.

## Letters to the Editor

## A message to Arab leaders

I have felt disappointed at what is going on in Iraq and Palestine when I watched the tragic and horrible incident that happened in Fallujah and abuse of Iraqi prisoners in Abu Guraib prison. I felt like bursting into tears; not only tears but blood as well. Where are the leaders of Arabs? What does it mean Arab and Muslim leaders since our victim brothers of Iraq and Palestine are being slaughtered, ham-

mered, assassinated and killed by an American and Israeli F-16, 18 mortar and machine-guns, artillery? What does it mean to Arab leaders if we do not prevent an American aggression and killing of a single Iraqi citizen and also to prevent Sharon's assassination policy destruction of houses of Palestinian people? You as Arab leaders are entirely responsible what is going on in Iraq and Palestine. Do not blame Bush or Sharon because they are serving Americans and Israelis and acting in every single case for the sake of American and Israeli interests.

I wonder when Arab leaders' words are going to be fulfilled and hence I would like to send a severe message to the Arab Summit that is going to take place in the third week of this month:

"If you will not present a common conception or even be taking severe decisions on the current tension you had better to stay far from the summit, otherwise it is going to be a tiresome waste, senseless and ineffective. I am not exaggerating to say that but it touched this too deeply and also this made me angry and sad. Now it is time to be taking action, not talking because Arab people are too eager to see their leaders act and not only to hold summits that bring negative consequences. However, we shall keep in mind how Arab Summits effect and solve the current crisis and finally to be different from the previous ones."

Abdirazak Caynaan  
carabka3200@yahoo.com

## Many more issues to report on

Seeing your growth makes me and many Yemenis feel proud and keen of Yemen times and the press freedom emerging day by day.

Nevertheless, your succession materializes through the stories and reports made; Yet, many crucial issues are to be covered to the satisfactory span, of which one is the telecommunications monopoly in our country and how some firms play an enormous role to obstruct the new technologies to come into Yemen, e.g. the down-to-earth rates for long distance calls.

Well, I look forward to seeing more progression ahead.

Wassef Aklan  
wassef.aklan@dhl.com

## You cruel Arabs...

I would like to respond to a number of quotes taken from one of your recent editorials about happenings in Iraq, Palestine, and elsewhere.

"...450 Iraqi civilians were killed..." You said nothing of the AK-47 machine guns and the RPG's carried by these so-called "civilians".

"The atrocities going on in Palestine..." I assume refers to the Muslim mothers strapping bombs to their children and sending them off to blow themselves up in pizza parlors killing many innocents including women and children?

"...modern countries give greater value to their citizens than developing countries. [But] it is not the fault of citizens of developing countries. They are mere innocent people who wanted to lead a respectable life and care little about regimes and political affairs." Does that make it the fault of the United States? Where is the wealth of the Saudi Royal Family? Do those gold plated palaces really benefit the people?

"So the double standard we see and feel every day is a mere reflection of the economic-political gap between the rich and the poor, the developed and developing.

## Letters to the Editor

This gap cannot be closed down overnight, but actions like that of the USA are not helping at all." Does this mean that the Saudi Royal Family is poor and unable to help develop the Arab world?

Look at yourselves. Arabs are a little people, a silly people, greedy, barbarous and cruel. They see someone who is better off and claim that their own situation must be someone else's fault. They see themselves as victims and refuse to accept responsibility for their own situation. What a pity!

Marvin C Cruzan  
mcruzan@mo-net.com

## Youth of Yemen: What are they up to?

The goal was broad: Achieving a better Yemen. The mission was impossible, and the obstacles too tough to scratch! But a little tangible spark was the glimmer of hope; the first step towards the goal.

Over many discussions, a few youths realized the importance of understanding the problem before solving it, and sharing the knowledge that they have. Their mission was to become the catalyst from which Yemeni youth would launch their hopes, and ideas. Less than two months ago a new idea was proposed by Adeeb Qasem, one of the members of the Yemeni Students Association Abroad online group (www.ysaa.org). This project, like many others, needed committed people to launch. Seven youths showed interest in administering the success of this project! What could seven Yemeni youth possibly do? They kept a promise.

Sticking to their commitment, the first issue of 'Shabab Yemeni' was released. This first issue provides us with a window through which we could peek in and observe the concerns of our Yemeni youth.

What can we do with this window of information? Let us be the support system for our youth to continue with their efforts; to combine their imaginations with their intel-

lects and transform dreams into reality. Let us recognize that our youth are up to a lot of good. Let us water the seeds of hope!

Yumna A.  
yumna\_07@yahoo.com

## Education, entertainment, &amp; population growth

I write with reference to the article published recently in YT entitled "Features of the Population Problem in Yemen", by Ismail Al-Ghabiri, on the increasing population growth in Yemen.

Yemen has the highest birth rate, which is mainly a result of early marriages, etc and due to a decline in the fatality rate. A decline in the fatality rate is a good sign as that shows an improvement in the health services. However, the Government should take the initiative in providing better education, which can reduce the birth rate. If people are more aware of birth control and the consequences of such high birth rates and the adverse effect on the economy, chances are that the birth rate could reduce.

Education on its own is not enough. The country also needs better entertainment to make people aware, birth control campaigns, sex control campaigns etc. It could be argued that such facilities are hard to provide taking into account the current inflation in our economy, but unless some initiative is not taken, our country will only continue to see a steady growth in the birth rate.

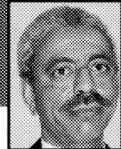
Ali Abdulkader  
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## Help those Ethiopians leave Yemen

It was sad news for us here to know that our Yemeni brothers are doing such cruel actions to our Ethiopian brothers. We lived together as neighbors for centuries, but the authorities are playing politics. However, I believe the time will come that all we live again as brother and sisters. Please help these refugees to gain access to a third country.

Ibrahim Gelawdy  
gelawdy@yahoo.com

## COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

## Israeli security and the Rafah zoo

Look John, I can understand why the President of the United States has full support for the right of Israel to defend itself, but to direct its entire massive arsenal against 70 animals caged in a harmless zoo in Rafah, isn't the IDF stretching the security phobia a little too far!" wondered Mustafa as he gently stroked the back of the stray cat that was looking for some affection.

The visiting American researcher was somewhat puzzled: "Mustafa, what are you talking about?"

"Didn't you hear?" asked Mustafa. "The Israeli attack on Rafah focused on a zoo that had some 75 different animals in it belonging to a Mohammed Juma, a Palestinian who has invested US\$ 300,000 in the zoo. The bulldozers started with the beavers and ostriches dens and simply tore down all the fences and went back and forth on them just like they did to poor Rachel Corrie over a year ago."

"Now why on earth would they do anything as cruel as that? How do these animals pose a threat to Israeli security?" asked John. "You must be joking."

"No, I am not joking" said Mustafa while gently fiddling his fingers through the bright white section on the cat's neck and back, for some reason avoiding the brown and black spots that also decorated the cat's back. "You see the Israelis came around 3:00 AM in the morning and shouted, through a microphone, to the animals in the zoo: 'Come out with your hands up or you will be killed!' Of course at that time the animals were snoring so loud they did not hear the loudspeaker."

John was still in doubt that the Israelis could ever go so far. "They must have not known it was a zoo that they were destroying."

Murshid, Mustafa's brother brought coffee to the table where the two men were sitting in the coffee shop in the Alq'a area, which used to be the Jewish quarter in West Sana'a. He managed to pick up the theme of his brother's conversation with a former fellow student of his brother's in an American university. He wanted to try his English joking: "An Israeli spokeswoman confirmed the attack on the zoo and pointed out that Israeli intelligence was given word that the beavers and ostriches were used in the excavation of the tunnels that the Israeli incursion into Rafah never found anyway. So to make up for not being able to find the tunnels, they claimed to have found the machinery used by the Palestinians to dig the tunnels. The Israelis had no choice but to destroy the zoo as these animals were more menacing to the peace and tranquility that the Israelis have a right to enjoy than Hamas or even Hezbollah could ever be. I read the news myself in the Ghardian British newspaper on the internet."

Mustafa corrected his brother: "The Guardian and not Ghardian!" and then turned towards John again: "Murshid is right though. The story is there in detail on the May 22 issue. Can you imagine? Without any joking though, what sensible logic can one find in destroying an innocent zoo? Look! I gave up a long time ago on believing the Israelis having any bit of mercy in the way they treated the Palestinians. After all, what did the Israelis come from every nick and cranny of this world to Palestine for? To take over their land, what else? To do that they either have to kill them or make life as miserable as they can until they are forced to leave the Promised Land that God undertook to deliver to them, as they like the world to believe."

Murshid again insisted on taking part in the conversation: "After what they did to these animals, there is just no way that God Al-Mighty would take pleasure in being asked to be a part of this senseless havoc, in which the Hebrew State is relishing in the Holy Land. Who would find solace in worshipping such a God? No, God is merciful and views all this bloodshed as sheer infidelity to Him, no matter what justifications are made. Come to think of it, John, if Bush and those neo-con evangelicals want to give Jews a national home for the sake of God, as they claim, he could start off by donating some of his vast estate in the vast state of Texas to a few Jewish families? I am sure the United Jewish Appeal and the Anti-Defamation League will convince Congress to dole out some money out of the US budget to build the settlement. Besides, God is not in the real estate business anyway."

John wasn't sure he understood Murshid well, but found his comment worthy of thought: "I already believe that the Israelis are getting carried away in their harsh policies in the occupied territories and like many Americans I have pointed this out to my Congressman. The present policy of the government of the United States in the Middle East is not showing evenhandedness at all. Even former US presidents have publicly expressed their concern for the ultra bias shown by the Bush Administration towards the Israelis."

"I really expected Mr. Bush to have at least sympathy for those poor animals, who, unlike the Palestinians, did not have any of their kinfolk involved with 9/11! We can understand his summary viewpoint on the Arabs in general and contempt for the Palestinians, in particular, because his good friend Ariel Sharon has convinced him that all the Arabs and Moslems are guilty of 9/11. But how can he buy the Israeli logic with regards to these animals?" Mustafa added: "I think the Israelis have convinced the White House that they do not have detention facilities like Abu Ghraib for animals and their budget is tight. So, the only way to assure that these animals are not used anymore by the Palestinians to dig tunnels or burial sites for arms and to make the Israeli illegal settlers feel insecure as they are going out at night, was to kill the animals, destroy the zoo and the zookeeper's house and put a discotheque in its place. After all, the site happens to be within the 'security buffer' between Rafah and the border with Egypt. Besides, the Israelis were afraid that some of the animals might kick or bite the settlers as they were 'withdrawing from Gaza'."

YEMEN  
TIMES

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

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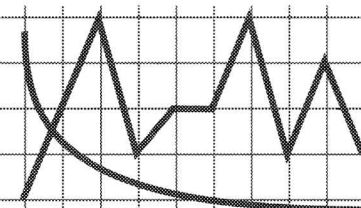
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## YT Business



# Health development, between reality and population needs

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**H**ealth development is among the important areas connected to economy and population, but the reality in Yemen is still in need of more plans to convey and extend health services to rural areas in particular.

Figures indicate that so far Yemen has achieved 527 health projects at a cost of over YR 6 billion and expanded the network of health services and raising the level of covering health services for the population. The figures also indicate that concerned health parties are heading for accomplishment of 672 new health units and 269 health centers by the year 2005, reduction of fatality rate and raising the age level medium to 63 years as well as reduction of rate of contagious diseases.

The ministry of health has adopted a national strategy for reforming the health sector that is to be implemented in two stages; the first in the districts and governorates and the second to include generalization of the system of health regions. The strategy aims at fighting epidemic diseases and malnutrition, improving preventive services, developing human resources and providing new medicines from local industries.

The Yemeni strategic vision has

dealt with keenness on modernization and enhancement the situations of the health sector in parallel to increasing population growth, especially in the countryside.

The proportion of health coverage in 2002 has reached at 56% and in 2003 to 58%. Government efforts are maintained to achieve successful and positive results in the health sector particularly concerning the endemic diseases, including malaria bilharzias and tuberculosis.

Figures also mention that Yemen has traversed a long distance in combating infantile paralysis and it is implementing significant health programs supported by donors for the sake of improving population health and upgrading levels of people living and health conditions.

Health efforts also are aimed at providing convenient climate for the

Health system success and concentration on health protection against diseases as well as providing health care services for the society.

Concerned parties are therefore planning and supervising the implementation of health units in order to upgrade health services and consolidate cooperation and coordination among various parties. Hence appears the importance of developing population health for ensuring healthy people participating in administrating Yemeni economy in a creative strength and healthily sound.



Pits filled with sewage water around one of the hospitals Yemen

## Euro 787 million,

# Total German support for Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**Y**emeni- German relations are prominently seen in bilateral development where Germany offers a multi-form economic support for Yemen. The total amount of support since 1969 has amounted to 787 million euros, 60% of which through the German bank for reconstruction and 40% via the German establishment for technical cooperation known as GTZ.

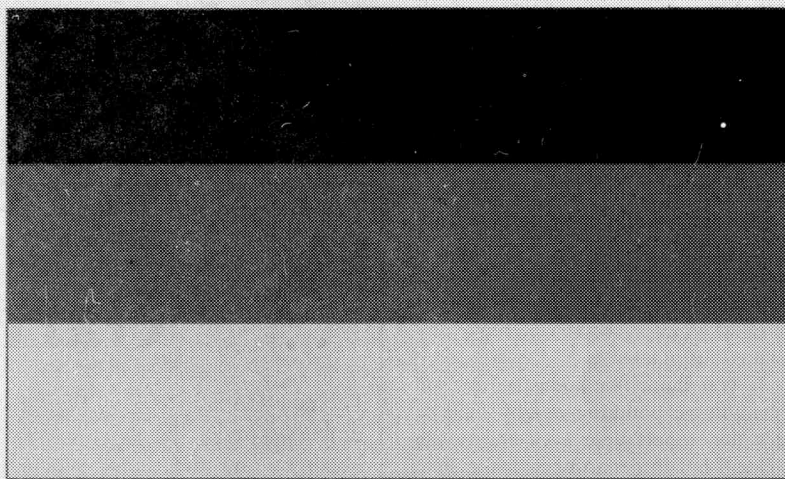
Participants in an exhibition and a symposium on the Yemeni-German cooperation organised by the national center for documents have made it clear that Germany has supported the Yemen infrastructure as it built the



Sana'a airport and many highways, including the road of Sana'a-Taiz.

The German establishment GTZ is presently executing a comprehensive program representing support activi-

ties in areas of protection of cultural heritage in addition to areas of education, reproduction health, water and sanitation, small industries, vocational training and urban development.



Those aspects of assistance include support of rural areas, development of systems on managing information in using the computer and supporting projects of renewable energy.

The German state offers support for Yemen in areas aimed at realization of millennium development objectives according to five criteria being adopted by the German gov-

ernment in offering its financial assistance. Those criteria include the respect of human rights, involvement of the citizen in decision-making and roe of the law and adoption of a free economic order.

According to those criteria Yemen has been chosen as including 40 states as a major partner for the German developmental cooperation and one of four guidance countries in the world for the German working program aimed at shrinking poverty to half by the year 2015. Therefore, Germany offers assistance to Yemen in the integrated management of water resources, financial decentralization, support for civil society organizations, equality between social gender and improvement of citizens' living circumstances.

# Investors choose gas, oil and tourism

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**P**ositive indicators have emerged on growth of rates of investments in Yemen by world companies that have chosen liquefied gas, oil and tourism as areas entertaining promising profits.

In this regard Yemen and China have signed memoranda of understanding in the field of oil and gas on the sidelines of a promotional symposium held in Peking. The first memorandum was signed between the Yemeni authority for oil excavation and production and the Chinese company CNB.

According to the agreement the Chinese company would carry out development of Aden and Mareb oil refineries and implementation of a study concerning building of oil storages in Hudeidah.

The second memorandum was signed with an international company for the excavation of iron, manganese, chromium and nickel. The third memorandum with the Chinese Economic International company that invests in exploitation of metallic and non-metallic metals, the fourth memorandum was concluded with the Chinese company for constructions and development for the utilization of gold in the area of Wadi

Madan.

The Chinese party has accepted conducting quick studies on the possibility of buying the Yemeni natural gas which Yemen possesses a large reserve estimated at around 16.7 trillion cubic meters.

The Indian Thermal Energy National Company has on its part extended the final date of a tender for providing it with liquefied gas that is to end on 27 May 2004 so that to enable the Shell Company coordinates with the French company TOTAL in Yemen, which supervises investment of Yemeni natural gas.

On the other hand the delegation of

the Yemeni-Russian Friendship society during its meetings with officials in Sana'a has shown willingness to make Russian businessmen get acquainted with opportunities of investment in Yemen and the facilities granted to them as stipulated in the Yemeni law on investment. The Russian side is interested in investing in oil sectors and enhancement of trade relations with the two countries. And in this regard a French delegation representing a French group of companies has shown readiness for investment in Yemen in tourism area by building a number of hotel projects of high quality services. This French group of tourist companies

works in a number of Arab countries and in the world.

Interest in investment in vital sectors in Yemen by international companies and groups of companies gives an indication of security stability Yemen is witnessing and success of the promotional campaign due to privileges the Yemeni law grants to foreign investors mainly encouraging facilities and exemptions.

The government stresses that it would offer all facilities to investors for the purpose of flourishing investment situation, increased of work opportunities for the unemployed and gaining financial revenues in interest of the state general budget and the Gross Domestic Product.

## Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.4500	184.6800
Sterling Pound	326.3600	326.7600
Euro	220.0300	220.3000
Saudi Rial	49.1800	49.2500
Kuwaiti Dinar	625.0400	625.8200
UAE Dirhem	50.2200	50.2800
Egyptian Pound	29.8000	29.8400
Bahraini Dinar	489.2700	489.8800
Qatari Rial	50.6600	50.7300
Jordanian Dinar	260.1600	260.4800
Omani Rial	479.1200	479.7200
Swiss Franc	143.1800	143.3600
Swedish Crown	24.1800	24.2100
Japanese Yen	1.6254	1.6274

Source: Central Bank of Yemen



# What is poisoning and how to react to it (part 2)\*



BY DR. BHOOPENDRA SINGH\*

## First aid for poisoning

Always call your local poison control center/emergency hospital for advice

- Remain calm and don't panic. You need to act quickly. If Victims are unconscious, they need immediate emergency care.
- Keep the airway open and perform artificial respiration until emergency care arrives.
- If you are unable to reach a poison control center or a local hospital emergency department for advice, transport the victim to the nearest emergency service.
- If you are far from medical assistance (greater than 30 minutes), the following general guidelines should be applied in the absence of specific instructions from a poison control center or other reliable source:

1. Determine the nature of the ingested substance. If there are no visible bottles or other clues, examine the mouth for signs of burns, which would indicate an acid or alkali. Smell the breath for a petroleum-like odor.
2. Diluting the poison by administering water or milk is advised for most substances. Water is recommended for acid and alkali ingestion if the person can swallow.

## For poisoning by swallowing:

1. Check the victim's airway, breathing, and circulation. If necessary, begin rescue breathing and CPR (DEFINE: Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) consists of mouth-to-mouth respiration and chest compression)
2. Try to make sure that the victim has indeed been poisoned. It is not always obvious. Some signs include chemical-smelling breath, burns around the mouth, difficulty breathing, vomiting, or unusual odors on the victim. If possible, identify the poison. Follow instructions given by the poison control/emergency center. You may be told to take the victim to an emergency room and/or to induce vomiting. (This will depend on the poison taken).

If necessary, vomiting can be induced by:

- Giving Syrup of Ipecac and at least one glass of water. Dosage for Syrup of Ipecac: 1 Tbsp. (5 ml) for children 1-3 years old; 1-2 Tbsp. (10 ml) for persons 3-6 years and 2-4 Tbsp (10-20 ml) in adults followed by 2 glasses of water (This is available over-the-counter at drug stores). If the victim does not vomit in 25 minutes, repeat the dose of the Syrup. Another technique is to use a glass of warm water containing 3 teaspoons of salt (Note that don't administer more amount of salt solution) or 1 spoonful of dried mustard powder.
- Tickling the back of the throat with a finger, spoon handle, pen, or other blunt object after giving water can be useful but with proper precautions.

Do not induce vomiting if: i) The nature of the substance is unknown. ii) A corrosive substance (house cleaner, lye, bleach, or other acid or alkali product) is suspected. iii) A petroleum product (benzene, kerosene, gasoline, turpentine, paint thinner, other hydrocarbon) is suspected. Vomiting a petroleum product carries the danger of inhaling it into the lungs, causing chemical pneumonia. iv) Milk or milk of magnesia is usually suggested to be given to neutralize them. v) The per-

son is having seizures, is unconscious or appears to be losing consciousness. vi) The victim is less than 1 year of age. Take the poisoning victim, along with the bottle or container of whatever was ingested, and any vomitus to the nearest hospital emergency department for further treatment.

3. If the victim vomits, protect the airway and must clear the victim's airway, wrap a cloth around your fingers before cleaning out his or her mouth and throat.
4. If the patient/victim needs to be taken to an emergency room, bring the poison's container with the label intact. If possible, collect the vomitus so it can be examined/analyzed.
5. Monitor the victim's vital signs (temperature, pulse, rate of breathing, blood pressure). If the victim starts having convulsions, protect him or her from injury and give first aid.
6. Reassure the victim and keep him or her comfortable while getting or awaiting medical help. If the poison has spilled on the victim's clothes, remove the clothing and flush the skin with water.

## FOR INHALATION POISONING:

1. Call for emergency help. Never attempt to rescue without notifying others first.
2. Rescue the victim from the danger of the gas, fumes, or smoke. Hold a wet cloth over your nose and mouth. Open windows and doors to remove the fumes.
3. Avoid lighting a match as some gases may ignite.
4. Take several deep breaths of fresh air, then hold your breath as you go in.
5. After rescuing the victim from danger, check his or her airway, breathing, and circulation. If necessary, perform rescue breathing and CPR.
6. As necessary, perform first aid for skin burns, eye injuries (eye emergencies), or convulsions (convulsion, first aid).
7. If the victim vomits, protect his or her airway.
8. Even if the victim seems perfectly fine, get medical help.

## Prevention:

- Be aware of poisonous substances in and around your home. Take steps to protect young children from these.
- Be familiar with plants in your home, yard, and vicinity. Keep your children informed too. Remove any noxious plants.
- If you think that industrial poison might be polluting nearby land or water, report your concerns to the local health department or the state or Environmental Protection Agency.
- Most non-food substances are poisonous if ingested in large doses.
- Teach children about the dangers of substances that contain poison. Label all poisons.
- Keep all your prescription and non-prescription drugs stored out of the reach of children.
- Don't store household chemicals in food containers, even if they are labeled.

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\* PART 1 OF THE ARTICLE APPEARED ON EDUCATION PAGE OF ISSUE No. 740 DATE 24 MAY 2004.

# Workshop on Onchocerciasis (Sowda:) Control and Elimination from Yemen

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Within its cooperation with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) held a workshop on Sowda control on March 24 at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Science & Technology in Sana'a. It discussed the future prospects to control and eliminate Onchocerciasis (Sowda) from Yemen. Twenty-two university researchers and specialists in the subject participated from a number of concerned institutions, including the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, University of Science & Technology, Ministry of Public Health, the National Center for Epidemiological Surveillance, the Charitable Society for Social Welfare, and the National Program for Sowda Control in Taiz.

The workshop focused on presenting technical consultations vis-à-vis vector control and reviewed programs and experiences of CSSW and the National Program in Taiz in this field as well as discussing future visions for control activities.

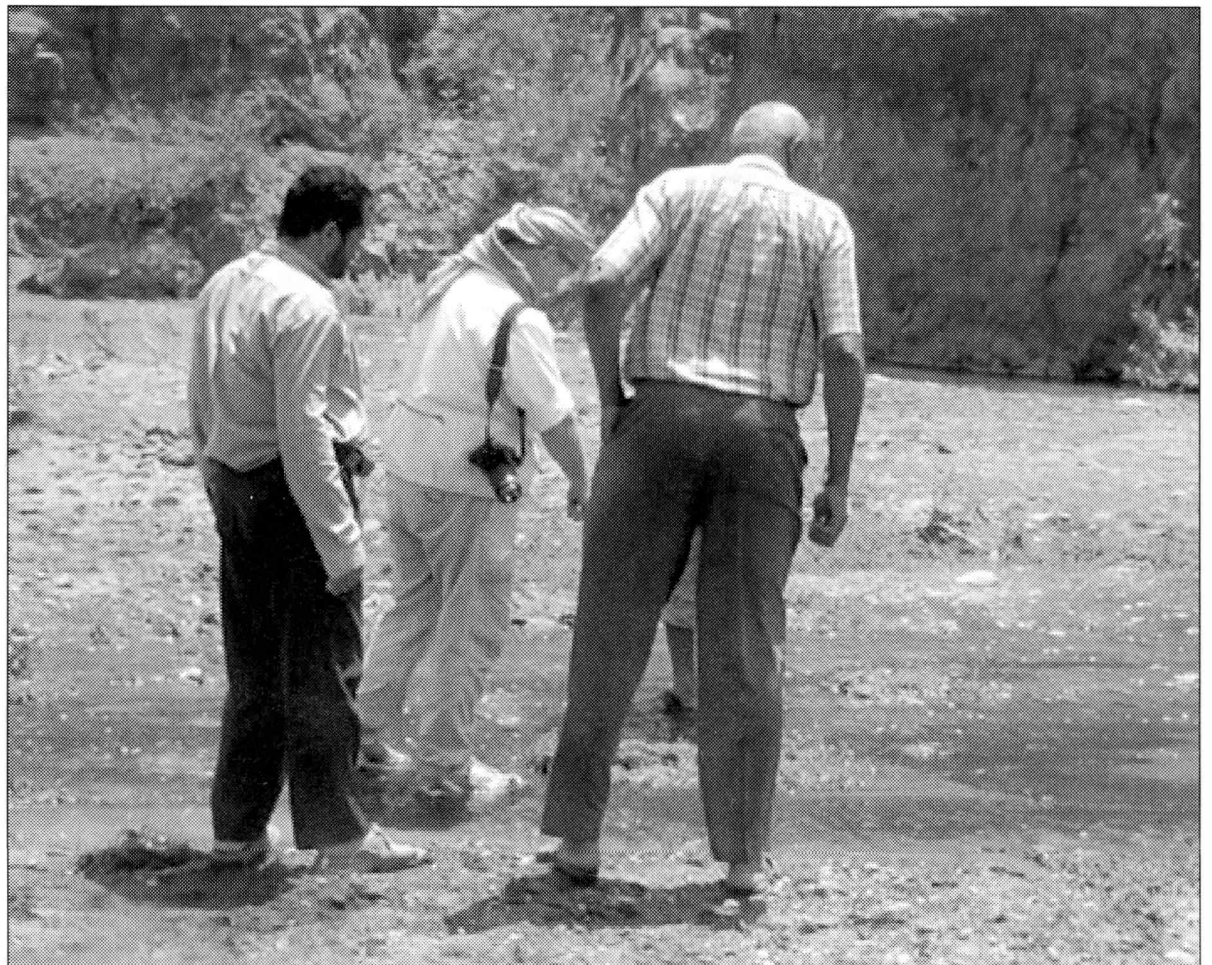
Prior to the workshop, a fieldwork team headed by Dr. Philip MacCall, from Liverpool University, carried out an entomological study on Sowda from the period 18-22 of last March. The team visited a number of Yemen's north-western valleys where the Sowda fly exists. Dr. Philip stressed the importance of the entomological study of Sowda. He said that the first thing that should be done is the need to define the focus infection clearly, and quantify the extent of the problem, including what proportion of the population is infected and how many people in this area are now at risk of infection. He also stressed training and survey.

Dr. Philip also praised the efforts exerted by the CSSW in the field of Sowda control in many valleys, including Wadi Sordoud which he visited for a couple of days and was impressed by the quality of work, motivation and skills of volunteers.

It is worth noting that the British Embassy in Sana'a financed the workshop within the mutual cooperation with CSSW in this field.



Members of Charitable Society for Social Welfare



A team of Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

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

## "Gardener"

The position is located in the Facility Maintenance Section, American Embassy, under the general supervision of the Facility Maintenance Manager and the direct supervision of the Maintenance Foreman. Employee will plant and maintain gardens and lawns, collect garbage and maintain the Embassy grounds, and perform other duties as assigned by supervisor.

### Required Qualifications:

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

**Prior Work Experience:** Six months to one year of gardening experience is required.

**Language Proficiency:** Level I English (rudimentary level) is required.

**Knowledge:** A good knowledge of how to plant and take care of plants and flowers is required.

**Skills/Ability:** Knowledge of gardening tools and operation of power equipment. Work requires moderate to arduous exertion.

**Grade/Salary:** EFM/MOH/Non Ordinarily Resident: FP-CC (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, Dhahr Himyar Street, P.O. Box 22347, Sana'a, Yemen, Tel: 303-155, no later than June 07, 2004.

**Note:** All ordinarily resident applicants must be residing in country and have the required work and residency permits to be eligible for consideration.

## REPRESENTATIVE BASED IN SANAA NEEDED

We require a dynamic representative, preferably aged 35-45 years old. Although based in Sanaa, he will be required to travel within the Yemen to introduce and market our services:

### Prerequisites (Yemen Nationals only)

- University Degree, with advantage in an Engineering field
- Proficiency in Arabic & English, computer literate
- Minimum 5 years experience in logistics, transportation or port services
- Please send full resume with educational resume and work experience.
- Short-listed Candidates will be advised about interview dates, which will be carried out on/about 19 June 2004.
- When applying, please send detailed resume with educational certificates and work experience attached to:

**PO Box 2579 – Sanaa, Yemen**



# Expansion and coordination in the development of education

BY PETER WILLEMS  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**T**he expansion of basic education by building more schools has picked up the pace so far this year.

According to Minister of Education Abdulsalam Al-Joufi, up to 600 schools constructed since the year began are up and running, mostly in rural areas.

"Six hundred new schools for basic education have been introduced this year, which averages 1.7 new schools per day," said Al-Joufi.

He added that since many of the schools are in remote areas, some are small in size, but the total of new classrooms has come out to be more than 2000.

The World Bank, which has been heavily involved in working with the Yemeni government to improve the education system, was responsible for putting in new schools.

The plan for expansion aimed at targeting areas suffering from poverty and where girls have been lacking education.

"These schools were built in the most needy areas," said Al-Joufi. "We chose places based on poverty and enrollment, mostly the enrollment of girls."

According to the latest report from the US State Department, 67.5% of women in Yemen were illiterate in 2002. The World Bank has calculated that only 39% of school-age girls are enrolled in primary school to get a basic education.

The government's plan to improve education is based on the National Strategy for the Development of Basic Education, which is to be implemented between 2003 and 2015. But until recently, there have been complaints that the Yemeni government, donor countries and organizations were not working well together and communication between different groups was below par.

The Ministry of Education, however, has taken steps to organize and coordinate action taken to develop basic education. One important step was the signing of the Partnership Declaration between the Government of Yemen and the donors.

"Before, all the donors used to work separately without any coordination or passing on information," said Al-Joufi. "The aim of the declaration is to create harmony between the donors. We have very limited resources, and we want to use the resources in a proper way, in the most deserved provinces and for all the people. This cannot be done without coordinating the process correctly."

The Ministry has also developed a



Yemeni Minister of Education, Abdulsalam Al-Joufi

better way to locate the areas in Yemen that need more attention.

"We can now identify provinces that are not served from the government or the donors," said Al-Joufi. "It is easy for us now to identify the areas in need and what needs to be worked on. It also makes it easier to ask new donors to come and work in these areas."

A new steering committee has also been established. It meets monthly and the members discuss any problems that arise, new potential donors, and plans for the future.

The Ministry is also creating a new database and will have a webpage that will give donor countries and organizations easy access to the development of education in Yemen.

"Our webpage will show all the donors where they are working, what kind of projects they are doing, how long it will take, how many students are involved, and so forth," said Al-Joufi. "If there are any new donors that want to come, we will pass on important information, let them know what components we have, which province we want them to work in and give them choices within limits. They used to come and decide what area to work in, and sometimes the area of the project wasn't in need or most needed. But now it is coordinated through the Ministry of Education which should show better results."

## CHANGE She Wrote

### Neutrality versus religious/ personal convictions

BY SADAF SHAH  
MSADAFSHAH@YAHOO.CA  
FOR THE YEAMEN TIMES

**I**t is my personal belief, which is somewhat influenced by my religious belief, that in order for a statesman to rule a country with all fairness, he should first free his mind of all previous prejudices that harbored his whole being prior to taking office. It is a truly difficult task indeed, to allow ideas to flourish that are alien to our 'accepted' system of beliefs. Thus, as a result of the complex nature of this task, we observe in the world today that it is virtually impossible for the modern man to step away from his paradigms and accept an opposing view. On the contrary, we observe that it has become common practice of most respected rulers of our time to not only oppose, but also violently threaten with force and bloodshed. We cannot expect anything from terrorists as they are nurtured to oppose anything/everything contrary to their dearly held notions of the way our life should be modeled. While it is only human to play favorites, it is equally naive to think we can pick and choose which groups/states can be categorized as terrorists/insurgents or freedom fighters versus those justified in carrying out blatant forms of terrorism in the name of fighting terrorism. If we are going to get in the habit of forgiving (by way of explaining) lawlessness in the name of causes we support, we should just as easily brace ourselves for lawlessness in the name of causes we oppose as well. Violence begets violence, and instead of addressing the real issues of the problems currently polluting our planet, our leaders have set out to distort and disillusion the common man into thinking that 'this is the only way.'

According to F. L. Morton, a Canadian professor of political science and writer, "Moral zealotry is not a monopoly of majorities or minorities, of the right or the left. In whatever form, it is the enemy of liberal democracy." And also, "The moral consensus of a free state is not something mysteriously prior to or above politics; it is the civilizing activity of politics itself." From the beginning of our history to our present condition, we find that although we read about our past, we have not learned anything from it. We seem to be tripping over and over again without realizing what it is that is knocking us down! Is it our rigid view of our superior nature, color, race or religion that is blocking us from embracing progress? Or is it our preoccupation with dehumanizing 'other' people that dangers our existence? Our answer to both of these questions must be in the affirmative to establish any genuine effort to finally forget the bloodshed and pains of the past and forgive to move forward to a much more peaceful co-existence. If we deny ourselves the opportunity to live peacefully, we deny ourselves the right to live at all. Next week, we shall discuss the existence and role of God in our world.

# The Importance of Tourism to the National Income



BY ISMAIL AL-GHABRI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

**T**he Republic of Yemen is considered one of the most important tourist regions in the Arab Peninsula because it has a lot of potential, if properly utilized, that would lead to the flourishing of tourism in Yemen.

The Republic of Yemen, among its many qualities, enjoys a very pleasant moderate climate with a diversity of weather conditions.

The diversity of the weather is attributed to the distinguished location of the Republic of Yemen and the various geographical elevations of the country, from the central western and eastern mountainous regions to the central and eastern plain with lavish greenish mountain terraces not counting the fascinating and breathtaking views scattered on the shores and coastal areas on the Red Sea and Arab Sea and Indian Ocean. The diversity of the weather conditions is normally suitable for many tourists.

#### Great Ancient civilizations

Many ancient civilizations, known to many, originated in Yemen and left behind many traces and historic sites dispersed throughout the country.

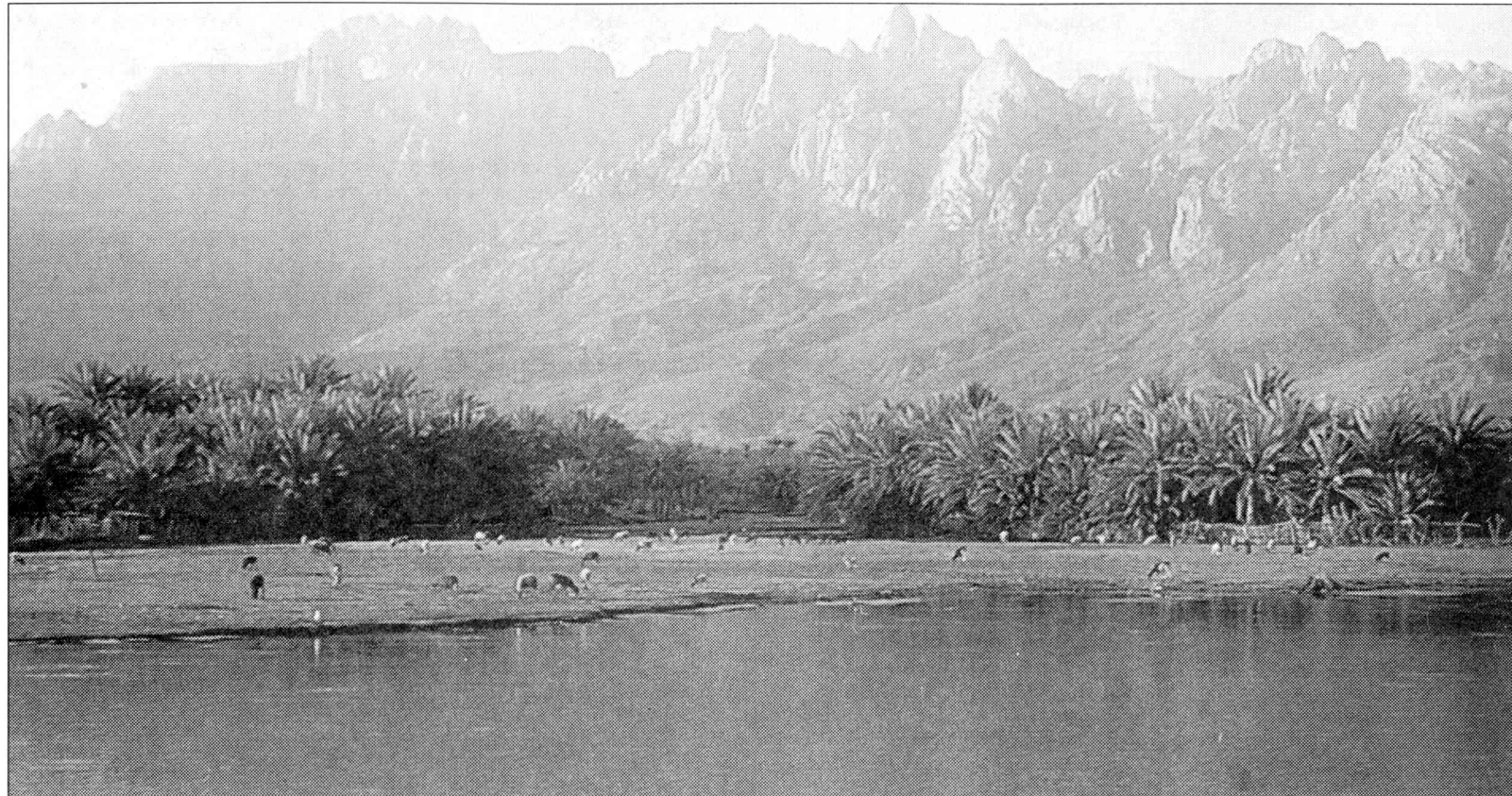
They are the reminiscent and reflective of the great and magnificent civilizations which existed in Yemen, for future generations to look into and to contemplate.

These historic sites such as the still-standing palaces, temples and dams with traces of advanced irrigation channels and other ruins are of great interests to many tourists from all over the world, who are thirsty to enquire about the ancient past of the human race.

Efforts to preserve and to protect them would provide resounding ground to attract tourists.

#### Traditional Handicrafts

Many Yemenis continue working at many traditional trades of great



A scene from Socotra island

importance to Yemenis as well as to foreigners. These trades range from simple production kitchen appliances such 'Haradh' bowls, special rocks which are carved to be shaped like a bowl, to hand-made textile and woolen products such vests, rugs and scarves which enjoy high quality and excellent craftsmanship.

Hand made traditional pottery and ceramics and traditional Yemeni hats made from the roots of palm trees are still competing with the mechanized-manufactured of similar goods, locally made or imported from outside. In general, the hand-made products are unfortunately more attractive to foreigners than to locals.

However, they remain the means of providing to many Yemeni families. The point is that supporting and assisting those preserving the various traditional Yemeni industries would be financially productive to the locals and contribute to sustaining the means to attract foreign

tourists. Moreover, the Republic of Yemen embraces a wide range of folklore highly appreciated by westerners and other tourists of the world. There are even different folkloric dances and habits from one province to another within the same governorate.

Furthermore, generally speaking, the Yemenis are known to be more welcoming, honest and straightforward to outside tourists regardless of their nationalities than in any other country. They are strong believers in the good values of Islam and continue to possess and sustain praiseworthy and laudable traditions and norms.

#### Recommendations

The tourism industry could flourish in Yemen only if we work collectively through the state and the private sector to utilize the ancient Yemeni civilizations along with the development and sustaining of valuable traditional Yemeni trades and handcraft

industries.

Certainly, tourists will always include researchers, intellectuals and historians who are interested in the history of Yemen, and consequently their conclusions and findings would definitely be published in books or reports deposited at libraries and universities. The availability and accessibility of these books and reports

would motivate and encourage many others to visit Yemen and to see closely what they have read about Yemen.

In concluding, tourism in Yemen could become a high revenue industry, both to the state treasury and individuals, with the proper approach to utilizing the capabilities and potential of Yemen and Yemeni citizens.

### The Eye Consultants

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**Zuhair Shihab, MD**

Clinical Associate professor  
Glaucoma Specialist  
Lubbock, Texas- USA

From 1<sup>st</sup> June 2004, for limited period.

During his visit he will manage and operate on patients with Glaucoma and Cataract.

For reservation call 402005/401670

**The Eye Consultants, Zubairi St.**



## Yemeni Press.

## A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Isbou weekly, 20 May 2004.

## Main headlines

- Suad al-Qadassi: States and intelligence organizations behind woman extremism in Yemen
- Fierce conflict between the government and the free zone on the container port
- Confrontations with weapons dealers in Sa'ada
- Training course for the poorest women on health and environment
- Al-Zindani: Acquisition of the nuclear weapon depends on the establishment of Arab-Islamic union

Under a title "A hot press scene" the newspaper published a report on its front page saying ordinarily the journalists in Yemen communicate among themselves to exchange information at a time they consider it as cold to come out with exciting news stories. But the hot press event is the imprisonment sentences and cases before the courts are considered a hot atmosphere beginning a hot summer for the press.

Three cases against three journalists: Jalal al-Shara'bi, Fuad al-Rabadi and Naif Hassan because of publishing previous articles in al-Isbou newspaper. Al-Shara'bi received a sentence of three months imprisonment for publishing two articles when he was editor in chief of the newspaper. It is said they are topics offending the public conduct written by the two journalists Fuad al-Rabadi and Naif Hassan. The writers of the two article received 5 months imprisonment each. On the other hand the writer Abduljabbar Saad was sent to court because he published an article, described by an information source as offending the relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia and it was violating the freedom of press. Saad was considered as promoting for ideas encouraging extremism and terror. This case comes at a time the Tagamou newspaper is has a case before the court

That is how the journalists describe the situation as a hot journalistic moment but imprisonment sentences overshadow the freedom of press in Yemen.



Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the GPC, 17 May 2004.

## Main headlines

- Arab finance ministers discuss regional developments and their economic and financial impact
- Political parties representatives get informed on report of the first year of the poverty alleviation report
- Minister of waters and environment: We have new mechanism for tackling problems of implementing water projects in rural areas
- Elections of physicians union illegitimate for violating unanimity and non-representation of branches
- Shoura Council discusses report of Arab Development for 2003.
- Human Rights Minister says Islam exposed to deformation campaign by some world extremists despite of its agreement with human rights

The political editor of the newspaper says in an article it not probable the occurring of new surprises regarding meeting of the Arab summit but the only surprise can be the nature of decisions to be taken in it as its agenda contains very important topics concerning the Arab nation and the Arab order. The main important documents are those of the "pledge", "reformation of the Arab situation" and draft of amending the Arab League charter that proposes the establishment of new mechanisms and establishments thought to effect a certain amount of positive change in the Arab joint action. There are, of course, the issue of the Arab Israeli conflict and the complicated situation in Iraq.

The political reform process in the Arab countries is still a thorny issue and there are many various visions about it. Despite that the Arab foreign ministers have reached a conciliatory form in this regard but the reform projects proposed by America and other foreign countries would have to take a certain stand about them. The developments regarding the conflict with Israel are many, mainly the Israeli wall, Sharon's allegations of unilateral withdrawal and weakness of movements and acts regarding implementation of the roadmap. The Iraqi dossier is also on agenda of the summit but to what level

## Main Headlines

- Parliament grants the government a two-week respite to abolish selling the state of oil
- Study discloses associations non-contribution to development projects
- Four deaths at a tribal reconciliation sitting in Ibb
- Head of Iraq's Governing Council killed
- Outside parties kill head of the Iraqi governing council
- Despite its shortage, official licenses granted for exporting drinking water
- Chewing Qat prohibited inside military camps and security units
- Director of the executive center for dealing with land mines: The National Center occupies first place in the world, according to the UN evaluation
- Yemen marks the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of unification
- America unable to protect members of interim governing council members in Iraq against resistance attacks
- President of the republic addresses the nation of Yemen' Unity 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Omani authorities return five antiquity pieces to Yemen
- Hull opens projects in Abyan, fire shot at demonstrators in Lahj
- An official source at NUO calls for punishing America and backing Syria
- Saudi Guard accused of helping al-Qaeda in blowing up Hamra complex
- Three journalists given imprisonment sentences, prevented from practicing the profession
- Women's Forum concludes a training course for journalists
- Egyptian authority handed him over to Yemeni authorities, Ahmed Salem Ubeid appears in Sana'a
- Information undersecretary denies amendment of the press law
- Parliament returns YR 37 billion to the state treasury
- Opinion poll in Yemen: Abu Ghraib disgraces the occupiers
- PM represents Yemen at meetings of the Arab summit
- Al-Iryani emphasizes significance of dialogue and rejection of all forms of extremism
- The New Yorker weekly: Secret decision from Rumsfeld behind the torture behaviour against Iraqi prisoners of war
- Tellawi praises Yemen's capability of facing the standing challenges

can the summit decisions reach concerning an Arab role for stopping deterioration there and ending the occupation and helping the Iraqis for forming a constitutional government expressing their will?



Al-Balagh weekly, 18 May 2004.

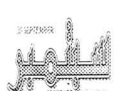
## Main headlines

- A judge orders locking a lawyer behind bars of the court jail
- Al-Balagh correspondent in Mahweet exposed to attempted assassination by director of culture office there
- Reemah governor calls on its sons to return to it and take part in building their governorate

Columnist Nouriddin Mohammed Qassem says in his article a few days ago we have recalled the catastrophe of usurping the Palestinian land by the Zionists. That 56-year-old catastrophe made us along this period blaming our luck like the bereaved people without being able to come out with a correct vision on the way of that carried us to that bitter result.

The disaster of Palestine has remained just deliberations repeated by Arab leaders, political theoreticians, leaders of opinion and centers of research and studies with the same mentality that lived the bitterness of the catastrophe without effecting any development in the approach of thinking whereas the wheel of events in the Arab region kept speeding up and did not wait for the Arab mentality.

Our detailed study of the disaster has prolonged its period and made it as a historical topic carrying doubt and truth regarding its preliminary information and as usual we have reached a conclusion.



26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces 20 May 2004.

## Main headlines

- An important national address by the president marking the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yemeni unity
- Opening the Arab trading fair,
- The vice-president of the republic confirms the necessity of activating the Arab economic action leading to the common market
- PM Bajammal leads Yemen's delegation to the Arab summit in Tunis
- 14 persons from members of Yemeni

Saudi border demarcation injured in a helicopter crash

- Chief of the general staff discusses training cooperation with between the Yemeni and French armies with a French military delegation

The newspaper editorial is devoted to talk about the 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yemeni unity saying the Yemeni republic is entering its 15<sup>th</sup> year when the Yemenis are in their celebrations are expressing their joys of the great national day represented by the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1990 as it is the day that has embodied the will of the Yemeni people and beginning of their heading for the future.

The unity day has ushered a beginning of a new phase of great changes in the history of Yemen, laying pillars of its institutional state and consolidating foundations of its structure on the democratic pursuit that is expressed by political pluralism, the freedom of opinion and expression, respect of human rights and the peaceful transfer of power so that the state at levels of its components can be an embodiment of the people's will expressed by free competitive elections. The Yemeni unity as a great achievement is extremely important not only to our people but also for the entire Arab nation as it has come at a time of various challenges facing the nation.

The unity of Yemen is a beam of light in the Arab space and its brightness completion would be connected with the Arab comprehensive unity.

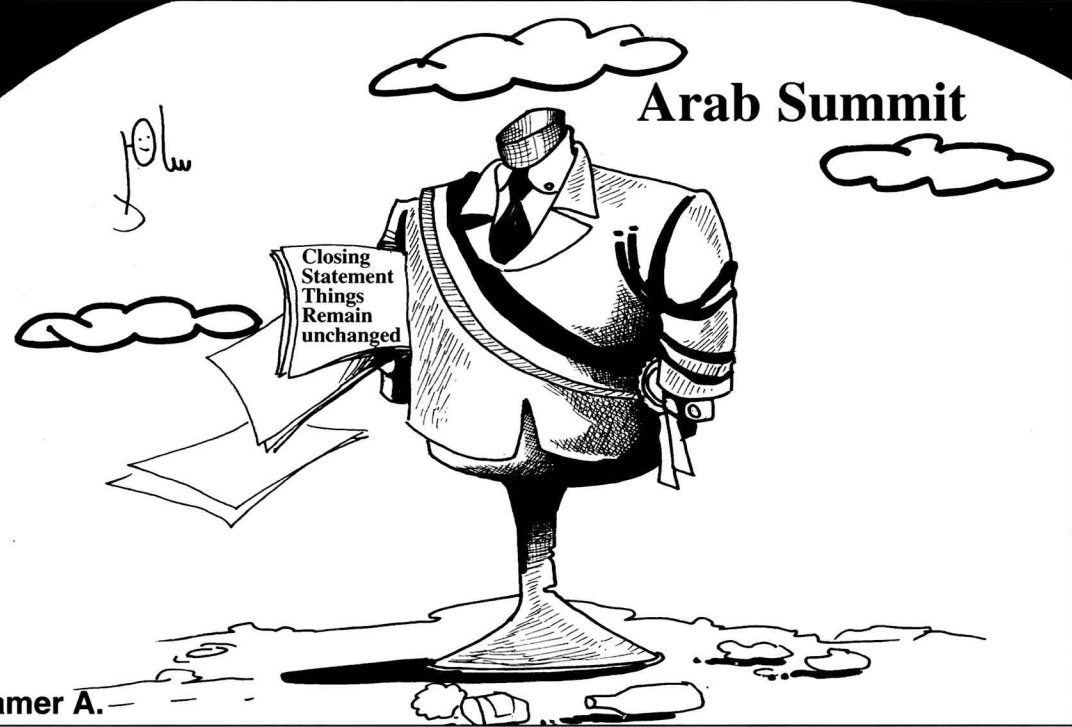


Annas weekly, 17 May 2004.

## Main headlines

- Theatrical artist Fahad al-Qarani seeks help from the minister of culture
- More than 50 thousand students join the army of unemployment
- Abortive suicide attempts in Hudidah
- In Hudidah, 10 thousand citizens without water and electricity
- Soufan: The government failed in non-oil sectors
- Hameed al-Ahmer: Tourism among the more important development industries, tourism infrastructure in need of building

Columnist Abdulaziz Awadha wonders in an article where the boundaries of information and press freedom, the opinion and the other opinion under a real democratic system or even if it claims as

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By Samer A.

representing the truth.

What has appeared in the Yemeni media arena lately of judicial rulings against journalists and newspapers and the stop of others are factors arousing such questions, especially about the future of press in an emerging democracy country.

I think these developments in the media arena have submitted the necessity of founding a legislation organizing the satisfactorily the freedom of press in a manner harmonious with the spirit and essence and requirements of democracy. It is necessary that against the former law there must be a supporting law obliging all sides to facilitate the journalist's obtaining the requested information and those two legislatures, if applied acceptably, the situation would be better. I believe that first of all we are in need of personal conviction more than legislations on paper.



Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces of Yemen 19 May 2004.

## Main headlines

- Secretary-General of UPFY: Reforms are urgent necessity, crisis with reality not with outside
- Workers of Jaheef oil company resort parliament, demand ending lease agreement
- An investor appeals to the president: I hope our rights are not plundered
- Warning against forged banknotes

Demand of a large segment of women, from various colours of political spectrum, from the government to enable women to entertain their right to decision-making and representation in high ranking posts, collides on hard reality by the

authority. Matters have now differed from what they were in the past but the woman did not benefit anything from that and nothing changed in her reality.

The national policy for population 2001-2003 and its working plan have approved a special constituent for the woman, on achieving justice between the two genders in rights and duties, concentrating on enabling her realize her full potentials and enhance her contribution to development and gain basic services of education and health and also assume positions of work, production and decision making, but nothing of that has been realized.

No doubt, the retreat in the number of women in parliament, the government and in position of decision making is attributed to a group of social, cultural hindrances and continued domination of the man that is granted to him by the society.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 18 May 2004.

## Main headlines

- Patients in al-Thawra public hospital are assassinated
- The parliament gives the government two weeks grace period to abolish the oil scandal
- A party report: 53 million riyals, corruption in offices of the GPC
- Antiquities gang blows up the house of deputy director-general of antiquities of Mahweet governorate
- Death sentence against Fuad al-Shahari, violation of justice and law of judiciary power principles
- Yemen hands over a Chinese citizen accused of forfeiting more than 600 passports and smuggling thousands of

is compatriots

- Universities Council decreases universities admission capacity
- Practical applications in training journalists on skills of polling public opinion
- Interior minister reveals a plot for assassinating the American ambassador

Columnist Suhail al-Jabali says the 22 may is the day of unity and democracy in the memory of the Yemenis and their life when balances have been tipped and situations changed. They were balances that wiped out from the world political map the existence of two different regimes that were variant and contradictory. The unity has abolished two separate parts so that Yemen can return as one as it was its reality and nature across history.

As here were world political variables helped the return of the Yemeni unity there are outside variables trying to overshadow this Yemeni leap with many obstacles under justification of reform that corrupts the political life and plays havoc with the economic situations. Those variables aim at placing the people and the government at loggerhead and between outside dictates the government has to respond and effects of impoverishment and deterioration of entire positions produced by the policies of outside dictates rejected by the people that are groaning under their crises.

The policies of outside dictates may provide the state's treasury with very big monetary liquidity but in the short and long-run would render the country into a consumer market for external products and trade and day by day they would broaden the area of poverty, unemployment and loss of capability of providing the family and spending on education, health and benefiting from the flow of the information technology revolution.

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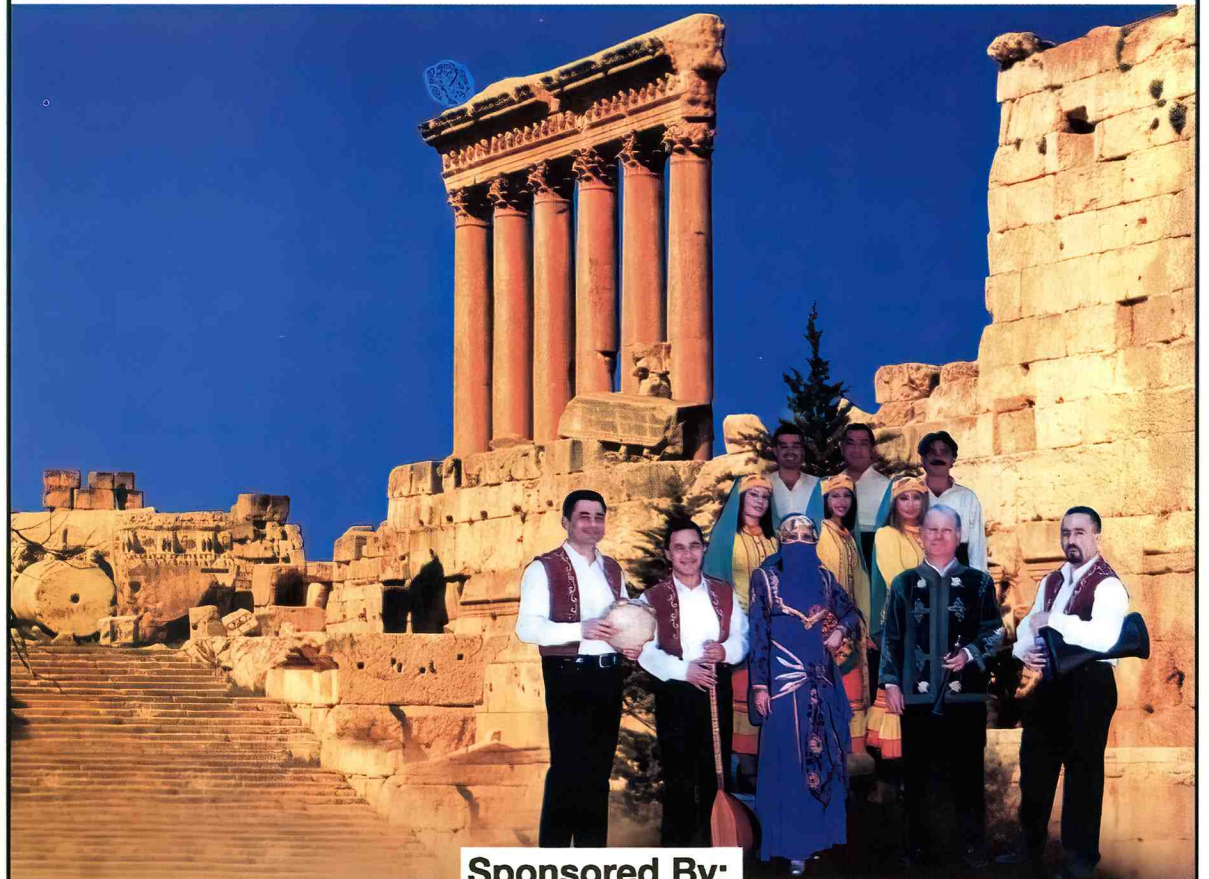
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**ممثلة بالمدير العام الأستاذ / حمدو عبد الكريم**

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**٢٢ مايو**

تعلن الشركة المتحدة للصناعات المعدنية، إحدى الشركات الرائدة في مجال المنتجات الحديدية وفرع من شركة المصنع السعودي للبروفيل في المملكة العربية السعودية، عن استعدادها التام لتلبية احتياجات كافة الاخوة رجال الاعمال والمستثمرين والهيئات المؤسسات العامة والخاصة في داخل اليمن وخارجه، وعن تقديم كافة الخدمات والمستلزمات في بناء مصانع وهانجر وكافة أنواع الحديد التجاري والصناعي. شعارنا هو ارضاء عملائنا.

نشاط شركتنا في تصنيع كافة الأشكال الحديدية: الصاج البارد، الأسود، المزيت، والمبزم، والجسور بأشكالها المختلفة، وكافة أنواع الفوارج من مستطيل ومربع وكذلك المبسط بمختلف المقاسات وبمواصفات عالية الجودة عالمياً.

كما تنتج شركتنا كافة أنواع الانابيب المجلفنة والأسود والضغط العالي والشبك والعوازل الحرارية بما يتناسب مع احتياجاتكم. ويسرنا أن نمد كافة خدمات القص، والطعج، التشكيل، والتصنيع حسب الطلب في أقسام ورشنا الفنية وبإشراف خبراء ومتخصصين ذوي خبرة عالية، ونحن على استعداد تام للبيع المباشر من موقعنا أو التسليم في موقعكم وبأفضل الأسعار.

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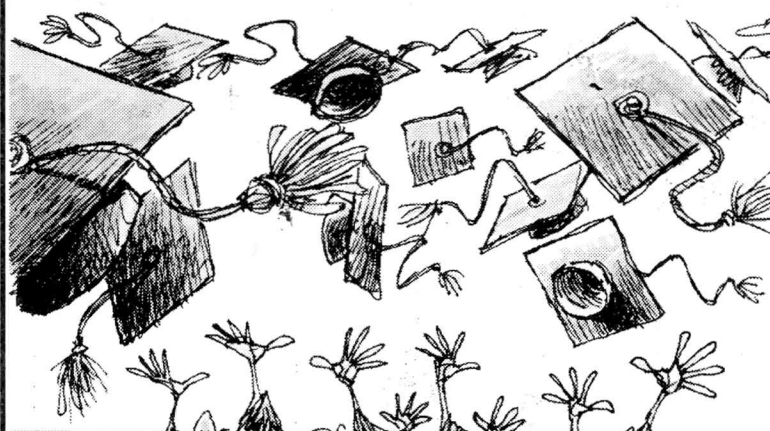
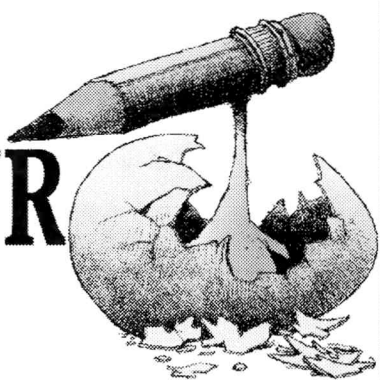
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Ans cont (6)

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Abdullah Saleh  
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Ans. Cont. 14

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advertisement  
enjoy  
explain  
suggestion

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## THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



BY Eugenia



**Aries**  
(Mar 21 - Apr 19)  
You should be taking good care of yourself. If you aren't, make the changes that will bring about a better diet and lifestyle. Work-related events will result in meeting someone you would like to get to know better



**Taurus**  
(Apr 20 - May 20)  
You owe it to yourself to have some fun. Whatever you do, make it a day that will bring you a little relief from your usual routine.



**Gemini**  
(May 21 - Jun 20)  
Problems at home may lead to some unexpected bills. Don't let things go that need to be tended to immediately. Get the approval of neighbors before making exterior changes to your home.



**Cancer**  
(Jun 21 - Jul 22)  
The information you hear through conversations you have will be more valuable than you first realize. Romance could easily develop through a mutual friend.



**Leo**  
(Jul 23 - Aug 22)  
If you haven't lived up to your expectations, look into what it will take to do so. Do not give up when all that's required is a little extra push. This is not the day to sell yourself short.



**Virgo**  
(Aug 23 - Sep 22)  
If you tend to overdo it, you may find that your life becomes complicated at a personal level. You are likely to offend someone if you imply you are superior.



**Libra**  
(Sept 23 - Oct 22)  
Renovations, redecorating and entertaining should be your plan. The action that takes place around you will ensure you have plenty of invitations later on and the chance to meet someone who shares common interests.



**Scorpio**  
(Oct 23 - Nov 21)  
Opportunities will appear at the most unusual moment. Don't second-guess yourself. Romantic encounters may unfold through the company you spend time with today.



**Sagittarius**  
(Nov 22 - Dec 21)  
Watch out for people who try to push you into a commitment. The actions that other people take should open your eyes to their true character. Re-evaluate some of your relationships.



**Capricorn**  
(Dec 22 - Jan 19)  
You will be a hot commodity today, and whatever you decide should be what goes. Your creative senses will be high so you will get the backing you need to move forward.



**Aquarius**  
(Jan 20 - Feb 18)  
Take a look at the legal side of any issue you find yourself in. Have your facts straight so you know exactly where you stand financially. Don't neglect those bills.



**Pisces**  
(Feb 19-Mar 20)  
Relationships can take a turn today. How you handle the people around you will be the determining factor as to whether you will move forward. State your case clearly.







## Moore's anti-Bush film a Cannes favourite

Critics rank Michael Moore as one of the favourites to land the top prize at the Cannes film Festival after his blistering anti-Bush documentary won a standing ovation.

"Fahrenheit 911" is now firmly in line to be the first documentary to land the Palme d'Or since Jacques Cousteau and Louis Malle's marine epic "The World of Silence" in 1956.

The documentary, launched in a storm of publicity after a row over its distribution in a U.S. election year, is a relentless tirade against Bush's handling of the Iraq conflict and the "war on terror."

Moore would dearly love to see Bush defeated in November's election and critics saw the emotive documentary as an effective rallying cry for his opponents.

Screen International, which takes the festival temperature every day, put Moore up with French director Agnes Jaoui's "Look at me" on Tuesday as one of the leading contenders.

The magazine asks critics from as far apart as Israel, Estonia and Canada to pick their favourites so far at the festival.

The influential Variety trade magazine called the film "a blatant cinematic 2004 campaign pamphlet" and said Moore could convince disillusioned and disenfranchised Americans to vote.

"He might prove somewhat successful due to the emotionalism of his pitch," it said.

The Hollywood Reporter said: "What Moore seems to be pioneering here is a reality film as an election year device."

Moore, a masterful self-publicist in stirring up controversy over his documentaries, was welcomed by fans like a rock star when he took to the red carpet at the Palais des Festivals on Monday night.

Cult film American film director Quentin Tarantino is heading the Cannes judges who pick the winner on Saturday of one of the movie world's most treasured prizes after the Hollywood Oscars.



Film director Michael Moor.

(Reuters)

Moore's latest documentary first hit the headlines when the Walt Disney Co barred its Miramax film unit from releasing such a politically polarising work so close to an election.

But Moore confidently predicted to reporters "This film will be seen in the United States before the election — have no fear of that."

Judging by the 20-minute standing ovation for the film at its world premiere on Monday, Moore could be onto another winner.

Two years ago, his anti-gun lobby documentary "Bowling for Columbine" was rapturously received by the critics, went on to gross \$120 million (68 million pounds) and landed Moore an Oscar.

## Carnival on the creativity of the handicapped

By Yasser Al-Mayasi  
Yemen Times Staff

Saturday, 22 May 2004- President Saleh inaugurated today the 10-day carnival being held at Sabean Park in Sana'a, organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism within the framework of the ongoing activities to mark "Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital, 2004".

The carnival aims to show the innovations and creativity of the deaf, mute and handicapped. It also reflects their high spirits, will, and strong determination to overcome and to conquer their disabilities, and to highlight their ability to merge and contribute to society and to the development of their country in the light of the care and attention they have been

receiving.

The carnival shows also the efforts being exerted to care for and to integrate the handicapped and those of need of special care, and to benefit from their abilities through the educational, training and integration programs that have been provided. It also aims to put in place cultural, artistic and informational programs that will contribute to highlighting the issue of the handicapped.

The carnival consists of several creative and artistic activities by some of the handicapped and of handicraft exhibitions, organized by deaf, mute and handicapped associations from various governorates of the Republic.

A handicraft products exhibition was held, which reflected the abilities and creativity of the handicapped and those in need of special care to over-

come their disabilities.

In addition, the carnival will include several cultural seminars, plays and other cultural activities depicting the suffering of the handicapped in their country.



The deaf and dumb exhibiting their creative handicrafts on the Yemeni Unity Day (photo by Yasser Al-Mayasi)

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