

Trial of 15 al-Qaeda Suspects Continues

Prosecution presents seized materials and advocates demand fair trial

BY MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Sana'a Criminal Court for Terrorism and Kidnapping continued Tuesday its second hearing for the tribunal of 15 suspected terrorists, one of whom is still at large, charged with several terrorist operations and plots, mainly the blowing up of the French tanker 'Limburg'.

The prosecution brought seized explosives and weapons as evidence against the suspects but the lawyers of the suspects refused that and considered the step illegal.

The suspects chose in the hearing Mohammed Allawo and Abdulaziz al-Samawi as their lawyers; later other three advocates including Khalid al-Anisi joined the defence team.

Fawaz al-Rabee, who is believed the leader of the group suspected of being members of al-Qaeda, told Judge Ahmad Mohammed al-Jermuzi that the judiciary is not independent as the court judge ordered in the first hearing session that the suspects should be given access to the visits of their families, which was not achieved, and they were not able to appoint their advocates.

The prosecution charged the fifteen suspected terrorists in the first hearing, held last Saturday, with blowing up the French oil tanker in Mukalla in October

2002, carrying out several explosions in Sana'a, killing one soldier and plotting to blow up the US, UK, French, German and Cuban embassies in Sana'a as well as plotting the assassination of the US Ambassador to Yemen, Edmund Hull, in addition to several bombings in Sana'a.

The lawyers appealed to the court judge to postpone the discussion of the seized explosives and weapons before they are given chance to view the files of the investigations with the suspects and defend them against the charges made by the prosecution. They also asked to the judge to prevent the filming reporting of the hearings. They confirmed that they would quit defending the suspects if they feel they are mere puppets to decorate the tribunal and show a façade of fairness only.

Allawo and al-Samwai attacked the prosecution, accusing it of violating the law as they interrogated the suspects without enabling them to have advocates. However, the prosecutor Saeed al-Akil said he offered lawyers and that the suspects said they did not need them and would defend themselves, which the suspects denied. "The Americans interrogators who attended the investigations asked the Yemeni interrogators whether the suspects have advocates and that they must be informed it is their right to have lawyers, which they

Yemeni side neglected," Allawo said. He threatened that he would expose terrifying things about the suspects and how they were dealt with, as mentioned in the report of the fact-finding committee set up by Parliament.

The seized explosives and weapons that were brought into the court room included 10 boxes stuffed with T.N.T, four RPG rockets, and other amounts of explosives.

The advocates were able to convince the court judge to postpone the discussion of the seized materials as evidence against the al-Qaeda suspects. "We hope that the judge would stop his decision to discuss the seized materials so as to avoid our demand that the suspects are tried before an American court according to the US law," Allawo said. The judge court agreed to the demand and decided to give the advocates a chance to study the files of investigations with the suspects until the next hearing next Monday. The lawyers stated that the chains round the hands of the suspects should be taken away and that they should be able to meet them without the monitoring of the security men; they also demanded that the suspects should be taken from the Intelligence Prison to the Central Prison, allowing their families to visit them.



Continued on page 6

Samples of seized weapons and munitions used by terrorist attacks.

Photo By M. Al-Qadhi

Abu Hamza still wanted in Yemen

BY PETER WILLEMS
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Soon after Abu Hamza Al-Masri was arrested last week in London based on terror charges in the United States, the

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Yemeni government demanded the extradition of the Muslim cleric to Yemen.

Mohieddine Al-Dabi, Director General of Yemen's Ministry of Interior, said the government is pushing for Abu Hamza to stand trial for his involvement in terrorist crimes in Yemen in 1998.

"We will exert major efforts with the United States to have Abu Hamza Al-Masri turned over to Yemen in case he was handed over by London to Washington," said Al-Dabi last Saturday, two days after Abu Hamza was arrested.

Abu Hamza is wanted in Yemen on charges of orchestrating terrorist activities while being based in Britain. He is suspected of being involved in the kidnapping of 16 Western tourists in December 1998. Four of the hostages were killed during a rescue attempt carried out by the Yemeni army.

An official at the Ministry of Justice told Yemen Times that the Yemeni government has gathered enough evidence to prosecute Abu Hamza.

"Yemen has enough evidence, so the government wants to try him here where he committed terrorist crimes," said the judicial source. "With this much evidence, Yemen wants to put him on trial."

Continued on page 6

The President calls for reconsideration of the Press Law and abolition of imprisonment of journalists

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The President's decision to abolish the imprisonment of journalists was widely welcomed by private and opposition newspapers following their intense pressure on this subject. The Public Freedoms and Human Rights parliamentary committee has also expressed its support for the decision.

The President, during a meeting with the Minister of Information and official media corporations, con-

firmed the importance of reconsidering the Press and Printing Law in order to develop and improve the performance of the press profession toward granting more freedom of expression and opinion. The law would include the abolition of the imprisonment of journalists for their opinions. The President said that Yemen has adopted the principle of democracy based on political plural-

ism and public freedoms, including freedom of the press as the choice of Yemenis toward advancement, progress and prosperity.

The President confirmed that the press profession bears an important role in educating and raising public awareness in elimination vengeance phenomenon and in enhancing safety, security and stability of the country. "A large responsibility lies in the hands of official newspapers and media in setting a correct example of responsibility for other media organi-

zations to follow", said the President.

The President confirmed the importance for Ministry of Information to reconsider laws in order to meet current developments. He said that he wanted to see tangible changes in the media organizations toward the sought objectives.

Despite the welcome of press circles of the President's decision, some journalists are still doubtful of the intentions of the President, and fearful of other intimidating measures journalists encounter.

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Arrests of protestors continue

Sources have confirmed to Yemen Times that Political Security Apparatus continues its arrest campaign, launched about six months ago, against protestors at the Grand Mosque in Sana'a and at several mosques in Sadaah Governorate. The latest was the arrest of 16 persons last Friday. The detainees were chanting, following the prayers, "Death to America and Israel".

The Political Security Apparatus arrested on Friday 19th June 18 persons, most of whom were believed to have come to the Grand Mosque from

other governorates of the Republic.

According to reliable sources, the number of detainees up to now is estimated at 638, believed to belong to the Shiite sect in Yemen.

The security authority in Sadaah Governorate closed a mosque and arrested its Imam, Abdullah Ali, along with a number of followers.

It is worth mentioning that the security authorities' arrest campaign has extended to Sadaah, Amman, and Hajah governorates where followers of the Shiite sect are residing in Yemen.

Hammas condemns attack on Khobar

An official from Hammas issued the following statement:

"The Islamic Resistant Movement (Hammas) expresses its strong condemnation and regrets to the unjustified attack that took place at a residential compound in Khobar City, in the brotherly country of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, leading to death of 10s of civilians and the innocent.

As we renew our utter rejection

and condemnation of these attacks that harm the security and stability of our nation and national and Islamic interests, we call on the perpetrators and those standing behind them to cease such acts for the sake of protecting the security and interests of their country and Arab nation, especially in the light of the current external challenges and threats facing our nation.

The first culture and awareness training session

Wednesday, 24 May, Aden- A four-day training session began last Sunday at Al-Shamy Hotel, Aden. It is organized by Yemen Studies and Human Rights Center, in cooperation with the UNDP. 30 participants, representing Shabwah, Abyan, Lahj, Al-Dhala, Taiz, and Ibb in addition to Aden governorates, both male and female, are participating in it.

The opening speech, delivered by Mr. Omr Ba Wazeer, Executive Director of the Center, alluded to the importance of such training session in creating more awareness in favor of enhancing respect of human rights and strengthening Yemen's emerging democracy, and development of civil society organizations. It also emphasized that the involvement and participation of civil society organizations, forums and political parties, at the senior levels, would assist in improving human rights and enhancing democracy, and enable them to introduce new specialized departments in their establishments and organizations dedicated to these two issues, either in the field of awareness and learning and spreading human-rights values, or in enhancing and defending democracy. Civil society organizations must effectively and seriously contribute in reforming and developing the democracy experiment towards achieving the ultimate goal, a more contemporary and developed new Yemen, where human rights are interconnected with every aspect of life.

The speech confirmed that embedding and disseminating the human-rights culture could not be done independently from the roles of schools, universities, curriculums and the adaptation of political life. The achievement of development, advancement

and prosperity in the country could not happen also without a genuinely complete democracy, in parallel with the respect of human rights, including women's rights.

The session's agenda consisted of, during the first two days, 3 lectures; on civic and political rights; woman and child rights; and economic, social and cultural rights in international laws and conventions, delivered by Dr. Abdul Wahab Shamsan, a law professor at Aden University, Ms. Radheah Shamsseer, an activist on society and women's issues, and by Dr. Jafar Al-Khamery, respectively. The third day witnessed a lecture by Dr. Mohamed Abdul Malik, titled, "Human Rights in Islamic Teachings", followed by a lecture on the role of civil society organizations in enhancing democracy by Dr. Hussein Ba Salamah.

The training session concludes today in the afternoon with a lecture by Mr. Mohamed Qassem, President of the Center, about the importance of teaching and spreading the human rights culture, followed by a discussion ring on two working papers, regarding the situation of Yemeni woman, the first on the experiment of Yemen woman in education and political life, and the second on the reality of the situation of Yemeni woman today, submitted by Dr. Esmhan Al-Alasy, Professor of Arts and Letters, Aden University, and by Ms. Khawlah Sharaf, a women's rights activist and former member of parliament, respectively.

It is expected that certificates will be handed out to the participants. The opening ceremony was attended by social dignitaries, politicians and university professors in Aden, and the Consuls of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Libya in Aden.

European Union delegation of the European commission to the Republic of Yemen

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The European Union and the Republic of Yemen have concluded a first Cooperation Agreement in 1984 and established diplomatic relations. Following the reunification of the country in 1990 a new Cooperation Agreement was negotiated and entered into force in 1995.

On 18 December 2003 an agreement establishing a Delegation of the European Commission in the Capital Sana'a was signed by Chris Patten, Commissioner for External Relations, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Yemen in Brussels. This agreement marks a further milestone in the mutual relationship between Yemen and the European Union (EU). The diplomatic mission in place since 1 January 2004 replaces the Technical Assistance Office the European Commission maintained since 1995 and through

which the EU has channeled its important development cooperation assistance. The EU, without taking into account the significant aid provided by individual member states of the Union, has made available the amount of 225 million Euros over the last 15 years and will continue to do so. As agreed during the last joint cooperation committee held in October 2003, the Union will again available some 30 mill Euros yearly in 2005 and 2006.

Recently the Commission has appointed Dr. Ralf Dreyer as Charge d' Affaires to the Delegation Dr. Dreyer has served the last six years in Prague as Deputy Head of Mission and Charge d' Affaires during the last year before accession of the Czech Republic to the Union. He had been posted before to Cairo, Luxembourg and Brussels, where among other tasks, he dealt in particular with the GCC and its Member States, Iraq,

Iran, Tunisia, the Euro-Arab Dialogue and the two Yemens at the time. Dr. Dreyer worked also for the German Government in Sana'a in 1976 and 1977. He wrote his doctoral thesis about the constitutional law of the Arabic countries with a particular emphasis on the Yemen Arab Republic.

Upon his arrival Dr. Dreyer said "I am glad to be here again, in a country that has been reunited and has made significant progress to political participation of its citizens and in the field of human rights. Security of its population and the international community is another issue, which has significantly improved thanks to the efforts undertaken by the country. The Sana'a Declaration is the result of an important conference and an important document in the international community and constitutes also the basis for the future relationship with the Union.

Civic Society Seminar in GCC countries

TAIZ BUREAU

A seminar under the slogan, "Reality Challenges and Future Horizons", held at Shamsan Hotel, Taiz, concluded last Wednesday. The seminar was concerned with civil society in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Persian Gulf. It was organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC), supported by the Conrad Corporation. More than 60 participants, representing Yemen, Qatar, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates took part in it.

The opening session of seminar commenced on Tuesday, 4 May, in the presence of Secretary General of the Local Council in Taiz, Mr. Mohamed Al-Haj, President of Taiz University, Dr. Mohamed Al-Sofi, Sheikh Jaber Abdullah Ghalib, Head of the PGC office in Taiz and representatives of political parties and civil society organizations.

Several working papers were presented during the days of the session. Dr. Mohamed Mughrum, a law professor at Sana'a University, presented a working paper entitled, "Civil Society in Yemen... the legal reality problems", in which he dealt with Yemeni

legislation and constitutional texts that regulate and govern the work and freedom of civil society organizations and the obstacles facing them, in comparison with international laws and conventions.

Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah presented a working paper concerning the problems in the relations between civil society organizations and official authorities, and Ms. Zainub Al-Dowazy, from Bahrain Human Rights Association, presented a working paper about the civil society movements in Arab countries, in which she dealt with political parties and labor organizations as civil society organizations and the problems facing their work. Sudanese Dr. Alabeid Ahmed, an expert at the Human Rights Support Program at the UN, presented a working paper about the independence and funding of civil society organizations. Several other related working papers by prominent dignitaries and university professors were also discussed.

The participants discussed the current role of civil society organizations and the requirements to discharge this role effectively during the coming periods. They summarized the needed requirements in the followings:

1- Activating effective and serious

mechanisms for cooperation between civil society organizations and government corporations, at each country's level and the regional level in order to achieve total integration in activities and goals.

2- The work to enhance the roles of civil society organizations as effective partners in the development and formulation of the future.

3- Spreading the human rights culture in societies.

4- Exchange of expertise and information among civil society organizations at the regional level.

5- Adopting constant open dialogue programs and regular joint sessions between civil societies and activists at the regional level in order to accomplish practical regional programs effectively.

6- Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) is assigned to follow up the continuation of dialogue at the level of Arab countries in the Arab Peninsula and the Gulf toward reaching renewed mechanisms confirming the integrated work between civil society organizations and enhancing their effective roles in society through consultations with various effective organizations and activities.

Yemen participated in Shanghai's conference

Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Executive Director of Social Fund for Development, Mr. Abdulkareem Ismail Al-Arhabi, headed the delegation of the Republic of Yemen to the World Conference in Shanghai on International Experiments on Combating Poverty.

The Yemeni delegation included a number of officials from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and representatives of some civil society organizations.

The Yemeni experiment, in the form of the Social Fund for Development, was discussed and recognized by the participants as one of the world's best experiments in combating poverty.

Ministry of Planning signs agreement with the US allocating \$14 million development projects

U.S. Ambassador Edmund Hull and Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Planning and International Cooperation signed an "Allocation Minute" on Monday, May 31, to allocate \$ 14 million to various development projects. The funds will be provided through the "PL-480 program". The specific projects to be funded include agricultural programs in Abyan Governorate, a fishing facility at Hodeida Port, rural road and community development

projects in the Tihama, livestock and horticultural development projects in Mareb, Amran and Tihama, agricultural research and extension projects across the country and a program of support for the Yemeni Ministry of Agriculture. After signing the accord, Ambassador Hull said that these projects were just the beginning of a sustained U.S. - Yemeni effort aimed at helping Yemen's efforts at development and to create jobs for the Yemeni people.

Undersecretary of Iranian Foreign Ministry to Yemen Times

BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Wednesday 26 May 2004- Dr. Mohamed Al-Sadr, Undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry of Islamic Republic of Iran, who is currently in Yemen, confirmed in a statement to Yemen Times that his visit to Yemen was to hold the Yemeni-Iranian Joint Political Committee, established on April 2000.

The committee discussed several issues of mutual concern to both countries, particularly the issues that require political coordination and consultations.

The meeting reviewed, in its meeting, the progress of bilateral relations and aspects of cooperation and the means to enhance linkages between the two fraternal countries, especially since the Yemeni-Iranian relations

have witnessed noticeable advancement following the visit of the President of Iran to Sana'a on May 2003.

The Undersecretary pointed out that the goal of the Joint Political Committee is to evaluate bilateral relations and to surmount obstacles standing before them. He added that the committee assists in coordinating relations and the exchange of views and opinions on political development at the regional and international levels.

The current talks focused on the exchange of information between the two foreign ministries, and the possibility of involving Yemeni diplomats in the Iranian Diplomatic Institute.

Dr. Al-Sadr confirmed that the economic field occupied a large portion of the talks. On a final note, the Undersecretary revealed that an Iranian Cultural Week would be held in



Dr. Al-Sadr

Sana'a during the coming few days, within the framework of activities of Sana'a, the Arab Cultural Capital 2004.

Minister of Youth and Sports in Taiz

TAIZ BUREAU

Saturday, 21 May 2004, Taiz- The Minister of Youths and Sports, Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Akwa, accompanied by Taiz Mayor Judge Ahmed Al-Hajry, and Mr. Shawgy Hayel, Chairman of Development and Planning Commission in the Local Council, paid an inspection visit to the international sports stadium project site located at the old airport. The 40,000 spectator stadium is being constructed at state expense with an estimated cost of 2.2 million Riyals.

The two officials then inaugurated the first phase of "Al-Ahly" Sports Club investment project, which consists of 13 investment units at a cost of 60 million Riyals at the expense of the

Youths Care Fund. They moved on to the opening ceremony of the "Al-Saqur" Sports Club's Development Project, which cost 235 million Riyals, funded by the private sector. They were briefed, during glimpses of the club's premises, by Mr. Shawgy Haely, who is also the president of the club, about the ongoing renovation and modernization of the club, especially the ones being funded by the Ministry. The most significant of these projects is the club's new sports stadium.

The Minister and the Mayor later laid the foundation stone of an Indoor Sports Dome to be established in the Hoban area, with a preliminary estimated cost of 100 million Riyals, funded by the Youths Care Fund.

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

Will the US fulfill its promise of granting the new Iraqi government full sovereignty?
 • I don't think so
 • It is possible after formation of an elected government
 • I don't think the Iraqi government will have full sovereignty over armed forces and foreign policy

last edition's question:

Do you think the kicked off trial of terrorist suspects in Yemen would convince the parties targeted by those incidents to close their files?

• Yes, I think so 52%
 • No, I don't think the files are to be closed for good 28%
 • May be some of them prefer trying suspect in their countries 20%

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In Brief

Two corpses found... perpetrators unknown

Friday, 28 May, 2004- The body of 25 year-old Khaled Abdullah Saeed, a resident of Al-Turbah Al-Hujareh, was found on a street. He appeared to have died from multiple bullet wounds. The attacker is unknown.

The body of Al-Zahra Girls' School Principal, Abdo Al-Haj Ali, 40 years old, was found also dead with multiple gunshot wounds. The perpetrator and motive are also still unknown.

Three killed in Ibb after Friday prayers

Attacks on worshippers inside mosques have shown a worrying increase recently. 16 worshippers have fallen victim so far this year.

Three persons were killed and sixteen were injured when a person threw a hand grenade at worshippers immediately following Friday prayers in Al-Sayani, Ibb governorate.

There are indications that the perpetrator, who was immediately shot by a worshipper, was working as a school principal.

Citizens of Al-Salaw appeal to President Saleh

Citizens of Al-Salaw Province in Taiz Governorate sent a letter to President Saleh complaining to him of the difficulty and hardship they have been encountering in their province, situated on the peak of a mountain, due to the rugged road to and from their province.

The citizens have invited the President to visit their province hoping that the President, upon his visit, would issue directives to carry out some projects related to the infrastructure of the province. The citizens argued, according to the letter, that Al-Salaw Province has not been given the care and attention of the President as is customary and expected of him.

Elections of Students Union

Students at Sana'a University and at branched faculties began last Saturday the students' union general elections amid furious competition between Islah and the PGC.

According to monitors, Islah, which entered the elections in a unified list with opposition parties, dominated students' divisions at faculties of Arts and Letters, Engineering and Medicine.

Also, according to monitors, the students' elections, held last Saturday, would open the way for a fierce conflict between the two parties after the victory of Islah party in the Training Union Elections, held at Sana'a University last month.

The number of registered candidates in the elections was 2149 students of both genders in all of the faculties at the university.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister:

“It is time to put a legal frame for Yemeni-Russian cooperation in the fight of terrorism and exchange of information”

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Wednesday, 26 May, 2004- Russian Deputy Foreign Minister and the official on terror department, Mr. Anotoly Safonov, held a press conference on this day in Sana'a, during which he revealed the purpose of his visit to Sana'a and the outcome of his talks with a number of Yemeni officials, in addition to his meeting with H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic.

The Russian official proceeded by saying, “The prime mission of the Terror Department at the Russian Foreign Ministry is to combat terrorism and terrorist elements likely to use high precision arms and weapons of mass destruction, in addition to its involvement in issues related to illegal drug trafficking, money laundering and rooting out sources of terrorism”.

The Russian official added that his department is also concerned with the apprehending of outlaws, through custom-designed coordination with other countries of the world, in harmony with effective legal procedures in each country.

“Russia is currently undertaking its cooperation on terrorism on three levels”, said the Deputy. “The first level is the coordination of joint acts between Russia and each concerned country. The second is the combating of terrorism at the local and regional levels within the frame of regional and international organizations such as within the G8 group or the Shanghai Cooperation Group. The third level of



Mr. Anotoly Safonov

cooperation is with the Terrorism Combating Commission of United Nations”, the Russian official elaborated.

He also pointed out that there are other international centers to combat terrorism such as:

- 1- The center in Tashkent, the Uzbekistani capital affiliated with the Shanghai Group.
- 2- Manila center, affiliated with the Asia and Indian Ocean Cooperation Organization.
- 3- A center in Algeria

- 4- A center in South Africa.
- 5- A center in Latin America

Regarding the relations between Russia and Yemen

“The relations between Russia and Yemen are historic. They have spanned a period of more than 70 years with intensive consultations and contacts between the two political leaderships, in particular between President Putin and President Saleh, who have met several times in recent times”, said Mr. Anotoly.

“The cooperation extends to various fields including the economic, military and cultural cooperation”, he added.

The Russian official talked about his meeting with President Saleh where they discussed the Al-Qaeda phenomenon, its development, expansion, and motives, as well as other reasons leading to terrorism from a scientific point of view. He said that the two agreed to the importance of rooting out the sources of terrorism, and at the same time, resolving the causes leading to terrorism, headed by the Middle East conflicts. In addition, the two sides discussed the political, economic and religious aspects related to terrorism. The two also discussed the threats facing them, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the situations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Balkan regions.

The two sides agreed it was time to move toward the practical phase of implementation cooperation between them through a legal frame and that the cooperation would continue and develop towards the exchange of information between the security authorities, training the Yemeni security cadre in fighting terrorism and to other areas.

In his reply to a question about the Russia support to the Yemeni coast-guard, the Russian official said, “Russia did not receive any request from the Yemeni government to contribute in the establishing of coast-guards”.

He added, “Russia, in the past, contributed in the training of Yemeni cadres, especially in the military field, and we are optimistic about the

prospect of the cooperation in the future.”

Regarding the role of Russia in the Quartet to find a peaceful settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the stance of Russia toward Iraq, Mr. Safonov said that Russia always votes at the Security Council in favor of simple and innocent people in Palestine, but other countries always veto resolutions. Russia also supports President Arafat. Russia was against the US unilateral invasion of Iraq and it doubted that there were any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

“Terrorism networks have multiplied in Iraq and as Ms. Madeline Albright said “Terrorism was born after US forces entered the country”, and we are working with our partners (US and Britain and other) to find solutions and peaceful means of existence”.

“Currently, the US has presented a draft and Russia is examining it. We are keen to sustain cooperation with Iraq. There are many Russian experts currently in Iraq who are helping to rebuild Iraqi economic establishments”.

The Russian official said that his recent visit to Saudi and his meetings with a number of Saudi officials was successful. “The Saudi officials confirmed to me that a number of steps were taken regarding the special funds, which used to fund terrorism. Saudi now is more cooperative with other countries in the field of terrorism and this is positive and it pleases us”, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister concluded his press conference.

CHANGE

She Wrote

Atheism versus Unity of God

BY SADAF SHAH
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FOR THE YEAMEN TIMES

I heard somewhere that you should write about what you know. Well, something I know to be the absolute truth, without a doubt, is the existence and unity of God. This belief is not necessarily stemming from my religious affiliation, although of course, Islam has played a major role in my understanding of the unity of God. However, even in Islam, Muslims are encouraged to seek God for themselves as opposed to just being told of His existence and blindly believing. Islam places much importance on the belief of an All-Knowing, Ever Present, and Perfect Being who takes interest in the lives of His creation and actively takes part. At the same time, this All-Mighty God also encourages all to seek and walk the path towards Him. For me personally, my belief in God is something so entrenched in my whole person that I cannot help but respond to polytheism and atheism. This ‘entrenchment’ is a direct result of the many learning experiences of my life, and is not merely pieces of knowledge that I have gathered from books or religious figures. God has sent many prophets for the guidance of mankind, and I am not claiming to know God through my own personal experiences without the aid of divine guidance. I am simply saying that it is possible for a person to know and feel God after such guidance has been explored and understood. This brings me to the question of atheism. After the horrific aftermath of the two World Wars and the full impact of the Holocaust were realized, many people started questioning the existence of God. “If God existed, this would not have happened. He would not have allowed for such suffering.” Since then, naturalists and scientists have been hard at work trying to prove the non-existence of God. Even philosophers have joined them in their endeavors. Some ordinary people have endeavored the movement out of suffering that they have endured to justify their atheistic belief. From the Holy Qur’an, we understand that God did not create suffering as an independent entity in its own right, but only as an indispensable counterpart of pleasure and comfort. The absence of happiness is suffering, which is like its shadow, just as darkness is the shadow cast by the absence of light. If there is life, there has to be death; both are situated at the extreme poles of the same plane, with innumerable grades and shades in between. As we move away from death, we gradually move towards a state of life, which is happiness; as we move away from life, we move away with a sense of loss and sorrow towards death. This is the key to understanding the struggle for existence, which in turn leads to a constant improvement in the quality of life and helps it to achieve the ultimate goal of evolution. The principle of the “survival of the fittest” plays an integral role in this grand scheme of evolution. It is the perpetual struggle between life and death that subjects the living to a constant state of trial, so that all who conduct themselves best survive and gain a higher status of existence. It is this constant struggle between the forces of life and the forces of death, which provide the thrust to the living to perpetually move away from death or towards it. Suffering could only be considered objectionable if it were created as an independent entity with no meaningful role to play in the scheme of things. But without the taste of suffering or an awareness of what it means, the feeling of relief and comfort would also vanish. Such a divine plan can only be the creation of an Omnipotent, Omnipresent, and Omniscient God.

UNDP, Italy support Socotra conservation project

The United Nations Development Programme and Italy have concluded a cost-sharing agreement with Yemen to support a conservation project on the island of Socotra. This move comes as the latest in a series of UNDP-supported and -facilitated projects in Yemen, and is the successor to the programme “Environment and poverty alleviation for the people of Socotra”.

The agreement provides for contributions of Euro 2.5 million from the Government of Italy and USD 2.5 million from the UNDP. The Government of Yemen is to provide in-kind support for the project.

A press release issued by the UNDP office in Sana'a identified the goals of the project as to: 1) boost economic growth, particularly through ecotourism and sustainable fisheries; 2) address community development needs and involve local communities

in the development project; 3) enhance the capability of the authorities in Socotra to lead sustainable development; 4) develop a partnership between the island of Socotra and the Galapagos national park of Ecuador.

The UNDP press release stated that the commitment of the parties to develop Socotra is a reflection of the “uniqueness and importance [of the island, which is] recognized nationally and internationally”.

A Sudanese statement on signing peace agreement

The Embassy of the Republic of Sudan in Sana'a distributed last week a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sudan, expressing its congratulations to the people in Sudan in signing three agreements for peace in Nenshasa, Kenya, on 26 May.

The statement expressed gratitude and appreciation to those who contributed in the making of peace among Arab and African Sudanese.

The statement says, “In these historic moments, let us not forget the large contributions of many of our brothers in Africa during the long march toward peace, namely the brothers in Nigeria who exerted tremendous efforts in the

early stages, and to express our appreciation of the efforts of Egypt and Libya and the launching of their joint initiative in 1999 that confirmed the pioneering role of President Mubarak and Moamir Al-Qadhafi. Let us remember their certain and constant keenness to install peace in Sudan, and to enhance and strengthen ties and relations between the three countries”.

The statement concludes by confirming that the Sudanese government utterly abides by the signed agreements and protocols, and its keenness that the accomplishment will be the beginning of permanent peace throughout Sudan for all of its citizens.

512,000 students head for final exams

Dr. Abdul Aziz Bin Habtour, Deputy Minister of Education and Chairman of the High Exam Commission said that the commission took into consideration situations and mental conditions of students during the preparations of final exams that commence on June 12 and that questions will not be difficult and

from the curriculums.

The Deputy Minister said that 207,000 high school students in the two educational divisions (scientific and literature) will take their final exams at 875 exam centers, whilst 305,000 students (ninth graders) head for final exams at 3128 examination centers.

Series of crimes by a professional gang may come to an end

TAIZ BUREAU

Sunday, 30 May, 2004, Taiz- Col. Yahya Al-Haisame, Deputy Chief of Security, in a statement to Yemen Times, said that the series of crimes committed by a gang specializing in conning and robbing citizens using anesthetic may finally come to an end, following the arrest of one its member

in action. The security forces are interrogating the culprit to apprehend the rest of the gang.

A professional gang has recently been active in Taiz in conning and robbing innocent citizens, usually coming out from either a jewelry shop or an exchange store, by anesthetizing victims and taking them to public hospitals. A member of the gang would pretend to

know the victim or to be some sort of an acquaintance to the chosen victim. The victim would be lured or tempted to drink with him a glass of fresh lemonade with anesthetic. Yemen Times regularly reported some of the incidents.

In the latest adventure of the gang, one of its members, as precautionary measure, decided to take his victim to a private hospital, where he was arrested.

Bonn Sings for Sana'a

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Among the Germany cultural contributions to Sana'a as the capital of Arabic culture 2004, for the third time a German concert, visited Yemen this week and performed a 3-day show at the Culture Center.

At the reception that German Embassy held on Monday for the members of the choir, we seized the chance to talk to Mr. Tobias Tunkel, the German Cultural Attaché, who told Yemen Times: “I am so glad this Choir has come to Yemen to perform its concert tonight. It is very European musical tradition and I am very excited about how it will be appreciated by Yemeni audience. They sing songs without any instruments. It is just the voices of the choir who will give the music. It is, in fact, the third highlight in serious

of musical encounters between European-German music and Yemen. This is the third one. We are looking forward to the concert tonight.”

“Of course, it is a contribution to Sana'a as Arab Culture Capital for 2004. There are other events sponsored by Germany. We are very thankful for the support of the Yemeni Ministry of Culture and Tourism as they invited these group and they gave possibility to stage the concert. It is certain that this group has contributed to strengthening our relations”

We also we talked to Luther Rudolf Mayer, the leader of the choir, who told us about the program of the concert “Our choir will perform the music of several centuries in German musical history. We are going to perform 5 songs for so-called Madrigal; songs from the 16th and 17th centuries. We will also perform 5 songs

of Frichrich Silcher, romantic folk music describing the beauty of nature, of life etc.

We also have another 4 songs of Johannes Brahms, a famous German composer, who composed choral music on a very high level. He composed also great symphonies and other orchestra works.”

He said further “we have another work called “Des Feuer Reites”, by Hugo Distler. Besides another two works by Harald Gentmer, based on South-American lyrics. Both are composers of the so-called early-modern-age (1st half of the 20th century).

In addition, we will perform 6 songs of Heiut Lemmermann, still alive, called Carmina Curiosa.

We are also going to perform two ‘European songs’ to welcome the audience”.

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الهيئة العامة للتجارة الصناعية

APOLLO

THAILAND

Political department of ruling party lashes out at Islah

BY HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The relations between the People General Congress (PGC) and Islah Congressional Party (Islah), the biggest of the Islamic opposition parties, are currently subject to solid standards, although with confined boundaries. However, in recent times, the relationship between the two parties have been filled with fuss and accusations, which could reach the extent of impetuosity at the local level, and on the outside level, they are based on the current practical requirements.

The PGC's accusations against the Islah Party came following the latter's attempts to market its concepts, mentality and formation abroad, instigated by Islah's condemnation of the terror acts that recently took place in Saudi Arabia.

In this context, several questions were put before Mr. Younis Haza, the Chief of the Political Department at the General Secretariat of PGC.



Mr. Younis Haza

Q: Could you give us an explanation for the recent media attacks on Islah trying to show its stance against terrorism?

A: As a matter of fact, following a series of terror incidents in Yemen, Islah did not react to them nor did it issue any condemnatory statement. But with astonishing inconsistencies, if the party hears firecrackers abroad, it issues denunciation statements. The PGC and political monitors have been asking themselves, why does Islah react to events taking place abroad and not to the event on the local arena?

Q: Do you believe that PGC directed a decisive blow to yesterday's partner, the Islah party, by canceling Islah-Administered Scientific

Institutes and by curtailing the authorities of some of its influential dignitaries?

A: As far as the cancellation of the scientific institutes, the intention was to promote the high national interest of the country. The PGC did not aim at directing a blow at anyone. The objective was to unify educational operations in order to have future generations with unified ideologies and concepts. Regarding the Islah Party, it has chosen to join the so-called "The Joint Meeting Parties" (the opposition). This coalition has consequences. Islah Party, as well as other parties, in the coalition have encountered negative repercussions. Despite that, Islah took advantage of this coalition in the 2001 elections.

Q: Does PGC fear that Islah will take advantage of the current situation?

A: Any party, including Islah, would like to take advantage of any opportunity arising and from public support it has. Islah party, as it is known, is the second party in the political arena. It uses its conventional formation as a party and utilizes the tribal formation of the society. Furthermore, it utilizes religion and mosques in order to present a greater size than it really has. However, the developments at the national and international levels have been in the opposite direction after Islah Party failed to renew its leaders, agenda and its political rhetoric.

Q: Does PGC fear any further rapprochement between Islah and YSP, and how does PGC view the existing relations between the two?

A: The relationship between Islah and YSP party was considered to be a dubious one, and it is destined to fail considering the apparent contradiction in ideologies. However, we have been accustomed to Islah taking advantage of any coalitions, such as Islah taking advantage of YSP during the 2001 elections in its favor.

Q: On what basis are you accusing a political party of terrorism?

A: There was a government report about the terror activities taking place in Yemen, in which it warned the world, at an early time, that terrorism is a phenomenon with no nation or religion. Islah is related to the indoctrination, concepts and culture that could develop extremism and tension. In addition, some of its leaders tend to accuse others randomly. This is by all means considered terrorism. The assassination of Jar Allah Omr unveiled the peak of terrorism at Islah party.

Q: Do you fear of any convergence between Islah and USA?

A: There is nothing to fear either from the statements issued by Islah, either about the Middle East initiatives or about the whole developments. They are merely a reflection of the false state of Islah. They appear to endear themselves to America. They present themselves as victims and an alternative at the same time, and are constantly in search of a role, which does not coincide with its stature at the state's corporations.

Q: Does that mean that the dispute

is a result of what Islah has put forward regarding reforms?

A: As far as PGC is concerned, it does not consider a dispute to exist with any other party except when it comes to the national sovereignty issue and national interests. The country is above all considerations. But for some to resort to hypocrisy and blandishment on the account of issues related to the sovereignty of the country and the future of the Yemeni people is not acceptable to the PGC.

Q: How do you look at the visions and proposals of other towards internal reform?

A: We continue to proceed vigorously on the path of May 22, 1990, toward viable political, administrative, finan-

cial and economic reforms. The Yemeni democratic experiment has acquired the respect and recognition of the world. During the past period, five democratic experiments have taken place, represented by parliamentary, presidential, and local elections. We remain committed to the development and strengthening of democracy. The Yemeni democracy experiment has become a model for the region. Thus, Yemen welcomes any initiative to support the existing political and economic reforms. Yemen joins its brothers in Arab countries to reach a unified stance concerning the issue of currently submitted reform plans with the intention to reject any outside initiative that does not respect the identity and characteristics of Arab and Muslim countries.

ESCOA and its activities in Yemen

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

In her latest visit to Yemen, Ms. Mirfat Talaway, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Scoail Commission of East Asia (ESCOA), talked about the role ESCOA is playing in Yemen and 12 other countries in the region. ESCOA is exerting its support for complete regional integration, including the provision of international roads to connect Arab countries with each other, and the repair of passenger and goods railroads between the Arab orient and other countries. ESCOA is also assisting in unifying of Arab policies in several fields,

including in statistics, information, standards and specifications, to facilitate cooperation among the Arab countries.

ESCOA also regularly dispatches experts to assist countries in the training of individuals or sectors to support development and reforms. Ms. Talaway stated that ESCOA, during her term in office, has obtained good results in its development programs despite the deficiency of the media presentation of the work of ESCOA.

Ms. Talaway unveiled that a Yemeni minister had asked her to support holding new seminars and sessions to increase awareness among the population about the environment and water. She in turn called on Yemen to build



Ms. Talaway

more water barriers and small-sized dams at the entrances of valleys, especially surrounding the Sana'a city, which is more desperate for water than other Yemeni cities.

She also referred to the five-year development plan, which aims at laying strategic water reservoir tank in the forms of small dams and water barriers to provide clean water, in addition to other projects in the fields of sanitation and poverty reduction. She concluded her statement by expressing her hope for the increase of cooperation among the 13 countries in the development fields, integration and in the improvement of the living conditions of their peoples.

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Western firms to stay despite Saudi Qaeda attack

KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia, June 1 (Reuters) - A weekend al Qaeda attack in Saudi Arabia raised fears and dented confidence among the business community but expatriates said on Tuesday the oil-rich kingdom would continue to attract foreign workers.

Westerners, foreign Arabs and Asians form the bulk of the work force of the desert state, the world's largest oil exporter. They are lured to the ultraconservative Muslim kingdom by generous salaries and a largely affluent lifestyle.

"As soon as we leave there will be people replacing us. People who need jobs will come right behind us. It will be the change of the guard," said Robert, an American who works for an oil company.

Although a mass exodus is not likely, many foreigners said they would take their summer holidays early and then decide whether to return to the Gulf state following the attack by four militants who killed 22 people in the oil city of Khobar.

A Briton working in the transport sector said he and 11 of his colleagues

recently arrived in Saudi Arabia for a five-month stint but now planned to leave earlier than scheduled.

"We are initially here until October, but now we are leaving back to England for a few days. We thought of standing back and watching the situation for a while," he said.

Saudi leaders have reassured the world about security after the shooting and hostage-taking spree on Saturday and Sunday that targeted foreign oil firms and housing compounds.

A senior Western official at state oil giant Saudi Aramco said the firm was re-evaluating security but did not elaborate.

Security has been reinforced at hotels, residential and business compounds and oil facilities after some militants fled.

"These people were murderers and cowards but business goes on and we are still at work," a top American business executive said. "There are many people concerned about security of their families and they are sending them on vacations months earlier."

Iraqis, US cut deal on president as bombers strike

BAGHDAD, June 1 (Reuters) - Iraqi leaders cut a face-saving deal on Tuesday with the United States and United Nations on a president and government to lead the country out of occupation.

An 11th-hour compromise saw Washington's choice of president make way for tribal chief Ghazi Yawar. He was then sworn in with an interim cabinet of technocrats in a televised ceremony rich in symbolism at a palace complex built by Saddam Hussein.

A car bomb that tore through the nearby offices of a Kurdish political party, killing and wounding several people, underlined the scale of the challenge the interim administration faces in organising Iraq's first free elections in the new year.

Several rockets also landed around the U.S. compound as officials were meeting, wounding one Iraqi. And a suicide car bomber killed 11 Iraqis outside a U.S. base north of Baghdad.

Yawar called for the United Nations to give Iraq "full sovereignty" when the U.S.-led occupation authority is wound up on June 30. But 150,000 foreign soldiers, mostly Americans, are set to stay on for the foreseeable future to provide security.

New Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said Iraqis wanted an end to occupation and would expand their own army — but he welcomed U.S. and European forces to defend Iraq in the meantime.

After two days of bitter confrontation, the United States and U.N. envoy Lakhdar Brahimi finally accepted Yawar in the largely ceremonial role of head of state after their preferred candidate, elder statesman Adnan Pachachi, turned down the job.

But in return the Iraqi Governing Council agreed to dissolve itself with immediate effect and accepted a cabinet line-up that featured many fewer of



United Nations envoy Lakhdar Brahimi (2nd L) is flanked by Iraq's new Prime Minister Iyad Allawi (L) and President Ghazi Yawar (3rd R) who lead an interim government announced in Baghdad June 1. Iraqi leaders cut a face-saving deal Tuesday with the United States and United Nations on a president and government to lead the country out of occupation. REUTERS

its own members than it had wanted.

U.S. welcome

U.S. President George W. Bush's national security adviser Condoleezza Rice denied numerous Iraqi accounts that Washington had pushed Pachachi for president and said the United States was very pleased with a "terrific list" of new leaders.

"These are not American puppets," she added.

Brahimi, addressing Iraq's new leaders, said it was the "first step on a road that will no doubt be long and difficult" and that Iraqis were looking forward to a fresh start and wanted to put the wars and hardships of the Saddam years behind them.

The death toll was unclear in the bombing of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's Baghdad headquarters. A

U.S. officer said three people were confirmed killed and 20 wounded in the blast near the "Green Zone" compound where officials were gathered.

In a face-saving manoeuvre, the 22-member Governing Council initially dropped its objection to Pachachi. Then, within minutes, the 81-year-old former foreign minister renounced the post and Brahimi declared that Yawar would become head of state.

Officials then announced that the Council, whose members U.S. officials had accused of trying to cling to power by claiming positions in the new government, was being wound up.

Allawi, the Shi'ite former exile with close links to the CIA and whom the Council nominated as prime minister on Friday, then announced a government that included only two Council members.

"Not everybody can be pleased in a democracy," one senior U.S. official in Baghdad said.

Symbolic ceremony

After a Sunni cleric chanted a recitation from the Koran offering advice on wise leadership, the new administration was sworn in at a building in the Green Zone compound where Saddam is expected to stand trial for crimes against humanity.

Barring Brahimi, there was not a foreign face to be seen on the podium, and barely a scrap of English spoken, in a carefully managed event clearly aimed at demonstrating Iraqi independence.

Yawar wore traditional Arab robes and headdress while most other members of the new administration wore Western suits.

Reflecting the balance among Iraq's ethnic and religious groups, two vice presidents — one a Shi'ite Muslim, the other a Kurd — were appointed to serve under Yawar, who is from the long dominant Sunni minority to which Saddam also belongs.

Of 26 ministers and five junior ministers, five are women.

U.S. and U.N. officials had said in the past that the Governing Council did not have the right to make appointments on its own. But it caught Brahimi off guard on Friday by announcing the appointment of one of their number as prime minister.

Brahimi had said he wanted an interim government composed mainly of apolitical technocrats without personal ambitions.

Yawar, 46, is a U.S.-trained civil engineer from the northern city of Mosul and a chief of one of the biggest tribes in Iraq and beyond its borders. He enjoys support from Kurds and Shi'ites and worked for many years in neighbouring Saudi Arabia.



A video grab image shows Saudi Arabian forces dropping onto the roof of a building in the Oasis housing compound after a 25-hour drama in the oil city of Khobar in which suspected al Qaeda militants earlier killed at least 17 foreigners and held others hostage, May 30. REUTERS/Al Arabiya/Via Reuters TV

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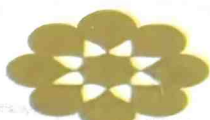
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Taiwan eyes free trade pacts to counter China

TAIPEI, June 1 (Reuters) - Taiwan aims to sign free trade pacts with the United States and other countries to beef up the competitiveness of the export-dependent island and counter rival China's diplomatic embargo, Premier Yu Shyi-kun said on Tuesday.

Yu, in an administrative report to parliament, said signing free trade agreements (FTAs) was a top priority for the government of the pro-independence President Chen Shui-bian, who began his second four-year term on May 20.

"Since efforts to expand our diplomatic relations are always blocked by China, and economic and trade ties

across the (Taiwan) Strait are not normalised, we must adjust our strategic positioning in international trade," Yu said in the report.

"We need to sign FTAs with the United States and other countries in order to break the embargo and connect to the world," he said, adding that Taiwan also eyed FTAs with Japan, Singapore, New Zealand and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

China views self-governing Taiwan as a breakaway province and uses its diplomatic clout to isolate the island, preventing it from joining international

organisations like the United Nations.

Taiwan signed its first-ever FTA last year with Panama — among a small band of only 26 countries that recognise Taipei instead of Beijing — but talks with other countries are unlikely to be fruitful due to China's objections.

Taiwan and China have been diplomatic and military rivals since the end of a civil war in 1949. But trade and investments have boomed since the late 1980s with Taiwan investors pouring up to US\$100 billion into the mainland. Noting China's big impact on trade and investments, Yu said the government would seek a balance so that closer economic ties would not lead to over-reliance on its giant foe.

The pro-independence Chen avoided a showdown with Beijing in his May 20 inaugural address and called for improved ties.

But China denounced the speech as a cloaked address on independence and said it would pay any price to stop him — even if it meant losing the 2008 Olympic Games.

Yu also vowed in his report to heal the rift that has bitterly divided the island since the March presidential election, in which Chen won by a mere 0.2 percent margin a day after a mysterious assassination attempt.

Opposition leader Lien Chan says the shooting, which lightly wounded Chen in the abdomen, may have been staged to win sympathy votes and has filed two lawsuits to overturn the election result and seek a new election.

Opposition lawmakers delayed the premier's report for hours, shouting "No truth, no president" as scores of their supporters tooted noisy air horns outside.

"The imminent crisis facing Taiwan does not come from outside but from within," Yu said.

A recount of all the votes in the disputed election was completed last month, resulting in 40,000 disputed ballots. A High Court tribunal must examine all the disputed votes and make a ruling, in a process that could take weeks.

Indonesia presidential candidates hit campaign trail

JAKARTA, June 1 (Reuters) - Indonesia kicked off campaigning for the country's first direct presidential election on Tuesday, with the leading candidate stressing the need for tolerance and stronger anti-terrorism efforts, saying "enough is enough".

Opinion polls show respected ex-general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono as the clear frontrunner for the July 5 vote to decide the leader of the world's most populous Muslim nation.

More than 147 million people will be eligible to vote across Indonesia, a vast archipelago of 17,000 islands and 220 million people still struggling to recover from the Asian financial crisis and hit by a spate of bomb attacks in recent years.

"Those terror acts have destroyed lives, values of humanity and left a painful wound among the families of the victims. Enough is enough. We will eliminate these transnational crimes at their roots," Yudhoyono told reporters at a standing-room-only news conference launching his campaign.

"I have made a promise to myself that I don't want a terror act to happen again in this country," the 54-year-old former security minister said.

Indonesia's Muslims, more than 80 percent of its population, have historically been among the world's most moderate.

But attacks by Islamic militants linked to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network has raised questions about that image.

"Our history has been characterised by tolerance and openness and we will become a big and modern country if we keep on maintaining these principles," said Yudhoyono.

That message was likely to be well-received by financial markets, jittery over threats of militant violence, which has also discouraged foreign investment Indonesia desperately needs.

Many investors have also taken a wait-and-see attitude due to the political uncertainty of a long election process in which the next president will not take office until October.



Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri greets a supporter during her visit to a local market in Jakarta after marking the start of campaigning in Jakarta June 1. REUTERS

Lagging Badly

Incumbent President Megawati Sukarnoputri lags badly behind Yudhoyono, her former chief security minister, the latest opinion surveys show. One of them gives him 41 percent to her 11 percent.

In third place with 10 percent is former military commander Wiranto, nominee of Golkar, once the party of former autocrat Suharto.

All three are secular nationalists. Two candidates who made their reputations as Muslim leaders round out the field.

A large parade of colourful floats carrying some of the candidates and their running mates made its way up Jakarta's main thoroughfare on Tuesday to mark the campaign's start.

Crowds of excited Indonesians mobbed Yudhoyono's car as he wound down his window to shake hands with onlookers. Asked if he could win the election, he said: "I'll do my best."

Female singers in tight jeans belted out rock songs off the back of several trucks, while various party supporters threw badges, posters and T-shirts to those lining the street.

"This is a new chapter in the history of our country," said political analyst Rizal Mallarangeng, referring to the direct ballot in a country more used to authoritarian rule.

Police have gone on high alert, deploying tens of thousands of extra personnel across the country.

If no candidate wins a majority in July, a runoff will be held in September between the two top candidates.

Whoever wins, there is plenty at stake. Aside from terrorism, modest economic growth of around four percent has failed to create work for more than five million new job seekers each year. Yudhoyono said in recent economic developments "it seems that there is a gap. A gap between the macro indicators and the reality felt by ordinary people. He pledged "higher and fairer growth" and reform of an unpredictable legal system that has been a major obstacle to foreign investment.

Megawati has stabilised Indonesia after chaos that followed Suharto's ouster in 1998, but many see her as too weak to eradicate graft and improve the rule of law.

Vacancy

Administrative Assistant



CATALYST consortium Catalyst-Yemen is a Health Project Funded by USAID seeks applicants for the position of Administrative Assistant

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide secretarial support for Country Representative and senior staff members: typing, filing, data entry, handling official/personal mail, etc.
- Manage routine correspondence and special program files, such as periodic reports.
- Support administrative aspects of outside technical assistance: type scopes of work, track approvals, deliverables.
- Handles travel arrangements including hotel and air tickets reservations as necessary.
- Establishes, maintains, processes, and updates files, records, and other work documents.
- Translates from English into Arabic and vice versa of non-technical documents.
- Performs other duties as required.

Qualifications:

- A minimum Bachelor degree in English.
- Minimum 2 Years of professional Experience in secretary.
- Proficiency in both Arabic & English.
- Experience in use office application program.

Note:

Qualified women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

C.Vs should be submitted to Catalyst-Yemen, P. O. Box 22344 (Sawan) not later than June 20th.

Continued from page 1

Prosecution presents seized materials and advocates demand fair trial

The suspects looked very happy; were smiling and laughing all the times as they were able before the start of the hearing to talk to their relatives for the first time after almost two years in jail.

During the hearing the family of the killed soldier, Hamid Khasroof, demanded that the suspected killers Fawaz al-Rabee and Hizam Mujali should be sentenced to death for killing their son. Other lawsuits were presented by the company owning Limburg; Hunt Oil Company, whose plane was shot; Ali Mansur Rasheed, Deputy Director of Intelligence; Mohammed Rizq al-Surmi, former Deputy Director of Intelligence; and Mohammed al-Hamdani, an intelligence officer whose houses were targeted by the suspected group. Another lawsuit was also presented by the General Authority for Aviation, whose building was blown up.

In the first hearing, some of the suspects denied the charges but some admitted them, mainly the plot to kill the US ambassador. Saleem al-Dailami said that they wanted to restore the dignity of the government by killing Edmund Hull and take revenge for Abu Ali al-Harithi, who was killed by an American drone in

the desert of Marib in November 2002. "We have gathered around as friends and plotted to kill the US Ambassador, we talked about that," he said.

The prosecutor said in the first hearing that some of the suspects admitted that al-Harithi authorized Fawaz and Abu Bakr al-Rabee to attack the Hunt plane, providing them with the necessary funds for that. Fawzi al-Hababi admitted that he met Abdurraheem al-Nasheri, alias al-Mullah Bilal, who was arrested in the UAE and turned over to the US, and asked him to procure a forged passport. Al-Hababi admitted going to meet Al-Nasheri in the UAE, where he gave him \$50,000 to give it to Walid al-Shaibah to plot the Limburg attack, which was carried out by Abu al-Harith al-Badwi and Naser Awadh.

The trial session was attended by some representatives of the FBI office in Sana'a and the US Department of Justice. This time, journalists were allowed to take their cameras into the courtroom after intensive inspection, but they were asked to not film the suspects.

The trial was conducted amidst intense

security measures.

List of the suspected terrorists names on trial

- 1-Omar Saeed Hasan Jarallah, alias Ibn Hafidh, 26
- 2- Fawzi Yahia al-Hababi, alias Abu al-Shaheed, 26, jobless
- 3-Mohammed Saeed Ali al-Amari, alias Abu Gharib al-Taezi, 25, jobless
- 4-Fawzi Gharib alias Abu Musab al-Taezi, 24, student
- 5-Yasser Ali Salem (still at large)
- 6- Fawaz Yahia Hasan al-Rabee
- 7-Abu Bakr Yahia Hasan al-Rabee, 26
- 8-Hizam Saleh Ali, alias Mujali
- 9- Ibraheem Mohammed Abduljabar, alias Abu Zaid, 25
- 10-Mohammed Abdullah Ahamd al-Dailami, 26
- 11-Saleem Mohammed Ali al-Dailami, 25, teacher
- 12-Abdulghani Ali Hussein, alias Jaber al-Sanani, jobless
- 13-Kasem Yahia Mahdi, alias Abu Hurairah al-Sanani
- 14- Khaled Ahmad al-Jalob, alias Abu Muslim
- 15- Aref Saleh Ali Mujali

Abu Hamza still wanted in Yemen

Yemen has been asking the British government for Abu Hamza's extradition for the last three years. Even though the Yemeni government has had a warrant for his arrest since 1999, the requests for his extradition have been denied.

According to British Home Secretary David Blunkett, Britain would not send Abu Hamza to Yemen because he could possibly face the death penalty.

Abu Hamza's son was arrested by Yemeni authorities in 1998 on charges of plotting terror attacks and has served time in prison.

If Abu Hamza, who was born in Egypt as Mustafa Kamel Mustafa but holds a British passport, is extradited to the United States, he will face an 11-count indictment which was filed by a US federal court.

Along with plotting the kidnapping in Yemen, the indictment includes Abu Hamza attempting to put together a terrorist training camp in Oregon in 1999. He is also accused of recruiting at least one man to an Al-Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan and providing material support to Al-Qaeda in 1999 and 2000. It is believed that Abu Hamza was a spiritual inspiration to Richard Reid, who attempted to detonate a shoe bomb on a flight from Paris to Miami in 2001, and Zacarias

Moussaoui, who is being tried in a US federal court on terrorist charges.

"We are actively seeking Hamza's extradition from Great Britain to face justice in our courts on these serious charges," said US Attorney General John Ashcroft soon after the arrest.

Continued on page 5
Blunkett said Britain plans to carry out the extradition process quickly. An extradition treaty between the United States and Britain, which went into effect after the attacks on September 11, 2001, is to make the process for extraditing terror suspects easier.

One obstacle has been Britain's ban on the death penalty and sending suspects to countries that apply capital punishment. Abu Hamza may face the death penalty in the United States if found guilty of being involved in killing hostages. Blunkett has said that the two countries have already agreed that Abu Hamza would not face capital punishment in the United States.

Abu Hamza emigrated to the United Kingdom in 1979. He went to Afghanistan in the eighties to fight with the Mujahadeen against Soviet troops and lost both of his forearms and an eye while handling an explosive device.

After returning to Britain, he preached

at mosques in London and became known for delivering controversial sermons viewed as supporting a radical religious position. In 2003, he was banned from preaching at the Finsbury Park mosque in London after it was raided by anti-terrorist police. A year ago he was stripped of his British nationality on allegations of supporting terrorism, but last April he was given nine more months to appeal against the decision.

Although the United States holds that it has evidence to charge Abu Hamza, Britain claims it did not have enough evidence to take him to court.

"Had we evidence in this country of a crime here, then of course the police and the Attorney General would have taken action," said Blunkett.

Some Yemenis have expressed anger over the expected extradition to the United States.

"Once again it is the United States that decides what should be done," said one Yemeni. "The United States still thinks it rules the world and has a police force in every country. Besides, if he committed a crime in Yemen, he should go to court here."

Abu Hamza is now held in London without bail and an extradition hearing is scheduled for July 23.

إعلان وظيفة شاعرة



شركة الصناعات المتنوعة ومواد التعبئة

إحدى شركات مجموعة هائل سعيد أنعم وشركاه

تعلن عن رغبتها في شغل الوظائف التالية:

❖ مدير مكتب

❖ سكرتير

على أن يكون المتقدم حاصلًا على مؤهلاً جامعيًا في مجال التخصص مع إجادة تامة للغة الإنجليزية وقدرة على التعامل مع الآخرين بفعالية وسيخضع المرشحون للإختبارات والمقابلات اللازمة لشغل الوظيفة.

من يجد لديه الإستعداد والرغبة فعليه موافقاتنا بالسيرة الذاتية إلى:

شركة الصناعات المتنوعة ومواد التعبئة

إدارة الموارد البشرية

تعز / الحويان

فاكس: ٩٦٧ ٤ ٢١٨٠ ٢٤

بريد إلكتروني: genpack @ y.net.ye

ص.ب: ٦٢٢٨

وذلك في موعد أقصاه يوم الخميس الموافق ٢٠٠٤/٦/١٤

Imitation drugs: a threat to society



BY YASSER AL-MAYASI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The subject of medicine, its usage, and monitoring of the flow of various drugs into the country has become one of the hottest issues in Yemen.

The Yemeni markets represent huge opportunities for locally and imported drugs, whether of genuinely good quality or simply imitations.

Nowadays, the discussion of this issue has become a matter of live and death for many Yemeni citizens, and the issue of imitation drugs must take a good portion of the valuable time of experts and concerned authorities. This issue, however, has not received the required attention it deserves. Only strange stories are narrated about the handling and importation of drugs, some of which are vital to the situation of a sick patient. Some importers of medicine are not even closely connected to the pharmaceutical or drugs profession.

Most of the campaigns to reduce the phenomenon of smuggling imitation and ineffective drugs and to confiscate these drugs usually end up only in the collecting of some money by those carrying out the campaigns as bribes and leaving imitation drugs for hopeless citizens to take in desperation to obtain some relief from them regardless of their ineffectiveness most of the time. Many citizens end up buying them because they can afford them, and at many pharmacies, pharmacists



Most of the campaigns are aimed at reducing the phenomenon smuggling imitated drugs

know which drugs are genuine and which are imitations and when to hide them or distribute them back to the market, in case of scheduled campaigns by the health authority to confiscate these drugs. They also know who would take bribes from and who would not. It is a flourishing business for both.

The reasons for the smuggling of medicines are the fast profit, the unavailability of major drugs in the markets, and the poor approach of the state to handling the issue of medicine. Medicine is not considered a major

substance that requires the full support of the state, it is only considered as a secondary issue leading the widespread smuggling of medicines.

Recent studies have disclosed that many of illnesses in Yemen are caused by imitation and smuggled drugs, such as the kidney failure, immune system failure, and cancer. Many antibiotic medicines use or bear less potent ingredients, consequently leading to new symptoms instead of treating previous ones.

Academics emphasize that the health inspections of the drugs avail-

able in the markets must be spontaneous, by inspectors who are concerned with the health of the public in general and not only opportunists concerned with the situation of their pockets and personal gains. The campaign against smuggled and imitation drugs must be done collectively in coordination with the Ministry of Health and authorized importers of drugs. The problem of smuggled and imitation drugs remains an issue that requires the collective efforts of governmental and non-governmental authorities with the assistance of the citizens.

A Workshop on Ecological Diversity

Experts and specialists in ecological diversity and environment protection begin on 31, May 2004 a discussion of a draft strategic national plan on ecological diversity and the protection of the environment during a workshop.

The workshop is organized by the Environment Protection Authority in cooperation with the UNDP office in Sana'a.

Eng. Mohamed Shadewah, the Authority's chairman, said that the workshop aims at laying down solu-

tions to various environmental problems in Yemen toward the preservation of natural resources and their sustainability, with the objective to include ecological diversity issues in the state's development plans.

He added that the draft project offers several visions related to the protection of the diversity of the environment through developing and updating the protected natural regions' system, and introducing a new authority concerned with coastal areas.

Aids Awareness Seminar in Taiz

TAIZ BUREAU

An Aids awareness seminar has begun inside the Hall of the Republic Hospital. The two-week seminar, organized by the Health and Population Office and the National Program to Combat Aids, in cooperation with UNICEF and the World Food Programme, under the slogan, "No to discrimination, yes to pre-

vention", targets associations, civil society organizations and those working with the youths. The seminar aims to increase Aids awareness and preventive measures among the youths, and it aims to lessen the social stigma on those already inflicted with the virus.

The seminar confirms the importance of the collective official and public efforts and their integration in order to combat Aids and to spread Aids awareness in society.

The Eye Consultants

Sana'a

Is pleased to announce the visit of:

Zuhair Shihab, MD
Clinical Associate professor

Glaucoma Specialist
Lubbock, Texas- USA

From 1st June 2004, for limited period.

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

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The Eye Consultants, Zubairy St.

Project Manager

A Saudi Yemeni Limited Liability Company has the Vacancy for Project Manager to manage the execution of a new basic Building Material Production Plant in Yemen.

Duties:

- Define the required project management plan for the project
- Prepare the required project scope and contracts for consulting services for the project
- Lead, organize and follow up a team of Engineers and consultants to establish the scope of work and tender documents for the project's packages
- Manage the tender process for all project's packages
- Prepare all required legal and technical contract(s) documents for the project
- Manage the construction, procurement and erection of all project's packages
- Reports to the General Manager on regular basis through meetings and monthly detailed reports on progress of project.

Skills:

- Leadership, communication, innovative, energetic, organized character,
- Fluency in Arabic and English
- Excellent Computer usage

Qualifications:

- B. Se., engineering and a degree in Project/Construction Management or Business Administration.

Experience:

- 7+10 years of experience in the project management of industrial process projects that involve procurement of equipment, industrial civil construction, and erection works.

Location:

- Al-Mukalla, Republic of Yemen

Application:

All C.Vs together with educational and experience certificates and a recent passport size photograph should be sent to the attention of:

General Manager
Overseas Business Development
House of Invention Int'l.
P.O. Box 3329
Jeddah 21471
Fax No. 688 2438

Invitation for Prequalification for Upgrading of the Sana'a Wastewater treatment plant

The Republic of Yemen has received a loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development towards the cost for the upgrade of the Sana'a Wastewater Treatment Plant. It intends to apply part of the loan for the implementation of technical measures required for the upgrade of WWTP process and operation.

The Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation intends to pre-qualify contractors and/or firms for the construction of civil works for mechanical and biological wastewater treatment, as well as sludge treatment using anaerobic digesters with gas holders and power co-generation plant, and the installation of respective electro-mechanical equipment. The location of the works is adjacent to Sana'a International Airport. It is expected that invitations to bid will be made by the end of October 2004.

Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures as specified by the funding organization, and is open to all First class-national and international eligible bidders as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the project at the Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation (SWSLC) (address below). The project information will be sent to interested bidders by e-mail against a nonrefundable amount of US\$100.

Applications for Prequalification should be submitted in clearly marked envelopes and delivered to the address below by 12.00 A.M (Yemen Local Time) on 31 July 2004. Late applications will be rejected.

Attn. Mr. Ibrahim Ahmed Al-Mahdi

Sana'a Water and Sanitation Local Corporation (SWSLC)

WWTP Project Management Unit

Al-Hasabah, beside the Ministry of Public Health and Population Sana'a Republic of Yemen

Telefax: +0967 1 230 656

Tel: +0967 1 238 640

e-mail: cdteam@y.net.ye

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-Saqqaf, (1951-1999)
Founder of Yemen Times

OUR
OPINION

Lost credibility

Some say that credibility is the most valuable thing and that no-one can ever afford to lose it. Credibility is also a source of pride that makes a person live with dignity and respect. Credibility can also save your life in times of danger. The "Wolf Wolf" story, no matter how simple and common, is still quite strong in defining the importance of credibility. That is why I feel credibility is a must for each person, people, and country.

Talking about credibility of countries, it is not difficult to see that the US has lost most of it because of the war on Iraq. Today, not many people would deny the fact that the Iraq war was not based on weapons of mass destruction. Many people would also not doubt that the US administration uses double standard strategies when it comes to Israel and the Arab world. Again, a lot of people will agree that the US does not apply the laws to its citizens when it comes to war crimes and cruelty against prisoners of war.

This is why it is important for the US to realize that its credibility is almost lost in the world arena, and many years will have to pass before it regains it in full once again.

On the other hand, it is not the US that lost its credibility. Our Arab leaders have lost their credibility and in fact legitimacy a long time ago. By not standing up for the expectations of their people and by issuing quite mild statements that do not represent a fraction of the ambitions of the people, they are in fact not credible to their nations.

It amazes me to see how Arab leaders pay little attention to the fact that surveys reveal very low expectations from the summit they held. It is yet another example of the truly low level of credibility they enjoy among their peoples.

It is also ironic to see that some Arab leaders prefer to be credible to other powers in the world more to being credible to their people. In some instances, those governments would in fact act violently against their own people to satisfy a foreign administrator. This is a clear sign of the unprecedented level of credibility loss among Arabs.

It is only pathetic to see that little has been done to attain more credibility by Arab leaders in the last decade. In fact, calls for peace and justice for the Palestinians suffering under Israeli oppression have never ended, but when we come to real deeds we see nothing.

A lot of talk and little action has become of the features of our present leaders, and makes their future words and statements of little importance for the regular Arab citizen. "We heard it before, and we will hear it again, and we are fed up of it" is what many Arabs think when looking at Arab leaders talking in summit after summit.

But Arab leaders are not only the ones who are not credible any more. There are so many clerics and high-ranking officials that have disappointed their people for their passive role in the last decade. Their credibility is almost lost - if not totally lost - in front of millions of Arabs throughout the world. There is a tendency to believe that they have let their people down when not coming strong against their leaders, possibly out of fear.

In total, credibility nowadays has become a rare human value that many do not enjoy. It is a valuable feature that once made the Muslim world strong and distinct. But now it is the very same value that made us weak and oppressed.

As Muslim nations, I hope that we will regain our credibility once again soon.

The Editor

Will U.S. Army be the Iraq war's next casualty?

By LAWRENCE J. KORB
FOR HOUSTON CHRONICLE

The Bush administration sent the US Army into Iraq to destroy the murderous regime of Saddam Hussein and save the Iraqi people. Soldier for soldier, this was the most capable and ready force this nation has ever fielded.

But because of how the administration handled the war and its aftermath, it may end up undermining the effectiveness of the army and jeopardizing our national security.

The army is stretched very thin.

The Bush administration decided to remove Saddam in the fall of 2001, shortly after attacking Afghanistan and about 18 months before the invasion. Because it needed army troops to wage the war against the Taliban and al-Qaida and meet Army commitments in the Balkans, the Sinai and Korea, the administration should have used that time to increase the size of the active army from 10 to 13 divisions (up to 15,000 troops are in a division). It still resists adding them.

Instead, the administration decided to fight in Iraq on the cheap. Ignoring the advice of seasoned military professionals who told the administration that several hundred thousand troops would be needed, the administration dispatched only 130,000 troops to Iraq.

The administration compounded the problem by failing to provide the troops with guidance on what to do after the war or giving them the proper equipment to conduct an occupation.

The troops were told they would be greeted as liberators, that their numbers would be cut to 30,000 by the end of the summer of 2003, that several nations would commit large numbers

of troops and that much of the security in Iraq would be handled by the Iraqi army and police forces, which would be left intact.

Because none of this rosy scenario has come true, the army and the United States have suffered in a number of ways.

First, rather than coming home to a triumphant parade, as they did after the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the invading troops were compelled to remain in Iraq for at least a year.

Second, the troops undertook missions for which they were not trained or equipped. For example, when Saddam's regime fell, only 2 percent of the army's humvees were armored. This led to an unexpectedly high level of casualties. About 14 months after the invasion, nearly 800 American service personnel have been killed, and the army estimates that one quarter of those killed in combat in Iraq might be alive if they had stronger armor around them.

Third, many National Guard and Reserve units have been called up and sent to Iraq and Afghanistan on short notice with little or no training — the 800th Military Police Brigade in charge of the Abu Ghraib prison, for example. During the first year of occupation, about 20 percent of the troops were Guard and Reserve. This number has grown to 40 percent in the second year.

Fourth, many units, including Reserves, have been extended beyond the normal one-year tour, and several have been sent back to Iraq or Afghanistan before spending at least a year at home.

The Army is stretched so thin that it is withdrawing about 10 percent of the troops in Korea to send to Iraq and recalling some of the 17,000 members of the Individual Ready Reserve —

soldiers who do not train with an organized unit and whose readiness is therefore suspect. In addition, the overall readiness of the Army has suffered.

The four divisions that have just returned from Iraq will not be combat-ready for six months, and the army has had to cancel nearly one-third of its scheduled training exercises in the last year. Nine of the army's 10 divisions are either coming from or going to Iraq and Afghanistan, and 24 of its 33 combat brigades are in those two countries.

Surveys taken by the army and military publications such as Stars and Stripes and The Army Times show that these developments are having a devastating effect on morale.

The "stop loss" policy, which was instituted over a year ago, prevents individuals from leaving the service from the time their unit is notified it will be deployed until 90 days after they return.

We are not yet at a point where we might have to withdraw the army from Iraq in order to save it, but we are getting close. Just as Vietnam destroyed the draftee army, Iraq could undermine the all-volunteer army.

No wonder the Army War College says that the army is near its breaking point and retired army Lt. Gen. William E. Odom argues that, for the sake of our security, we should remove our forces from Iraq as quickly as possible.

To remedy the situation, the administration needs to add two active-duty divisions as soon as possible. Delay will place the army and country in danger.

Korb is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and senior adviser to the Center for Defense Information.

State of the nation



By MOHAMMED N. ALLOW
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

It is 14 years since the foundation of the Republic of Yemen, following the unification of the country. When the state's officials are praising the accomplishments and achievements, they are compelled to dwell on and to brag of the issues of democracy and human rights as two issues that distinguish us. They are certain that they have provided Yemeni citizens with what they want through laws and freedoms including the freedoms of expression and opinion, elections and political participation.

The opposition sees it differently. The above talked-about privileges could have been fully achieved if the state had abided by texts of effective laws and the articles of the constitution. In reality, the citizen has not felt and touched what the government officials and official media are enchanted by.

Mohamed Naji Alaow, the lawyer and legal activist, talked to Yemen Times about what could have been achieved as follows:

"The Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, in Article No. 48, stipulates

that the basic rights of the citizen include the right not to be arrested without a warrant issued by the Prosecution, as stated in the article related to criminal measures.

As far as the basic rights such as the freedom of expression, the right to political activities, establishing political, vocational and cultural organizations, in addition to the economic, civil, and social rights, the constitution confirms them through clear articles. But what has been achieved for the citizens is the right to political pluralism. This was established in practice by the foundation of existing political parties despite the immense difficulties still facing them. The ruling party remains to dominate the public sphere, the public funds, and the media, which makes the practice of political rights favor the ruling party. Subsequently, we can assume that only a simulation of democracy is present in Yemen. The legislative authority is practically ineffective, and the rights of the opposition parties are totally diminished with apparent imbalance between them and the ruling party.

Regarding the economic rights, Yemen is amid a genuine crisis where the unemployment rate has exceeded the level of danger and it has reached 55% although the reality may be high-

er. Society is dominated by poverty, the middle class does not exist any more, and the balance has tipped in favor of corruption and illegitimate wealth gaining powers, supported by acute, clear and known governmental corruption.

Concerning the respect of the freedoms of the people, the judicial corporation is almost absent, nonetheless, it is totally directed by the government and the president of the ruling party is the chief of the judicial authority, and the security and army corporations are under the control of the ruling party. All sorts of criminal, civil and political cases are conducted outside the frame of laws. The security apparatuses arrest and detain citizens for months and years without having to present their cases to courts. In general, there are no truly independently corporations due to the lack political balance. The freedom of expression is in its worst predicament considering the number of verdicts issued against journalists. The Ministry of Information selectively chooses its political adversaries from journalists and transfers them to the prosecution in retaliation for their stances on practices the violating the laws. In conclusion, the situation is disastrous and it could get worse if wise people don't react accordingly.

COMMON
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

What do the calls for reform mean?

We are just not there yet

One would not think there is not anyone in Yemen, who is not ready to admit that the overall situation in Yemen is not one that does not call for reforms. Our frail economic situation reflects this quite well and our almost static progress in the political arena does not portray that Yemen has truly shaped into a modern vibrant democracy, the Yemeni people aspire for. In fact, it is the call for reforms that may be heard here and there that could help find the inefficiencies in our socio-economic framework and are surely a sign of strong belief in the democratic system the Yemeni people have opted to adopt. On the other hand the government itself recognizes the needs for reforms on all facets of government and has been pursuing, rather sluggishly, an Economic, Financial and Administrative Reforms Program since 1995, which can only become effective and worthwhile if we all recognize that everyone must play a part in the implementation of any reform agenda.

Associating calls for reforms with some conspicuous "evil", or merely to nourish inherent political ambitions, is both unfair to the genuine intents of many of those who call for reform and a misrepresentation of true democratic interaction. Even many of those who are well placed in the ruling establishment are not doubtful of the many people who wish to effect positive changes that will set the country back on a forward pace towards modern democratic government. Surely it is not hard to be willing to comprehend that the motives behind the calls for reforms primarily have the interests of the country as a whole to heart. Moreover, such calls may be generated by the obvious lessons that are learned by the Afghanistan and the Iraq experience, rather than a dubious desire to fall into such mystifying and chaotic situations. Thus, there is no harm in at least listening to any calls for reforms that are based on the desire to enhance the plight of the people and to further our progress towards genuine democratic political interaction, where all Yemenis have a chance to provide inputs. This in itself will prove that our democratic experience is a lot more than the superficial image work that most foreign observers have portrayed our marginal strides towards democratic rule. There are yardsticks and standards that adherence to democratic systems are gauged by and if those yardsticks and measures are not met or appreciated, the whole effort then only becomes a front that pleases no one but the real enemies of the country and the Arab Nation as a whole.

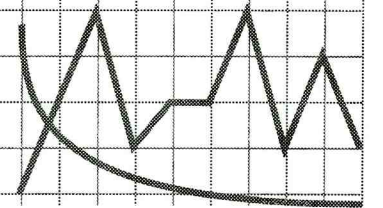
Yes, it is safe to assume that those who are indeed calling for reforms have an inkling that if such calls are not at least appreciated as coming from fervent desires to avoid the Iraqi or Afghanistan situations, then indeed we have not learned the true lessons of these unfortunate tragedies in the midst of our region and the circumstances leading to them. It was former Prime Minister of Malaysia, Dr. Mahathir Mohammed, who rightfully said during his recent visit to Yemen, that government must listen to the people and make use of as much feedback as possible to enable government to provide the appropriate venue that will show that the management of public affairs is in order. He should know, because the example he set is truly a landmark case in the right development approach and the right political venue for a country that only recently embarked on several reforms that catapulted Malaysia to a respectable place in the international community economically and socially. A ruling party should never consider that ideas voiced by others or differing viewpoints emanate from personal ambitions, for that is a serious infraction of sound democratic governance. Yes, a ruling party must be ready to accept criticism and find ways to avoid such criticism from arising, rather than seek to annul criticism altogether and view disagreeable political perceptions and outlooks as heresy.

We all love Yemen and we certainly are the last to want to have American tanks coming in and out of the streets of our cities, God forbid, and it must be borne in mind that many of those who are calling for reforms, would be just as outspoken about an American or foreign occupation of our land, if not more, than their calls for reforms now, before it is too late.

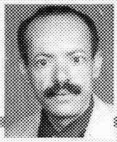
On the other hand, there is substantial value in reflecting on some of the great strides we have made politically and if one remembers correctly the Pact of Reconciliation and Accord, which was reached in Early 1994, was not only a significant document that embodied a road map for genuine political progress, which could have helped to avert much of the difficulties and the political standstill that are characteristic of our present times. It was drawn up by representatives of almost all the political forces that were active then (and more or less now) and it touched upon most of the issues that are still plaguing our society today. Moreover, the Pact was signed by every leading personality in the political theater then — rulers and opposition — and the wide acclaim for the document domestically, regionally and internationally was a matter of short-lived pride for Yemeni politicians across the range of the political spectrum. The document is innocent of the unfortunate Civil Strife that followed the signing of the pact. The Civil War only confirmed that all elements in the ruling coalition then saw the document as demanding from them considerable sacrifices, which apparently none of them were ready to make. That alone shows how the document was worthy of application, because the truth of the matter is that at some points in the forward political development we all aspire for, sacrifice is both warranted and highly recognized as a true sign of fealty to the nation and belief in what we claim to be standing for.

For the moment, it is safe to say that Yemen is beset by many difficulties and surely the elements that make up the ruling establishment has been given ample time to work things out their own way. Now, it is healthy to state, it is time to put the gauging yardsticks and standards to the results so far achieved and one of those vital tools of measuring performance in a democratic society is genuine calls for reforms, which we certainly can assume to be having the interests of all Yemenis at heart, rulers and opposition.

YT Business



Where to look for profitable investment opportunities?



BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

There are many queries among the Yemeni investment circles about the successful areas for investing their capitals in and the more significant ones with regard to profits and security of the course of growing them, taking into account that the value of projects licensed for in various sectors amounted to about YR900 billion since 1992.

Officials at the state authority for investment say there are fields that brought great profits to investors, enabling them to expand the volume of operating their money especially those jobs implemented in the health sector, storing and grinding grains, fish canning factories, medicine industries, plastics and excavation and developing the granite and various stones.

The sources add that the proportion of foreign private sector investment increased by 40% out of the gross of investments. They say that is attributed

to improvement of investment climate and stability of political, security and economic situations in the country.

Those officials confirm that indicators point out to an increase of Arab and foreign investments in Yemen in the coming period because of providing elements of security stability and stability of foreign currencies exchange rates in addition to the excellent facilities granted to investors.

Among the good facilities are the endeavours by the state authority for investment for providing information, completion of measures pertaining to the use of some expertise assisting investors, holding training courses on the projects, in addition that among the legal privileges that exempt some projects from all taxation duties. Also exempted from taxation and customs duties are the agricultural and fish production requirements. Exempts are also including requirement of production in other projects by 50% of the customs duties. The authority says the investment projects have provided job opportunities for around 150 thousand workers but ambitions still exist for taking more measure attracting investors and increasing future work opportunities.

Seminar on System of payment and banking electronic processes

BY FAHMIA AL-FOTIH
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

Under the auspices of Mr. Ahmed Abdulrahman Al-Samwai, the Governor of Central Bank, the Union of Arab Banks along with the Yemeni Banks Association concluded on Wednesday 26 May the 3-day seminar entitled "The system of payment and the electronic banking processes" that took place in International Sana'a Hotel.

Dr. Fuad Shaker, the Secretary-General of the Union of Arab Banks, Mr. Ahmed Al-Khwai, Director of the Union of Arab Banks and the Head of the Yemeni Banks Association, and Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Samwai, the Governor of Central Bank attended and headed the seminar.

Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Samwai delivered a speech in which he welcomed all the Arab banks' representatives and said that the banking sector in Yemen has successfully and swiftly developed, enabling it to play a key role in the development and economic processes.

He added that Yemen has a stable and strong financial base.

He pointed out that Yemen has



View of the seminar panel showing heads of participant banks

issued banking regulations such as laws on the commercial banks, the Central Bank and capital. Consequently, it creates trust between the Yemeni banks and their dealers

and opens doors for investment. Yemen is being invited to foreign banks seminars and receives a lot of proposals from the foreign banks that want to enter the Yemeni mar-

kets. A number of working papers were presented tackling various important dimensions in the Arab banking field.

Development and statistics



BY ISMALI AL-GHABRI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Prior to the unification of Yemen, the country undertook a number of development programs such as the 1971 and 1973 programs in the southern and northern governorates, respectively. Then the country began embracing five-year development plans, in the form of the 1974-1978, 1984-1986 and 1986-1990 development plans in the southern governorates, and with the 1976-1981, 1982-1986 and 1987-1991 development plans in the northern governorates.

The three five-year development plans were not concerted and were carried out amid an absence of any available statistics, and thus represented a major hurdle in front of the goal of having viable plans in all of the governorates of the country. Nevertheless, those programs contributed to the formation of a preliminary database, outlining aspects of social and economic deficiencies in Yemeni society.

It is worth mentioning that the follow-up of the implementation of the three development plans and evaluating the accomplishments assisted in collecting a lot of statistical information and details previously not available. During the implementation periods, population censuses were held in 1973 and 1975 in the southern and northern governorates, respectively.

The first series of timetables for national accounts were begun.

Several apparatuses related to the financial aspects were established. They were concerned with collecting, categorizing and dispersing essential statistics on the monetary situation, bank loans, and trade and payment balances with the outside world, in addition to submitting reports about the states' revenues and expenditures and fiscal budgets and closing statements.

Several ministries assumed the responsibility to implement statistical programs about the activities of the affiliated branches. A sizeable portion of the statistical work has been accomplished and a database has been founded, but there are still several deficiencies that hinder development operations:

- 1-The information system is rather an old-fashioned one in terms of collecting and obtaining information or in the pace of the flow of collected information among networks and information channels.
- 2-Executive programs and general fiscal budgets were subject to special considerations.
- 3-The weak mechanism for implementing and evaluating projects at the central and sectoral level.

As far as the development of a management apparatus, it became a government one, and the goal to unify the number of graduates with the need for development was not achieved during all the development plans. The government administration was transformed into a social care center for disguised unemployment, random hiring and the administrative apparatus inflated. Training was not up to the level of expectation. There was no comprehensive strategic plans for development.

After the unification of the country, several difficulties and major economic and social problems were encountered leading to:

- 1-The creation of long-term strategic development plans, and directing attention to resolve economic and financial problems in an annual frame, in addition to laying down medium-term development plans and founding a mechanism to follow up the implementation.
- 2-The need to create a competent technical apparatus capable of formulating policies and plans and to follow up the implementation of them.
- 3-the expansion of the scope of participation of various effective corporations in outlining the goals of development and in providing requirements at all levels including regional planning.

The national program for political, financial and administrative reforms, approved by the parliament on 15/12/1991, targeted the correction of deficiencies that had accompanied development plans in the past periods. It was aimed at developing the branches of the national economy, the effective utilization of the economic administration to ensure the building of a solid economic and financial base, the increase of production and the improvement of the living conditions of citizens.

Although statistical work has improved now, the connection of strategic plans with statistics and use of the information of the Central Statistics Organization as a reliable database are not decisively adopted. The plans still depend primarily on the details collected from ministries, which are independently gathered,

not according to the definitions set by statistics. Moreover, the collected information by ministries is not precise and is always contradictory to the information available at statistics, and from one year to another, they are inconsistent with official statistics. This is one of the primary hurdles facing statistical work, which is patently clear due to the following factors:

- 1-Information is not unified
- 2-Contradictions and inconsistencies in information collected studies.
- 3-Weakness of statistical units at the relevant ministries and authorities.

There is no doubt that statistical work began to develop after the unification of the country. The Central Statistics Apparatus carried out a population and housing census in 1994, as well as 17 field surveys, which were implemented to locate different economic and social phenomena. The effectiveness of the statistical work was enhanced in recent years following the decision of the Council of Ministers in 1999 to establish and activate the statistical units in ministries and their offices in the governorates, and to consider the Central Statistics Organization as the official source of information.

Furthermore, the organization has initiated work to produce a unified statistical system, which would be a guide for all workers in the field of statistics. It has commenced work to unify statistical work in order for the organization to become a viable and reliable source for information capable of furnishing the necessary and required information.

Impediments limiting, The private sector's contribution to curb unemployment

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The Yemeni government is intending during the next period to attract more investments by the local, Arab and foreign private sector for implementing strategic projects aimed at stirring up the slowness in the process of investment and founding solutions for the problem of unemployment.

A modern study on the labour market in Yemen mentions that employment at the private sector has become more preferable that the government positions due to the high rate of wages at the private sector compared to the public sector. But the study adds that the private sector hesitates in training and rehabilitation of the national cadre for fear of abandoning their jobs which may affect the level of its production and exposes it to financial losses that the sector spends on training and habilitation of local labour.

The study adds that technical specialties and business management required by the private sector constitute till now a small proportion of the graduates present at the labour market where they are estimated at 7% compared to specialties in geography at 20%, Islamic studies by 35%, history and psychology by 15%, arts by 15% and sciences by 8%.

The study also affirms that the private sector can provide the labour market with 20% of job opportunities but shortage in expertise and skills among the local labour does not provide opportunities for employment at the private sector, especially in areas of convertible industries. The study also indicates that there is a possibility of obliging the private sector of accommodating a certain percentage of unemployment under what is called Yemenisation of jobs. But the private sector refuses to have obligatory

employment conditions imposed on it and that requires cooperation between government institutions and the private sector in the field of employing the local labour.

As a result of speedy growth of Yemeni labour market there is a necessity of diversifying the economic activity to encounter the problem of unemployment and motivating the private sector to accept a certain proportion of labour to work for it.

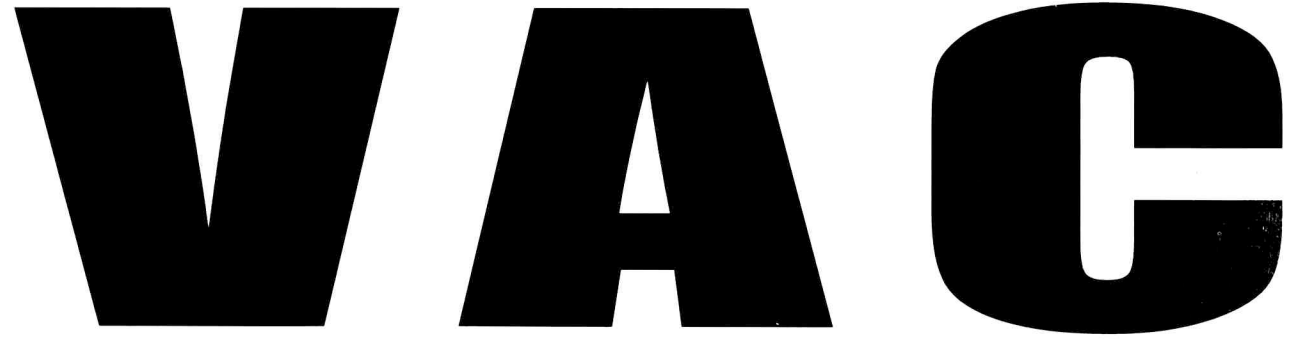
Official sources, however, confirm there are government policies aimed at increasing investment in human development and deepening the course of reforming the institutions to facilitate the process of employing labour at the private sector.

Here there attention must be given more to outputs of technical education and vocational training to meet the need of the labour market for technical specialties and that would contribute to alleviate unemployment in the market.

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	184.5100	184.6800
Sterling Pound	338.6400	338.9500
Euro	225.4800	225.6900
Saudi Rial	49.2000	49.2400
Kuwaiti Dinar	626.0500	626.6300
UAE Dirhem	50.2300	50.2800
Egyptian Pound	479.2800	479.7200
Bahraini Dinar	489.4200	489.8700
Qatari Rial	50.6800	50.7300
Jordanian Dinar	260.2400	260.4800
Omani Rial	479.2800	479.7200
Swiss Franc	147.4700	147.6100
Swedish Crown	24.7800	24.8000
Japanese Yen	1.6871	1.6887

Source: Central Bank of Yemen



FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING

Yemeni Nationals

A number of FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING related candidates are required in both our Main office and Field office locations.

Sana'a Based

Accounts Payable Analyst
Fixed Asset Account Analyst
Senior Accountant
Treasury Analyst

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor degree in Commerce or any university degree equivalent.
- Experience in various areas of accounting, good analytical skills and judgement. Ability to work well with others at all levels.
- 5 -10 years general accounting or finance experience. Excellent computer skills including Word, Excel, IDEAS, Lotus Notes, SAP.
- High level of proficiency in English (both verbal and written)

Field Based: 28 days on/28 days off

Field Accountant

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor degree in Commerce or any university degree equivalent.
- Experience in various areas of accounting, good analytical skills and judgement. Ability to work well with others at all levels.
- 5 years general accounting or finance experience. Excellent computer skills including Word, Excel, IDEAS, Lotus Notes, SAP.
- High level of proficiency in English (both verbal and written)

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address **NO later than June 14, 2004.**

Canadian Nexen Yemen Ltd.
Human Resources
P.O. Box 19010
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No. 01-413163

Attention: Human Resources Manager

Please don't call us; we will call you if you were selected for test and interview
All applicants from Hadhramout should send their documents to the Ministry of Oil and Minerals office in Mukala

SAP CLERK/ADMIN ASSISTANT

Yemeni Nationals

Location: Block 51 East Al-Hajr – Hadhramout
Department: Engineering and Construction
Schedule: 28 days on/28 days off

Job Duties:

- a. Assists in the preparation of accurate expenditure levels on AFE's and G&A expenditure for effective management of the departmental budget by entering invoices into an SAP System.
- b. Preparing material reservations and requisitions into SAP.
- c. Preparing Maintenance Work Notifications into SAP.
- d. Preparing Service Entries into SAP from information received on contractor daily timesheets.
- e. Preparing daily and weekly man-hour records for all Nexen and Contractor personnel assigned to the project.
- f. Provides clerical support such as typing correspondence and preparing reports and presentations for members of the management team. Includes translating correspondence to respond in English or Arabic if required.
- g. Attend to telephone calls and faxes ensuring requests for assistance or information from other departments or outside organizations are forwarded to the appropriate personnel. Maintaining a filing system and filing documents as required.
- h. Maintains stationary supplies and office equipment including ordering supplies, replenishing printer cartridge and faxes with paper and requesting maintenance services from Administration, IT, etc

Minimum Requirements:

- a. Completion of secondary education, followed by 2 years of administration experience
- b. Good knowledge of computer applications including Word, Excel, SAP and Lotus Notes.
- c. High level of proficiency in English (both verbal and written)

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PRODUCTION ENGINEER

Yemeni Nationals

Location: Block 51 East Al-Hajr – Hadhramout
Department: Operations
Schedule: 28 days on/28 days off

Job Duties:

- a. Monitors electrical submersible pump (ESP) performance, includes taking well site data from field operators, updating monthly fluid level survey data and running ESP computer program to identify opportunities to increase oil production.
- b. Prepares ESP repair programs for the service rigs in order to execute work identified in item (a) above.
- c. Captures well sub surface data for Petroleum Engineering Group, Calgary. Includes preparing bottom hole survey programs, programming pressure gauges, arranging for well site services, supervising well site work by contractor, downloading data and submitting reports to Calgary.
- d. Prepares a variety of daily and monthly reports ranging from daily entry of well production data using computer macro to monthly performance indicators for senior management.
- e. Carries out similar or related duties such as undertaking small projects as assigned e.g. analyzing alternatives for monitoring injection wells, participating in and preparing presentations for safety meeting etc.
- f. Prepares remedial workover programs for water shut offs and plug backs. Prepares initial completion program for new wells.

Minimum Requirements:

- a. University degree, preferably in Petroleum or Mechanical Engineering
- b. Minimum of 5 years of related experience in well operations and production.
- c. Excellent computer skills including Word, Excel and Access.
- d. High level of proficiency in English (both verbal and written)

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address **NO later than June 14, 2004.**

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TRAVEL/IMMIGRATION COORDINATOR

Yemeni Nationals

Location: Block 51 East Al-Hajr – Hadhramout
Department: Engineering and Construction
Schedule: 28 days on/28 days off

Job Duties:

- a. Coordinates travel for all Field based expatriates. Includes obtaining necessary visas, passport stamps, tickets, and corresponding with Sana'a travel department to coordinate accommodation, meet & greet, and transportation for the passenger.
- b. Assists with status/progress reports, maintenance of files and tracking system related to visas, passports, work permits, government/ministry correspondence, and arrival and departure details. Ensures compliance with established procedures and policy.
- c. Supervises and participates in changing or confirming travel arrangements as requested. Includes communicating with travel agents, airlines and employees as required
- d. Coordinates transit and entry visas for Company employees as required. Includes arranging accommodation.
- e. Coordinates the daily activities of the Travel staff. Includes reviewing daily workload, assigning work and following up to ensure compliance with established procedures. Administers travel arrangements on crew change days.

Minimum Requirements:

- a. Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or equivalent.
- b. 3 years travel experience.
- c. Word/Excel skills.
- d. High level of proficiency in English (both verbal and written)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUYER

Yemeni Nationals

A BUYER is required in our Main office in Sana'a working hours will be 8:00 – 15:00 hrs Saturday to Wednesday and 8:00 – 12:00 hrs on Thursday.

Job Duties:

- Assists in procurement of goods and services for Yemen Operations as required. Includes receiving and logging purchase requisitions, soliciting quotations, placing orders, expediting delivery, reporting on goods received or expected deliveries to expeditors in the field.
- Participates in receiving warehouse materials for consolidated shipments. Includes receiving materials, supervising off loading and storage in warehouse and the loading of goods for shipment to the field and elsewhere.
- Responsible for maintaining an accurate filing system of all documents related to the shipping and receiving of material, including PO's, receipts, etc. Enters information on vendors into a data base for future reference.
- Carries out other similar or related duties as determined by their supervisor

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of University Degree or equivalent.
- 4 years materials and/or purchasing experience in the oil and gas industry.
- Good PC skills including Excel, Word and SAP.
- High level of proficiency in English (both verbal and written)

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TRANSLATOR

Yemeni Nationals

A TRANSLATOR is required in our Main office in Sana'a working hours will be 8:00 – 15:00 hrs Saturday to Wednesday and 8:00 – 12:00 hrs on Thursday.

Job Duties:

- Translate from Arabic to English all Governmental laws which would include in part, labour laws, income tax laws and environmental laws.
- Translates from Arabic to English and visa versa, employment memorandums, daily correspondence, security reports and other internal communications.
- Translates from Arabic to English, newspaper and magazine articles and economic reports that are relevant to the Company and of the oil industry in general.
- Provides the Company's personnel with concise oral translations as requested.
- Performs any other similar or related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

- Bachelor degree in English or equivalent
- 5 years of experience in Arabic/English translations.
- High level of proficiency in English and Arabic (both verbal and written)

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address
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PAYROLL ANALYST

Yemeni Nationals

A PAYROLL ANALYST is required in our Main office in Sana'a working hours will be 8:00 – 15:00 hrs Saturdays to Wednesdays and 8:00 – 12:00 hrs Thursdays.

Job Duties:

- Administers National payroll through an automated payroll system. Receives and reviews timesheets and employee change notifications (ECNs) for manual adjustments and enters required information into payroll system. Includes checking that timesheets and ECNs are approved by authorized signatories and calculating overtime, absences or unpaid leave, field days, sick days, changes in salary or allowances, final pay for terminated employees, etc. in accordance with current Company policy. Memos are forwarded by HR outlining pay adjustments.
- Sets up and monitors statutory and employee deductions and remits to appropriate authority. Includes setting up social security contributions, tax deductions, union dues, tracking repayment of pay advances as requested by Treasury by starting and stopping deductions when appropriate, and updating allowances according to Company policy. Remits deductions to concerned government authority or union monthly.
- Generates various reports to verify payroll administration through a Report Writer in an automated payroll system. Includes reports such as data entry sheet, payroll summary, basic salary, pay stubs, bank and cash lists, other reports as required.
- Maintains systematic filing of employee records, payroll documents and reports.
- Liaises with bank to process payroll payments. Includes preparing

correspondence to direct payroll deposits and receiving pay packets from bank for further distribution to National employees.

- Carries out other similar or related duties such as preparing statistical reports, answering payroll inquiries, participating in payroll system upgrades, etc.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of University Degree in Accounting or Finance.
- 2-3 years' administrative finance experience preferably in payroll.
- Computer skills including an automated payroll system (e.g. ABRA, PeopleSoft), Word, Excel.
- High level of proficiency in English (both verbal and written)

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RECEPTION/ADMIN

ASSISTANT

Yemeni Nationals

A RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT is required in our Main office in Sana'a working hours will be 8:00 – 15:00 hrs Saturday to Wednesday and 8:00 – 12:00 hrs on Thursday.

Job Duties:

- Provides clerical support such as typing correspondence and preparing reports and presentations for members of the management team. Includes translating correspondence to respond in English or Arabic if required.
- Attend to telephone calls and faxes ensuring requests for assistance or information from other departments or outside organizations are forwarded to the appropriate personnel. Maintaining a filing system and filing documents as required.
- Handles incoming and outgoing mail, sorting and distributing accordingly. Includes preparing and receiving courier services for inside and outside country destinations.
- Greets visitors and provides assistance as requested, arranges for personal transportation and performs other similar or related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of secondary school, followed by formal secretarial education/training.
- 2 years secretarial/admin experience
- High level of proficiency in English (both verbal and written)

If you have the above requirements, please send your CV to the following address
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ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY PROFESSIONAL

Yemeni Nationals

Location: Block 51 East Al-Hajr – Hadhramout
Department: Operations
Schedule: 28 days on/28 days off

Job Duties:

- Inspects safety equipment on a regular basis to ensure that it is in a proper operating condition. Covers such equipment as fire extinguishers, breathing equipment, eye wash and emergency shower, first aid kits, etc.
- Carries out periodic job site observations to ensure compliance and advises personnel regarding proper safety procedures and practices. Summarizes findings and action taken for supervisor's attention.
- Advise Supervisor immediately of any hazardous or unsafe acts and conditions, environmental incidents and accidents, injuries or near miss events with the potential to cause any of the above occurrences.
- Conduct safety orientations.
- Distributes, installs and maintains supplemental Environmental Health and safety equipment such as fall arrest equipment, safety harnesses, breathing air cart etc. Includes such tasks as replacing air in breathing apparatus bottles, cleaning, sterilizing baths, etc.
- Participates in accident/incident investigations as required. Includes interviewing personnel involved, liaising with the military and/or local police, gathering information, taking measurements etc. under the

direction of supervisor.

Minimum Requirements:

- Completion of Secondary (technical) education (12 years) followed by 2 years' full time formal training in a technical discipline with 3 years' safety and field operating experience
- Basic computer skills including use of Excel and Word
- High level of proficiency in English (both verbal and written)

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The 14th Anniversary since the achievement of Yemen Unification comes and Yemen has witnessed tremendous development in all various fields. Our celebrations today come in commemorating a historic event, the foundation of the Republic of Yemen, amid propitious signs of good welfare and prosperity.

On this occasion,
National Cigarettes and Matches Industry Limited
presents its highest congratulations and best wishes to
H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh
President of the Republic of Yemen
and to the Yemeni citizens, wishing them many happy returns and that Yemen continues to become more developed and prosperous.

Sheikh / Saleh Salem Bathwab
Executive Chiarman



تطل علينا الذكرى 14 لنحقيق الوحدة اليمنية المباركة وقد شهدت بلادنا تطورا كبيرا في شتى المجالات فاحنقنا اليوم بهذا الحدث التاريخي لقيام الجمهورية اليمنية والذي يهل علينا بيشائر من الخير والعطاء والتقدم بهذه المناسبة تتقدم

شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة

باسمى ايات النهائي وأعطر الثبريكات الى فخامة

الرئيس / علي عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية

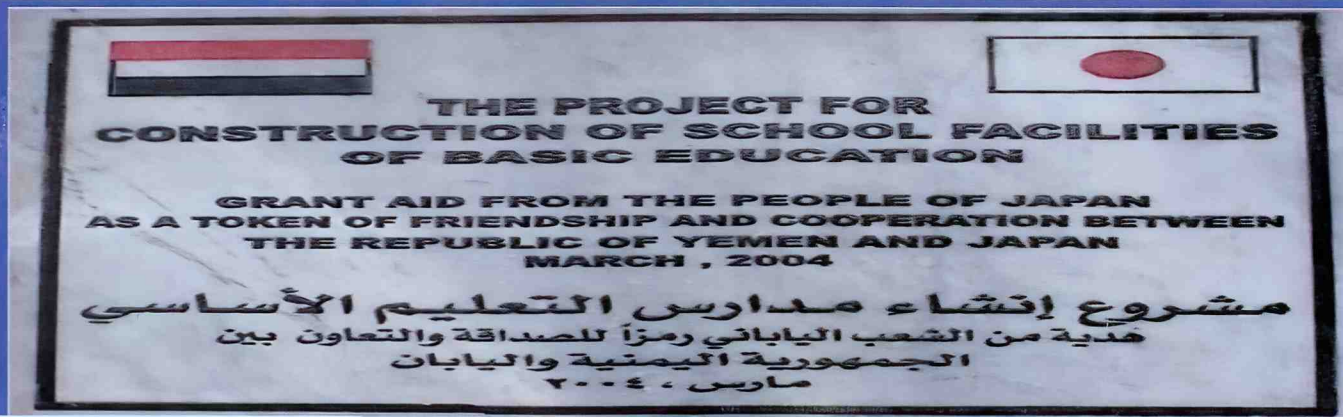
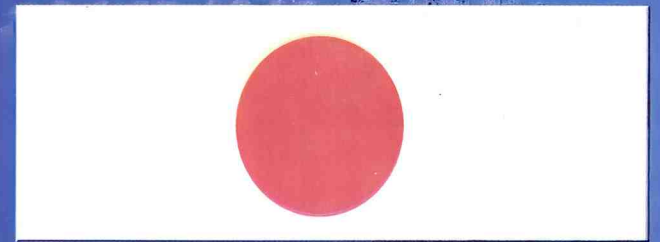
وقائد المسيرة ورمزها الوجدوي

والى كافة أبناء شعبنا اليمني الاصبل

منتمين ان تعود هذه المناسبة وكل المناسبات واليمن في تطور وازدهار

الشيخ / صالح سالم باثواب
رئيس مجلس الإدارة التنفيذي

National Cigarettes & Matches Industry Ltd - Aden
شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة



Yemeni Press,

A week in review

Prepared by Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Sahwa weekly, 27 May 2004.

Main headlines

- Elections of administrative bodies of Sana'a University faculties students union
- Under pretext of threats against officials, State of emergency in communications centers
- Woman demonstration in protest of American crimes
- Hamas denounces Tunis summit decision of condemning resistance operations

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in his article time and again the Arab leaders prove their state of inability and that they have become outside validity of action and effect. Their summit in Tunis has been [postponed for some time and many of the leaders failed to attend it. Their closing statement came to confirm the state of remaining inside the circle of inaction and obvious announcement that their regimes have used up all their purposes and have become invalid.

The hot issues of Palestine and Iraq have been referred to the UN Security Council and the General Assembly. As for us as a nation having her geographical, political and economic capabilities, she has been excluded. The military competence is banned to talk about are used only for military parades and suppressing the people.

The summit statement has this time added a new condemnation to the resistance alleging it is killing the civilians in the occupied territories, forgetting that the occupiers are all a fighter army whose task is the killing of the Palestinians.



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation, 25 May 2004.

Main headlines

- Military troops lay siege at a village in Amran and force its inhabitants to flee
- Polish authorities expel a Yemeni citizen opposed the presence of occupation forces in Iraq
- 30 students deprived of taking part in examinations at Taiz University
- On the sidelines of third conference of the teaching staff, Unionist activities at Aden University
- The Protection of Press Freedoms Center: Imprisoning journalists, continued targeting of press and continuation of the policy of suppression

The writer Khalid Mohammed Hashim proposes dissolving the Arab armies in his article in which he says at the beginning I hope I would not be misunderstood that discharging Arab armies as a result of weakness or cowardice of those armies. They are quite able and qualified for defending dignity of the Arab nation but they are similar of caged lions prevented even from roaring. The writer says he addresses the Arab rulers who are responsible for this shameful situation imposed on the nation and against the members of the armed forces that have been deprived of the role they have been formed for. Discharging the Arab armies would spare hundreds of billions per year and those billions could be directed to comprehensive Arab development in all walks of life. Such a move would give the Arab rulers a logical and acceptable reason before their peoples under practices of Zionist and American occupation forces as they do not have armies to defend the nation. It would also save the masses from oppression and harm of the armies that are used against the people when they oppose their rulers.



Al-Balagh weekly, 25 May 2004.

Main headlines

- Parliamentarians demand setting a mechanism to prevent using parliament for personal commercial inter-

Main Headlines

- Salary increases coincide with a bunch of new reforms represented by lifting subsidy from oil products
- A woman demonstration in protest to American crimes
- Consultative meeting between Islah and the elections supreme commission
- Yemeni forgotten detainees at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and political security jails
- Bomb goes off in the capital secretariat
- Al-Khamiri: Private sector receives blows everyday, foreign investments just ink on paper
- Three dead bodies found in a Coca Cola store
- Sheikh Hameed al-Ahmar: No back off from the democratic choice and the people's freedom
- PM Bajammal: We have complicated files with the Americans but we are frank and clear with them
- On the 14th anniversary of the unity, the president calls for ending occupation in Iraq, sending international forces to protect the Palestinians
- Government VS Parliament,
- Oil scandal between compromise and vote of non-confidence
- Public denunciation against jailing journalists
- Armed gang robs exchange shops in the capital
- Clashes between army and inhabitants in Amran
- Gangs for forging passports and diplomatic and government documents
- JMP calls for supporting occupation resistance
- Disengaging container port from the free zone to lead Yemen to courts
- Massacres perpetrated by occupation forces in Palestine and Iraq
- Cooperation between Egyptian and Yemeni journalists unions in training
- Due to parliament incapability of voting for non-confidence in the government, oil minister may be the scapegoat
- Gaps prepare for appearance of corruption in the medicine fund
- Victims of terror face the president during his visit to America
- An indicator of a beginning to rising against extremist groups
- The president heads for the U.S. to attend the G-8 Summit
- The president to discuss UN Secretary-General regional developments and situations in Palestine and Iraq
- PM discusses reforms in the region with Iranian foreign undersecretary
- 14 persons tried in terrorist issues
- GPC welcomes dialogue with opposition
- Civil Service Minister: Increase in wages announced by the president does not contradict wages strategy
- Tackling 45 files of returnees issues
- Political coordination with Iran, discussed
- Hot line on the borders, attacks on weapons dealers in Sa'da
- First phase of border demarcation, completed
- Civil Service Minister: Al-Eman University graduates not excluded from employment
- The President assails opposition newspapers
- Journalists expect the president's directives for annulling imprisonment punishment
- GSM monopolization to end next month
- Yemeni Journalists Syndicate calls for the President to cancel journalists imprisonment punishment

ests

- Seven persons injured in a bomb explosion at Anqad market in the capital secretariat
- Information center at the Republican Hospital in Sana'a organizes a symposium the impor-

tance and role of media in health area.

- UNICEF director in Ireland says: Early marriages a bigger hindrance facing girls in Yemen
- YJS statement condemns imprisonment of al-Shara'bi and ignores



By Samer A.

attempted assassination against "Al-Balagh" newspaper correspondent

- YJS calls for a meeting of newspapers editors in chief to discuss journalistic and professional situations

Columnist Hamdi Doubalah says in an article the Yemeni unity would remain the sole shining candle in the Arab dark space engulfed with differences and conflicts. Surely the Yemeni unity has since 22 May 1990 achieved many accomplishments but those accomplishments are still in need of enhancement and rectification especially in economic areas and the standard of the people living. This goal would need following clear and effective policies along with presence of good wills for development and improvement.



Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the People's Forces Union of Yemen, 26 May 2004.

Main headlines

- 620 detainees not registered in human rights file in Yemen
- JMP supports the resistance to occupation in Palestine and Iraq
- Matar family hopes in submitting the issue of its son's disappearance before the parliament
- Protection of press freedoms center calls for organizing activities refusing suppressive policies
- Teachers of the capital denounce sacking their colleagues for partisan reasons
- Government siege to Al-Hamdani House for printing in Aden
- Course on dissemination of human rights concluded in Aden

Columnist Alawi al-Ashwal says in an article democracy is a legitimate constitutional medium and its practice and sticking to it is an urgent necessity to embody the principle of accepting pluralism and other opinion as well as accepting political parties movement through following democratic ways.

Upon this assumption we say that official media tools and those working for them are the possession of the people not the regime. Those media have to observe serving the people and express their suffering and not putting cosmetics on the face of the ruling party. The doses that they falsely termed as economic reforms have inflicted heavy damage on the homeland and the citizen. Since the Iryani government the doses have begun and leaders of the GPC and its government changed into vampires and thus it was the beginning of oppression and injustice and violation of human rights and opened the way for bribery and fear and official institutional wantonness and social dismemberment.



Annas weekly, 24 May 2004.

Main headlines

- An American security officer rapes a Yemeni child with help of a Yemeni officer
- The killing dose within two weeks

- Death sentence to a citizen who defended his honour

Columnist Talal Jamil says in his article that the Rafah camp of the Palestinian refugees was the scene of a massacre where more than Palestinian national were martyred and the entire Gaza Strip has also witnessed the fall of numerous martyrs and wounded while the Zionist war machine is perpetrating daily bombardment and demolition of residential complexes. Statistics indicate that the Zionist forces had demolished more than houses in the past few days, a matter leaving behind the operation a tragic scene depicting hundreds of Palestinian families living homeless. Moreover, a human rights report in Palestine mentions that 6424 donoms of arable lands in Gaza Strip have been bulldozed and destroyed by the Zionist forces that also destroyed tens of irrigation networks and killed the people's animal wealth. The Palestinian forces demand the world to act in their support and the Arabs condemn and as usual the summit that end up in scenes of condemnation and the enemies legend continues killing, destruction and sabotage, the massacres of Rfah, Zaitoun area and Qaiem on the Iraqi borders.

Bloody scenes overshadowed the Arab horizon that concluded its Tunis summit with a long list of rejection, condemnation and denunciation and adding some concessions and ludicrous proposals. Reforms have remained the premonition that preoccupies them for fear of their seats, boycott imposed on Syria and the fear about safety of both Palestinian and Jewish civilians.

Opinion polls in Baghdad, Rafah and Gaza were before and after the convening the summit not paying attention to the official Arab trivial stands.

26 September weekly, organ of the Yemen Armed Forces, 27 May 2004.

Main headlines

- The president discusses relations and bilateral cooperation in combating terror with the American deputy national security advisor
- The president visit Hudeidah to inspect the citizens conditions there
- Yemen takes part in a regional forum on role of parliaments in enhancing democratic values
- Turkish emissary to Sana'a

Columnist Iskandar al-Asbahi says in his article that however hard we tried to be optimistic about the Arab will for developing the Arab reality to join its forces and invest its constituents, we get shocked by the collective Arab practices that prioritize the regional interests to the national ones although the great national interests are the power for each Arab country and each Arab citizen. We have been used to see that it is always to witness that these Arab national interests postponed and the results of Arab summits do not represent the mini-

mum degrees of the Arab street expectations.

For the Arab order it is no longer enough to enter reforms into the Arab League Organisation to have this Arab reality got straightened end to play its role in the Arab life. Decision makers would sooner or later realize importance of the Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh's vision for activating the Arab action. The president has summed up this vision in his political statement to the Yemeni people on the 14th anniversary of the unity. The president affirmed that the establishment of Arab States Union was a national necessity for the activation of the joint Arab action and enhancement of the nation's potentials in confronting the dangers surrounding it.

The president has repeatedly mentioned this vision in the forms of addresses, initiatives or in the framework of Arab diplomatic work. The Arab States Union has one day to be realized because it is the only guarantor of the Arab existence.



Al-Thawri weekly, organ of the YSP, 27 May 2004.

Main headlines

- YSP secretary-general receives congratulatory cables on the unity day
- Bomb targeted a local official in Hadramout
- YSP cadres run for students councils elections
- Unions at 6 universities discuss their situations

Columnist Qaed Yousuf says in his article all the people have kept waiting what the government would take of serious steps to increase salaries and wages of the state administrative machinery to encounter the wave of high expenses that included everything related to living conditions. Those bad conditions have driven the majority to poverty.

Between the state of waiting and frustration for non-implementation of the government's promise to improve the living standard of the state employees, came statements of the minister of civil service lately as he announced an increase in salaries of the state employees by a rate ranging between 20-40% of the basic salary.

The strange thing is that he increase came in response to directives by the president of the republic not as a decision taken by the government an came to be as tempting but in reality the increase does not exceed 3000-4000 riyals subject the progressive tax.

In fact one needs a salary equal three times the amount he gets in order to live a decent dignified life as a human being in a democratic country like ours.

The question is whether the ministry of civil service was really in need of presidential directives to increase the civil servants salaries. Was the rise in prices of bread enough to announce a state of emergency inside the government corridors and a cause for reconsidering the policy of wages?

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وزارة المواصلات: ٢٢٢١١٠/٧/٧، السياحة: ٢٥٤٠٣٣
الصليب الأحمر: ٢٠٢١٣٧/٣، تليفون: ٧٥٢٢٢٧

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٢٠٢٥٩٧٧-٢٠٢٦٠٠

مصرف اليمن البحري الشامل
فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٢، ٢٦٤٧٠٢
فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٢، ٢٦٤٧٠٢

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٤٠٧٩٠٥
٤٤٩٣٤٠
٢٨١٤٢
٤٠٣٢٦٩

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٢٨١٤٢
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فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٢، ٢٦٤٧٠٢

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٤٤٩٣٤٠
٢٨١٤٢
٤٠٣٢٦٩

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٢٨١٤٢
٤٠٣٢٦٩

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فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٢، ٢٦٤٧٠٢

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٤٤٩٣٤٠
٢٨١٤٢
٤٠٣٢٦٩

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٤٤٩٣٤٠
٢٨١٤٢
٤٠٣٢٦٩

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٩٦٧٠٠٠-٢٦-٨٣٣

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فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٢، ٢٦٤٧٠٢

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Why marriages fail?

By MOHAMMED ZAID
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

It is fair to say that customs, norms and traditions in our society interfere tremendously in the destiny and the future of some marriages. Many boys and girls are confined and restricted to certain conditions imposed by customs and traditions, which are reinforced by their parents when they decide and plan to get married, such as the right to choose the person to get married to.

Marriage is a spiritual and intellectual bond and partnership before it is a material and an emotional one. Youths, of both genders, intending to get married must be able to choose for themselves the ones they want to get married to. They will be solely responsible for bearing the negative or positive consequences. Any couple should have an opportunity, prior to getting married, to determine whether they are compatible for each other, to try to tolerate any negative habits and to settle any differences, so that they would have only to encounter mutual respect, understanding and trust in order to sustain a long marriage, probably for life. Each couple would be able to establish solid ground to sustain life-long marriage.

Loyalty, satisfaction, candidness, simplicity and other vital characteristics are crucial in judging the outcome of any marriage. Therefore, it would be prudent for any couple wishing to maintain a



A Yemeni family celebrates wedding ceremony of one of its members

strong marriage to reach mutual agreement on them prior to getting married.

The interference of parents, usually the father, in forcing his daughter or son to accept a certain marriage, without even being fully persuaded, is not just wrong but it is illegal in Islamic law. Some still say that persuasion, satisfaction and love come after marriage. This perception has expired in the light

of the rapid changes of life in general. Old customs and traditions are no longer valid in sustaining long term marriages, as many marriages based on them end up in divorce. Youths of both genders insist on having a say in their future, especially in choosing their intimate partners, so that if their marriage fails, they are the ones to be blamed instead of throwing the blame on their parents.

Since the issue here is the future of our youths, each father and mother must leave the right of selecting the life-partners of their children to their children themselves. They must respect the opinions and desires of their children. They youth ought not to be intimidated by their parents. Marriage is the start of a new future and should not be decided hastily.

Damlan Novel



Al-Afif Cultural Foundation has recently published a book of the three-part novel "Damlan" by the Yemeni novelist Professor Habib Abdulrab Sarouri. Professor Sarouri was born in Aden in 1956. He teaches computer science at the mathematics and engineering department of the National Institute for Applied Science and Rovon University, France. He has published several research papers and scientific books in French and English. The Al-Afif Cultural Foundation has published several literary works by Professor Sarouri.

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