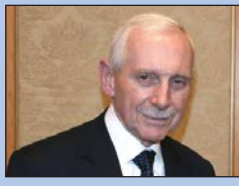


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US style security coming to Yemen's airports



Airport security in Yemen has been under major review since two packages, each containing plastic explosives were found on separate cargo planes on Oct 29. They were bound from Yemen to the United States, and were discovered at en route stop-overs, in England and in Dubai.

By: Tom Finn

SANA'A, Dec. 5 - An improved security system, based on the American model, will soon be implemented in Yemen's airports, US officials have said.

"We have a program that will be starting up in the very near future, an 18-month program with Yemen," Vicki Reeder of the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) told a US Senate hearing on international airline safety. "We have been working extensively with Yemen," she added.

The launching of the TSA airport security program follows a string of failed international airline attacks originating in Yemen. Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has claimed it was behind a foiled air cargo bomb plot in October, in which printer toner cartridges that had been rigged as bombs were shipped out of Sana'a.

AQAP is also accused of trying to blow up an airliner as it arrived in the United States on Christmas Day last year. The would-be weapon in that attack was a bomb sewn into the underpants of a young Nigerian student.

The two-foiled attacks were key in spurring US security agencies to rapidly step up checks at airports. The upgrade includes using controversial X-ray scanners that show a graphic image of the body and "enhanced" pat-downs, in which TSA agents have to touch travelers' private parts.

The intensive screening procedures, that have caused controversy amongst airline passengers and human rights organisations worldwide, are designed to detect an explosive powder called PETN. The substance has become the explosive of choice for terrorists and was found packed inside computer printer cartridges that were shipped on Oct. 29, intending to blow up planes en route to Chicago.

Continued on page 2

WikiLeaks cables expose more government cover-ups

By: Iona Craig

SANA'A, Dec. 5 - President Abdullah Ali Saleh "pledged unfettered access to Yemen's national territory for US counter-terrorism operations," revealed the latest US secret cables released by WikiLeaks.

The cables were released on Friday and detail three meetings between Yemen's president and US Deputy National Security Advisor, John Brennan, and other US diplomats.

The American documentation of a September 6 2009 meeting states that President Saleh "insisted that Yemen's national territory is available for unilateral CT [counter-terrorism] operations by the US." The secret communiqué quoted the president in the same meeting as saying, "I have given you an open door on terrorism."

The document also stated that the US government had "been actively engaged since 2001 in training elements of Yemen's

CT [counter-terrorism] forces, including the Counter-Terrorism Unit (CTU), the Yemen Special Operations Force (YSOF), the Presidential Guard, the Yemeni Border Troops, Yemen Air Force (YAF), and the Yemen Coast Guard (YCG)."

In an earlier meeting in March 2009, discussing the repatriation of Yemeni nationals detained at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba, the diplomatic cable described President Saleh as "dismissive, bored, and impatient". It also described his behaviour as "petulant" and "bizarre."

According to the March report, President Saleh insisted that the Yemeni detainees be returned to Yemen to a proposed US-funded rehabilitation center in Aden. This was also discussed in a meeting in May 2009. The latter meeting included US-based Central Intelligence Agency's deputy director Stephen Kappes who expressed concern that Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula was targeting President

Saleh

The cable recorded that President Saleh believed he had been under threat from a planned surface-to-air missile attack on the presidential plane during a trip to Aden.

The fog of war continues to be lifted by the WikiLeaks releases. An April 2007 cable recounted the events surrounding the discovery, by the Yemeni military, of an unmanned US reconnaissance aircraft 'Scan Eagle' washed ashore on the coast of Hadramout. At the time, in March 2007, the aircraft was reported to be an Iranian spy plane.

"The President instructed government officials not to comment," stated the recorded cable.

"On March 29, official and pro-government media sources reported that the Yemeni military had shot down an Iranian 'spy plane' off the coast of Hadramout,

after communicating with 'multinational forces' in the region," said the dispatch marked 'secret'.

According to the US's written record of President Saleh's September 2009 meeting with Brennan, the president complained about the US's lack of support in the war against the Houthis. The cable quoted Saleh saying, "We are suffering a lot of casualties and loss of material."

The cable stated that the US government refused to get involved in the war in Sa'ada.

"The US [government] is prohibited by law from providing military support to the ROYG [Republic of Yemen Government] to be used against the Houthis since the US [government] considers the group a domestic insurgency," the cable noted.

Continued on page 2

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Houthis deny AQAP killed elderly spiritual leader

By: Mohammed Bin Salam

SANA'A, Dec. 5 – Reports of sectarian violence between the Yemen-based Salafi, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Shiite sect of Houthis in north Yemen have been denied by the Houthi spokesperson Saleh Habra.

AQAP claimed in an online release on Friday Dec. 3 that it was responsible for killing Badr Al-Deen Al-Houthi, the Houthi rebel group's spiritual leader, who died last month. The terrorist organization said he died in one of the two suicide car bomb explosions in which 26 people were reported killed.

"Badr Al-Deen died in his house of natural causes at the age of 86," said Habra. "There were other victims who died in the car explosions which were carried out by the state's intelligence and not Al-Qaeda as rumored."

Habra denied the existence of Al-Qaeda in Yemen and said that they were in fact jihadists, bred by the state and harbored by its intelligence bodies. "This Al-Qaeda story is created by the regime to milk money from the West and rich Gulf states," he added.

Any involvement of Al-Qaeda in violent acts against the Houthis would represent a new element in the Sa'ada conflict, which has been fought on and off since 2004. Until recently, the main conflict has been between the state and the armed Houthi rebellion. Saudi Arabia became involved in 2009 when violence spilled over the northern border. However any involvement of Al-Qaeda in the fighting would

bring a new religious sectarian dimension to the struggle, not previously witnessed in Yemen.

The Al-Qaeda statement, issued by the AQAP acclaimed Al-Fajr center, said the Houthi leader was killed in a targeted suicide operation. The statement named the AQAP member responsible for the attack as Abu Aesha Al-Sananai Al-Hashimi. The suicide bomber targeted two cars carrying a number of Houthi leaders in Al-Jawf governorate, bordering Sa'ada, where the Houthis are based.

"After waiting for the authorities to do something about the Houthis we decided to take matters into our hands and launch our first martyr operation against them. We are doing this to protect our Sunni fellows after they were subjected to horrifying murders by the Shiite Houthis," read the statement.

The release, the second by AQAP in the past week, called on all Sunni Muslims in Yemen to join the war against Shiites and promised more operations to come. Sunni Muslims were advised in the statement to avoid mixing or being in the company of Shiites in order not to be harmed.

Since the attacks last month armed Houthi groups have created 15 checkpoints across Al-Jawf and Sa'ada governorates. The rebel group is carrying out vehicle searches as part of their own security protection and investigation in the attacks.

Representatives of the Houthi group accused US and Israeli intelligence of planning the attacks, an accusation that was rebuffed by the US embassy in Sana'a, which said the claim was "absolutely ridiculous and baseless."

Ministry plans to protect the environment

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

SANA'A, Dec. 4 – The Yemeni Ministry of Water and Environment has finalized a plan to protect the country's environment and natural resources.

The plan includes building national capacity to implement global environmental conventions, particularly those regarding biodiversity, climate change and the combating of desertification.

The cabinet has ordered the ministry to implement the plan after adopting it last week. It also agreed to declare Malhan area in Al-Mahwit governorate as an important natural reserve, ensuring that it will be rehabilitated and its biodiversity protected.

The plan aims to encourage social participation in the decision-making process about environmental protection. It also proposes more environmental research and the creation of a new school curricula about the environment.

The ministry listed some of the main problems that threaten the environment in Yemen, including the depletion of water resources, the decline of wetlands, and forest conservation.

Anwar Al-Himyari, technical officer at the Yemeni Environment Protection Authority (YEPA), said that the plan would contribute to protecting biodiversity.

"There is international interest in Yemen's environmental issues... Environmental culture has been increasing among Yemenis," he said.

Al-Himyari said that Yemen has six internationally recognized nature reserves with high biodiversity potential. He told the Yemen Times that biodiversity in Yemen is under great threat and that YEPA has a 'red



Kamaran Island on the Red Sea. One of Yemen's forgotten natural treasures.

list' of places where many species are threatened with extinction.

"We decided to declare some places that have great biodiversity to be natural reserves with the aim of protecting them from extinction," he said.

Al-Himyari praised the ministry's plan to provide students with a curricula about the environment.

"We have established environmentalist's clubs in hundreds of schools across different governorates to make students aware of the importance of environmental protection. These clubs have changed students' minds about the environment," he said.

The Yemeni environmental protection law compels all new projects and companies to adhere to using the best available machines to protect the environment. It stipulates that if any individual harms the environment, that person will be responsible for paying compensation and repairing the damage done.

Awareness campaigns stepped up as AIDS cases climb



The Lamst Shabab team during the AIDS/HIV awareness event at Sana'a University last Wednesday. Their activities targeted more than 400 students during in one day.

By: Mahmoud Al-Matari

SANA'A, Dec. 5 – The National AIDS Control and Sexually Transmitted Diseases Program at the Ministry of Health will launch an AIDS awareness activity in Hodeida this Wednesday in conjunction with World AIDS day 2010.

"We will carry out events in all of the 21 governorates to educate the public on the dangers of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases," said Mohammed Ahmed Jabal, awareness officer of the program.

As of September there had been 3,154 cases of AIDS registered with the Ministry of Health this year, according to Jabal. Last year there were 2,882. This represents a nine percent increase, despite new awareness activities.

Around 90 percent of AIDS cases were transmitted by sexual conduct, the remaining ten percent are related to blood transmissions, according to the national program.

There are currently five centres for counseling and AIDS treatment in Yemen. The first two in Sana'a and Aden were established in 2007. The other three in Taiz, Mukalla and Hodeida were established at the beginning of 2009.

The centres are equipped with trained staff, testing facilities and medicines, funded by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Development Program.

"We have 200 cases registered with us who are undergoing treatment, which is a 44 month course. Now with the new centers we have around 150 cases, while Sana'a center has around 500 and around 100 or so spread across the other three centers," said Dr. Naser Qasem Mohammed the coordinator at Al-Wihda Hospital of the national program for AIDS control at the Ministry of Health.

He added that there are more than 20,000 people in Yemen who are HIV positive but who have not been registered. HIV testing is a voluntarily process whereby the permission of the patient is required according to international protocol.

Currently there is a new law of 50 articles on HIV/AIDS which has been passed by the parliament and is awaiting a legislative internal charter before it is disseminated and new programs are carried out.

"Knowing about AIDS is important for Yemenis. This is why we carried out awareness events, to let the public know and take precautions," said Mohammed Rajeh Shamsan, head of a youth initiative called Lamst Shabab.

The initiative launched a campaign targeting around 400 youths in several colleges at Sana'a University last Wednesday on World AIDS Day.

Among the young volunteers who set off to educate their peers on AIDS was Adham Hassan. "We talked to students both boys and girls about the dan-

gers of AIDS and STDs and they were interested to hear what we had to say. They even were interested in our initiative and wanted to join."

Lamst Shabab targeted students at the university because of their enthusiasm and inclination to try new social activities.

"The youth are impulsive and we needed to turn this energy towards positive issues and so we got them onboard," said Ibtisam Bahubaish who was among the youth distributing pamphlets and spreading awareness.

According to the World AIDS Day official website, there are 33.4 million people living with HIV worldwide, 2.1 million of whom are children under 15.

The United Nations Development Program in Yemen (UNDP) has implemented several programs in this issue, in partnership with the Yemeni government. By mid 2007, UNDP said that with a little over 2,000 cases reported, that Yemen is considered a low prevalence country with respect to HIV and AIDS.

"However, it is likely that this low rate hides a much grimmer reality, given the fact that many cases go unreported due to the social stigma surrounding HIV and AIDS and the lack of institutional mechanisms and basic infrastructure to detect them," said the UNDP website.

Therefore, the AIDS program at the ministry of health carries out regular awareness activities mainly on the occasion of World AIDS Day.

"This year our awareness events will include bicycle races, sketches and songs, and speeches by concerned authorities," said Jabal.

He added that this year's AIDS motto for Yemen would be: "World united to face AIDS for a new AIDS free generation and without stigma or discrimination and free from deaths by AIDS."

The government's program of activities are also an occasion to distribute pamphlets on the risks of AIDS and STDs and educating the public on how to deal with AIDS patients.

"We also encourage the public to go for voluntary checks and to use our hotline service," said Jabal.

Interested callers are advised to try more than once if they do not get through as the hotline service has been experiencing some technical problems.

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US style security coming to Yemen's airports

So far there has been no suggestion that the body scanners would be used in Yemen's airports, however the US has been pushing other countries to start using the so-called "naked" scanners. Some 385 of the body scanners have already been deployed at 70 US airports.

Around a dozen other countries, besides the US, are "testing or deploying these scanners now or committed to deploying them in the near future," said Steven Lord, a director of homeland security and justice issues at the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

Lord added that in "some countries' officials have expressed concern about travelers' privacy and possible health risks posed by the scanners.

The new airport security system planned for Yemen will come as a relief to US officials, some of whom, according to latest batch of Wikileaks cables, have long held concerns about Yemen's airport security.

An August 2009 cable described a visit to Yemen by a US security delegation that revealed "several lapses in airport security practices... regarding passenger screening, cargo secu-

urity, and secure identification display area badge and access procedures."

Stephen Seche, then US ambassador to Yemen, reported airport security was poor and US anti-terrorism training for airport officials and security staff, offered since 1998, had not been effectively implemented.

"There have been numerous occurrences of x-ray screeners not watching their monitors constantly, and ineffective access control procedures," he said in the cables. Customs officials were ineffective, "underpaid, poorly trained and receptive to corruption," he added.

The cables also reveal a tense exchange between President Saleh and Daniel Benjamin, America's most senior counter-terrorism official.

In a face-to-face meeting with Saleh on 31 January 2010, recorded in the leaked diplomatic cables, Benjamin warned the Yemeni president of the need for tougher airport security after the US embassy reported that security advice had gone unheeded for more than a decade. He urged Saleh to accept fresh US help to "strengthen screening procedures at all of Yemen's international air-

ports."

Saleh said he was satisfied with America's counter-terrorism assistance to date, but went on to criticise the US for their on and off approach, describing the Americans as "hot-blooded and hasty when you need us", but "cold-blooded and British when we need you," according to the diplomatic document.

In the third edition of an online magazine allegedly published by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the entire 23-pages are dedicated to America's controversy around airport security and the recent plot to blow up two cargo planes headed for America.

Al-Qaeda representatives brag about circumventing America's airport security systems.

"We have researched the various security systems employed by airports. We looked into X-Ray scanners, full body scanners, sniffing dogs and other aspects of security. The resulting bomb was a device that we were confident would pass through the most stringent and up-to-date security equipment. We were right."

In Brief

Yemeni workers in Gulf states

The Yemeni ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Al-Ahwal, affirmed that Yemen sees the next Friends of Yemen meeting, which will be hosted in February in Riyadh, as a chance to facilitate the absorption of Yemeni workers in the Gulf States and to protect them from becoming involved in extremist organisations like al-Qaeda.

"The unemployed youth need money which makes them an easy victim for terrorist elements," he said.

Al-Ahwal said in a statement published by the Saudi newspaper, Al-Watan, that Friends of Yemen group was important as it would help assimilate Yemeni workers into different environments, especially graduates of institutes of vocational and technical training.

He made it clear that the meeting will review the achievements of the third Five-Year Plan, 2006-2010, which both the Gulf States and the European Union have contributed to. It will also study the upcoming Five-Plan 2010-2015 for supporting developmental projects in Yemen.

Al-Ahwal suggested that the conference will establish a fund to continue supporting projects in Yemen and that there must be a link between the donors and the government.

Australia to support Yemen marine navigation

Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, Yemen's Foreign Minister met with his Australian counterpart, Kevin Rudd, on Friday in Bahrain, on the sidelines of the Manama Dialogue 2010, to discuss the country's bilateral relations and means of reinforcing them at all levels.

Rudd voiced his country's desire to support and reinforce Yemen's economy and development, especially with regards to agriculture and water resources.

For his part, al-Qirbi expressed appreciation for the Australian government stance and its desire to deepen the current relations between the two countries.

The ministers reviewed the results of the Friends of Yemen Group meeting last September in New York.

ADEN

President Saleh meets national football team members

President Ali Abdullah Saleh met on Thursday in Aden governorate with the national football team.

President Saleh hailed their efforts during the 20th Gulf Cup tournament and other events.

"Sport competitions are always a win or loss and you must accept the loss with spirit do not let it affect affected you in the future," Saleh said.

The President said that the real winner in the tournament is the Yemeni people, who helped make it successful.

He urged the team to pay attention and make more efforts at training to acquire strong physical condition and more experience. He pointed to the importance of paying more attention to the Gulf Cup as the basis for preparing the national team.

"Yemen has many talents and creative people in all fields", President Saleh said.

President Saleh ordered to extend a financial incentive to the national team's members and YR 3 million to player Akram al-Wurafi.

SHABWA

55 Somali refugees arrive in Shabwa coast

About 55 Somali refugees have reached the Radoom Coast in Shabwa province where they were gathered and sent to the refugees' camp in Maifaa, the Interior Ministry has reported.

Security authority in the governorate has said that about 186 refugees, including 48 women and 13 children, have arrived at Kharaz Camp in Lahj province in order to be sent to the provinces of Taiz, Shabwa and Taiz provinces.

Continued from page 1

WikiLeaks cables expose more government cover-ups

The document reflected President Saleh's continued "frustration with the US refusal to view the Sa'ada war against the Houthis in the north in the same light as the fight against AQAP. Claiming a need for increased aid and support, Saleh asserted that 'this war we're launching is a war on behalf of the U.S....the Houthis are your enemies too'."

Only 20 cables out of a total of 1591 originating from the US embassy in Sana'a, dating back to 1966, have so far been revealed in the largest ever leak of classified documents. More than 250,000 cables are in the complete collection held by WikiLeaks.

The website has been forced to switch its hosting operations several times since it began releasing official US documents on November 28. A combination of coordinated attacks and lobbying by chairman of the US Senate's homeland security committee, Joe Lieberman, has shutdown the

whistleblower's site three times in the last week. The site is currently hosted in Switzerland and on Saturday night its internet service provider, Switch, rejected international calls to remove the website.

Its donation channel, online bank PayPal, ended its association with WikiLeaks claiming "illegal activity" had forced the termination. This week France has joined the US in attacking the continuing release of the diplomatic cables.

WikiLeaks front man Julian Assange, 39, has received death threats for releasing the confidential data. He is believed to be in an unknown location in the UK. Swedish authorities issued a renewed warrant for his arrest for the alleged rape of two women, but the document had not been signed by Sweden's chief prosecutor. The native Australian has consistently denied the accusations and claims it is part of a targeted smear campaign against him.

UAE celebrates 39th National Day



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Embassy in Yemen celebrated the 39th anniversary of its national day in Sana'a last Saturday.

UAE Ambassador Abdullah Matar Al-Mazrooi welcomed the guests to the festive reception and talked to them about the achievements of UAE since its independence from Great Britain on December 2, 1971.

Attending the event were representatives of the diplomatic community as well as journalists and civil society.

YT photo by Yazeed Kamaldeen



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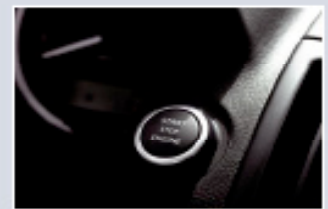


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Cheaper houses make random cities



Most buildings in Yemen do not get the final touches of urban style. People believe it is extravagant to spend money on materials to decorate the outward look of their houses.

By: Malak Shaher

The first thing to be noticed by someone having a tour around the cities of Yemen is the unorganized and random style of the buildings. In fact, it is not only the random style of the buildings which disturbs the final look of the city, but also the urban planning of Yemeni cities.

Unfortunately, the organization of buildings in Yemeni cities suffer from a severe deficiency of urban planning. People have been competing to buy cheaper plots of land which are not included in the designs of the General Authority for Urban Planning.

In Sana'a there has been an increasing problem in terms of residential expansion. With the passage of the time and the rapid increase in population, new houses are eating away at the green lands surrounding Sana'a. Lands

that are not included in the authority's design of the city, according to a study by Mohammad Al-Toloo' titled 'Residential expansion in Yemen, Sana'a is an example.'

During the last 30 years, people from all Yemeni governorates have been flowing into Sana'a looking for work and opportunities. After the First Gulf War in the early 90s, Yemeni expatriates returned to their homeland in droves. The population, especially in Sana'a, rapidly increased. In fact, it has increased from 162,000 in 1977 to more than 1.7 million in 2010.

The study stated that Yemen's population is increasing by 3.7 percent. In Sana'a, a mere 555 square kms, the population is increasing by 7.7 percent.

Nevertheless, the buildings in Sana'a do not cover the whole ground area of Sana'a, as there are some vacant spaces yet to be filled. The study claims that

the area of Sana'a could support 5 million people, while the current population has not yet exceeded 2 million.

Since many of those looking for opportunities in Sana'a had very little money, they bought cheap plots of land in the suburbs surrounding the city. Many built cheap houses on the land with little, if any, planning approval. These suburbs had no public services and were not included in the plan of the city.

"This explains why people tend to go to further areas which are not planned yet. They simply prefer to go further and pay less money, than buying a land plot in a planned area inside the city of Sana'a with more expensive prices," according to Al-Toloo'.

Sana'a threatening to absorb nearby village land

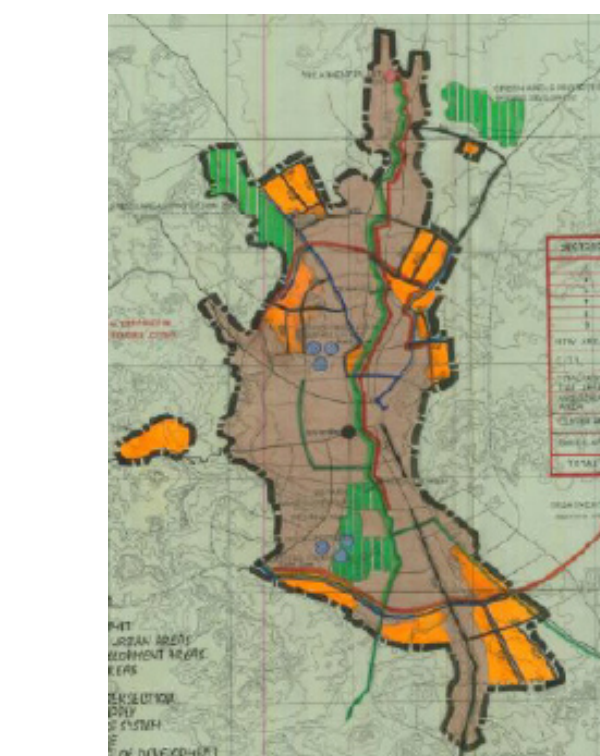
There is a common belief, especially among the poor, that there is no use in paying a lot more money for land in expensive planned areas.

"This is the only place I managed to get a house. It is very expensive to buy a house in the city center because the land there is very expensive," said Mohammad Al-Ubaiddi, a resident on Airport Street which is an hour from the city center.

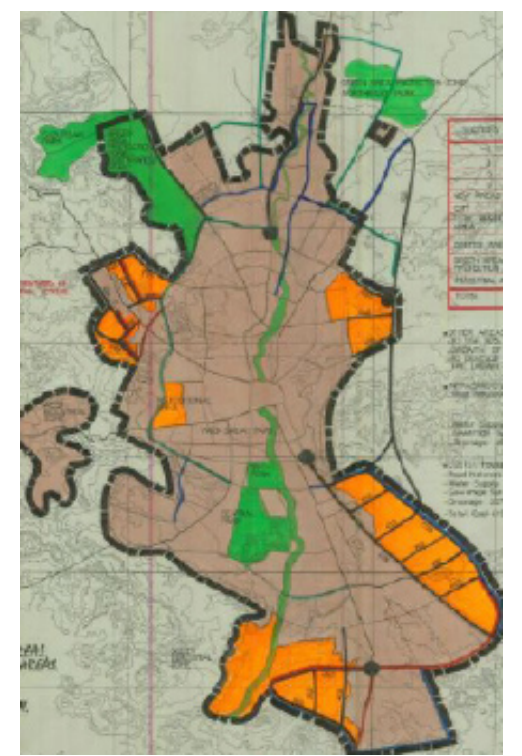
For Al-Ubaiddi, who used to live in a village near Sana'a, it is cheaper to have a house near his village which is also considered 'in the city'. He said that he wanted a better opportunity for his children in the city.

In Sana'a, this is also the case for hundreds of thousands of people who came from surrounding villages and other governorates.

This has become a challenge for the government, as these randomly erected suburbs have spread widely, sometimes even absorbing villages near Sana'a. Eventually, these outlying areas and



Sana'a in 2005



Sana'a in 2020

villages become part of Sana'a city, and should be provided with public services such as electricity and water.

Sometimes when a design for a new road is outlined, the location of the main road is already occupied by houses. Therefore, the government needs to pay money to compensate people whose houses are destroyed when the land becomes part of the road system. Many other unplanned houses have had to be knocked down to make way for planned urban development.

Buildings in Sana'a are stretching to the north and south, as Sana'a is surrounded by mountains on the east and west. These residential expansions are increasingly threatening the green plains in villages adjacent to Sana'a to the north and the south of the city.

Problems of current city planning

Sana'a city doesn't only have unplanned buildings, but also some buildings that are included in the plan of the city, but are badly deteriorating due to old age. According to Toloo', there are also 35 slums around the planned city of Sana'a, which were established by residents in a totally unplanned way.

"In my point of view, Sana'a city is not only suffering from an unplanned residential extension, but also from deteriorating houses inside the city, and slums around the city," said Al-Toloo'.

Moreover, the houses are not numbered and often the only way to get to a place in these areas is by memorizing a well-known place or landmark that is nearby.

The buildings are not erected based on any style outlined by the Supreme Council for Urban Planning. In fact, they are built according to the design that pleases the owner of the house, which often is the cheapest design. This has resulted in houses with the most "common random unplanned design," said Al-Toloo'.

The council has been negligent for years in not outlining the limits of residential expansion. In general, most of the plans for urban areas are made after the area is already full of unorganized buildings, the study said.

It was recommended that the Ministry of Labor and General Works should implement rules for erecting buildings and planning streets such that the final look of the city looks more developed.

Yemen Times interview with International Organization for Migration Director General

William Lacy Swing, a diplomat and former US Ambassador, was elected Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in June 2008. Swing arrived in Yemen on Friday to take part in a regional workshop on the temporary employment of Yemeni workers in countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The workshop brought together high-ranking government officials from Yemen and the six GCC countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) to discuss partnerships aimed at facilitating labour mobility between Yemen and the Arabian Gulf States.

With a growing population, expected to double to 60 million people in 2050 (almost half of them younger than 24 years old), offering sustainable forms of livelihood to Yemeni families is seen as key to reaching development targets in Yemen. According to the World Bank, some 600,000 Yemenis work abroad, including more than 430,000 in Saudi Arabia alone. In 2009, they sent home more than USD 1.5 billion in remittances.

In a special to the Yemen Times, Yazer Ahmed, caught up with William Lacy to ask him about IOM's work in Yemen.



William Lacy Swing

Firstly, can you tell us a little about the International Organization for Migration and the work it does?

We are an inter-governmental organization with 127 member states. We work directly in more than 150 countries but are also a decentralized organization with a presence in 440 locations in the world. We try to respond to all kinds of migration challenges and opportunities and this includes addressing major humanitarian disasters such as the earthquake in Haiti and the flooding in Pakistan this year. We have about 7500 staff, the overwhelming majority, around 95%, of whom are in field offices. Our annual budget is just over a USD one billion, and it is primarily used to run projects for government member states, observer states and non-member states.

Your role is becoming increasingly more relevant in relation to the issue of African refugees, noting the precedent IOM has set in facilitating their voluntary return to their countries of origin, what is IOM's strategy in positioning itself with regards to the refugee's issues?

We have a large program called assistant voluntary return. Every year IOM assist about 25,000 or more migrants to return to their country of origin. Our suggestion to the government has been to use this program instead of deporting individuals. We feel that if there is a problem, it is much better addressed through a voluntary arrangement since that way there is no stigma attached to their departure. In addition we offer them an integration

package which means once they arrive home they have something to get their life started. I think that this method works best in our work around the world.

Yemen's long coastal line and borders are a nightmare to police, particularly given the existence of cross-border organized criminal activity involving human trafficking, please describe to us how you work with neighboring countries in order to support improved border control.

We're working closely with governments to try and address the problem of human trafficking which, as I have said, is one of the greatest crimes of the era of globalization. We are involved in various forms of prevention, one of which is education. We have constructed bill-



A Yemeni-Saudi border crossing in Najran. Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's largest economy, has a 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) border with Yemen.

boards warning people, particularly the youth, against getting involved with traffickers and smugglers. We also work in providing protection for the victims of human trafficking. We operate shelters for the victims and provide social counseling. Finally, we work closely with the government on their legislation in order to ensure that there are a set of laws for bringing traffickers and smugglers to justice. So we work on three p's: prevention, protection and prosecution.

IOM is also becoming more involved on issues relating to facilitating formal labor migration between Yemen and GCC as a

measure to counter human trafficking, can you tell us about the mechanisms IOM is putting in place to support such migration? Well this is something that is still in under discussion. But we're basically trying to do more of what we did today, that is, bringing the Arab Labor Organization, the Yemeni government and GCC countries together to discuss increasing the mobility of young Yemeni men and women. A prime target of this mobility are the GCC countries who themselves have significant labor demands.

Can you tell us about IOM's working relationship and coop-

eration with other development actors, donors, and civil society in the country?

We've just had a meeting with the UN Yemen team and while we're not a designated member of their team, we partner with them in a number of areas. We are also part of the emergency standing community, a coordination body among the humanitarian agencies here in Yemen. We work with regional organizations such as the Arab labor organization, the regional economic organizations and civil society we are always looking for new partners so we have an open and active approach to coordination and cooperation there.

Malaysia, Muslims must-visit travel destination

By: Yazeed Kamaldien

The Muslim traveler is like any other; curious about the world, engaged in exploring new cultures and hungry for adventure. But the Muslim traveler also wants halaal food. And a clean place to pray and wouldn't mind skipping tours like those venturing into the Cape Winelands farms in Cape Town, South Africa. Wine tasting doesn't really suit the Muslim traveler's interest.

So imagine the joy of landing in a country that covers the Muslim traveler's checklist minus that sometimes overbearing feeling of the Arab world. While the latter offers rich Islamic heritage and a relatively comfortable setting for the Muslim traveler, it's just not possible to sign a peace deal with its ghetto rhetoric.

For example, it's not that easy to travel freely in the so-called Muslim lands of Arabia when you're with women. Those suspicious stares knock you down – even if it's your very own sister that you might be accompany-

ing on the shopping rounds. Well then, here enters Malaysia. One does not confront the imposed

inhibitions or restrictions of the contemporary Arab world. In Malaysia one meets a liberal Islam – as it should be – without the restrictions of the obstructive 'us-and-them' mentality. The divide between Muslim and non-Muslim can't exist in Malaysia anyway because its population is way too diverse to allow that.

Malaysia features an inclusive Islam that speaks to a South African that understands the value of espousing the ideals of a democratic society coupled with a realistic outlook. It serves as an example of an Islamic nation able to navigate its way as a multi-faith democracy. This does not exist on the ground in other parts of the Islamic world.

Malaysia is a Muslim traveler's dream. Not only because all the food is halaal (yes, that can make a trip so much more enjoyable as travel is also about the tastes of foreign lands).

importantly, it's politically and economically stable, meaning its safe to travel around. Its progressive Islamic leadership style likely has a lot to do with these achievements.

Unlike most other countries with majority Muslim populations, Malaysia has realized that to celebrate and promote its diversity is ideal for progress. To do so it has embraced a democratic political system and dealt inclusively with all its minority communities.

ethnicities. Traditional dancing and music unfolded to present an inspiring display of seeming unity that so many nations struggle to achieve.

Malaysia is a luscious collection of Asian influences. It's inspiring to witness a people proudly and confidently celebrating its cultural heritage. One experiences this not only at Colors of 1Malaysia but also via travels hopping from the capital city to the historical town Melaka or the many idyllic islands.



The tourism industry in Malaysia is well-developed yet, despite the availability of 300 tour operators in Kota Kinabalu, there is not an ugly overt jostling for business between competitors. A few other places could be mentioned here as examples of the opposite which carries with it a sense of unpleasant desperation.

Another natural landmark in Kota Kinabalu is its Kinabalu Park comprising hiking trails, flora, fauna and a majestic 4,095.2-metre tall summit. Travelers who are too burnt-out for a walk could settle for a sunset cruise between the islands or a cruise on the not too

buried for the first but not last time. Holland was one of Europe's colonial forces, although not a bloodthirsty empire the likes England and France, and its reach linked greater parts of Indonesia with the Cape. Smaller Malaysian areas are also linked to the Cape via the Dutch colonial presence.

Colonial rule has ended in the Cape, Indonesia and Malaysia but its impact has left a legacy of connectedness to be explored between Cape Town – even South Africa broadly – and the two South-East Asian states where ancestors of so many South Africans are from.

Apartheid identity architects labeled the descendants of South-East Asia's anti-colonial political exiles the 'Cape Malay'. It wasn't sufficient a description as this community had evolved since colonial rule to include a wider heritage of other peoples in



Its annual street parade, Citra Warna or Colors of 1Malaysia, was held in May this year and vigorously promoted the range of ethnic and religious faces of the nation. This parade was held on Independence Square in downtown Kuala Lumpur, the capital city.

The country's King Mizan Zainal Abidin and Queen Nur Zahirah launched the event which featured 5,500 dancers dressed in traditional costumes from the country's various

Traveling close on three hours by air to Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah state, provides a glimpse into some of the tribal and historical attributes of Malaysia. The Monsopiad Cultural Village near the Kota Kinabalu city centre is a tribute to the fearsome warrior that it's named after.

Monsopiad lived in the Kuai village nearly 200 years ago and a museum at the cultural village holds 42 skulls of antagonists that threatened his village. Back then tribal life demanded a savage demeanor – eat or be eaten. Traditional dancing and costumes are also on show at this village as the Malay of yesteryear is replayed. No skulls are requested to stay behind though.

Kota Kinabalu also offers nature adventures that characterise Malaysia. Boat trips to any of the five islands off this little city easily leads one to deep



distant Klias River to catch a peek at monkey populations or buzzing fireflies after dark.

Another slice of Malaysian history worth checking out is Melaka. A two-

hour drive from Kuala Lumpur leads to the home of a mixed-race group which resulted from the marriage of Malay and Chinese inhabitants. It's another feather in the diversity hat that Malaysia wants to wear and show off.

Faces from the so-called Cape Malay or colored community, familiar words from the Indonesian and Malaysian language as well the nature of a liberal-minded Islam from those parts of the world are also markers of the fraternal links.

And so the Muslim traveler is not at a loss when seeking to explore Malaysia. If this traveler is from South Africa there might be the added off-the-beaten-track mission to find an ancestor. But if that fails, there are always those famously affordable Malaysian shopping trips to make up for it.

blue waters, snorkeling and even underwater sea walking tours.

These stops simply inspire the desire to laze about. But there's enough to keep one making merry if you're looking for action. Apart from underwater activities, one could also paraglide or wander about in the forest-like island surrounds.

A pleasing presence on the islands is the awareness that these centuries-old spaces should be preserved. The islands form part of national parks and signs encourage visitors to keep it clean. Recycle bins are also visible.

Melaka is also linked to Cape Town. The wife of Dutch colonialist of the Cape, Jan van Riebeeck, was first buried in this Malaysian town. Her body was later moved to the Cape. An engraved stone in Melaka – amongst other gravestones – marks the spot in Melaka where Mrs van Riebeeck was

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Well then, here enters Malaysia. One does not confront the imposed

But also because it comes wrapped with site-seeing adventure and mesmerizing freefalls into nature. More

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أحر التهاني والشكرات إلى
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رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية
وإلى الحكومة وكافة أبناء الشعب اليمني
بمناسبة حلول الذكر ال 43 ليوم الجلاء
من ال 30 من نوفمبر ومناسبة
فجاح فعاليات خليجي 20
وكل عام وأنتم بخير

Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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



OUR OPINION

Wikileaks and public opinion

If there is one thing we can learn from the Wikileaks scandal it is that nothing remains secret forever. As it is today we are reading political documents from the fifties and sixties and there are regular TV shows with analysts telling us how former politicians shaped our world of today.

Most of the time the disclosed information is not all that surprising and this is more or less the case with the latest Wikileaks.

The credibility of the information disclosed in my opinion is not the main question. After all they are documents sourced from the White House. Some governments have responded to the accusations against them saying that the information disclosed is a misinterpretation of their discussions.

This could be true, but it's hard to see how this excuse applies to direct quotes when a certain country's leader gives a statement in his own words.

Many international reporters have asked me, 'what will the disclosed information do to the reputation and popularity of the leaders?' In most developing countries even those with elections it's largely irrelevant because the value of public opinion is not considered important.

In countries like Yemen, it's hard to say a 'public opinion' really exists. Most of the people are unaware of politics because they either illiterate or tucked away in rural areas with no access to independent news. Even for those who are aware, they are indifferent because they are not interested.

Moreover, the Yemeni nation's memory is very short and the country as a whole lacks vision. This means that people do not look into the past to make decisions about the present and future. This is probably due to lack of education and awareness but mostly because a sense of ownership does not really exist.

Most Yemenis do not think they have a say or a responsibility towards their country. They do not take ownership of the situation of Yemen today and their role in making things better.

This is why even a hundred Wikileaks will not make a difference for Yemen. It will only confirm what we already know and have done nothing about.

This is also why the Yemeni government did not think much before responding with, "the information is both un-true and a misinterpretation of what really happened and that Yemen does not care about what is being said or published."

What really matters is creating a strong public opinion in Yemen and making sure that this is representative of the people and that it has value. Without this, nothing anyone can do or say will make any difference.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

The parcel bomb plot — Al Qaeda's gift to Israel

By: Maidhc Ó Cathail

While Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) may have claimed responsibility for the parcel bomb plot, it's worth considering how this latest Yemen-linked terror scare has been a gift to their avowed enemies.

A mere two weeks before the discovery of mail bombs addressed to "two places of Jewish worship in Chicago," Rupert Murdoch sounded prescient as he received an award from the Anti-Defamation League for his support of Israel. "The terrorists continue to target Jews across the world," declared the media mogul in his acceptance speech. "But they have not succeeded in bringing down the Israeli government — and they have not weakened Israeli resolve."

Equating criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism, the Fox News owner smeared the growing worldwide condemnation of Israel's rogue behaviour as an "ongoing war against the Jews."

Benjamin Netanyahu, a frequent London House guest of Murdoch and a likely recipient of his political contributions, was quick to make hay of the foiled plot. Briefing the cabinet on his impending address to the General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America, the Israeli Prime

Minister told them that it would be "held against the background of reports about the attempt to attack the Jewish community in Chicago."

Linking the parcel bomb plot to some of the most iconic terrorist attacks of the post-9/11 era, Netanyahu said that "it does not matter if the target was a synagogue in Chicago or a railway station in Madrid, London, Mumbai or Bali."

Deftly associating his increasingly isolated government with the victims of those attacks, the Israeli Prime Minister proclaimed: "We are facing a growing wave of terrorism by extremist Islam."

Netanyahu, never one prone to understatement, offered this analysis of the unsuccessful attempt to use desktop printers as terror weapons: "It is growing in the scope and brazen gall of its attacks, in the weapons with which it is arming itself, and in the sweeping objectives of the leaders of global terrorism."

He then assured his colleagues that "one of the main issues" he would be addressing in New Orleans with American Jewish leaders was "the steps that the civilized and free world must take in order to stop this wave that threatens us all."

Needless to say, those "steps" are unlikely to include an end to the 43-year occupation and colonisation of the West Bank or a lifting of the 4-year blockade of Gaza.

An American apologist for Israel's self-appointed guardian of "the civilised and free world" took a similar line.

Joel Pollak, a Republican candidate in the midterm elections, released a statement condemning the attempted terror attack, saying he would be spending the Jewish Sabbath in West Rogers Park "in solidarity with the people of the 9th congressional district who were the direct targets of Al Qaeda terror." Sounding a lot like Netanyahu, Pollak attempted to rally his constituents by telling them. Again, we can take it as read that the "terror and hatred" Americans are being urged to combat only applies to Israel's enemies.

Debka-Net-Weekly, which describes itself as "the leading geopolitical newsletter," has even attempted to implicate Israel's current enemy number one, Iran.

The next issue, for subscribers only, promises to reveal "how the Al Qaeda air package plot fit [sic] into the selective partnership between Tehran and Al Qaeda and homes in on the areas where their schemes dovetail."

But how trustworthy is "the leading newsletter in this rarefied field"?

Appearing on Fox News two days later, the No. 1 pro-Israel advocate and leader in Congress, Senator Joe Lieberman, announced: "Iraq was yesterday's war. Afghanistan is today's war. If we don't act

preemptively, Yemen will be tomorrow's war."

Within a week, Bruce Riedel, a senior fellow at the Saban Center in the Brookings Institution, had an op-ed in The Daily Beast titled "The Menace of Yemen." Touting the botched Christmas Day plot as evidence of "the growing ambition of Al Qaeda's Yemen franchise," Riedel called for "significant American support to defeat AQAP."

Riedel's employer, the Saban Center, is named after Haim Saban, the Israeli-American media mogul, who in 2002 pledged \$13 million to found the Saban Center for Middle East Policy. Two years later, the billionaire admitted to the New York Times, "I'm a one-issue guy and my issue is Israel."

That "trap" has been best described by Philip Giraldi. "America's misguided war on terror," Giraldi pointed out in a recent article, "is in fact a complete adoption of Israeli security paradigms without any regard for the actual threats that confront the US, making Israel's many enemies also the foes of Washington."

Israel must be very grateful indeed for this latest terror scare. If Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula did not exist, they might have to invent it.

Maidhc Ó Cathail is a widely published writer based in Japan

Gulf Cup terror fears no match for football in Yemen

By: Justin Marozzi
BBC News

Despite international fears of terror attacks, Yemen is proving itself to be a perfect host for an eight-nation football tournament on the Arabian Peninsula.

When I told a friend I was off to Yemen for the Gulf Cup of Nations football tournament in Aden, he asked me if I was insane. He was not alone.

According to one newspaper, this was "the most dangerous region of the most dangerous country on earth".

The headline in an American magazine expressed the reaction of many: "Al-Qaeda bombings, drive-by shootings and penalty kicks - what are they thinking?"

I asked another friend, a distinguished sports writer, if he fancied a few days out in the Gulf. Out of the question, he said. His wife would not let him go.

On the surface it seemed only reasonable to question the wisdom of staging an

international football tournament in the heartland of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

And for once this was not a uniquely Western view. Some of Yemen's neighbours had their doubts, too.

There were wobbles from Kuwait and Bahrain, before they decided to grin and bear it and join the six other Gulf countries in Aden.

A Yemeni friend told me of the Arab tourism minister who had got the jitters and frantically prepared a will before his flight to Yemen.

"Then I got here," he said later, "and on my first day in Aden I found myself wandering through the streets at two in the morning, speaking to people, eating outside in restaurants thoroughly enjoying myself. I was completely comfortable."

Electric atmosphere

You have to wonder what the Iraqi footballers, who have lived through an inferno of violence since 2003, made of all the fuss.

In the run-up to the tournament the government launched an unprecedented security operation involving more than 30,000 soldiers.

That did not mean people were not worried about the opening ceremony and the match that followed it, Yemen versus Saudi Arabia.

What chance an al-Qaeda spectacular?

I watched the game in the city's main stadium, packed way beyond its capacity of 30,000.

In scenes that made Western security experts wince, fans crowded up and down gangways, sat and stood and danced on the stadium's outer rim and filled every space available.

The women, wrapped in black abayas, were easily the noisiest, cheering wildly and waving the national red, black and white flags of Yemen deliriously.

A few rows down from me was a boisterous Saudi fan surrounded by Yemenis.

From time to time he broke into exuberant song, waving his green-and-white Saudi flag.

Each time his team scored, he jumped up and started dancing and yelling in glee. His celebrations would have struck most

British observers as provocative. I could not help cringing.

If he was not careful, I thought, this triumphalist Saudi would end up being lynched by insulted home fans.

In England, he would not have lasted long. But then in England he would not have been standing with rival fans in the first place.

The Yemenis, however, saluted him and joined in with his songs. The atmosphere was electric, the joy infectious.

Yemen has been confounding foreign visitors like this for centuries.

The birthplace of Arab civilisation has seen a succession of foreigners come and go: the Portuguese, Ottomans, British and Russians have all been bamboozled by a famously complex country.

I certainly was not expecting to see a statue of Queen Victoria in her pomp proudly displayed in one of Aden's public parks. So much for al-Qaeda's heartland.

For their part, Yemenis do not always understand the outside world, either.

They are slightly baffled by the reaction to the parcel bomb that was not, al-Qaeda's failed plot hatched in Yemen to down a US-bound cargo plane. It strikes them as Western hysteria.

In the end, the only thing spectacular about the opening evening of the tournament was the result, a thumping 4-0 thrashing by the Saudis.

Link to qat?

Yemenis love their football but, like English football fans, have grown used to a team that traditionally disappoints.

Some commentators have attributed the poor performance of Yemeni footballers to the chewing of qat leaves, the mildly hallucinogenic, amphetamine-like stimulant that is legal in Yemen - and in the UK - and reportedly consumed by 72% of men here.

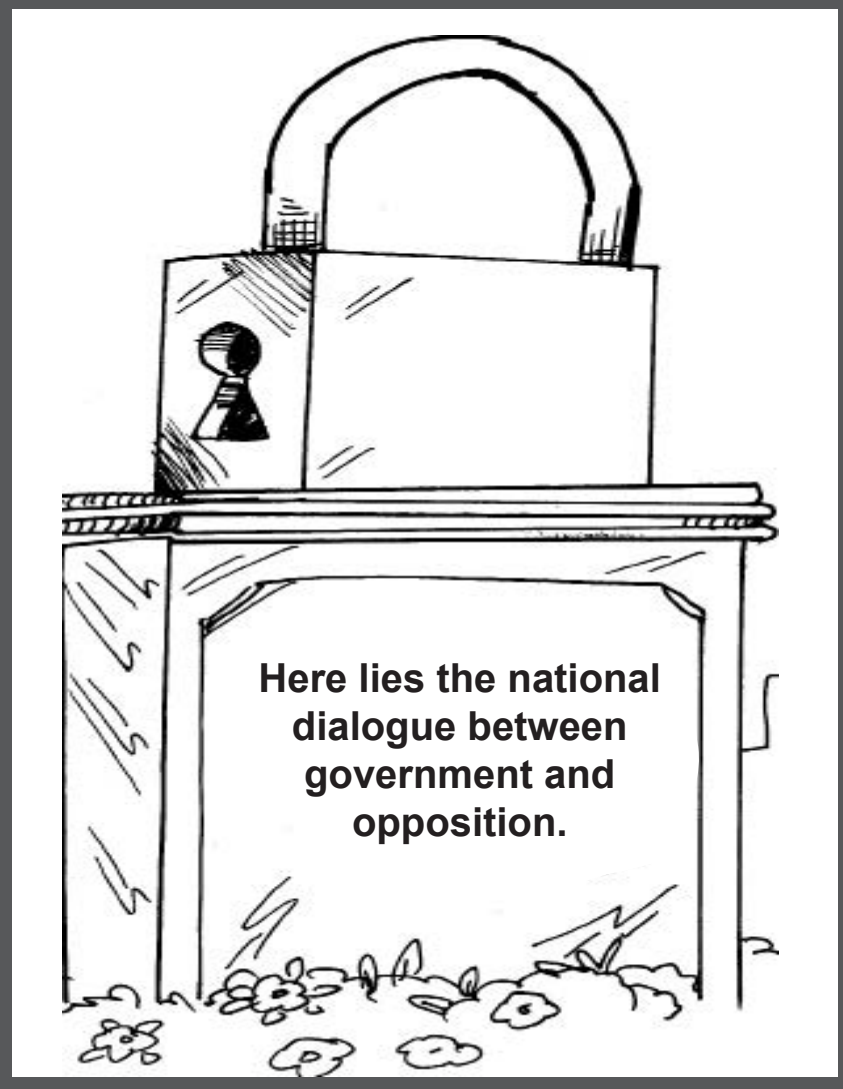
Lunchtime sees most of the country dashing into the nearest market to buy the freshest leaves, returning home with the tell-tale red plastic bags stuffed full of foliage.

Once the football is over, I plan to do the same. A friend in Sana'a has invited me for a quiet afternoon chew. Not something to tell the wife about.

That would be letting the qat out of the bag.

SKETCHED OPINION

By: Hamid



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What Size is the Fire Exit?

By: Daniel Gros

The eurozone is being thrown into turmoil by a collective rush to the exits by investors. Yields on government debt of peripheral eurozone countries are skyrocketing, because investors do not really know what the risks are.

Officials want to be reassuring. Investors should not worry, they argue, because the current bailout mechanism – the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) – has worked so far without any haircut for bondholders, and will continue to be applied until about 2013. Only after that date would any new mechanism open the door for losses for private investors, and only for debt issued after that date.

But markets do not trust this message – and for good reason: it is not credible, because it makes no economic sense. After all, the claim that the risk of loss will arise only for debt issued after the new crisis-resolution mechanism starts in 2014 implies that all debt issued until then is safe, and that insolvency can occur only in some distant future, rather than now, as in Greece and Ireland. In effect, EU officials are saying to investors, “Whom do you believe – us or your own eyes?”

Moreover, for too many investors, Portugal, with its poor growth prospects and insufficient domestic savings to fund the public-sector deficit, looks like Greece. And Spain clearly has to grapple with its own Irish problem, namely a huge housing over-hang – and probably large losses in the banking sector – following the collapse of an outsized real-estate bubble. The problems of Portugal and Spain might be less severe than those of Greece and Ireland, but this apparently is not enough to induce investors to buy their government debt.

A danger these countries share is thus the acute danger of large-scale runs on their banking systems. So far, investors trying to exit first have been made whole. Holders of Greek debt maturing now are repaid courtesy of the €110 billion bailout program, and holders of Irish bank bonds have been given a guarantee by the Irish government, whose promises have in turn been underwritten by the EFSF. The EFSF will also provide funds to ensure that Irish banks’ depositors can get their money back



today.

The problem with this approach is that it creates the wrong incentives. Investors have now learned that the first to sell will avoid losses. The situation resembles that of a crowded cinema with only one exit. Everyone knows that in case of fire, only the first to leave will be safe. So, if the exit is small, even the faintest whiff of smoke can trigger a stampede. But if the exit looks comfortably large, the public will be much more likely to remain calm, even if parts of the room are already filling with smoke.

For the financial market, the size of the exit depends on the funds available to make short-term investors whole. Unfortunately, the size of the EFSF looks inadequate to finance a collective exit by short-term investors.

When the EFSF was created, it was assumed that the only problem was to ensure financing for the government deficits of the four prospective problem countries (Portugal, Ireland, Greece, and Spain). From this perspective, the headline figure of €750 billion allocated to the EFSF looked adequate.

But the EFSF’s founders did not take into account banks’ enormous short-term liabilities, which in a crisis effectively become government debt, as Ireland has been the most recent to demonstrate. The EFSF might be just enough to guarantee the public debt of the four problem countries, but certainly not their banking sectors’ liabilities as well.

For example, the Spanish banking sector alone has short-term liabilities of several hundred billion euros. To return to the cinema analogy: investors know that the exit is not large enough to allow them all to squeeze through at the same time. So each

one want to be among the first to get out.

The official line so far has been “no default,” meaning no sovereign default or that of any bank can be considered. If this line is to be maintained, the exit door must immediately be made much wider, and huge fire extinguishers must be brandished. The International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank must show investors that they have enough funding to finance the simultaneous exit of all short-term investors.

It could work. A show of overwhelming force might restore calm to the markets. But it is a risky proposition: if investors exit nonetheless, the required funds might be so large that creditor countries’ taxpayers’ revolt.

The alternative is to change strategy and focus instead on investors’ incentives. Patient investors should be rewarded. In particular, they should be able to expect to be better off than those rushing to the exit. This approach depends on two major policy shifts.

First, governments should not be pushed into insolvency just to save all banks. This means that the Irish government (maybe the next one) should demand that holders of bank bonds share the losses, perhaps by offering them a simple debt-equity swap.

Doubts about the Irish government’s solvency would then disappear quickly, and its guarantee of bank deposits would no longer look so shaky. Something similar might have to be done for the Spanish banking system’s exposure to the local housing market.

The second component of a permanent anti-crisis mechanism is a floor for bond prices – and thus a ceiling for losses. The yields and volatility of longer-term bonds should then fall relative to short-term securities, allowing peripheral governments to finance themselves reliably and at reasonable cost.

None of this would resolve Europe’s fundamental problems, namely weak fiscal positions, poorly functioning financial sectors, and lack of competitiveness. But all of them would be easier to manage with calmer financial markets.

Daniel Gros is Director of the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS).

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China’s Choice in North Korea

By: Yuriko Koike

If the most dangerous moment for any dictatorship is when it starts to reform, North Korea looks ready to turn that truism on its head. Its recent shelling of South Korea suggests that the failing Kim dynasty might set East Asia alight rather than undertake any serious reform. If peace really is the key component of China’s rise, the Chinese must now rein in their mercurial client.

Trying to understand the “Hermit Kingdom” can be like staring into a black hole. Some view the bombardment of South Korea’s Yeonpyeong Island as a bid to divert North Koreans’ attention from their country’s collapsing economy, or perhaps from the approaching death of their “Dear Leader,” Kim Jong-il, or to create a synthetic reputation as a military leader for Kim’s son and intended heir, the 27-year-old (or so) “Young General,” Kim Jong-un. Others view the attack as simply another in a long line of provocations, and thus not to be taken all that seriously.

Hwang Jang-yop, North Korea’s former chief ideologist and its most senior defector to the South, describes North Korea as a mixture of “socialism, modern feudalism, and militarism.” It has proven to be a lethal combination. Roughly 1.5 million of North Korea’s 23 million people are estimated to have starved to death over the past decade. Hunger remains widespread, if not as dire as two years ago. The standard daily ration is 150-300 grams (5-10 ounces) of corn or rice (equivalent to roughly four slices of dry bread), depending on the location. Food often remains unavailable in rural areas.

Atop North Korea’s starvation economy sits a personality cult that dwarfs those of Stalin or Mao. Ubiquitous images of Kim Jong-il and his father, Kim Il-sung, are the official symbols of a secular theocracy based on *juche* (pronounced choocheh), the Kims’ contribution to the world’s patrimony of totalitarian ideologies. As with the Church and the divine right of kings, the system cannot be challenged without undermining the infallibility of its perfect leaders.

The third and seemingly scariest component of Hwang’s formula, militarism, may in fact prove to be the system’s Achilles heel. Maintaining the world’s fifth-largest army in a perpetual state of combat readiness is crushingly expensive for one of its poorest countries, with the military budget claiming an estimated one-third of GDP. The armed forces operate a parallel economy, with its own mines, farms, and factories, though many soldiers and junior officers still go hungry.

The permanent war footing is just one manifestation of North Korea’s obsession with rugged self-sufficiency. *Juche* is autarky raised to the level of philosophy. The North Koreans consider any reliance on the outside world as a source of weakness, even though their economy would collapse without Chinese handouts.

Because North Korea does not repay loans, it cannot borrow money; because it reneges on deals, it drives away potential partners; and, because it aims for autarky, it cannot specialize or exploit its comparative advantages. As a result, its annual exports – which include film and television animation, reconditioned cars, and, inevitably, an illicit trade in arms – are worth less than \$1 billion.

Not surprisingly, defectors nowadays describe an environment of social breakdown, petty crime, and a Darwinian struggle for survival. There is despondency and latent unrest. Corruption is rife.

So what is Kim up to with this latest attack on South Korea?

Kim’s main target was surely the six-party talks between his regime and the United States, United Nations, China, Russia, South Korea, and Japan. Previously, North Korea was offered economic and other inducements to give up its nuclear weapons. Like Iran, however, Kim wants to have his cake and eat it: eventual acceptance as a nuclear power and all the economic enticements from the US, Europe, Russia, and China to de-nuclearize.

That might seem crazy, especially given the likelihood of another round of economically crippling sanctions following the bombardment. But Kim’s calcu-

lus is different from that of most rulers. He has always shown scant regard for his people’s plight, and he still expects to get two-thirds or more of the oil and food he needs from China.

In the face of the North’s provocations, South Korean President Lee Myung-bak has demonstrated more of the statesmanship he showed in the recent G-20 summit in Seoul, when he successfully crafted a new focus on development for the group. President Lee’s allies have rallied, rightly, to his cause, but even we recognize that his restraint cannot be unending.

Much, then, depends on the Chinese, whose self-defeating regional diplomacy has managed to push a listless and defense-shy Japanese government into closer cooperation with the US on security matters, and has inspired South Korea to seek out strategic partnerships with other Asian powers, including India. One hopes that North Korea’s recent behavior – the sinking of the South Korean warship *Cheonan* in March, and now the shelling of Yeonpyeong island (which followed a supposedly “accidental” shooting incident in the DMZ in October) – will focus minds in Beijing.

But China, which fears a collapse of the North Korean regime above all, does not want to antagonize Kim. And China is keen to draw South Korea closer in the game of regional rivalries. The result could be a new round of efforts by China to manipulate regional suspicion – or worse.

Alternatively, China could shoulder some real responsibility for security in East Asia and close ranks against Kim and his reckless brinkmanship. That should start with support for a clear condemnation of North Korea by the UN Security Council. That global effort will almost certainly not succeed without a credible Chinese threat to sever Kim’s economic umbilical cord.

Yuriko Koike, Japan’s former Minister of Defense and National Security Adviser, is now Chairman of the Executive Council of the Liberal Democratic Party.

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Europe’s Time to Learn

By: Harold James

Crisis are a chance to learn. For the past 200 years, with the exception of the Great Depression, major financial crises originated in poor and unstable countries, which then needed major policy adjustments. Today’s crisis started in rich industrial countries – not only with sub-prime mortgages in the United States, but also with mismanagement of banks and public debt in Europe. So what will Europe learn, and what relevance will those lessons have for the rest of the world?

Europe’s contemporary problems offer striking parallels with previous problems on the periphery of the world economy. In successive waves of painful crisis – in Latin America in the 1980’s, and in East Asia after 1997 – countries learned a better approach to economic policy and developed a more sustainable framework for managing public-sector debt. Today it is Europe’s turn.

The European crisis is coming full circle. Initially a financial crisis, it morphed into a classic public-debt crisis after governments stepped in to guarantee banks obligations. That, in turn, has created a new set of worries for banks that are over-exposed to supposedly secure government debt. Sovereign debt no longer looks stable.

One of the most important precedents is the debacle of Latin American debt almost 30 years ago. In August 1982, Mexico shocked the world by declaring that it was unable to service its debt. For most of that summer, Mexico, with a projected fiscal deficit of around 11% of GDP, was still borrowing on international financial markets, though at an increasing premium. Banks had reassured themselves with the belief that countries could not become insolvent. But then a wide range of inherently different countries seemed to line up like a row of dominos.

While Mexico had a petroleum-based boom in the wake of the second oil-price shock of the 1970’s, Argentina suffered from economic mismanagement under a military dictatorship that then staged its disastrous invasion of the Falkland Islands/Malvinas. Brazil had experienced an earlier version of its current economic miracle, with stunning growth rates fi-

nanced by capital imports. But in the end, these very different circumstances produced a common and inherently simple problem: over-indebtedness.

A Latin American default would have brought down the banking systems of all the major industrial countries, causing something like a replay of the Great Depression. Exposure to Mexican debt



alone represented some 90% of the capitalization of major US banks.

The solution that was eventually adopted was considered brilliant at the time, because it avoided formal default by any of the big Latin American borrowers (though Brazil briefly defaulted five years later, in 1987). It involved a combination of three elements: immediate international assistance, through the International Monetary Fund; severe domestic retrenchment, enforced by the highly unpopular conditionality of IMF programs; and additional financing provided by the banks.

There was no institutionalized write-down of Latin American debt until five years after the crisis, when a haircut no longer threatened banks’ stability. It was only at this moment that real lending for new projects could really begin. In the meantime, Latin America remained mired in what became widely known as “the lost decade.”

The contemporary European solution seems to be repeating the same time-buying tactics of the lost decade of the 1980’s in the developing world. There is the same combination of international support, highly unpopular domestic austerity measures (which are bound to set off major protests), and the apparent absolution of banks from financial responsibility for problems that they produced.

Major European banks – in the United

Kingdom, Germany, and France – have, like their 1980’s predecessors, built up a gigantic exposure to what they erroneously thought was safe debt. A substantial immediate haircut on the sovereign debt of the vulnerable eurozone countries would be so destructive that it would set off a new round of bank panics. Recognizing this problem, banks can hold their host governments to ransom. That is why the crisis has become a challenge for the UK, Germany, and France.

The Franco-German initiative unveiled at Deauville in early November, which would require some possible measure of restructuring for debt issued after 2013, tried to avoid the immediate shock of a haircut. But the pre-announcement of possible write-downs still led to a major wave of uncertainty about banks.

A long-term alternative requires some capacity to write down debt where it has reached excessive levels. But it is also necessary to establish an iron-clad guarantee of some part of the outstanding debt, in order to remove fear of a complete write-down.

A mechanism for dealing in an orderly way with sovereign bankruptcy would be a major contribution to global governance, and to solving a longstanding problem of sovereign-debt markets. Such proposals were widely discussed in the 1990’s and early 2000’s, and IMF Deputy Managing Director Anne Krueger pushed a Sovereign Debt Restructuring Mechanism that would have offered a legal path to imposing general haircuts on creditors, thereby ending the collective-action problems that impede the efficient resolution of sovereign bankruptcy.

If Europe could show – in the worst possible scenario of sovereign default – how such a process might operate, uncertainty would be reduced and markets would be reassured. And, in the longer term, we would have a viable international model of how to tackle severe sovereign-debt problems.

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The North Korean Enigma

By: Joseph S. Nye

What is going on in North Korea? On November 23, its army fired nearly 200 artillery rounds onto the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong, near the two countries’ disputed maritime border, killing four – including two civilians – and demolishing scores of houses and other structures. The presence of civilians, many of whom had to be evacuated, made North Korea’s attack even more provocative than its sinking in March of the South Korean warship *Cheonan*, which killed 46 sailors.

And, just a few weeks before the shelling of Yeonpyeong, North Korea showed a delegation of American scientists a new and previously undisclosed uranium-enrichment plant, which will increase the regime’s capacity to make nuclear weapons.

North Korea’s nuclear weapons program has been a matter of concern for two decades. Pyongyang violated its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by secretly reprocessing enough plutonium to produce two nuclear weapons in the early 1990’s. After it withdrew from a restraining agreement negotiated by the Clinton administration in 1994, it expelled International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors and began reprocessing spent fuel that could produce another six bombs’ worth of plutonium.

Now, with its new enrichment plant, North Korea’s access to fissile materials will greatly increase. Its leaders have a reputation for selling dangerous items such as missiles, narcotics, and counterfeit currency, and many worry that they might transfer nuclear materials to other countries or to terrorist groups. The recent WikiLeaks disclosures of classified American diplomatic documents, for example, suggest that North Korea has been helping Iran with its advanced missile program.

George W. Bush’s administration initially hoped that it could solve the North Korean nuclear problem through regime change. The idea was that isolation and sanctions would topple Kim Jong-il’s dictatorship. But the regime proved resistant, and the Bush administration finally agreed to enter into six-party talks with China, Russia, Japan, and the two Koreas.

In September 2005, it fleetingly appeared that the talks had led North Korea to

agree to forgo its nuclear program in exchange for security guarantees and removal of sanctions. But the agreement soon collapsed, and North Korea refused to return to the talks until



the United States stopped shutting down bank accounts suspected of counterfeiting and laundering money for Kim’s regime.

Then, with diplomacy stalled, North Korea launched a series of missiles into the Sea of Japan. All five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council agreed on a resolution condemning North Korea’s actions, and China warned North Korea to moderate its behavior. Instead, in 2006, North Korea detonated a nuclear device, and did so again in 2009.

Ostensibly, North Korea is a weak country with a disastrous economic system. Starting from similar levels a half-century ago, South Korea has grown to become one of the world’s most prosperous economies, with nearly 50 million people enjoying a per capita income of \$30,000 (at purchasing price parity). North Korea has half the population and per capita income of less than \$2,000. In the 1990’s, North Korea suffered extreme famine, which probably killed 1-2 million people, and even today North Korea depends on China for food and fuel.

How, then, can North Korea manage to defy its neighbor?

For one thing, North Korea has “the power of weakness.” In certain situations, weakness – and the threat that a partner will collapse – can be a source of bargaining power. A bankrupt debtor who owes \$1,000 has little power, but if it owes \$1 billion, it may have considerable bargaining power – witness the fate of institutions judged “too big to fail” in the 2008 financial crisis.

As the Financial Times observed, “North Korea’s Kim Jong-il is probably the only world leader who can make Beijing look powerless. Diplomats say Kim brazenly plays on Chinese fears. If the Chinese do not pump aid into his crumbling economy, he argues, they will face refugees pouring across the border and possible unrest.”

China does not want a nuclear or belligerent North Korea, but it is even more concerned about a failed state collapsing on its border. China has tried to persuade Kim’s regime to follow its market-oriented example,

but Kim is afraid that an economic opening would lead to a political opening and loss of dictatorial control. So, while China is trying to moderate the current crisis, its influence is limited.

The other source of North Korea’s power is its audacity in playing a weak hand. Yes, a full-scale military invasion would meet with a devastating defeat by superior South Korean and US military forces, whose current naval exercises in the Yellow Sea are designed to remind North Korea of this disparity. But, with 15,000 artillery tubes embedded in the Demilitarized Zone, just 30 miles north of Seoul, North Korea knows that firing just a few shells could wreak havoc on the South Korean stock market and economy, while it has less to lose in comparison. By flaunting its willingness to take greater risks, the North hopes to further enhance its bargaining power.

Most observers attribute the recent provocations to the anticipated succession of power in Pyongyang. Kim Jong-il had years to prepare as an understudy to his father, Kim Il-sung, but many reports suggest that he is nearing the end of his life. This autumn, he promoted his hitherto little-seen son, Kim Jong-un, to the rank of general, and introduced him at a Communist Party conference.

Demonstration of military success in “protecting” the regime may indeed be designed to strengthen the 28-year-old general’s claim to power. If so, the risky behavior we have seen recently is part of the process of solidifying a unique political system: a hereditary Communist monarchy.

Joseph S. Nye, a former Assistant US Secretary of Defense, is a professor at Harvard and the author of *The Future of Power*, forthcoming in February.

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تتقدم

الشركة العربية اليمنية للأسمنت المحدودة

مثلة رئيس مجلس إدارتها

المهندس/ عبدالله أحمد سعيد بوشان

بخالص التهاني القلبية إلى فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ/

علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة الذكرى الـ 43 ليوم الجلاء الـ 30 من نوفمبر

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إسمنت حضرموت
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Qat abuse affects food security negatively



By: Dr. Henning Baur and Amer Al-Hajjaji

In March of this year, a group of youth walked through ten districts of the Hodeida governorate to raise the awareness of young people about the negative consequences of qat abuse. They talked to school classes and teachers, distributed information materials, and, in so doing, also served as positive role models for the youth.

The anti-qat walkers had both shocking experiences and positive ones. They heard about fathers selling their sons or sending their daughters out for money or others selling furniture and food, just to be able to buy qat.

Hafsa is a girl student from the Al-Khukha district. She said, "My father is a fisherman with an old boat. He goes to the sea with an assistant before the sun rises. Sometimes he fishes a lot and other times he catches very little. In both cases, he buys qat for at least YR 2,000 and maximum YR 3,000 per day. He only spends YR 1,000 or less for the daily food and other needs in the house. Some money is used for maintaining the boat. If he fishes a lot and makes a lot of money he doesn't even go fishing the next day, but stays home using most of the remaining money for qat. When he is sick, his assistant goes fishing instead with one of the villagers, but in such a case the daily income is less and less is spent on our food and needs."

Abdu owns a motorbike in Al-Zaydiya district. He is 29 years old, married with 3 children. He says, "I work on my motorbike to provide local people with transportation inside the district. I earn between YR 1,300 to 1,500 per day. I buy qat for me and my wife for at least YR 700. I spend YR 300 or 400 to buy petrol for my motorbike and about YR 400 or 500 for the food and the other needs of my family. If one of my kids was sick and needed to be seen by a doctor, I would borrow some money from a friend to buy medicine and then pay it back when money is available. I cannot give up qat chewing, because I have been used to chewing qat with my father since I was 12 years old."

The awareness walk team was amazed to find in the library of Asma Al-Thujae Secondary School for Girls in the Zabeed district, dozens of research papers about qat and its negative effects on the chewers' health and the economy. The negative health effects of qat abuse increase the vulnerability of poor families because sick family members cannot earn money and expensive medical bills drain the house-

hold budget even further. men do speak clearly about its negative effects. The public debate, however, appears to be hesitant and indecisive, probably because qat production has been a way to distribute wealth from the cities to the rural economies, which is something very positive, of course.

The negative effects on nutrition and health are dramatic, however. Qat chewing consumes very significant amounts of the family income. Ap-



proximately 10 percent of the average household budget in Yemen is spent on qat, and in poor families it is often in excess of 20 percent.

"My eldest brother works as a mechanic in a car workshop. His daily income is between YR 1,500 to YR 2,000," said Jalal, 18, a boy student in Al-Mujamma'a Secondary School in the Bajel district. "My brother spends two thirds of his income in the qat market and the remaining third on the family's food, which usually consists of bread, yoghurt and some sugar for making some tea."

Qat expenditure leaves much smaller portions of income to be spent on food, especially in low-income families. Moreover, less expenditure on food goes hand in hand with a daily diet that is less diverse and thus less healthy. Hence, qat is a major cause of malnutrition.

Qat also claims a very considerable proportion of usable working hours. Some estimates state that 3 out of 4 men and 1 out of 3 women are spending at least five hours a day chewing qat. For this group of people, qat sessions are likely to be their only leisure time activity – leaving no time for other, more useful and productive recreation activities. In many places even work revolves around qat and work hours are correspondingly few. In this way, qat constrains the full utilization of human resources, renders the economy less productive, and thus perpetuates low income levels – the prime cause of food insecurity.

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Qat is a thirsty crop that consumes a large percentage of agricultural water. This water could theoretically be used for food crops. Most experts agree that qat production is the main culprit in depleting groundwater resources. Ironically, this unsustainable consumption of groundwater is enhanced by subsidies on diesel, which is used for pumping water.

Most of the organizations that fight qat abuse do so through awareness campaigns. But traditional media campaigns using channels such as television, radio, newspapers and leaflets have proven to be relatively ineffective. Many qat chewers do not use these media and if they do, the messages have not really changed behaviors so far. Awareness is not enough to change attitudes and behaviors. Many chewers in Yemen prefer to deny their addiction, even if the family, the doctor, or the boss at work tell them otherwise – if they do. Society seems to tolerate and even rationalize addictive behavior by claiming that qat is part of Yemeni culture and an essential element of the society's fabric. A quick look at the historical acreage of qat in Yemen will show that this argument is weak. The figures suggest that qat chewing has evolved from a high class pastime on weekends to a low class and pervasive daily habit. Given all this, it is clear that qat demand reduction in Yemen will take long periods of time.

Reducing the supply of qat will be even more difficult. There is no other cash crop that can beat the profitability of qat at current prices. No other agricultural value chain has such a ready market and is organized as effectively and efficiently. Alternatives to qat might eventually be developed but that will require significant changes in the

competitive strength of qat as compared to other value chains. If water extraction was made more expensive, either through removing diesel subsidies or charging farmers for groundwater extraction, this would make some other crops more lucrative compared to qat. Taxation of qat consumption is another option, if it can be enforced.

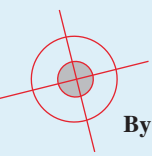
In conclusion, it is probably fair to say that qat abuse has become a serious and pervasive problem for the social and economic development in Yemen in general, and for food security as a consequence thereof.

To reduce the supply of qat is first and foremost a problem of its political economy because qat is currently so important in transferring wealth from the cities to the rural areas. Qat supply reduction is unlikely to succeed without a comprehensive rural development strategy showing more promising livelihood perspectives for people in rural areas.

On the demand side, the first imperative is the need for the society to face up to the ugly sides of abusive qat consumption. The members of the country's elite must lead by positive example. Young and old people will need attractive alternatives to pass their leisure time without qat, and have fun without qat.

The authors are senior food security advisor and qat demand reduction specialist, respectively, with the German Technical Cooperation.

HEALTH WATCH



By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column disseminates health information to readers in Yemen and beyond. Dr. Siva currently works at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Lifestyle diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and naturopathy are his passions.

Nose bleeds – stay calm, don't panic!



Sitting in your office or home one afternoon, you feel your nose begin to run. You wonder if you're catching a cold; you wipe your nose with a tissue and you're shocked to see blood! Although nosebleeds are usually harmless and easily controlled, it may look like a gallon of blood is coming from your nose! Try not to worry – nosebleeds are almost always easy to stop.

Nosebleed (formally called epistaxis) can occur without any obvious cause. The blood usually comes out through just one nostril, although it may affect both. Some children can sense a bleed starting before it's obvious. The child may also be aware of blood entering the throat from the back of the nose especially if they hold their head back or lie down (this can cause a bad taste).

Causes

The most common cause of nosebleeds is cold and dry air, as in Sanaa (high altitude). A dry climate or heated indoor air irritates and dries out nasal membranes, causing crusts that may itch and then bleed when picked. Colds and other viruses may also irritate the lining of the nose. Allergies may also cause problems, and a doctor may prescribe medications such as antihistamines or decongestants to control an itchy, runny, or stuffy nose. The allergy may disappear but you may end up in his clinic again, with a bloody nose! The medication he gave can dry out the nasal membranes and contribute to nosebleeds.

Bumps to the nose, and vigorous nose blowing can trigger a bleed. The common childhood pastime of picking your nose can cause it to bleed. Some children just have a tendency to nosebleeds, for no obvious reason. Excessive heat, low levels of vitamin K, chronic sinusitis, some medications like chemotherapeutic agents, aspirin and other blood thinners, are other causes. Nose bleeding can be a possible symptom of hypertension. Rare causes include cancers (especially blood cancer) and illnesses that prevent the blood from clotting properly.

A single nosebleed is rarely a cause for alarm, but frequent nosebleeds might indicate a more serious problem. If you get nosebleeds more than once a week, you should see your doctor.

Stopping the Gush

Try these simple tips to stop your nosebleed:

- Don't panic. Don't lie down. Sit or stand. Get some tissues or a damp cloth to catch the blood. Breathe through your mouth.
- Tilt your head forward and pinch your nostrils together just below the bony center part of your nose. Applying pressure helps stop the blood flow and the nosebleed will usually stop with 10 full minutes of steady pressure. Applying pressure with a cotton pad inside the upper lip may also help. Get some ice, wrap it in a cloth or paper towel and keep it on the area around the nose. Press the outside of the upper lip just below the nose with your thumb and forefinger and hold for several minutes. This is a vital acupressure point in traditional Chinese medicine. Don't keep checking to see if the bleeding has stopped. Also, don't tilt your head back. This can cause blood to run into your throat, and make you cough or choke; and if you swallow a lot of blood, you might throw up. Stay quiet for a few hours after the bleeding has stopped as exertion may cause the bleeding to start again.
- Children with nosebleed can be made to sit comfortably and watch their favorite cartoon program on TV.
- Don't blow your nose for at least twelve hours after the bleeding has stopped.

Once you've stopped the initial nosebleed, don't lift heavy objects or do other activities that cause you to strain. Also, keep your head elevated above your heart as much as possible.

Preventing Nosebleeds

- If you are prone to nosebleeds, check the humidity in your house, and increase it to the normal range. Keep the heat low (60-64 degrees) in your bedroom. Using a humidifier to moisten your indoor air is a good idea. Take a shower and breathe deeply to get moisture into your nose. You can also prevent your nasal passages from becoming too dry in winter months by using lubricants such as Vaseline before going to bed at night. Apply a pea-sized dab to a cotton swab and gently rub it up inside each nostril, especially on the middle part of the nose. Application of a few drops of saline solution will also help. Putting a few drops of castor oil, vitamin E or zinc oxide in your nose each day will prevent recurring nosebleeds.
- Whenever you blow your nose (especially when you have a cold), you should blow gently into a soft tissue. Don't blow forcefully or pick your nose.
- If you must use blood thinners, inform your doctor about the nosebleeds.
- Daily consumption of citrus fruit can help eliminate recurring nosebleeds. The antioxidants in the fruit help strengthen the blood vessels and hence they are less likely to rupture.
- Avoid foods that may give you a severe allergic reaction, such as milk and wheat if necessary.
- Wear protective athletic equipment when participating in sports that could cause injury to the nose.

Alternative Treatment

- Homeopathic practitioners claim that the homeo medicines can help reduce allergy and stop bleeding by strengthening the nasal mucous membranes, blood vessel walls and by reducing congestion without any side-effects. Homeopathic medications commonly used in cases of nose bleed are Belladonna, Bryonia, Causticum, Kali bich, Lycopodium, Millefolium, Pulsatilla, Silicea and Sulphur. These medications should be taken under the advice and diagnosis of a qualified Homeopath.

An occasional nosebleed can be alarming, but there's no need to panic – now you know what to do!



The story of two successful Somali refugees in Yemen

Abdurahman Fareh and Khadra Abdulla have a few things in common: They both fled war-torn Somalia as children, they've both lived in refugee camps and they've both received scholarships to study at the University of Aden.

The Yemen Times' Tom Finn met the pair in Aden and listened to the story of how they came to Yemen and transformed their lives.

Abdurahman was born in Mogadishu in 1982. His father had a post in the Somali government and from a young age Abdurahman received a high-quality education in a private Egyptian school.

In September 1991 severe fighting broke out in Mogadishu, which continued to spread throughout the country. Over 20,000 people were killed or injured by the end of the year.

By March 1992, like many other Somalis, Abdurahman and his family of 12 were on the move. They headed for Bosaso, a city in the north of the country serving as the nation's main port. From there they would try to take a boat across the Gulf of Aden and into Yemen.

"No education, no protection," is all Abdurahman had to say when asked why they left.

For a fee of USD 150 per person, his family bought their way on board a battered open-top fishing boat heading for Yemen's southern port of Aden.

The boat was so full with refugees, there was not even enough space to carry food and water. But for Abdurahman, the hardest part of the journey was not the hunger or thirst, but the heat. For three days he was forced to sit shoulder to shoulder with fellow passengers in full view of the scorching sun.

For some it was too much. He recalls three boys who climbed out onto the boats rigging to try and catch some of the sea breeze, two of them were knocked off balance by a wave and fell into the sea. "We watched as sharks tore at their legs, they screamed for help but the captain would not allow the boat to stop."

Khadra's journey to Yemen was far less direct. She was four when she left

her home town of Hargeisa in northern Somalia. Following an outburst of tribal violence, her mother and her two sisters fled for Italy in search of a relative.

They got as far as Libya when the news reached them that their father had been killed in Hargeisa, by the same tribe they had been fleeing. Distraught, they returned to Somalia to bury him and seek reconciliation.

Unfortunately they could do neither - Khadra's father came from a different tribe than her mother. Now that he had passed away, his family wanted nothing to do with them. They were on the move again. Having spent most of their money trying to reach Europe, they decided, like Abdul and his family, to take the boat to Yemen.

Life in Yemen

Abdurahman and Khadra's childhood were spent in a constant state of flux, moving from one refugee camp to another.

Abdurahman remembers attending school in Aden but making regular trips to the Kharaz refugee camp to collect food for his family.

Khadra and her sisters found themselves a shelter in the suburb of Basateen, a slum on the outskirts of Aden, occupied by thousands of Somalis who opt for a life in the city over one in the camp.

As if fate hadn't already dealt them a harsh enough blow their house was flattened by a stray rocket during the 1994 civil war between the armed forces of the former Northern and Southern Yemeni states.

With help from a local charity, Khadra recalls watching her mother single-handedly



Abdurahman Abdullahi Fareh and Khadra Abdulla are Somali refugees living in Yemen. Abdurahman studied administrative sciences at Aden University, supported by the German government. After graduating in 2007, he started working for 'Save the Children Sweden' as an Education Assistant. Khadra has just graduated with a degree in midwifery also supported Germany.

construct a new house from wood.

As Somali children growing up in Yemen, neither had problems integrating.

"I was here from a young age, so I spoke the language, I wore the same clothes, and I mixed with Yemenis," said Khadra.

Their problems started when they reached university where their Somali nationality suddenly became a burden.

Despite having refugee status, Somalis are still subject to the same university fees as other foreign students living in Yemen. Abdurahman was ranked in the top three for his year at high school in 2003.

He was planning to pursue a degree in business administration but the USD 1200 a year tuition fees soon put an end to that idea. Instead of going to university, Abdurahman moved into the construction industry where he worked as a builder for seven years.

When Khadra finished school she was already working full-time in a supermarket as well as minding and cooking for her younger sisters. Like Abdurahman, she was a high performing student but was under no illusions about the chances of her attending university in Yemen.

"I knew plenty of Yemeni's who strug-

gled to get in, for Somalis it is near impossible."

Armed with only a Yemeni high school certificate and unable to return to their home country, it is hard to see how things could have changed much for these two aspiring students.

But this time luck was on their side. Through friends they both chanced upon a DAFI scholarship, a program which supports tertiary education for deserving refugees worldwide.

DAFI - the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund, is a program, funded by the German government and coordinated in Yemen by the UNHCR and Save the Children, giving scholarships to refugees at universities, colleges and polytechnics in their host countries.

Competition for places is fierce and applicants must undertake a series of intensive exams and interviews. Those who are successful have their tuition fees covered and receive a monthly allowance of USD 100.

Last year 60 Somali students received scholarships to study at universities in Yemen costing at a total of USD 145,641.

"I used to dream of getting 100 Rials, now I'm getting USD 100 a month to

help support me in my education," joked Khadra.

The defining factor

For Abdurahman there are two categories of Somalis in Yemen: Those who get scholarships and those who don't. The former have the opportunity to find jobs and earn a reasonable salary, the latter end up working in odd jobs here and there.

After seven years working in construction Abdurahman now has a degree in administrative sciences and a job at Save the Children working as an education assistant. He hopes to enrol in a Masters program in the near future.

Khadra has just completed a degree in midwifery and is about to undergo interviews for a position with Save the Children. She hopes to train as doctor when she is older.

Despite having lived most of their lives in Yemen, both say they would love to return to Somalia.

"The day that I and my family can live peacefully in Somalia will be the day I return home," said Abdurahman. "The Somali people are scattered across the world but they are still Somali, and one day they will return."



A view of Kharaz refugee camp set on the site of an old military base in south Yemen. Here Khadra and Abdurahman lived alongside 17,000 other Somali refugees enduring the scalding hot sun and dry and dusty winds.

Book review

I used to be a doctor in Yemen

By: Malak Shaher

Unlike most countries in the 1950s, which were to some extent developing, Yemen was still stuck in a darkness of ignorance and disease. Into this almost unheard of country came a French anthropologist and doctor, who fell in love with the country and its people.

"I used to be a doctor in Yemen," was written by Claudie Fayien and published in France in 1955. It was translated into Arabic by Muhsen Al-Eni in 1958, and released in Lebanon in 1960.

Claudie Fayien worked in Yemen during the period from 1951 to 1952, and found a country living in the darkest of dark eras. The French doctor said that the world should know about Yemen. At that time only a few people in France had even heard of Yemen.

Fayien came to Yemen during the rule of Imam Ahmad Hamid Al-Deen, a ruler who kept the north of Yemen away from any means of development.

"I used to be a doctor in Yemen" is full of vivid descriptions about the humanitarian experience of the people in Yemen. This very detailed book has immortalized itself as one of the most important travel books of the region.

Before the French anthropologist came to Yemen she knew nothing about the country. She writes: "I confess, I knew nothing about Yemen. I had no idea even where it was. I thought I would go to a magical land." Neverthe-

less, she left her husband and three children to explore the country herself.

In the book Fayien speaks of the many events that happened to her during her travels. She said, "Later I realized that Yemen is more than just a country where many imams ruled." Yemen did not have any diplomatic representatives before 1950.

In his foreword to the book, translator Muhsen Al-Eni said that Fayien showed her love for the Yemen's people and her writing was clear of the malicious talk about Yemenis that most foreigners indulged in.

According to Al-Eni, the book was so popular in France that it was translated into other six languages, including English, Italian, German, Swedish and Hungarian. She did however, suffer criticism from the French public for leaving her family to travel to a country virtually no one had heard of.

For the French anthropologist, Yemen, as a country and people, was extremely rich in events and she found it a beautiful country to explore. And despite the desperate situation under which most Yemenis lived, she found their nature very beautiful. She commented that the terraces in the mountains showed the magnificent mind of the Yemeni people who made them thousands of years ago.

A letter for the Imam

Many small things astonished Fayien and are detailed at length in the book. For example, she was surprised that a letter of permission from the imam should be

written from the middle of the page. Apparently the imam did not like to have his signature below that of the applicant, it had to be above.

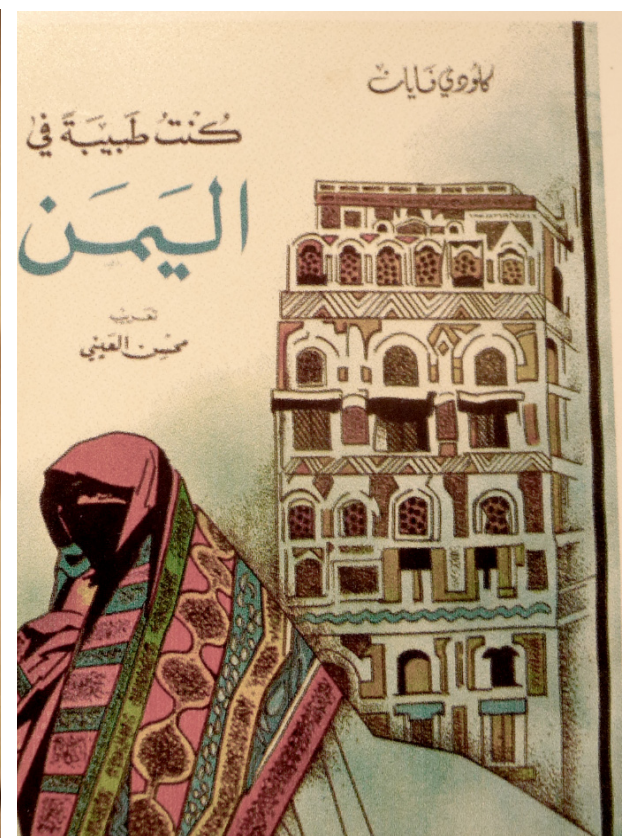
She wanted to reveal how this example represented the life of Yemenis, who were ruled completely by an imam who gave them no window of freedom whatsoever. "The imam was concerned with the most important things in the country down to the most ridiculous things, like whether or not a teacher in one of the remote areas needed ink."

The situation of women

Women received a considerable amount of attention in Fayien's book, and she was deeply concerned how miserable their lives were in terms of education, health and their treatment from their husbands.

For a proper Yemeni woman in that time, it was considered inappropriate for strangers to hear her voice. So when Fayien went to diagnose the medical condition of a woman, she had to talk to a translator, who in turn had to talk to the husband, who would then talk to his wife. Any replies from the wife in turn had to be relayed back through the husband, and the translator to Fayien.

She stated that the situation for women was really miserable. They had no right to an education and indeed could face death from their husband if he decided to take up another woman to replace her. Yet reading between the lines you can



feel her sincere feelings towards the Yemenis, who she said were very nice and eager to learn.


"Hereby I am leaving my Yemeni friends, thinking of their sufferings and their honest feelings to change their miserable situation, because they are a free and dignified people," says Fayien. "I am thinking of the small children

who were signing to me when I was leaving, Sharifa, the girl who wanted to learn how to read and write, of the old man who stood under my window to hear a symphony and of the nurses who wanted to relieve people's suffering."


At the very end of the book, Fayien reveals her deep sadness for a woman who

died in agony after giving birth. Fayien, who could not help the woman, said the only thing she could do for her now was to immortalize her in this book.

The French doctor was granted Yemeni nationality in 1990 by President Ali Abdulla Saleh. She passed away in April 2001.



**The U.S. Department of State
Middle East Partnership Initiative**



Announces the

Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program

The U.S. Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and AMIDEAST are pleased to announce this year's recruitment for the Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program. The Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program is a MEPI initiative for capable and highly motivated high school graduates in the Middle East and North Africa who are from underserved backgrounds. The program will provide four-year university scholarships and internship opportunities at select institutions of higher learning in the Middle East to students who have the potential to become leaders.

Eligible students include men and women who represent the region's cultural, religious, and geographic diversity and are from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, who could otherwise gain admission to, but would be unable to attend, four years of college. Tomorrow's Leaders scholarship recipients should be prepared to begin the program in the Fall 2011 term.

The primary objective of MEPI's Tomorrow's Leaders scholarship program is to build a cadre of university-age leaders who are civic-minded, intellectually able, and professionally skilled, and who will become the community, business, and national leaders of the future. The program intends to nurture leadership skills and the spirit of civic engagement and voluntarism among outstanding university-age students at the American University of Beirut, the American University in Cairo, and the Lebanese American University. Selected students will join the 53 Tomorrow's Leaders already studying at these universities.

Scholarship recipients may pursue an eligible undergraduate degree in a selected field at one of the three host institutions. In addition to their studies, recipients will be expected to engage in community service activities and participate in internships.

Participation in the program includes: travel; academic fees for four years of university at AUB, AUC, or LAU; a study abroad experience in the U.S.; accident and sickness insurance; housing; and a variety of expenses.

Eligibility:

- Graduated from secondary school in 2009 or 2010;
- A citizen or, national of Yemen and those qualified to hold a valid Yemeni passport;
- Strong academic evaluation;
- Proficiency in written and spoken English with a minimum institutional TOEFL (iTEP) score of 300 (or equivalent on a similar test) that is less than two years old;
- Maturity, flexibility and leadership potential;
- Ability to start the program in August/September of 2011.

Note: American citizens are not eligible


If you do not have a TOEFL score, or if your score is more than two years old, contact AMIDEAST for test scheduling

Deadline for submitting the application is December 31, 2010.

Further information is available online at www.amideast.org/

For questions, please email: scholarship@amideast.org OR info@amideast.org

For more information about the Middle East Partnership Initiative, please go to: www.mepi.state.gov



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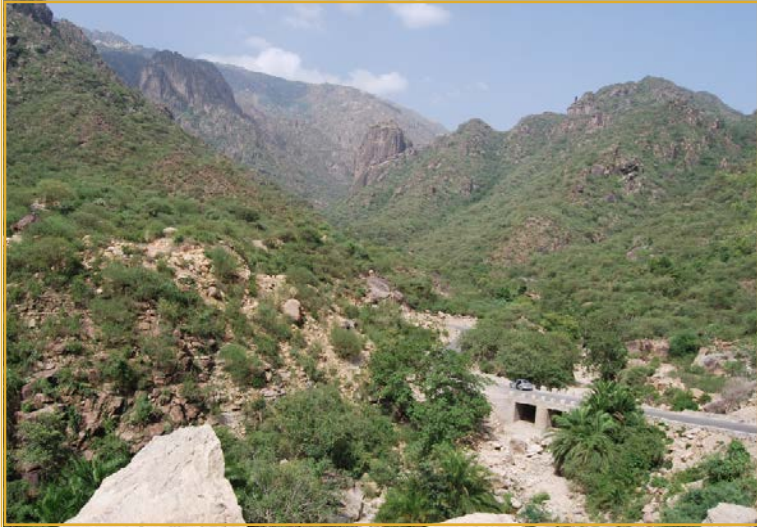
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الشركة اليمنية للمطاحن وصوامع الغلال

A touristic journey across Bura' reserve and Al-Sukhna volcanic water spring...

Photo essay by Sadeq Al-Wesabi



Bura' nature reserve is only 180 kilometers south-west of Yemen's capital Sana'a and yet it's not explored fully by either local or foreign tourists.



A water stream passes through the reserve, which attracts many Yemenis to use this area as a picnic destination.



In older times, locals living near the reserve used to come across many wild animals, including foxes, deer and more than 90 bird species. Now only the naughty baboons remain.



The ruins of Imam Ahmed Winter Palace bears testimony to the man who ruled Yemen more than 60 years ago. During that time, he also constructed a fort, a prison and the well-known spa which are the only construction sites still used today. Other historical monuments in the area are falling apart.



A local child relaxes at Bura' reserve.



Al-Sukhna volcanic water spring spa was built centuries ago in more than one location in this area. Visitors seeking comfort or treatment especially for rheumatism, orthopedic and skin problems relax for hours in square-shaped tubs with hot volcanic water in small rooms, like this man pictured, who comes here regularly.



As soon as they hear any car approaching, the young tourist guides rush in groups to meet the potential tourists and compete for customers.



Bara' nature reserve leads to the Al-Sukhna water spa. But there are ample mountains and high hills for those who enjoy hiking.

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	Qatar Airways	QR 452.3	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	1430	1635
	Gulf Air	GF 193.4	E.90	Bahrain / Sanaa / Aden / Bahrain	1445	1525
	Saudi Airlines	SV 680.1	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	2050	2205
Sun	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
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	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo / Sanaa / Cairo	0325	0425
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	Gulf Air	GF 193.4	E.90	Bahrain / Sanaa / Aden / Bahrain	1445	1525
	Air Arabia	ABY 709.700	A.320	Sharjah / Sanaa / Sharjah	1540	1620
	Saudi Airlines	SV 680.1	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	2050	2205
Mon	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
	Royal Jordanian	RJ 708.9	A.320	Amman / Sanaa / Amman	0105	0220
	Ethiopian Airlines	ET 302.3	B.73W	Addis Ababa / Sanaa / Addis Ababa	0145	0330
	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo / Sanaa / Cairo	0325	0425
	Saudi Airlines Cargo	SV 0973	A.308	Jeddah / Sanaa / Addis Ababa	0720	0920
	Emirates Airlines	EK 961.2	A.332.340.B.777	Dubai / Sanaa / Dubai	0900	1015
	Qatar Airways	QR 452.3	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	1430	1635
	Qatar Airways Cargo	QR 6532.3	A.300.B.777	Doha / Sanaa / Nairobi	1420	1550
	Saudi Airlines	SV 680.1	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	1930	2100
	Saudi Airlines	SV 680.1	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	2050	2205
Tue	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
	Turkish Airlines	TK 836.7	B.738.A.320.A.319	Istanbul / Sanaa / Istanbul	0125	0225
	Ethiopian Airlines	ET 302.3	B.73W	Addis Ababa / Sanaa / Addis Ababa	0145	0330
	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo / Sanaa / Cairo	0325	0425
	Emirates Airlines	EK 961.2	A.332.340.B.777	Dubai / Sanaa / Dubai	0900	1015
	Qatar Airways	QR 452.3	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	1430	1635
	Air Arabia	ABY 709.700	A.320	Sharjah / Sanaa / Sharjah	1540	1620
	Saudi Airlines	SV 680.1	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	2050	2205
Wed	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo / Sanaa / Cairo	0325	0425
	Qatar Airways	QR 456.7	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	0325	0425
	Emirates Airlines	EK 961.2	A.332.340.B.777	Dubai / Sanaa / Dubai	0900	1015
	Egypt Air	MS 693.4	B.73A	Cairo / Sanaa / Cairo	1215	1315
	Gulf Air	GF 193.4	E.90	Bahrain / Sanaa / Aden / Bahrain	1445	1525
	Saudi Airlines	SV 682.3	A.320	Riyadh / Sanaa / Riyadh	1830	1945
	Saudi Airlines	SV 680.1	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	2050	2205
Thu	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
	Royal Jordanian	RJ 708.9	A.320	Amman / Sanaa / Amman	0105	0220
	Turkish Airlines	TK 836.7	B.738.A.320.A.319	Istanbul / Sanaa / Istanbul	0125	0225
	Ethiopian Airlines	ET 302.3	B.73W	Addis Ababa / Sanaa / Addis Ababa	0145	0330
	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo / Sanaa / Cairo	0325	0425
	Qatar Airways	QR 456.7	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	0325	0425
	Nas Air	XY 743.4	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	0835	0925
	Emirates Airlines	EK 961.2	A.332.340.B.777	Dubai / Sanaa / Dubai	0900	1015
	Gulf Air	GF 193.4	E.90	Bahrain / Sanaa / Aden / Bahrain	1445	1525
	Air Arabia	ABY 709.700	A.320	Sharjah / Sanaa / Sharjah	1540	1620
	Saudi Airlines	SV 680.1	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	2050	2205
Fri	Carrier	Flight No.	Model	Route	Arr.	Dep.
	Turkish Airlines	TK 836.7	B.738.A.320.A.319	Istanbul / Sanaa / Istanbul	0125	0225
	Egypt Air	MS 691.2	B.73A	Cairo / Sanaa / Cairo	0325	0425
	Emirates Airlines	EK 961.2	A.332.340.B.777	Dubai / Sanaa / Dubai	0900	1015
	Qatar Airways	QR 452.3	B.777.AB3	Doha / Sanaa / Doha	1430	1635
	Royal Jordanian	RJ 708.9	A.320	Amman / Sanaa / Amman	1545	1700
	Saudi Airlines	SV 682.3	A.320	Riyadh / Sanaa / Riyadh	1830	1945
	Saudi Airlines	SV 680.1	A.320	Jeddah / Sanaa / Jeddah	2050	2205

Local time

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- ▶ For sale digital piano YAMAHA Clavinova CLP-230 (model 2007). 2 Years old, color dark brown, very good state
 Price : 1300 US \$ negotiable
 Contact : Eve GENTIL, phone 771 110 341

- ▶ Coiffure Equipments for sale in good conditions. Sana'a. 711865079
- ▶ 2003 Jeep Grand Cherokee loredo in good condition. Asking: 11.500\$ or best offer. Sana'a Box: 17170 mobile: 777788298
- ▶ A house in Al- Zara'a street, from land of 8 Lebna 2 floors 5 stores and a yard in the back. (old building). 777726176 - 733786459
- ▶ Prado 2004 very clean, Engine Excellent, onle 72,500 Km, asking \$20,000. 777419448

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<h3 style="text-align: center;">COMPUTER EDUCATION AND INSTITUTES</h3> <p>Computer Education Aden: 02-237199 Infinit Education 01-444553 NIFT Quality Computer Education 445518/7-442073</p> <p>British Institute for Languages & Computer 265222 - Fax: 514755 YALI 01-448039 ALIT 01-274221 Eceed 01-537871</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">HOSPITALS</h3> <p>Modern German Hospital 600000/602008 E-mail: feiz@yemen.net.ye Al-Jumhuri Hospital Fax: 601889 Hadda Hospital 01 274286/87 World Link 01 412981 Al-Thawra Hospital 01 246987/66 Al-Janaid Hospital 01-424765 Al-Ahli Modern Hospital 01-444936 Science and Technology Hospital 01-500000 Al-Kuwait Hospital 01-283283 Saudi-German Hospital 01-313333 Azal Hospital 01-200000</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">HOTELS</h3> <p>LAZURDE suites hotel 01-432020/3040 Versailles Hotel 01-425970/1/2 Sheraton Hotel 01 237500</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">SCHOOLS</h3> <p>Rainbow Pre-School Tel: 414026 / 424433 Juniors Oasis kindergarten Tel: 250553/4/5 Sana'a International School Tel: 01 370191/2</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">TRAVEL</h3> <p>Sky Travel & Tourism 01-535080/83 02-221270 444118 270750 Universal Business Travel Center 441158/9/60 Qadas Fly 01-280777</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">UNIVERSITIES</h3> <p>American World University, Rep. by IS academy Tel. 01 - 535700 - 733061/203 Fax: 535702 University of Applied and Social Science Sana'a: 412442 Fax: 412441 Aden: 234533 / 234960 Tel: 449971/2 Tel: 250553/4/5 Tel: 675567 Fax: 675885</p>

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By: Malak Shafer

“We are the seeds of this country, we will make our country prosper, we love knowledge and we spread love everywhere.”

With those words hundreds of orphans hailed the arrival of a new library at Dar Al-Aytam, a state funded orphanage in Sana'a. The children were listening to a song and as it drew to an end they said in one collective and excited voice, “I love books.”

The new library, established on Thursday, is part of the “I love my book” campaign, run by Global Change Makers, a British Council initiative.

This year, the campaign has targeted three public schools, one private school, a school for special needs students and the Orphan House in Sana'a, according to Elham Al-Quhali, a project assistant at the British council.

“We found that the children are thirsty for knowledge and reading,” Al-Quhali

subjects for learning,” Al-Shami said. “With the establishment of this library, our orphans will occupy a place in others minds. People will be able to imagine them reading.”

The campaign is coordinated by young members of Global Changemakers and financed by the British council.

Global Changemakers formed in 2007, is a British Council initiative, aimed at providing support for young social entrepreneurs and community activities.

“Books build the minds of small children,” said Haitham Al-Thobabi, 22, a member of the Global Changemakers.

The campaign also involves establishing a reading club and targeting schools and the publishing of a quarterly

students will be introduced to new books and encouraged to read.

“Most children in Yemen are not used to reading and the only books they do read belong to the school,” said Najeba Haddad, Yemen's deputy minister of culture.

Illiteracy rates are increasing among small children in Yemen, according to a recent report by the Yemeni Shura Council. Around two million children are not enrolled in school and a large number of students drop out during their early years of schooling in order to work to support their families.

According to Hadad, it is important to instill a motivation to read in children from a young age who otherwise wouldn't develop this important habit.

“I encourage the efforts of such campaigns because they involve more children and make reading interesting for them,” she added.



Orphans at Dar Al-Aytam read books in their new library, established on Thursday.

told the Yemen Times. “They want to be pushed forward and we want to continue this program. We urge other organizations to join forces with us.”

At the library's opening, small boys were pushing each other and rushing to get inside the new library. Hamza Mohammad, 9, could barely contain his excitement. “These books are beautiful,” he said with a sparkle in his eyes. With books I learn new things.”

Mohammed Al-Shami, the head of Dar Al-Aytam, stressed the significance of this “generous gift.”

“This library has added greatly to our school, which now contains many more

magazine. The magazine will consist of the children's writings and be distributed in the schools and supporting organizations.

It will create cooperation between teachers at the school libraries where



Boys and girls sing a song about the importance of reading at the library opening day.

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