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Harf Sufian displaced: out of the frying pan and into the fire

Following is the story of the Yemen Times trip to a land that receives people displaced by the war in Sa'ada. A small mountain separates this valley from the battlefield, and the jets and the heavy booms are clearly heard.

By: Saddam Al-Shmourri
For the Yemen Times

SA'ADA — With the war entering its seventh week, hundreds of displaced families from Harf Sufian town that were forced to leave their homes still suffer in the Khaiwan Valley to the east of Sa'ada.

There is an acute shortage of basic needs, like tents, in the valley. Horrible times have been imposed by the Sa'ada sixth war. People are scared and without security or stability.

Since the fourth war in 2007, the small town of Harf Sufian has become a stage for the ongoing conflicts between the government and the Houthis, as it contains "cells of the Houthis' rebels" according to the government.

Harf Sufian's residents, most of whom are farmers, traders, and shepherds, fled to the east of Sa'ada to the Khaiwan valley, which is near villages controlled by the competing Hashed and Bakil tribes.

It was shocking to note that only few tents were erected even though all of the residents of Harf Sufian town had moved to the valley. According to the people in Khaiwan, the valley was crowded with thousands of displaced people, who spent days and nights under the trees, and in schools and farms. Some lived outside, in the rain and under the scorching sun. Hungry and thirsty, they eventually had no choice but to move into schools, farms, mosques or old buildings.

Many people in the valley said that there others caught in Sa'ada and Harf Sufian, where conflicts continue between the government and the Houthis. The roads are still blocked to humanitarian aid, as well as to those who

want to flee the fighting.

And, although many media outlets reported on humanitarian aid that has supposedly already arrived, people in the camps wonder why the aid hasn't reached them.

The trip begins
After a hectic trip with many check-points and bumps, we arrived at Abu Ban, a school in Sa'ada that accommodates, according to Qader Abu Atta, about 100 people.

We found 12 men in one classroom. The men seemed surprised to see us, but the surprise turned into to welcoming smiles, and they talked to us about their needs.

Zaid Abu Asa, said that his life turned "hard" during the war. Finding food and other supplies for his family was like begging.

"We were confident that we would have the food relief offered by the government and charities," said Abu Asa. "But for 15 days, we received nothing, and when we persisted, they sent a man to register our names. That was the last we heard from him."

He added that the delay was disastrous, especially for the most vulnerable people like the women, children and old people who are still waiting for tents. As for food, he said, they were buying it from their own pockets.

Living in the open
After that, we went to the Hamra area of the Khaiwan Valley, two kilometers from Harf Sufian. We found whole families living in small narrow rooms that are used for guarding fields. Each family had six to nine members.

Nearby, we could see land that was allotted for 500 tents. Only 30 were erected at the foot of the mountain, while the rest had not been delivered.

Mu'en Yahia, his three daughters and his wife were the first to arrive in the valley and found only a tree to shelter them from the hot sun during the day and biting cold at night. The frequent rain and wind made it feel "as if we have moved to Mars," he said as he held Afkar, his 1-year-old daughter, who seemed to be suffering from dehydration and starvation.

Yahia bought a motorcycle, which has become the only transportation in the camp. He can take people and goods through the blocked roads in return for a little money to buy milk and cookies for his little girl.

However, many times he has gone to get food and come back empty-handed. "What is the point in having tents without food? Food should be given priority," he said.

"We have qat farms and a tank truck and other properties," he said. "But we were forced to leave all that when the calls to prayer were mixed with the sounds of explosions. Now we are humiliated, hungry and with no dignity."

Bilal Hananah left everything behind, including his shoes and his car, when the war erupted and shelling started near his house. He brought his family to the valley with no money.

When he saw us, he thought we belonged to an aid organization that would help the displaced families.

"Brother," he said sheepishly, "please register my name."

When he realized that we were reporters, he was disappointed. But, he said that he would not mind talking to us, and he took us to his makeshift house to show us the misery that he and other families live in.



Displaced families in Al-Khaiwan area camp in the open under make-shift shelters made from tarpaulin. They have stayed without proper shelter and with a minimum of belongings in the open under heavy rain for seven weeks.

where they had no shelter, food, drinking water or clothes.

Fatima painted a school, and said she wished she could return. She said she might miss this year of school, like she did last year.

Ali, 10, drew a tank with a child riding it. He said he would like to drive a tank when he grew up and kill all the Houthis who had frightened his family and caused them to leave their house.

The Yemen flag was painted by Khaled, 10, with the name of President Saleh next to it. He said the president is the one to help them.

And Mohammed, 11, painted a picture of children with bread in their hands. He said they were his brothers begging for bread. He wished they had enough bread, and did not have to beg. He said their stomachs had not been filled since they fled the battles.

have been deprived education. He said he fears the same problem will be repeated this year, and children will start dropping out of school to look for jobs.

Abdrabu, a displaced man, said that the people of Harf Sufian survived the first three wars in tact, but when the sixth war started, men and women collapsed.

"We are in danger and are afraid for our families and ourselves," he said, "and we left everything behind as soon as the war broke out. So far, no aid has arrived and the prices here are higher here than anywhere else."

"This war," said Hussein Al-Asa, a tradesman from Harf Sufian, "has consumed almost all that was left for us. Trade and agriculture have collapsed and the economy is paralyzed. Houses and shops have been damaged, which adds to the suffering in the area which is already experiencing malnutrition, the spread of diseases and social problems."

As we went deeper into the region, two teenage girls approached us and conveyed a warning message. Villagers in the valley were threatening to burn us,

and the camp if we did not leave.

We tried to ignore them, but then we saw some people from on the roofs of their houses. They waved us away and threatened to shoot us if we did not leave. We did not understand why the people were angry, but we had no choice but leave the camp as fast as we could in a car that broke down repeatedly.

After three kilometers, we stopped a group of armed people and asked about the hostility of the villagers. One of them pointed out that the war had created sectarian, tribal and ethnic tensions and that arms made available to tribes would undermine stability in the future.

"The villagers are also have their concerns," he said. "They are afraid that some of these displaced people belong to Houthis rebels which means more problems."

Yet, thousands of civilians are the helpless victims of the war. Children have lost their innocence, women their privacy and men their dignity. Other families are trapped in the battle zones and are scattered among districts and villages in the mountains and valleys between Sa'ada and Harf Sufian without shelter or food.

See page 8 and 9 for the photo essay

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Children and painters

The displaced children were an image of misery. After moving from one family to another, our car was surrounded by children with dusty unsmiling faces and shabby clothes. They followed us, asking what we had for them and shouted, "Register us! Register us!" They thought that we would provide the help that they had heard about long before our arrival.

They told us that they wished the war would end, that they could go back to their homes, and never hear again the sounds of guns, tanks and jet fighters.

Some organizations had provided the children with toys including footballs for boys and paints and drawing paper for girls. Afkar, a 9-year-old girl, drew a picture of a house. She said that it was the house that she was dreaming to go back to.

Ibtisam drew a child surrounded by a net. She said it was about their situation when they were back home, and unable to go anywhere because of the fighting. They waited for the dark, and sneaked out without even their shoes. They climbed the mountain and reach the area

Collapse on all levels

Ali Naji, one of the displaced, and a teacher at local school, said that since the beginning of the war, they have received only blankets, mattresses, toys, paints and drawing paper for children.

He noted that the situation has affected children's attitudes.

"They are normally cheerful and even mischievous," he said. "But now they look troubled and have no tendency to play because of the fear and lack of housing and food."

Ali Ashba, also displaced, said that one of his children, Hasan, has become insane due to the horrors his family went through when the Houthis occupied their house. The military shelled the house, and then the family lived spent nights without shelter in the rain.

"If the situation continues," said Naji, "Sa'ada will need the largest psychological hospital- not only for children, but also for adults."

As for education, he said that since the 2007 war, schools in the area have been closed down, and thousands of children

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Editor disappears after publishing critical material

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, Sept. 27 — A Yemeni editor was abducted almost two weeks ago after he criticized the government over continuing armed clashes in Sa'ada, and his whereabouts are still unknown.

Mohammed Al-Mqaleh, a 49-year-old father of seven, and the editor of the Aleshteraki Web site, which is affiliated with the opposition Socialist Party, was abducted from the streets of Sana'a at 11 p.m. on Sept. 17.

Eyewitnesses told his family that he was taken by a group of men who arrived in a white minibus with obscured license plates. The men took Al-Mqaleh and deflated one of the tires on his car, which was parked nearby. There has been no credible news of him since.

"Our contacts confirmed that he is detained at the Political Prison in

Sana'a," said Saeed Thabet, the executive director of the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate. "Though we contacted the Interior Ministry, the Political Prison and other concerned authorities to clarify the circumstances of the disappearance and current whereabouts of Al-Mqaleh, we had no reply."

Al-Mqaleh's disappearance came after Aleshteraki posted a graphic picture of civilian victims of air strikes in the Sa'ada region where the military has been battling Houthi militants. The website reported that Yemeni military air strikes caused civilian casualties near the city of Sa'ada.

"However, our sources confirmed he is at the political prison. This source also said that Al-Mqaleh has been arrested for issues not related to publishing or press," said Thabet.

He did not rule out the possibility

that there may be an attempt to fabricate criminal accusations against Al-Mqaleh.

"We don't exclude that, as this has happened before," he said. He also condemned the way the authorities deal with journalists, including Al-Mqaleh.

"The way that Al-Mqaleh was taken is completely wrong. If the authorities have any accusations or suspicions against him, they should follow the proper way, like arresting him according to the law. Kidnapping him like that is like gang practices," Thabet commented.

The Aleshteraki site, among many others, has been blocked frequently in Yemen.

In April 2008, Al-Mqaleh was imprisoned for several months for "disrespecting the judiciary" after he laughed during a particularly absurd moment during the trial of Abdulkarim



Al-Khaiwani, who was charged with subversion for writing about an earlier round of the Sa'ada war.

Amnesty International noted that abduction of political opponents and critics and journalists by security agents has become a known practice in

Yemen, particularly during political crises such as the clashes in Sa'ada. Those abducted are often tortured or otherwise ill-treated.

Amnesty International called for the release of Al-Mqaleh, adding that AI considers him to be a prisoner of conscience.

The organization urged the Yemeni authorities to protect him from torture and other ill-treatment, and allowed prompt and regular access to lawyers of his choosing, his family and any medical treatment that he may require.

Yemeni journalists fear that Al-Mqaleh may be subjected to abuse, as there have been many reports of psychological torture, severe beatings, sexual assaults, whipping and other forms of violence used against prisoners in Yemen.

Last week, journalists in Sana'a staged a third sit-in protest, demanding authorities disclose the

fate of Al-Mqaleh. The sit-ins were organized by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate.

In addition, Facebook users have formed groups calling for journalists and human rights activists to join the sit-ins and marching in Sana'a streets. They did not define the time and the location of the protests.

"Yemeni authorities must realize that the suppression of an independent media will hinder public understanding of internal conflicts, making it more difficult to resolve those conflicts in the future," said the director of the International Press Institute.

"We call upon the Yemeni authorities to immediately make public the whereabouts of the missing journalists. No government should be allowed to make journalists with critical views simply disappear," he said.

Campaign against street vendors temporarily suspended



Vendors, selling fruits, wears and other commodities in streets of main cities complain of being frequently extorted by municipality officers.

SANA'A, Sept. 27 — The city has halted a campaign against street vendors following a non-government organizations and activists.

"We suspended the campaign in response to a call by NGO representatives, parliament members

and lawyers, who have undertaken to persuade vendors to go to those markets determined for them to sell their goods," Mohammed Al-Gharbi Imran, Deputy Mayor of the Capital City, said.

According to Imran, the city government has designated 40

marketplaces around the city for street vendors.

"As municipality officials, we are tasked to keep the city tidy. Using sidewalks for selling wears creates problems for pedestrians, particularly women," Imran added. Commodities in

pushcarts on streets belong to shopkeepers, not to vendors, who only receive daily wages. The number of vendors increases during the holidays, as people's demand for new wears grow"

Two weeks ago, dozens of vendors held a sit-in in front of Parliament, protesting what they claimed were arbitrary actions by the municipality against them.

Ultimatum

Imran warned that the city will resume the campaign in the next couple of days if the vendors remain in streets. "The Municipality Law bans selling goods in streets or roadsides. Vendors give an uncivilized image to the city... They cause mayhem and leave no space for cars to park in front of hotels or restaurants."

Street vendors exist in almost all the developing countries, not only in Yemen, said Khaled Al-Anisi, a lawyer at the National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms.

Authorities in other countries allow vendors to sell goods on the streets as long as they keep the streets clean and

don't cause traffic problems.

"The authorities select lands in scarcely populated areas as markets," said Al-Anisi. "But after the number of inhabitants in these areas increase and markets look vital, landlords force vendors out and replace them by other more able tradesmen, who could construct stores or pay higher rents."

Bribes

Vendors also complain of being extorted by municipal officers. "Before Eid, municipality agents took my goods to 22 May Police Station where I paid YR 3,000 [USD14] to get them back," said Khalil Al-Wasabi, a 25 year-old vendor who sells women's wear on Hayel Street, west of Sana'a.

"This is the fourth time I've paid bribes at this police station," he lamented. "I also paid YR 1,000 every day as a rent for the space occupied by my pushcart. I have no income source other than this pushcart to support my family and myself."

"Poverty and unemployment are responsible for spread of vendors in cities, Al-Anisi said. "The government should offer them alternative jobs in

order for them to quit."

According to Al-Anisi, there are nearly 100,000 street vendors in Sana'a and other main cities, and municipality officials often subject them to abuse and extortion.

"These officials force vendors to give them bribes or illegal charges as rents for spaces in public streets."

In the past, markets used by street vendors were burned down by influential persons who then exploited the lands to build houses or trade stores, he continued. "The municipality authorities don't respect rights of these poor citizens."

But Imran said the city does not impose charges on vendors for spaces.

"It is the vendors who propose bribes to municipal officers patrolling streets in order not to impose the law on them."

"The number of vendors violating the law doesn't exceed 5,000. They prefer crowded streets to those marketplaces determined by municipality, alleging that clients can't reach them," he said. "When the city enforces the law, the number of street vendors decreases."

Yemeni Gitmo detainee released

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, Sept. 27 — A 26-year-old Yemeni detainee from the Aden governorate, named Alla Ali Bin Ali Ahmed, was released from Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba on Saturday, September 26 after being imprisoned for seven years, according to the US Justice Department.

The Department also announced the transfer of two other detainees to Ireland, but did not reveal their identities for security reasons.

Ahmed was released as a result of a May ruling from a US federal court, after being captured in Pakistan in 2002.

The Yemeni Embassy in Washington released a statement on Saturday welcoming Ahmed's release. It also commended US President Barack Obama's decision to close Guantanamo Bay.

"The Yemeni government will still not confirm that it received the detainee, nor has his family been informed," said Ahmed Arman, the executive secretary of The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD).

"We are, at the organization, are still demanding the Yemeni government to take care of its citizens and bring them back to their homeland," he added.

The transfer is part of a larger plan adopted by Obama to close the detention facility in Cuba by Jan. 22 next year.

However, US officials are now saying that they may not be able to meet that deadline, because of the difficulty in finding host countries for those who will be released.

Yemen and the US have not reached an agreement about Gitmo returnees, as the latter demands a rehabilitation center for detainees and the former is asking the US to fund this center.

Since 2002, more than 550 detainees have been transferred out of the prison, according to the US Defense Department. However, 223 remain in detention and 102 of them are from Yemen.

"Detainees who are still at the Guantanamo Bay will have three choices. Some of them will be deported to their homeland, some will be transferred to another country that is not their homeland to avoid torture in their countries, and the rest will undergo military trials in the USA federal courts," according to HOOD.

During a security conference held in January this year, President Ali Abdullah Saleh had promised to bring the Yemeni detainees home within three months, but the promise was not

realized.

The US says it will not release detainees unless it is provided assurances that released prisoners will not engage in terrorism, but Yemen has failed to come up with a plan acceptable to the US.

The Guantanamo Bay military prison was created under the administration of the former President George W. Bush after September 11 to hold prisoners suspected of terrorism or links to terrorism.

It has held as many as 750 multinationals, and 118 Yemenis.

Some Yemeni detainees died in Gitmo, when their bodies were returned to Yemen, vague reasons were given for their deaths.

Conditions of detainees at the bay reported as very bad.

Many demonstrations in Yemen took place demanding the prison get shut down, and the detainees themselves repeatedly went on hunger strikes.

Last month, HOOD said 14 Yemeni detainees would be released because of a US federal court decision.

However, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, denied this information, saying that Yemen did not receive any notification from the American administration about the 14 prisoners.

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In Brief

SANAA
Al-Qirbi takes part in ICG meeting in New York

Foreign minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi participated on Thursday in a special meeting by the International Contact Group on Somalia ICG held at the UN headquarters in New York.

In the meeting, he stressed the importance of backing Somalia's transitional government and honoring pledges and commitments announced by the international community to help the Somali nation.

Al-Qirbi said it may be the last opportunity to help this African country tackle civil conflict killing thousands and displacing other thousands of the Somali people, pointing to overburdens laid by Somali refugees on Yemen's fragile economy.

He also praised the role played of the African Peacekeepers working on maintaining peace in the country.

Al-Qirbi flew to the U.S. on Tuesday for the 64th UN General Assembly.

YCB to blacklist failed companies

The Yemen Central Bank is planning to blacklist 58 trade and exchange companies after they failed to live up to their financial liabilities for commercial and investment banks in Yemen and outside Yemen.

Sources told the Economist, the bank is serious about taking legal measures against the companies.

The bank previously turned over a number of companies which could not reform their financial situations to the judiciary, the sources said, adding the companies then received verdicts after missing a deadline to do necessary reforms.

The bank also intends to release the names of the 58 companies in the media.

Stocks are hitting record amid the increasing number of exchange

companies working in Yemen, with the bank considering law amendments to guarantee clients and company rights.

A new report by the bank noted the number of the exchange companies in Yemen rose to 528.

Saleh: Democracy well-established in Yemen

In his address on the revolution anniversary, President Ali Abdullah Saleh Friday affirmed democracy and political pluralism and their true exercising have become a clear sign and a crucial part of Yemen's political system.

It is impossible to make a tiny step back for the political system in Yemen, Saleh said, and errors resulted from our political experience can only be dealt with through more of democracy and deepening the experience.

He expressed his deep sorrow for those exploiting democracy and distorting its concept, committing irresponsible acts that aim to achieve personal goals and harm the nation and the people's interest.

"We all, the ruling party and opposition, are aware of that protecting the country and accomplishments is responsibility of all of us." "Any danger strikes our ship can affect all of us."

Saleh also urged all the Yemeni people and the political forces to align to face all obstacles facing their country through putting wisdom, respecting the other opinion, and dialog as the best solution to tackle problems above other options to deal with differences resulted from experiencing democracy.

He also urged all to stay away from all things that can lead to separation and disturbances as well as hindering the development and building up of our precious country.

Today, we receive revolution days with pleasure because they mean

victory for the Yemeni people's determination to go free and get rid of backwardness and autocracy, he said.

Saleh, moreover, renewed calls for the Houthi rebels to come back to the right path and stick to the ceasefire announced by the government to help prevent further bloodshed and bring peace into Saada.

Those who have been fighting the government forces for years in the north are short-minded and they are settling their accounts with the government or other foes at the cost of the country, and harming its image.

Saleh also called on the insurgents to learn from the past lessons, saying Yemen, despite problems, is able to keep its unity and defend accompli

Yemen-WTO 7th negotiation round to be held end 2009

Head of the Communication and Coordination Office with the World Trade Organization (WTO) Hamoud al-Najaar has expected the 7th negotiation round of the special work team of Yemen accession to WTO to take place before the end of the current year.

In a statement to Saba, al-Najaar pointed out that the 6th negotiation round, held in Geneva, June 2009, came out with important results within the framework of Yemen's efforts to finalize requirements to join the WTO and merge its economy with the world economies.

He made clear that Minister of Trade and Industry, head of the Yemeni Negotiation Team, Yahya al-Mutawakil asked in the 6th round to shed light on draft report of the work team in the coming round, affirming commitment of Yemen to improve and update action plans and the legislative plan.

Al-Najaar indicated that, on the sidelines of the 6th negotiation round, they signed a bilateral agreement with the European Union to get access to markets within the frame of the Organization requirements, considering this agreement a real and strategic base for Yemen to finalize its negotiations to join WTO end of 2009.

"A number of bilateral negotiations were held with Australia, Canada and North Korea as they are assigned to negotiate with Yemen in this respect," he added.

Al-Najaar affirmed getting access to WTO would open the door for international investment flow and would reinforce trust in the Yemeni investment environment, noting that if Yemen could not join the Organization it would lead to separating it from

Police seize large shipment of fuel on way to rebels

The police have arrested six people who planned to smuggle large quantities of fuel for the Houthi rebels in the north, the Interior ministry reported on Tuesday.

Two cars were seized with the arrested carrying about 12 barrels of petrol and 10 barrels of diesel concealed under fodder.

The operation took place in the district of Bani Hushaish, Sana'a.

In a similar operation, the police in Hajjah captured two people in the district of Mustaba'a with a pickup carrying 19 large-seized battles of diesel.

The two planned to smuggle the fuel to the Houthi rebels, who have been fighting the government forces since 2004.

Early this month, the police arrested a three-member ring that had been smuggling diesel for the Houthi rebels in Saada.

According to the Interior Ministry's Media Center, the arrests took place in the Bani Al-Harith, Sana'a, while trying to traffic diesel for the insurgents.

The people were aged 25-55. Among the arrested was a filling station owner whose filling station is located at the Hatarish district north of Sana'a.

MUKALLA
3rd meeting of Yemeni-Omani businessmen to be held in Salalah

The third meeting of the Yemeni-Omani businessmen council is to be held next Wednesday in Salalah city of Oman.

Head of the Hadramout Commercial and Industry Chamber, head of the Yemeni side in the meeting, Omar Ba-Jarash said that the council would discuss issues concerning the trade exchange movement between Yemen and Oman, suggest means to overcome obstacles that hinder the national goods' flow and facilitate procedures of businessmen's movement between the two countries.

Convening the council will coincide with a visit of the two countries' ministers of trade and industry to the commercial border outlets the Yemeni "Shahn" and the Omani "Al Mazuonah" to get acquainted with the commercial exchange movement and custom procedures for the exported goods, Ba-Jarash said.

DHAMAR
Fatal collision in central Yemen; 17 die

17 people including two women and a child were killed and 19 others were injured on Tuesday in a deadly collision in Dhamar in central Yemen.

Director of the Wahdah Teaching Hospital in the district of Jahran north of Ma'aber city Abdullah Mohammed Ghasan said the collision took place

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after a minibus carrying 22 passengers collided with a Camry car whose driver lost its control.

Three of the driver's family inside the car died immediately, and only a child was lucky and rushed to the hospital with injuries in his leg, he said.

Medic teams were dispatched to the accident site to pull the dead and help the hurt, Ghasan said, adding the hospital provided necessary treatment rooms and surgeons.

For his part, traffic director in the area Khalid Mohammed Anam said lack of a traffic island in the street helped the accident to take place,

urging the authorities to arrange islands to limit fatalities.

On the second day of Eid al-Fitr vacation, the authorities reported 36 road accidents that killed 11 people and left 69 others injured some in critical conditions.

On the first day, 40 traffic accidents were reported throughout Yemen, with 21 people killed, 48 others injured.

Driver negligence, high speed, using cell phone and chewing qat, wrong overtaking, using cell phone and chewing qat, torrential rain and technical faults remained key reasons for the accidents.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

An interested company based in Aden is looking to employ two Yemeni national interpreters with a fluent experience in:

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The deadline for receiving the applications is October 8, 2009

Female candidates are encouraged to apply

Chinese Embassy in Yemen welcomes Yemeni businessmen and friends to the 106th China Import and Export Fair

The world-famous 106th China Import and Export Fair (Canton Fair) will be held in Guangzhou, China in October, 2009. Mr. Yu Zirong, Economic and Commercial Counselor of the Embassy of China in Yemen made the comments to Yemen Times and warmly welcome the buyers and friends from the industrial and commercial circles to participate in this fair.

Mr. Yu said that, the Canton Fair was held twice a year in spring and autumn in Guangzhou, China since 1957. After 52 years of development, currently, the Canton Fair has become a comprehensive international trade event in China with the longest history,

the largest scale, the most complete exhibit variety, the broadest distribution of buyers, the biggest buyer attendance, and the greatest business turnover, and the soundest credibility, enjoying the reputation of "China's No.1 Fair". It endeavors to create better environment and more business opportunities to boost economic and trade development and cooperation between China and the rest of the world. More than 100,000 buyers from more than 200 countries all over the world attend the Canton Fair every year since 2004, the business volume of each session has accumulated to more than tens of billion USDS.

In recent years, the Yemeni businessmen have been actively participated in the Canton Fair, with more people and bigger turnover each year. In the 105th session of Canton Fair, totally 1355 Yemeni buyers attended the fair, 74.61% more than last session and the business volume reached 92.84 million US dollars, 71.32% higher than last session.

The Chinese Sponsor of the Canton Fair warmly expects more and more Yemeni businessmen actively attend the coming 106th Canton Fair and contribute to the further development of the bilateral trade between China and Yemen.

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| Phase 2: | Oct23-26,2009 9:30-18:00 Oct27,2009 9:30-16:00 Consumer Goods; Gifts; Home Decorations |
| Phase 3: | Oct.31-Nov.4,2009 9:30-18:00 Textiles & Garments; Shoes; Office Supplies; Cases and Bags; Recreation Products; Medicines; Medical Devices; Health Products; Food & Native Products |

For more information, please visit:
www.cantonfair.org.cn

Yemeni working mothers demand healthy kindergartens

By: Ola Al-Shami
For the Yemen Times

The law to establish kindergartens at facilities where mothers are working has not been activated yet, and many mothers still suffering a daily dilemma:

"Who will take care of my child?" they ask.

Working-class mothers ask for help from their female relatives, like the sisters, mothers or aunts, and sometimes from their neighbors. Others families can cover the expenses of sending their kids to private kindergartens, which are only available in main cities in Yemen like Sana'a, Aden, and Taiz.

Some women quit their jobs to stay with their kids, especially if they are infants, however others cannot because they need the salaries.

Absence of early care

The Yemeni labor law article No. 45 said that an employer must give female employees 60 days fully-paid maternity leave, and must not make her work in during this time. The leave can be extended to be 80 days if the woman provides a medical report that says she had a difficult delivery, or if she deliv-

ered twins.

Moreover, a female worker may not be made to work overtime during the six months after returning from maternity leave, and she must not work more than five hours a day until she is done breastfeeding, according to the law.

However, the Children Fund's said that the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in Yemen is one of the lowest in the Middle East region.

Yemeni women entering the workforce, and a lack of family or social support in helping with a mother's workload are some of the reasons behind this low rate, according to UNICEF.

UNICEF says that working mothers who want to breastfeed their babies cannot find a room in which to do so. Therefore working mothers tend to use powdered milk, according to UNICEF, which notes that breast milk is best for any baby and its nutritional value is unparalleled.

"The female teachers at the school I work in demanded the principal to provide a place for our children. We told him that we will pay for the babysitter but he refused our demand," said Najla Al-Motwakil, a teacher in a public school.

Other solutions

The absence of applying a law forces mothers to accept any solution. "I brought my child to a kindergarten which consisted of a room has been equipped with nothing but a cheap carpet. There were no toys for children to play with, no garden or swings and even no big windows to let the sun rays into the room" said Noria Al-Amrani, a secretary at the Ministry of Oil.

Children between two months and a 5 years old were in the kindergarten, said Al-Amrani, and there were more than ten children in the room.

"Necessity forced me to put my child there although it wasn't a healthy environment. I had to keep up with my work."

Unhealthy environment

Yemeni experts warn of the unhealthy environments, and a lack of required furniture and qualified babysitters in most of kindergartens, which should be monitored by Ministry of Education.

"If the babysitter was not qualified, she may treat the children very badly. Such treatment will affect their psychological state and led them to be absent-minded, losing appetite, and suffer depression" said Yasmin Al-Hammami, a psychologist.

"I put my daughter in kindergarten in Sa'wan district which was not so healthy, although it had a small garden and some toys. However, the toys were made of iron and children faced the danger of hitting themselves or each other with that material," said Huda Mohammed, a teacher at Al-Yarmook School in Sa'wan district.

"Some kindergartens are not supervised because they are run illegally by their owners in private flats and the government does not know any thing about them" she added.

According to Mohammed, children sometimes contract diseases or repeatedly wake up at night after attending kindergartens as a result of babysitter cruelty.

"My daughter spent more than a week waking up and crying at night," she said. "When I traced back the reason, I found that the babysitter shouted at her badly."

Argument over taking care of the baby

most women have been interviewed for these report, have confessed that there are always arguments taking place with their husbands regarding the best way to care for children while the mothers are working.

Al-Hammami noted that such quarrels between parents may make the child develop aggressive or timid behaviors.

"Some children beat their nails or undergo involuntary urination. The child interacts with everything, whether it was positive or negative without filtering," he added.

Call for help

"All female employees should know that it is their right to have a kindergarten in their work place if they reach the legal number," said Shada Nassir, a lawyer.

"Showing people their rights demands publicity in newspapers and television channels." She noted that most Yemeni mothers have no idea of their rights and are unfamiliar with laws designed to protect them, including the labor law that requires employers to provide kindergartens.

The law was passed in 2005, and says that any institution, private or public, must build a kindergarten if there are 50 or more female employees. But few

government facilities- like girls schools where most of the employees are women- have build kindergartens.

The nongovernmental organization, CHF, has launched a program that hopes to activate the law.

"The program is an attempt to oblige the official bodies or the government to build kindergartens in their institutions," said Om Kolthom Al-shami, the executive and the technical coordinator of the program and the representative of the School of Democracy in it.

"We want to the public to know that they have the right to have these kindergartens in their official institutions, which will guarantee children safe and healthy psychological and physical upbringings," said Nabeha Al-Hidary, the media coordinator in the program.

Al-Hidary added that the program will last for three months beginning from this month.

"The program consists of meetings with workers to familiarize them with the law, besides a seminar to be shown on television" added Al-Hidary.

Um Ahmed, the oldest qat saleswoman in Sana'a



By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For the Yemen Times

About 25 years ago, Um Ahmed, now 60, had only two choices: to die along with her eight children of hunger, or to beg. But despite her difficulties, she didn't yield or surrender. Rather, she decided to make a living independently.

"I have to work to provide for my children," said Um Ahmed. "It is better to work than to practice begging at homes and on streets."

For women, it is difficult to go out and work in the market, particularly because Yemeni society holds a negative view of women who work.

"I had to face all the difficulties and work in the market. I became one of the most famous qat-sellers in Shumaila market and in Sana'a," she

said.

Um Ahmed sells qat in a corner of Shumaila market, surrounded by shoppers. She says that her good relationships with customers enabled her to earn a lot of money and also to grow her business.

"Qat-selling is a lucrative and easy profession," she said. "I deal with people well and I haven't been in trouble with any customer since I started practicing this profession. In addition, I taught many people how to sell qat, and now they have become famous qat-sellers in the market."

Asked why she sells qat, she said that she had to work to provide for her eight children- two sons and six daughters.

"Bad conditions forced me to work. I lived with my children in Bani Matar area outside Sana'a. My husband works for the army, and his salary is not enough even to provide flour for

the family. Therefore, I went to Bani Hushaish and worked picking grapes for eight years. During that period, I was able to buy a plot of land in Sana'a and build a house," she said.

"I hail from Al-Haima area which is famous for qat-farming. My father was also a qat-seller. I have been selling qat for 25 years."

Every day, she goes to Hamdan area outside Sana'a to buy qat from the farmers. She doesn't pay in advance. Rather, she takes the qat, sells it and then comes back to farmers to pay. She spends four hours a day in the market selling qat.

She said that no one harasses her in the market. However, her family intimidated her when she began selling qat, and ostracized her because they thought the profession was shameful for women. She resisted the pressure from her family, and persisted until she convinced them she was doing the right thing.

She earns YR 2,000 to 3,000 a day. She says that she cannot quit selling qat because she has many customers and she is exempted from paying tax.

"I will not give up my job as a qat-seller because I have become famous in the market and have many customers," she said. "In addition, the president exempted me from paying tax because I am a woman who struggles to provide for her children."

Um Ahmed recounted a story that took place in Shumaila market.

"Two years ago, a man threw a grenade inside the market. The grenade exploded and several people were killed and wounded. People fled from the market due to the explosion but I remained by my qat and didn't flee."

She said that her struggle to provide for her family was fruitful. "In the past, we were poor. Now, we have a house

and money. My sons and daughters go to school, and I support them lavishly from the money that I earn qat-selling."

This is the story of the oldest and most famous woman qat-seller. She dedicated her life to work and struggle in a male-dominated society to provide her children with comfortable lives and proper educations.

And oddly, despite how long she has been in the market, Um Ahmed doesn't give her real name to everybody. The other qat-sellers in the market don't even know her name. They just call her Um Ahmed- Ahmed's mother.



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and the **47th Anniversary of**
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Civilians increasingly at risk as conflict intensifies

The war has intensified over the past few days in most areas of northern Yemen, and civilian lives are increasingly at risk. Thousands of people who recently arrived in Wadi Khaiwan (4 hours by car north of Sana'a), Bani Sureim (2 hours north of Sana'a), and Hardh to the east, are dependant on humanitarian aid for survival.

Families on the move lack even the bare necessities, having fled battles in and around their homes. Women, children and elderly are among the most vulnerable. This collection of photographs includes Yemen Times exclusives, and pictures from the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Seyaj Organization for Childhood Protection.



Sa'ada displaced people now largely dependant on aid provided by the international agencies such as the ICRC, the WFP, and the UNHCR.



According to the UN, people displaced by the Sa'ada war increasingly lack food, drinking water and sanitation.



Displaced children line up while Yemeni Red Crescent volunteers distribute household items.



With winter approaching, conditions for displaced people in Yemen are expected to grow even harsher, according to the UN.



A displaced woman waits during the distribution of aid.



Displaced man in Khaiwan Medina waits for aid.



This motorcycle has become the only transportation in Al-Khaiwan camp.

risk as conflict intensifies



Children and elderly are among the most vulnerable victims of the ongoing war in Sa'ada.



Even inside the camps, men carry weapons.



Yemeni Red Crescent volunteers (Amran branch) distribute essential non-food items to approximately 500 displaced people in Bani Sureim and 1,700 displaced people in Khaiwan Medin.



Families load the bare necessities on pick-up trucks, donkeys, and cows and started moving east.



Many classrooms in schools become crowded with displaced families who don't get tents.

Yemen Press Review

الثورة

Al-Thawra State-run Daily
Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009

Main Headlines

- Elements of rebellion and extremism bombs mosques in Saada's Baqim
- Official source denies rebels' allegations that they captured many Republican Guard personnel
- Yemen has well-established democracy, says Saleh

In his address on the revolution anniversary, President Ali Abdullah Saleh Friday affirmed democracy and political pluralism and their true exercising have become a clear sign and a crucial part of Yemen's political system, the daily reported.

It is impossible to make a tiny step back for the political system in Yemen, and errors resulting from our political experience can only be dealt with through more of democracy and deepening the experience, the daily quoted Saleh as saying.

He expressed his deep sorrow for those exploiting democracy and distorting its concept, committing irresponsible acts that aim to achieve personal goals and harm the nation and the people's interest.

"We all, the ruling and opposition parties, understand that protection of the country and its accomplishments is an inclusive responsibility of all of us," he added. "Any danger strikes our ship can affect all of us."

Saleh also urged all the Yemeni people and the political forces to align to overcome all obstacles facing their country through putting wisdom, respecting the other opinion, and dialog as the best solution to tackle problems above other options to deal with differences resulting from democratic practices.

He also urged all to stay away from all

things that can lead to separation and disturbances as well as hindering the development and building up of our precious country.

Today, we receive revolution days with pleasure because they mean victory for the Yemeni people's determination to go free and get rid of backwardness and autocracy, he said.

Saleh renewed calls for the Houthi rebels to come back to the right path and stick to the ceasefire announced by the government to help prevent further bloodshed and bring peace into Saada.

Those who have been fighting the government forces for years in the north are short-minded and they are settling their accounts with the government or other foes at the cost of the country, and harming its image.

Saleh also called on the insurgents to learn from the past lessons, saying Yemen, despite problems, is able to keep its unity and defend accomplishments.



26 September Weekly, Organ of the Yemeni Army
Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009

Main Headlines

- President Saleh praises directional development in Yemeni-Saudi relations
- Sudanese Leader: Yemeni Unity represents an illuminating candle in modern Arab history
- Military units take over strategic positions once used by rebels
- Yemen reaffirms commitment to democracy

Foreign minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi reiterated on Friday Yemen's commitment to democracy and working together with the democratic community and taking part in its various activities, the weekly quoted Yemen News Agency, Saba, as saying.

During a meeting for emerging

democratic states held at the U.N. headquarters in New York on the margins of the 64th U.N. General Assembly, Al-Qirbi said that Yemen appreciates support from foreign countries to promote its democracy.

In his address as a representative for an emerging democratic state, he brought up the beginnings of the emerging democracies that started in 1995 and laid foundation for international partnership to establish the democratic nations.

Democracy may fail if a state's democratic system, talking about those countries facing obstacles to promote democracy, does not have democratic institutions that can protect democracy, the official noted, urging further support for such countries.

Al-Qirbi furthermore, highlighted dangers facing democracy in many countries, saying among the dangers are the absence of comprehensive development, stressing the need for economic and administrative reforms as well as building democratic institutions as he said that terrorism is the enemy of democracy, but not the armed forces.

Poverty and unemployment help the people lack zeal for the democratic principles, he said, adding that "to deal with these dangers there should be support and effective mechanism for the emerging democracies."



Newsyemen.net, an independent news website
Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009

Main Headlines

- Health Ministry announces new H1N1-positive cases
- Supreme Energy Committee discloses deficit in electrical projects funding
- Saleh renews call for Houthis to return to the right direction, abide by

government's initiative

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh renewed his call for Houthis, who he described as elements of terror and rebellion, to return to the right direction and remain committed to a recent government initiative that contain six conditions for stopping military operations against rebels, the website reported.

During his address on the Anniversary of 1962 September 26 Revolution, Saleh called on rebels to fear God, and stop bloodshed and killing of innocent women, children and elders. He blamed Houthi-led rebels on the sufferings and displacement of civilians, looting of their property and destruction of everything in the volatile Saada and Amran governorates.

"I don't know what these elements exactly want," Saleh questioned. "I don't know whether they want to retaliate against innocent people of Saada governorate and Harf Sufyan district."

According to Saleh, the rebels deprived people of Saada and Harf Sufyan district of development and service projects and destroyed what has been so far accomplished or reconstructed.

According to the website, Another 60,000 displaced people living in camps and communities south of the frontlines have begun receiving life-saving assistance like food, water and shelter from aid agencies. However the international community has thus far failed to provide the vital funding needed for the humanitarian response. To date, donations made towards a UN emergency appeal for US \$23.7 million launched in early September have been minimal.

The Yemeni government has requested the support of humanitarian agencies and Oxfam has agreed to provide 20,000 litres of clean water per day, along with sanitation and hygiene services in a new internally displaced camp in Amran governorate, some 30 kilometres south of the frontline.

Oxfam is also in the process of providing sanitation and hygiene assistance to displaced families in Al-Mazrak internally displaced camp in Hajjah governorate with plans to assist a total of 15,000 people in the areas that are currently accessible to aid agencies.

An estimated 100,000 people have fled their homes and villages in the last

month alone. The remaining internally displaced people in Yemen fled their homes and villages in previous flare-ups in fighting between government and rebel forces over the course of the past five years. In recent days, worrying signs of a dangerous escalation of this latest outbreak in fighting, have been multiplying.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of Italy in Sana'a official informs that a selection procedure has been opened to recruit a

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Candidates can obtain a reference model for their application form contacting the Embassy of Italy in Sana'a. For a detailed job description and any other inquiries please contact the Italian Embassy in Sana'a - Haddah Street 131 PO Box 7269 tel: 01 432587/8/9, or downloading from: www.embasanaa.eseri.it

Closing date for application is **October 3rd, 2009.**

The Italian Embassy in Sana'a is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and welcomes applications from all section of the community.

Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI's) – IPPs for Aden, Al Hodaidah and Al Mukalla, Republic of Yemen

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The Project will be implemented on a Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) basis pursuant to (i) a maximum 25-year Implementation Agreement signed by the GOY, (ii) an Energy Conversion Agreement (ECA) signed with PEC as power purchaser or a Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) signed with the relevant Yemen Government authority as fuel supplier and (iii) a lease over the site(s) granted to the successful Project Sponsor pursuant to Land Lease Agreements (LLA).

The Project Sponsor will be selected through an international competitive bidding process, and the selected Project Sponsor will be required to arrange the necessary financing and to execute the key project documents for the Project.

The right to develop the power plants will be awarded to the Project Sponsor that offers the lowest levelized tariff (in US cents/kWh) for each location.

Following submission of EOIs, the GOY expects to issue a Request for Qualification Document (RFQ) in which it will invite statements of pre-qualification from sponsors. Request for Proposals ("RFP") for the Project will be issued to pre-qualified sponsors in accordance with the tender laws and regulations of the Republic of Yemen.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, is advising the GOY on the tendering of the Project.

More information about this project can be found at the following website: www.yemenipporject.org

Interested companies are requested to indicate their interest no later than November 14, 2009 electronically in pdf file, to the contacts below:

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Republic of Yemen

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طلب ابداء الاهتمام – محطات الطاقة المستقلة في عدن والحديدة والمكلا بجمهورية اليمن

تسعى حكومة اليمن لتعيين راع مؤهل دوليا (راعي المشروع) لإنشاء محطات الطاقة المستقلة لتوليد طاقة بقدرة ٣٧٥ ميجاوات تقريبا من صافي الحمل الأساسي عن طريق الغلايات أو المحركات الترددية التي تعمل بالديزل في عدن (صافي ١٥٠ +/- ميجاوات)، والحديدة (صافي ١٥٠ +/- ميجاوات)، والمكلا (صافي ٧٥ +/- ميجاوات) (المشروع). وتمتلك المؤسسة العامة للكهرباء هذه المواقع. ويتعين أن تكون التكنولوجيا المستخدمة لتنفيذ المشروعات قابلة للتحويل للغاز الطبيعي في المستقبل.

ويتم تنفيذ المشروع بنظام البناء والتشغيل والملكية والنقل بالتماسي مع: (١) اتفاق تنفيذ توقعه الحكومة اليمنية لمدة أقصاها ٢٥ عاما؛ (٢) اتفاق لتحويل الطاقة توقعه المؤسسة العامة للكهرباء كمشتري للطاقة أو اتفاق للتزويد بالوقود مع الجهة الحكومية المختصة كمورد للوقود؛ (٣) عقد إيجار الموقع/المواقع الممنوح الراعي المشروع المختار طبقا لإتفاقات تأجير الأراضي.

يتم اختيار راعي المشروع عن طريق عمليات مناقصة تنافسية دولية، ويتعين عليه ترتيب التمويل اللازم والانتها من مستندات المشروع الرئيسية.

يمنح حق إنشاء محطات الطاقة لراعي المشروع الذي سيعرض أقل سعر لتعريفه التشغيل (بالسنت الأمريكي لكل كيووات في الساعة) لكل موقع.

بعد تقديم مستندات ابداء الاهتمام، من المتوقع أن تصدر حكومة اليمن مستند طلب تقديم المؤهلات الذي تدعو فيه رعاة المشروعات إلى تقديم بيانات سابقة الخبرة. ويصدر طلب تقديم العروض الخاص بالمشروع للرعاة المؤهلين وفقا لقوانين ولوائح المناقصات بجمهورية اليمن.

تقوم مؤسسة التمويل الدولية، وهي أحد أعضاء مجموعة البنك الدولي، على تقديم المشورة للحكومة اليمنية بشأن طرح المشروع للمناقصة.

لمزيد من المعلومات عن هذا المشروع يمكن الرجوع إلى الموقع التالي: www.yemenipporject.org

يرجى من الشركات المهتمة بالمشروع ابداء اهتمامها في تاريخ لا يتعدى ١٤ نوفمبر ٢٠٠٩ بصورة الكترونية في صيغة pdf وإرسالها إلى المسؤولين أدناه.

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في الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر الخالدة
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and 47th anniversary of 26 September
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بأسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات
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و السلام في ظل مسيرة التنمية و البناء.

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the commemoration of 47 anniversary revolution
26th of September
The General Manager of OMV Yemen
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H.E. **Ali Abdulla Saleh**, President of the
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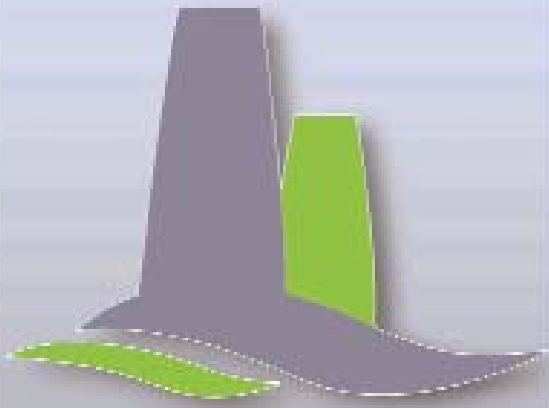
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الشركة العربية اليمنية للأسمنت المحدودة
Arabian Yemen Cement Company Ltd.

أسمنت حضرموت



تقديم

الشركة العربية اليمنية للأسمنت المحدودة

ومنتاحة برئيس مجلس الإدارة

الهندس / عبد الله أحمد سعيد بوشان

ومخالفين التقني و التقويمات التي في رئاسة ورئيس الجمهورية الأخرى /

علي عبد الله صالح

رئيس كافة أبنائه الشعب اليمني

بمناخية حزنه في عيد الأضحى المبارك

والذكرى الـ ٤٧ لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر الانتفاضة

وكل عام وانتم بخير

Arabian Yemen Cement Company Ltd.

Represented by its Chairman

Eng./ Abdullah Ahmed Saeed Bugshan

Presents its warmest felicitations to

H.E. President

Alli Abdullah Saleh

And to all people of Yemen

On the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak and the
47th anniversary of 26 September Revolution.

Many happy Returns

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و الأستاذ / **علي السحقي** - نائب الرئيس ونائب المدير العام
لشركة كنيديان نكسن بتروليم يمن - قطاع المسيلة (14)
وشركة كنيديان نكسن بتروليم شرق الحجر المحدودة - قطاع (51)
والإدارة العليا وجميع موظفي القطاعين
بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح حفظه الله

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

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والإسلامية بالخير والبركة.

وكذا الذكرى الـ 47 لثورة 26 سبتمبر المجيدة

Mr. Phil Milford, President & General Manager,

&

Mr. Ali Sohalki, Vice President & Deputy General Manager

Of

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen - Block (14)

&

Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al Hajr Ltd. Block (51)

As well as the Management Teams & All staff of both blocks, present
their warmest congratulations to

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen

On the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak

&

the 47th Anniversary of 26 September Revolution Day



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كنيديان نكسن بتروليم شرق الحجر المحدودة
قطاع شرق الحجر (51)

Sun and sport to prevent brittle bones

Although the old-age bone disease of osteoporosis usually affects people above the age of 50, doctors in Yemen have diagnosed cases in patients as young as 40. Part of prevention is more sun and more sport, say doctors.

By: Alice Hackman

When Yemeni orthopedic specialist Dr. Saeed A. Bamashmus returned to Yemen after his studies abroad, he was surprised to find that women much younger than average were suffering from osteoporosis. A skeletal disorder characterized by weak bone strength, osteoporosis literally means "porous bones." It is common in older men and women, especially among women after menopause when their levels of estrogen drop.

It has often been dubbed the "silent killer," because it increases the likelihood of bone fractures, notably hip fractures that can lead to premature death.

One in four people with hip fractures die early, according to a study published this month in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Osteoporosis affects millions of people around the world, every year exerting more pressure of health care services, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

About 1.66 million hip fractures occur each year worldwide, a figure set to increase four-fold by 2050 because

Bamashmus.

Low hormone levels, bad diet, lack of exercise, and vitamin D deficiency are all causes for osteoporosis, explained the doctor. Women's estrogen levels drop after menopause which reduces the bones' ability to absorb calcium, while low levels of calcium, phosphorus or protein can make bones weak.

But, while changes in hormone levels are complicated to treat, other factors that contribute to increased risk of osteoporosis are easy to remedy - vitamin D deficiency and immobility in particular.

Prevention is the most useful, said Bamashmus.

Vitamin D the key

It is commonly known that calcium -found in dairy products, fish with edible bones, and broccoli, for example- is important to ensure strong and healthy bones.

"Calcium is one of the main bone-forming minerals and an appropriate supply to bone is essential at all stages of life," says the WHO.

But the role of vitamin D in the process is often less well understood.

If a patient with osteoporosis were to have a blood test, results would show

YT photo by Alice Hackman



To prevent vitamin D deficiency which can cause osteoporosis people in Yemen should take vitamin D supplement, or sit in the sun for around 20 minutes a day.

Sharafi.

Studies in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Turkey and Lebanon showed that 30 to 50 percent of children and adults had low vitamin D levels, according to Al-Sharafi.

Bask in UV rays

Activated vitamin D, the "key" to calcium absorption in the bones, depends on healthy skin, healthy kidneys, and a healthy liver, explained Bamashmus. If one of these organs fails, the body's vitamin D cannot assist the calcium in fortifying the bones.

A person's capacity to absorb the sun's ultraviolet or UV rays and synthesize vitamin D depends on the quantity of melanin he or she has in the skin. Less melanin means fairer skin, whereas more means darker skin.

As melanin acts to block out ultraviolet light, different skin colors absorb sunlight at different rates.

For example, a Scotsman's particularly pale skin absorbs ultraviolet rays very fast, explained Bamashmus. Sun is a rare commodity where he lives, but he doesn't need to sit out in it for very long to gain its benefits because his skin is very sensitive.

In contrast, a man on the African equator with much darker skin needs to be out in the sun longer to absorb vitamin D, but where he lives sunrays are more abundant and hit the earth at a more direct angle.

Yemenis, explained the doctor, have skin somewhere in between.

The best times for UV ray baths in Yemen are between 7 and 10 a.m. and between 4 and 6 p.m., he said. Ideally, everybody in Yemen should make sure their skin is exposed to the sun for 10 to 30 minutes a day, depending on skin color.

Skin must be directly exposed to the sun, stressed the doctor, as the problem with the color black -worn by most Yemeni women- is that it refracts the UV rays.

"They must open their face, a little

bit of their arms, and a little bit of their legs, so that a quarter to a fifth of the body is in the sun," he said.

Sunbathing in Yemen

Sunbathing in Yemen is not necessarily a straightforward activity. In Yemen's conservative culture, it is not always easy for a woman to find somewhere private to roll up her sleeves and bathe her skin in the sun. In Yemeni public gardens, especially in the capital Sana'a, families often rent tents to sit in to enjoy the day far from strangers'

Inadvertently, this woman had informed her neighbor about osteoporosis prevention. And spreading awareness, insists Bamashmus, is essential.

"When I tell her to sit in the sun, she accepts," said Bamashmus, "but deficiency in information is a very big problem."

Eat well, live well

"Awareness would really help," agreed Al-Sharafi, explaining that in Europe,

ing osteoporosis, say doctors. Smoking and excessive consumption of alcohol or caffeine are highly discouraged. And some types of diuretics should also be avoided, as they may increase excretion of calcium in the urine.

"For older people, there is convincing evidence for a reduction in risk for osteoporosis with sufficient intake of vitamin D and calcium together, and for an increase in risk with high consumption of alcohol and low body weight," said a recent WHO report.

Low body weight can have adverse effects on bone strength, and both anorexia nervosa and bulimia -eating disorders more common in industrialized countries- have been associated with bone loss.

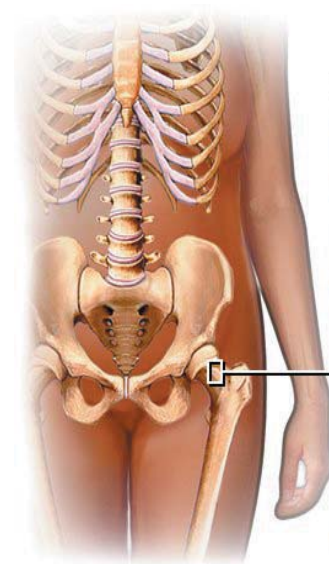
A balanced diet also contains many other nutrients linked to bone health and the prevention of osteoporosis, including zinc, copper, manganese, boron, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin K, the B vitamins, potassium and sodium, according to the WHO.

Move to prevent bone loss

"Practicing exercise at a young age helps maximize the mineral density of bones while they are still growing and maturing, and continuing to exercise minimizes bone loss later in life," wrote the authors of a 2003 WHO paper entitled "Exercise interventions: defusing the world's osteoporosis time bomb."

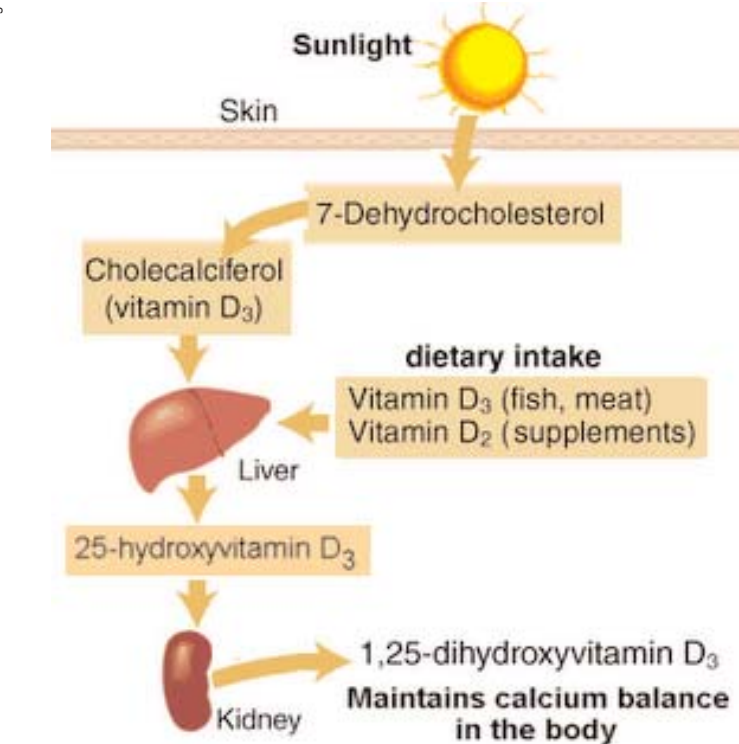
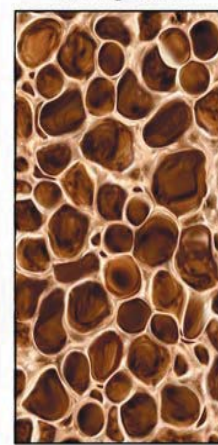
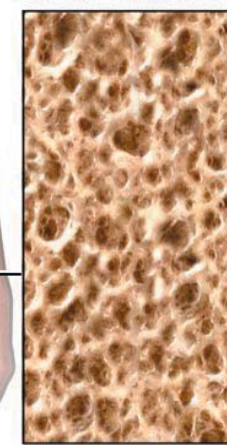
"Walking, aerobic exercise, and tai chi are the best forms of exercise to stimulate bone formation and strengthen the muscles that help support bones," it added. Everybody should exercise for at least 30 minutes 3 times per week, according to Al-Sharafi, and any weight-bearing exercise, including walking, is acceptable.

"Walking increases the bone density at both the hip and spine," explained the doctor, who recommended that women choose a form of exercise that they like to keep it up in the long term.



Normal bone matrix

Osteoporosis



Vitamin D synthesized by the skin, liver and kidney, is necessary for bones to benefit from dietary calcium.

the population is aging, said the WHO. And the Middle East is no exception.

"Most recent studies have pointed to low bone mass among women in the region, as 35 percent of women over the age of 50 in the Middle East suffer from osteoporosis, and numbers are increasing," Dr. Gemma Adib, president of the Pan Arab Osteoporosis Society, said at a July 2009 conference.

Although Yemen's population is young with nearly half the population under the age of 15, according to the World Bank, its life expectancy rate is on the rise.

Yemenis are living increasingly longer, and osteoporosis prevention can never start too early, according to

just as much calcium in the blood as anybody else, said Bamashmus. Instead, the patient is sick because he or she lacks the activated vitamin D necessary to attach the calcium in the bones.

Vitamin D, from sunlight and diet, is like a key that opens the door to the bones to allow the calcium to enter, said the doctor.

Without vitamin D, only 10-15 percent of dietary calcium is absorbed, according to Dr. Butheina Al-Sharafi, endocrinologist.

Most of a person's vitamin D comes from the sun, she explained, or from fish such as salmon not readily available in Yemen. For this reason, people in Yemen should make sure that they either take vitamin D supplements or sit in the sun for around 20 minutes a day to get the minimum of 1000 units of vitamin D daily.

"Most people are not aware of the problem," she said. "[They] will take calcium supplements, when actually they should be taking vitamin D with it to benefit from the calcium."

Some calcium supplements do have vitamin D in them, but not enough as they only contain 200 to 400 units, less than half the units needed just to prevent deficiency, she said.

Although no studies have been conducted in Yemen, Vitamin D deficiency is common in the Middle East like the rest of the world, said Al-Sharafi.

In the same Yemeni family, Bamashmus said he once discovered a 2-year-old with rickets, a 37-year-old with osteomalacia, and a 60-year-old with osteoporosis. All three bone diseases are characterized by vitamin D deficiency.

"In areas where most of the skin is shielded from the sun, vitamin D deficiency is very common," explained Al-

CALCIUM IN FOODS

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1 oz cream cheese: | 20 mg |
| 1 hard boiled egg: | 30 mg |
| ½ cup cooked broccoli: | 40 mg |
| ½ cup cottage cheese: | 80 mg |
| 1 oz cheddar cheese: | 205 mg |
| 6 oz calcium-fortified OJ: | 250 mg |
| 1 cup milk: | 300 mg |
| 1 cup fruit yogurt: | 345 mg |
| 3 oz sardines with bones: | 370 mg |
| 8 oz vegetable lasagna: | 450 mg |

DAILY CALCIUM REQUIREMENTS

| Age | Milligrams (mg) |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1-3 years | 500 |
| 4-8 years | 800 |
| 9-18 years | 1,300 |
| 19-50 years | 1,000 |
| over 50 years | 1,200-1,500 |



EMBASSY OF INDIA

'KATHAK DANCE' GROUP FROM INDIA



सत्यमेव जयते

EMBASSY OF INDIA is organizing a 5-member KATHAK DANCE GROUP (a classical dance style) led by Ms. Pratishta Sharma, in Sana'a, Taiz and Aden, under the auspices of the INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS (ICCR), Government of India.

| City | Venue | Date | Time |
|--------|---|------------------------------|---------|
| Sana'a | Cultural Centre, Al-Etha'ah (Radio) Street. | Wednesday, 7th October, 2009 | 7.00 PM |
| Taiz | Cultural Centre Hall | Thursday, 8th October, 2009 | 7.00 PM |
| Aden | Palestine Hall. | Friday, 9th October, 2009 | 7.00 PM |

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26 SEPTEMBER REVOLUTION DAY**

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After 33 years, Yusuf returns to Los Angeles

By: Melinda Newman

At a concert by Yusuf, the artist formerly known as Cat Stevens, comes around only slightly more frequently than Halley's Comet, so it's no surprise that Yusuf's first appearance in Los Angeles in 33 years was a bit of a feeding frenzy. However, if Yusuf seemed dazed by the

hoopla, he didn't let it show.

Playing at the El Rey Theater to an adoring, celebrity-studded, invite-only crowd of around 500, Yusuf wasted no time returning to the songs he'd ignored for nearly 25 years following his conversion to Islam in the late '70s.

After opening the show with the inviting "Welcome Home," the first track on his powerful new CD, "Roadsinger," he immediately set the

Wayback Machine in motion, launching into the wistful, beautiful love ballad "Lilywhite," from 1970's "Mona Bone Jakon." Throughout the 80-minute set, he artfully intertwined classic Cat Stevens songs from the '70s with new tunes, weaving a seamless tapestry with his gentle, soothing voice and his easy way with a timeless melody.

He displayed a disarming charm as he delivered a note-perfect rendition of "Where Do the Children Play" before sliding into new song "Thinking 'Bout Love," one of the purest, sweetest love songs in his canon. The years have aged Yusuf's vocals in all the right ways: he sang a few tunes in a lower register ("Wild World," which he sang partially in Zulu, was a full octave lower), but the warmth and nuance that made him one of the most popular singer/songwriters of his era were plentifully abundant.

Clad in black pants, a plaid shirt and black open vest, his wardrobe had more in common with Mr. Rogers than of a former musical superstar who dated the likes of Carly Simon (She allegedly penned "Anticipation" about him). A comfortable and ingratiating presence on stage, Yusuf seemed at ease on stage as he stood behind a microphone, playing acoustic guitar, but he was often a little tentative, like someone getting back on the bike after a long absence.

The melding of past and present was further enhanced by the addition of guitarist Alan Davies, who played on many Cat Stevens albums. Yusuf also brought out veteran bassist Kenny Passarelli (best known for his work with Hall & Oates, Dan Fogelberg and Elton John) for the title track for "Roadsinger." At one point, Yusuf looked back at Passarelli and smiled-beamed, actually—melting away all the years between Stevens' disappearance and Yusuf's re-emergence. It was a lovely, touching moment.

Much of Yusuf's lyrics serve as homilies of sorts. In lesser hands, lines like "To be what you must/you must give up what you are," (from "Roadsinger's" "Be What You Must") would sound trite. In Yusuf's, they sound like hard learned, experienced truths. Many of his songs seem deceptively simple, such



as "All Kinds of Roses, from "Roadsinger." With its nursery rhyme-lyrical repetition ("All kinds of creatures/all kinds of creatures/all kinds of creatures run on my land"), it's easy to dismiss the song until it becomes clear that it is an invitation to tolerance.

There was a pleasing humility and grace that surrounded Yusuf. That calm didn't lend itself to the most dynamic of shows, but instead, it created a sustained cocoon of warmth that was intoxicating in its 360 embrace. Though he only referenced his Islamic conversion once, his spirituality was an unassuming companion. At one point, an audience member screamed "You're the best." Yusuf smiled and pointed to the heavens and said, "He's the best." At the end of his regular set, he said, "I hope you'll pray for me and I'll pray for you."

During the encore, Yusuf finally seemed truly relaxed, as if he knew the heavy lifting was over and that, yes,

should he ever decide to undertake a larger tour, the ability was there on his part, and the enthusiasm remained on our part. (Such a tour is unlikely. I interviewed him a few months ago for an article for Performing Songwriter magazine and he said he had no plans to tour.)

His classic "Father & Son," a still-

touching story about filial discord, drew some of the loudest applause of the night. But it was his finale—a riveting, soaring "Peace Train," complete with harmonies swelling like a choir, that filled everyone's heart with joy. Then with a thumb's up sign, Yusuf was gone. Hopefully, it won't be another 33 years before he reappears.

Yusuf Islam unites Muslims

By: IslamOnline.net & News Agencies

Renowned British Muslim singer Yusuf Islam sees his music and songs can be a bridge between the Muslims world and the West.

"I think I've been given a position and place in this world which is quite unique," Islam told CNN on Monday, May 18.

"The fact that I'm a Westerner by birth and I'm a Muslim at the same time and living in this time where there seems to be such a gravitational split in polarities there need to be bridges.

"I think music is one of the best ways to bridge all those gaps."

Islam, formerly known as Cat Stevens, performed his first concert in Los Angeles last week, his first in the United States in 33 years.

Playing new and old songs for over an hour, the 60-year-old musician has delighted a star-studded audience.

"You don't understand," teary-eyed US singer and songwriter Michelle Branch said.

"I learned how to play guitar with the Cat Stevens songbook!"

Yusuf Islam reverted to Islam in 1977 and has since become a leading voice in Britain's two million Muslims.

His UN-registered charity, Small Kindness, provides humanitarian relief, through direct aid as well as social and educational programs, to orphans and families in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and other regions of the world.

In 2003, Islam was awarded the World Social Award for his humanitarian relief work.

In November 2004, he was honored with the Man for Peace award by a committee of Nobel peace laureates.

Prejudiced Islam lamented that the Islamic faith is tarnished in Western media.

"I used to be prejudiced as prejudiced as anyone about Islam," he said.

The prominent singer recalled the moment when he decided to revert to Islam at the height of his fame.

"I was given the opportunity of reading the actual source, the Quran itself, without anybody forcing me or looking over my shoulder and saying, 'What do you think?' It was just me in my space.

"The more I read the Quran, the more I realized that it was like an incredible matrix of connection with Christianity and Judaism," he said.

"I mean Jesus, Moses, the religion of Abraham in this book! And I said, 'Wow, how come I didn't know this before?' It was kind of like a secret.

"So that was kind of my discovery, and a lot of people, I don't think, have gone through that process because they've seen Islam as a headline and you never learn anything about a headline. Because headlines, you know people make things up, to be honest."

Under the former Bush administration, Islam was denied access to the US and his name was put on a no-fly list.

"I felt chosen! I felt suddenly, I was given a halo. 'This guy stands for peace, and they won't let him in."

"It was really kind of a joke, in a way, because the person I am and the kind of things they were kind of insinuating by putting me on this list with other people who were very dangerous."

But the situation took a new turn under the US administration of Barack Obama.

"I'm here now (in the United States), so things are kind of working themselves out. But there's a new administration, a new president, and it's a great new day."

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As a Livelihoods Project Officer, you will be expected to have a good understanding of humanitarian and development work as well as poverty issues in the Yemen context. You should be able to show good understanding of the concept of livelihoods in development and in particular how access to finance can improve the livelihoods of the poor. You will proven knowledge of policy & advocacy as well as national policies related to livelihoods and women's access to the market and employment. As the Livelihoods Project Officer, you should have the ability to network and link widely with Associations, NGOs and government institutions working on women's economic opportunities and employment. You will be expected to have a strong understanding of local socio-economic development issues, institutions and communities. You will be expected to show commitment to respect and build the capacities of partners Associations and NGO's.

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If you believe that you qualify for the position, send your CV to yemenjobs@oxfam.org.uk or The Human Resources Department, Oxfam GB Yemen P.O. Box 1045, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen or Fax no: 01 450170.

Closing date for applications is **03 October 2009**.

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Old manuscripts and restoration works for Tarim 2010

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Exhibitions of old manuscripts and scientific conferences on mud architecture are only part of the new program to celebrate Tarim as the Capital of Islamic Culture 2010.

The restoration of Tarim's old mosques has also been announced, but so far - five months before Tarim takes over from Qayrawan, Tunisia, as center of Islamic Culture in March 2010- no restoration works have begun.

Tarim, since the eleventh century a famous center for Islamic learning, was selected by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) this year to showcase its Islamic history.

Year-long activities will highlight Tarim's Islamic heritage and present topics such as "The image of the other in Islamic thought," the event's preparation committee recently told the press.

Scholars will discuss the contribution of Yemeni migrants in enriching other cultures and the early spread of Islam in Southeast Asia, among other subjects.

YR 1 billion has been put aside as a primary budget for preparations, a similar budget to that for the celebrations of Sana'a as Capital of Arab Culture 2004, said Saeed Al-Shadadi, general coordinator of the preparation committee.



The Mihdhar mosque and its 150 meter-high mud minaret.

The activities will be distributed between the concerned ministries - culture, education and endowments- and cultural institutions, he said.

Several symposiums, such as one on founder of sociology Ibn Khaldun, are to educate Yemenis about the country's culture during the early Islamic era.

Activities will promote the values of moderation and tolerance renouncing violence, extremism and hatred.

The program proposed by the Ministry of Culture includes a festival to celebrate the work of late Yemeni novelist and playwright Ali Ahmed Ba-Katheer through theatre and cinema, in addition to poetry readings featuring muwashahat, poetry traditionally sung.

Preparations are to include developing the city's infrastructure, restoring archeological sites, planting trees in the street, and decorating the city's entrances, said the committee.

Civil society organizations and cultural forums, including the Association of Yemeni History and Folklore Protection, will also have their own cultural programs

The association has scheduled to publish a book every month during the year. It will also exhibit the manuscripts of authors from Tarim and rare photos of the city, as well as produce documentaries about Tarim, according to Mohammad Al-Junaid, head of the association.

Scientific conferences, cultural festivals and competitions will also be organized, he said.

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not encouraging," said the general manager of the culture office in Hadramout, Ahmad Bin Duwais. "There are no theaters or halls."

New buildings like theaters as well as the restoration of the old mosques and palaces in the city will be the main and long-lasting benefit to the city from being nominated as cultural capital for Islamic culture.

To coincide with the tourism season in Hadramout between August and December, activities will target tourists come from eastern Asia like Indonesia and from Africa and Europe, he said.

Bin Duwais said the event will promote for Tarim as a learning destination, and he expects an increase in the number of students of Arabic and Islamic studies in Tarim from outside Yemen.

Situated about 22 miles northeast of Seyoun, Hadramout, Tarim was established in the fourth century AH or the eleventh century AD. Some historians say Tarim was named after its founder Tarim, the son of Hadramout. Others say Tarim is the name of a tribe lived in the area.

It has long been a center for Islamic

learning. As the home of many scholars, authors and scientists, Tarim continues to be a destination for many students and clerics from Yemen, the Far East, East Africa and other countries around the world, who flock to the city's schools to study Arabic and Islamic culture.

The city is famous for its Islamic architecture, notably featured in over 365 mosques, the most famous of which is the Mihdhar mosque and its 150 meter-high mud minaret.

Many clerics have graduated from Dar Al-Mustafa which has become one of the most prominent features of the famous religious city. Students from East Asia, Africa, Europe, Gulf States and Syria have traveled to the city to study Sharia and Islamic studies.

Tarim was chosen as Capital of Islamic Culture 2010 by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) at fourth Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers held in Algiers in December 2004. Through its choice of a city of to head Islamic culture each year, the ISESCO aims to highlight its cultural contributions in disseminating Islamic culture and civilization.

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