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While Al-Qaeda lures western media to Yemen, the military intervention could backfire

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, JAN. 9 — While dozens of reporters from different countries around the west arrive in Yemen every day to report on Al-Qaeda in Yemen, a prominent figure of Salafism in Yemen, Sheikh Mohamed Al-Baidani, stated that cracking Al-Qaeda down can not be done by military way.

And although he admitted of the Al-Qaeda prevalence in Yemen, he said that Al-Qaeda in Yemen is not any more having many members.

The Sheikh Mohamed Al-Baidani, who is a prominent figure of Salafism in Yemen, said this statement today in an interview with the ABC, a Spanish news paper.

"Al-Qaeda in Yemen now does not any more have much members and they are only now hundreds of young people," he said.

"The Yemeni state can arrest them at any time and bring them to courts," he said.

"The using of Al-Qaeda paper now by the Yemeni government to picture it as an increasing movement in Yemen is merely a political poly by the Yemeni regime to get financial assistance from the west," he said.

"The Yemeni regime now is suffering from huge economic obstacles and during the past decades was not bale to meet the development demands that the Yemenis look for, so now it resorts to the Al-Qaeda paper," he said.

He warned the United States of America (USA) of having any military intervention in Yemen under the pretext of combating terrorism.

"All the Yemeni people are armed and very careful about the sovereignty of their country," he said "If America sent troops to Yemen, all Yemenis will turn into



Dozens of western reporters from different media outlets covering a military training show by the Yemeni Anti-Terrorism Unit, on Saturday, January, 9. The Yemeni regime by this show wants to tell the west that its able to crack down Al-Qaeda, but it needs more support.

Qaeda."

"It is true that there is Qaeda in Yemen, but it is not anymore strong like the past," he said.

According to the Salafi scholar who is also a principal of an important Salafi School in Sana'a Sana, the media now is blowing up the size of Al-Qaeda in Yemen pushing the US to sent troops to Yemen.

He denied the accusation that says Salafism is the ideology that promotes Al-Qaeda growth in Yemen and around the world, saying that the US policy toward the Islamic world such as Iraq occupation is the key factor behind the hatred against the west world.

"The US army in Iraq killed around one million children, everyday hundreds of civilians are being killed by the NATO

forces in Afghanistan, and there is also external intervention in Sudan, so these matters are behind the Al-Qaeda growth," he said.

This came within a sparking interest by the western media to cover the topic of Al-Qaeda in Yemen.

According to Ahmed Alahabi, public relations manager at the ministry of information, more than 60 journalists from different media outlets from the west entered the country to cover Al-Qaeda in Yemen.

This came also within a statement by some officials at the US administration that the US is going to double its USD 70 million assistance in 2009 to Yemen to combat Al-Qaeda in Yemen.

In the same context, the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown said that there will be a conference in January, 18, in London to focus on how to aid Yemen in cracking down Al-Qaeda organization in Yemen.

In similarly event, all the Yemeni scholars from all doctrines in Yemen prepare for a press conference and publishing one unified religious statement (Fatwa) on the



Sheikh Mohamed Al-Baidani.

coming Thursday.

One of the scholars revealed that one of the key points in the fatwa will be a warning to the US of any military intervention against the Yemen's sovereignty.

"If the US sent troops to Yemen under the pretext of fighting Al-Qaeda, we will call for Jihad," said the scholar.

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Top official: Yemen has paid a heavy price for terrorism

By: Mamhouth Assamiee

SANA'A, JAN. 10- Yemen has paid heavy prices for terrorism's, said Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs Rashad al-Alimi.

"Terrorism has destroyed the country's infrastructure, hit tourism industry as Yemen was expecting to receive one million tourists and hundreds thousands of people who were working in tourism, lost their jobs because of terrorism," said the Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs in a conference held on Thursday on developments in Yemen.

He added that additional excessive wages have been imposed on ships coming to Yemen; Yemeni ports have been blacklisted by Europeans hindering trade ships coming to Yemen. Furthermore, great development projects have been crippled after the government spent the funds allocated for them in fighting terrorism.

Regarding the latest announcement by Somali Youth Movement on supporting Al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen, he said that Yemen had earlier warned the international community of Somalia turning into another Taliban and that what is happening in Somalia is the result of international community ignoring the issue of Somalia.

"We have strengthened Yemeni Coast Guards. We have also enhanced our relations with neighboring countries, like Djibouti and the new Somali government, in order to secure water passages. Besides, our cooperation with international forces existing in regional waters will play a significant role in tightening security," he said.



Dr. Rashad al-Alimi.

Over Yemen's efforts to fight Al-Qaeda and the number the terrorist elements in the country, he said Yemen has achieved great successes. Al-Qaeda has carried out 61 attacks in Yemen since 1992 until now; the government has been able to foil 15 attack attempts.

He summed up the government efforts in deterring Al-Qaeda as cracking down on Al-Qaeda elements and referring tens of them to justice, signing security treaties with European countries and with the United States and holding dialogues with misguided youth, all resulting in rehabilitating 600 persons and integrating them back in the society.

But Al-Alimi did not give exact number of Al-Qaeda elements in Yemen "it is difficult to give specific number due to a lack of statistics. We have some imprisoned elements, other are still in large and sleeping cells."

Regarding the Nigerian citizen Abdul-Mutaleb, who allegedly brought explosives from Yemen to explode the US passenger jet, Al-Alimi said Abdul-Mutaleb came to Yemen first in 2004 for studying in Sana'a Language Institute and remained in the country

until 2005. He then went to England in 2005 and lived there till 2008. During the period he lived in Britain, he was attracted by extremists there, while he was studying for a post graduate. He returned to Yemen in 2009 to study at the same institute.

"Hence, I affirm two things; the first is that he was recruited in Britain, not in Yemen and the second is that he brought the explosives from Nigeria. Dutch general prosecutor confirmed that the Nigerian citizen did not get the explosives from Yemen but from Nigeria," he said.

Regarding arguments that the direct US interference in Yemen will strengthen the Al-Qaeda to wage more attacks and win the sympathy of the Yemeni people, the Deputy Prime Minister for Defense and Security Affairs said the cooperation between Yemen and the United States of America is limited to only sharing intelligence information and technical support and that the raids launched against Al-Qaeda elements are 100 percent Yemeni.

Regarding the fate of German and British citizens, he said there is information which confirms that the five German citizens and one British are still alive and they maybe somewhere in the areas of Mareb, Jawf and Sa'ada. "Information reveals they are in Sa'ada and are used by Houthi to cure their injured militias who are fighting the army."

With respect to the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown's call to hold a conference, this month, in London to support Yemen, Al-Alimi welcomed British and American support to Yemen via this conference, saying preparations

are underway and Yemen is preparing working papers on its efforts in fighting corruption and the aid they need to overcome the obstacles.

"We expect the conference to result in commitments to support Yemen, dealing with unemployment and human issues in Yemen and development support help finding work opportunities to unemployed," he said.

Over failed assassination attempt against Saudi Deputy Minister of Interior Mohammad Bin Nayef and cooperation with Saudi Arabia in fighting terrorism, Al-Alimi said a Pakistani and Saudi national were behind plotting for the attack and they were killed in latest raids waged by the recent raids against Al-Qaeda strongholds.

He says there is great cooperation between Yemen and the kingdom in field of fighting terrorism and there are coordination between the two countries to share information on the movements of Al-Qaeda elements.

Regarding the size of threat imposed by Houthi in north and the separatist movement in the south, the deputy prime minister said Al-Qaeda is more dangerous because it is not only threatening Yemen, but also the whole world. "Houthis are breathing their last breath and what is happening in some districts of southern governorates are lawless acts and the police arrests only those who are outlaw."

Despite all these challenges facing the country, Al-Alimi assures that Yemen is stable and able to face any threat. "In the past, the country has been able to overcome greater challenges and now the country is stronger than in the past."

Yemeni forces fail to confront Houthis in some areas

By: Mohammad Bin Salam

SANA'A, JAN. 9 – for the consecutive sixty seventh day, fierce battles continued between armed Houthis and the Saudi army on the Yemeni-Saudi borders in which, the Mounts of Al-Modod and Al-Romaih were a target of the Saudi army to gain control of.

Some of the air raids were only ten kilometers away from the battles, according to the Houthis.

Houthi reports distributed to media outlets last Friday, said that Saudi air force is launching thousands missiles over areas in Sa'ada governorates. The shell was extended to include areas to the south, west and middle of Sa'ada.

A statement by Houthi mentioned that the Saudis and groups of the Yemeni forces, were trying to penetrate into areas near the Mount of Al-Modod using fire, but Houthi confronted them and stopped their penetration.

The statement added that, "the Saudi air forces shelled areas in Sa'ada like Sabr, Razez and Bain Mo'ath with more than 1480 missiles before penetrating into it. Among the missiles, there were also smoke missiles."

Houthi said that they shelled a Saudi army group in Al-Kobah.

In another statement, Houthi said that the Saudi air force launched 8 intensified air raids on Al-Shagaf, Sahar and Al-Ga'mala areas.

The Saudi air shelling was also intensified on areas like Al-Jabere, Al-Malaheth and Motalath Shada.

At the Yemeni forces -Houthi front-line, a statement by Houthi informed of the penetration by the Yemeni forces into areas adjacent to Sa'ada, to unlock the siege on the military site of Al-Sam'e. Houthi, for their part, said that they confronted the assault but injured and killed people were the result of the

confrontations.

About five air raids were launched by the Yemeni air force into Wade'a, Al-Shanan Forts in Al-Jawf and Farwa in which 15 people were killed and 4 were injured.

"The army was able to destroy many Houthi sites in Haidan and Qolat Asem where many of Houthi were killed. The Yemeni armed forces crippled a sneak try and caused Houthi massive losses," according to the September 26th site.

As for Al-Malaheth front line, September Net said that Yemeni security soldiers aborted Houthi sneaking attempts to Mounts of Khazan, Khamb Al-Malaheth and Al-Mazraq.

Many Houthi sites were destroyed as well by the Yemeni army. Sites like Mounts of Al-Dokhan, Ghafer and Shadat as well as areas adjacent to the mentioned in Sa'ada, were thoroughly checked out by the army.

Salah Habra, a Houthi leader, attacked president Saleh's system on Monday to degrade it to the statue of illegality.

Habra stated for Al-Eshiraqi Net "The system in Sana'a has left no power for itself since it allowed and approved of the current killings by the Saudi army in Sa'ada."

He condemned the silence of the Yemenis towards what is happening in Sa'ada. "the history will never ever forget this silence and the stigma on Yemeni foreheads will never vanish." He added.

Mocking at the Yemeni system was the tone Habra used when talking about sending Yemeni soldiers as human armors for the Saudi army. Referring to the recent parliamentary discussions on topics such as circumcision of women, he commented that this was an evidence of the level to which the parliament had degraded.

JMP receives a British invitation to attend London conference

President holds dialogue with supporting parties and neglects JMP

By: Mohammad Bin Salam

SANA'A, JAN. 10 – The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) are condemning the way President Saleh has chosen to carry out discussions in which he has invited all Yemeni parties to take part. JMP has alleged that Saleh wants to carry out the discussions by himself because he wants to conduct the dialogue solely with the Ruling Party, while neglecting the other 12 parties that form the JMP.

The JMP accuses Saleh of persisting on leading the country down the path of failure by all standards, as there is no genuine desire on their part to see the nation rise out of its state of crises.

The Supreme Council of the JMP, for its part, rejected taking part in any dialogue as per the terms of the State. The JMP demanded a national dialogue in which all political parties take part and stated last Wednesday that the February Agreement of 2009 will be the only practical reference for solving their problems.

The statement added that it fears both the State and the Ruling Party as deci-

sions taken by the Ruling Party and propaganda used by them could serve to weaken or destroy the dialogue.

The JMP is relying on the National Dialogue as a means of enabling the Yemeni people to overcome the multiple political and local crises and challenges facing them through finding practical solutions to their economic and social problems. The JMP also condemned the ongoing war in Sa'ada and the use of force against civilians in Abyan.

Certain terms were laid out by the JMP as a pre-condition to their acceptance of the dialogue initiative proposed by Saleh. The terms and conditions begin with the state offering a more democratic political atmosphere such as releasing people detained and kidnapped by force, ceasing trials of political activists and releasing banned journalists. They are also demanding that the government take responsibility for all issues and not ignore or abandon some issues and that the State creates all possible conditions that will bring about an end to the war in Sa'ada.

The JMP stipulated that there should

be legislation which insures that all political social forces and civil society organizations are included at the dialogue table and that Ruling Party committee is to organize this mission.

The JMP also asked that this dialogue be the catalyst which gathers all forces together and that they put the interests of the country above their own personal interests and consider all points of view in order to ensure that all parties with a vested interest will take part in future dialogues.

For their part, the General Committee of the Ruling Party and the National Allied Parties held a meeting as an immediate response to the JMP's stance. The meeting was headed by Abdu Rabo Mansour Hadi, Vice President of the Ruling Party. During the meeting, the members discussed the position of the JMP, the updates of the February Agreement 2009, signed between the Ruling Party and the JMP, which includes the extended agenda of the Parliament, and amending the electoral system.

The meeting also highlighted issues related to enhancing coordination between

the Ruling Party and JMP. The meeting, however, did not reach any consensus regarding these issues.

The dialogue which was supposed to take place on January 9th, has been delayed for the second time. The National dialogue committee, representing the Consultative Council (Al-Shorah council), has demanded that President Saleh delay the dialogue for more than three weeks. The Yemen News Agency (SABA) stated that the National dialogue committee has justified this demand by saying that it wants to introduce more social issues to the dialogue table.

The National dialogue committee confirmed during a meeting conducted on Wednesday and headed by Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, the Chairman of the Consultative Council (Al-Shorah council), the need for more time to plan and expand its coverage of more political and social issues.

The Yemen Times has received a statement that the British government has invited the JMP (seven opposition parties) to participate at a London Conference to be held on January 27.

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HRW concerns the continued captivity of Yemeni Gitmo's detainees

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, JAN. 10 -Human Rights Watch expressed, on Sunday, its serious concerns about Obama administration's announcement of halting returns of Guantanamo detainees to Yemen, saying that this means continued indefinite detention without trial.

"We understand that Yemen poses a very difficult problem for the administration," said Letta Tayler, terrorism and counterterrorism researcher at Human Rights Watch. "But continuing to hold Yemenis without charge only increases resentment against the United States and hands Al-Qaeda a recruiting tool."

Human Right Watch argued that the Obama administration completed a painstaking review process of the detainees last year and cleared about 40 Yemenis for release and that these determinations do not change because of a bombing, allegedly planned in Yemen, without their participation or knowledge.

"The Yemeni detainees at Guantanamo have been locked up without charge for nearly eight years – long before the attempted Christmas plot was hatched," Tayler said. "The United States should charge only the Yemenis, against whom credible evidence exists and work with Yemen on a plan for safely returning the rest or resettling them in third countries."

The US and Yemen should provide released detainees with the necessary assistance for reintegrating them into society and make them less vulnerable to recruitment by militant groups. And Yemen or a third country can place re-



Families of the Yemeni detainees at Gitmo protested many times, calling the return of their relatives who have stayed there for eight years without trial or charges. The protesters act a scene in which they tried to show the mistreatment in the U.S prison which is located in Cuba.

strictions on the repatriated detainees' freedom of movement to the extent necessary to protect national security.

The Gitmo was "a specific rationale" for the creation of Al-Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula. The group claimed its responsibility of the failed bombing attempt on December 25 of Northwest Airlines flight on its final approach to Detroit, Michigan, by 23 years old Nigerian Uomer Farouk Abdulmatalb, who was studying Arabic in Yemen last August, said Obama.

The announcement comes while Obama has already missed his original deadline for closing the facility at the end of 2009. He had argued that closing the Gitmo is necessary because the Al-Qaeda and others have used it as a propaganda tool against the US.

The U.S. is investigating whether a

former Gitmo detainee released in 2007 -Abu Sufyan Al-Shihri - a Saudi, now based in Yemen and the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, was involved in bombing flight plot.

Despite the announcement of suspending repatriation of the Yemeni detainees, the U.S government still remains committed to closing the Gitmo facility, and the delayed return could mean they will end up in a federal prison in Thomson, Illinois, said the White House on Tuesday.

"One of the very first things Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula used as a tool was Gitmo," said White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs.

"We're not going to make transfers to a country like Yemen which is not capable of handling (the detainees). While we remain committed to closing the de-

tention facility, a determination has also been made that right now any additional transfers to Yemen is not a good idea," he added.

Last April, US Defense Intelligence Agency report said that 14 percent of former detainees had conducted or were suspected of terrorist activities after being returned to their home country.

Out of the more than 530 detainees released from the prison between 2002 and last year, 27 were confirmed to have engaged in terrorist activities and 47 were suspected of participating in a terrorist act, according to Pentagon statistics cited in the report.

However the Human Right Watch commented on that report saying that the American Defense Department has failed to provide identifying information or other information to support its claim, despite promising to do so.

Moreover, the Defense Department's number apparently includes former detainees who have engaged in "propaganda warfare" by speaking out publicly about the abuses they suffered while imprisoned at Gitmo detention. Labeling such former detainees as having joined the fight against the United States following release vastly inflates the number of men who may have gone on to engage in terrorist activities after release.

To date, Some 21 Yemenis have been released from Gitmo since 2002, 14 under the Bush administration and seven under the Obama administration. Two have allegedly joined Al-Qaeda, one of whom was killed in one of the airstrikes that the Al-Qaeda in southern Yemen was subjected to, last month.

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In Brief

SANA'A

Deputy Minister of youths and sports leaves for Dubai

Deputy Minister of Youths and Sports, head of Equestrian Union Hashad Abdullah al-Ahmar left Sana'a on Friday for Dubai of United Arab Emirates to participate in the meeting of the seventh international group of equestrian that will be held in Dubai for period from 11 to 14 January.

Al-Ahmar told Saba that the meeting would discuss issues related to sport of equestrian including support of launching Arab Equestrian Championship again.

He added that he would hold meeting with heads of similar unions to discuss aspects of the cooperation between the Yemeni union and other Arab equestrian unions.

200,000 jobs yearly to tackle unemployment in Yemen, says study

Yemen needs to create 200,000 jobs yearly to resolve its problem of unemployment, according to a new study on labor market in the country.

The study showed that the labor market in Yemen is facing a lot of problems including increase of the population, which create unbalance in offer and demand as it was expected an increase of population at 9 percent by 2025.

The study said a reason of increase of unemployment were the continuing growth of outcomes of universities which are over need of the labor market, and the outcomes of education don't meet needs of the labor market.

The study of the ministry of social affairs and labor was submitted to the cabinet over within discussion for a view related to find jobs for Yemeni labor in Gulf labor market.

Workshop on refuge issues in Yemen to be held Saturday

A workshop on refuge issues in Yemen to be held on Saturday co-organized by the UNHCR and the Danish Refugees Council in Yemen in cooperation with the Yemeni government.

The two-day workshop aims at enlightening 30 journalists on skills and information over the definition of the refugees and their relation with the hosting country within the Islamic Sharea and the international legal frames.

The workshop comes within training courses organized by the UNHCR to raise the level of awareness on refugees issues and to introduce services provided by the UNHCR.

Yemen, UK coordinate to hold London conference

Yemen Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently coordinating with the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office to take the executive steps to hold an international conference for supporting Yemen, scheduled on January 28, as called by UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, 26sep.net reported Thursday.

Informed sources made clear that Yemen Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi and his UK counterpart, David Miliband, have been assigned to follow up coordination process and discuss the mechanisms leading to the success of the conference to come out with positive results embodying the international community's stance toward challenges facing Yemen.

The sources clarified that Yemen will participate with a high level delegation, noting that the conference is expected to be attended by EU, US, GCC, Japan, Canada foreign ministers and the UN Secretary General as well as other countries.

Eritrean gunboats seize two Yemeni fishing boats

Eritrean authorities have seized two Yemeni boats while they were in the international waters and took them to Eritrean's Teyo district, Interior Ministry has reported.

Yemeni Coastguards police said they were informed of the incident by the boats' owners that a piracy act took place in the international waters within the past two days.

Yemen security authorities are still investigating the case to release the 22 sailors including their two boats.

Hundreds of Yemeni boats were seized last year including their crews and then released after their boats and properties onboard were confiscated.

Pakistani businessmen want to invest in minerals field

Pakistani businessmen expressed on Thursday their desire to invest in Yemen, especially in minerals field, affirming their keenness to establish

investment partnerships with their Yemeni counterparts in the diverse fields.

This came during a meeting gathered Minister of Industry and Trade Yahya al-Mutawakil and the Pakistan businessmen delegation currently visiting Yemen.

The two sides discussed the cooperation relations between the two brotherly countries in trade and investment areas and the underway steps to complete forming the joint Yemeni-Pakistani businessmen council.

During the meeting, the Pakistani delegation briefed al-Mutawakil on the results of its meetings with its counterparts in the chambers of commerce and industry in the capital Sana'a and Sana'a province.

Al-Mutawakil welcomed the Pakistani investments and confirmed that they would receive all care and attention.

In this respect, he noted to the facilitates and privileges granted to investors in accordance with the applicable laws and the government's efforts to improve the business environment and investment climate and the successes achieved in this aspect

Yemeni official meets British diplomat

Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi discussed on Wednesday with British ambassador to Yemen Tim Torlo the ongoing arrangements of holding a London conference on the situation in Yemen.

The Yemeni official and the British diplomat reviewed the coordination between the two countries to ensure the success of the conference.

At the meeting, the ambassador said that the call of British Prime Minister Gordon for this conference aims to support Yemen economically and in security and enable it to fight terrorism.

183 people arrested due to committing crimes

Security authorities have seized 183 suspects of crimes and criminal acts which happened last Sunday and caused four deaths and eighteen injuries.

Security reports showed that 63 men and eight women were involved with tiny crimes such as attacks, threats and

stealing.

Suspects with enormous crimes reached 112 including 5 suspects of deliberate murder, 14 Saada civilians suspected to be related to Houthis.

According to security reports, the crimes distributed on the rest of suspects.

The reports also showed that 15 suspects are distributed on different crimes with public danger.

HUDEIDAH

Micro enterprises fund supported 237 beneficiaries in 2009

The number of beneficiaries of the loans offered by the Micro Enterprises Fund in Hudeidha governorate reached 237 in 2009 at a total of YR 248.6 million.

Director General of the Fund branch Abdo Essa has told Saba that these projects contributed to creating job opportunities for 669 people.

He made clear that the loans included various kinds of micro projects which helped find good income resources for the beneficiaries.

SAYON

Needs of affected flood people in Hadramout discussed with UNDP

Needs of affected flood people in Hadramout province were discussed on Tuesday with the UNDP who is funding a project of helping affected people to improve their living standard to overcome impacts of the crisis.

The coordinator of the UNDP project told deputy governor of Hadramout Amr Mubarak that her visit aims at assessing needs of the affected people, especially women, through holding meetings with local officials and women societies to impalement the project.

She also said that the project would create new resources of incomes for women to enable them to meet the daily needs of life and improve incomes of their families.

The deputy governor reviewed damaged of the flood which hit several regions in the province two years ago, pointing out to the government efforts to pay compensations for the affected people.

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JAWF

Jawf security committee reviews 2010 plan

Jawf Security Committee has reviewed in its meeting, chaired by Jawf governor Husein Hazib, the main bases for the security plan for the year 2010 at the level of all security apparatuses in the governorate.

The committee also reviewed a report over security situation in the governorate and the taken procedures to reinforce smuggling and prevent infiltration of any rebel elements through the governorate outlets.

In the meeting, the governor affirmed the importance of security leaders to follow up implementation level of the security plan to ensure reinforcement

of security and stability in the governorate.

AMRAN

Amran cement factory to increase products up to 1.5 mln tons in 2010

Amran Cement Factory is working to increase its product up to 1.5 million tons in this year, director of the factory Khaled al-Maqdami on Wednesday.

During his meeting with Secretary General of Amran local council Saleh al-Makhlos, al-Maqdami reviewed activities and achievements of the factory.

For his part, the Secretary General affirmed importance of the factory in supporting the development in the province and its revenues for the state treasury.

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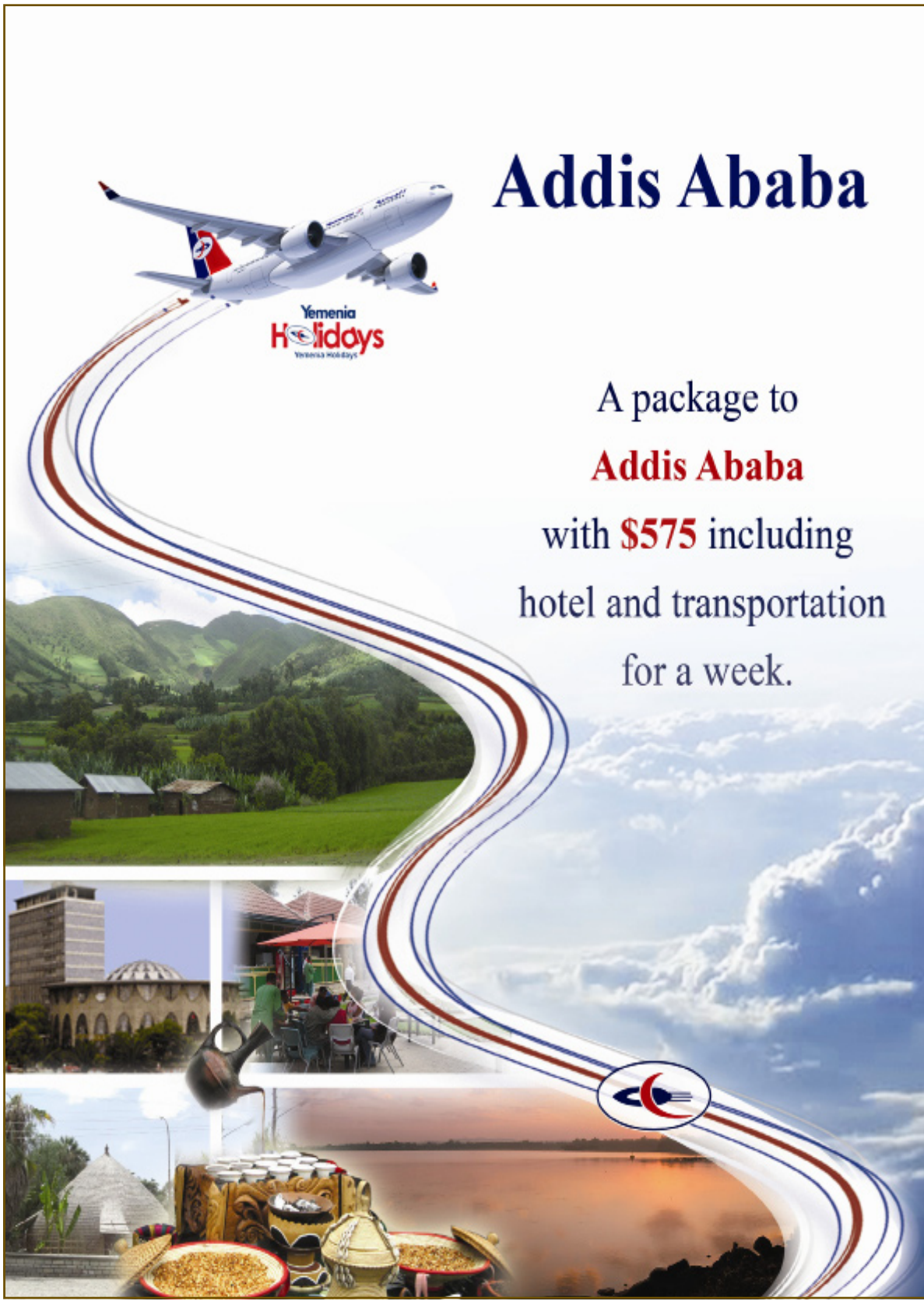
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فرصة لكل .. شاب وشابه



من نحن

صندوق تمويل الصناعات والمنشآت الصغيرة هو المؤسسة الرائدة في اليمن في مجال تمويل الصناعات والمنشآت الصغيرة لأنه يتميز بخبرة تزيد عن 19 عاماً ويشبكة فروع منتشرة في سبع محافظات تشمل تطلعاتها أكثر من 13 محافظة مجاورة يتوهم من خلالها تقديم حزمة من الخدمات التمويلية والفنية من قبل طاقم مؤهل وذو خبرة عالية في دراسة وتقييم هكذا مشاريع وذلك بهدف رفع مستوى الإقتصاد الوطني عن طريق الإستثمار وتشغيل رؤوس الأموال وزيادة مستوى دخل الفرد والقضاء على البطالة . ولتحقيق هذه الغايات فقد سعى الصندوق إلى إطلاق هذا المنتج الذي يستهدف قطاع الشباب بدعمهم عن طريق تمويلهم وتدريبهم وتأهيلهم لإمتلاك وإدارة مشاريعهم الخاصة بما سيسهم بشكل مباشر في إحداث تغيير إيجابي في الحياة الإجتماعية والإقتصادية في اليمن .

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Street vendors rejected by the business community and chastised by the state

By Mahmoud Al-Harazi
For the Yemen Times

Cought between the hammer of poverty and the anvil of the law, Yemeni street vendors are trying to survive.

Kids who drop out of schools, unemployed young men and women, and illiterate people, find the streets the only outlet for their livelihood. They are not criminals as there is no law criminalizes the work they do, nor traders as the goods they sell have no specific markets. However, the business community sees them as a threat and harshly rejects them, while the municipality hunts them down, many times destroying their merchandize and arresting them under the charges of 'disrupting the order of the streets'.

On Jamal Street, one of the biggest

market street in Sana'a, officials at the Capital Secretariat, from the Municipality, target the street vendors under the pretext that they are doing illegal work.

The street vendors are often arrested by the municipality police, who confiscate their goods.

Last September, vendors organized several sit-ins claiming that they had been subjected to physical violence by the municipal police. This issue has reached the parliament which considers it serious. "The Vice-Mayor has promised me to study these attacks, but I still do not have the accurate information," said Foad Dahaba, a member of the parliament.

According to Dahaba, the capital Secretariat is selling the places to the street vendors, and then try to shoo them out.

The capital secretariat employees' random campaigns have started

annoying the street vendors since last May, costing the streets vendors millions of Yemeni Ryials, as the authorities confiscated their goods including more than 300 wheelbarrows carrying various goods. The loss included loss of perishable goods, such as, fruits, vegetables, said Fateh-Arahman Mahdy Al-Jassaf, Director of the Street Vendors Syndicate.

"We do not deny that sometimes the street vendors break the city maintenance regulations," he added.

These regulations were issued to organise and improve the overall 'look' of the city's streets. Only one article mentioned the street vendors. The article said that the traders whether they are stores owners or street vendors should get permissions from the municipal office, and that the municipal office should allocate certain places for the street vendors. The law however, does not mention the consequences of the breaching the law.

"The capital secretariat employees are also breaching the law in carrying out random inspections, even without the knowledge of the capital secretariat," said Dahaba.

According to Al-Jassaf the employees of capital secretariat come to the street vendors randomly, and rent army cars to extort the street vendors. At times the owners of shops on the street, hire the employees of capital secretariat to remove the street vendors from the front of their shops.

Clean Campaigns, aiming to ensure smooth traffic flow, keep sidewalks free for pedestrians and maintain the clean look of the streets continued throughout the year, increasing during the Eid season time, and getting lesser during the normal days, Al-jassaf said.

According to Al-jassaf street vendors were prevented from sitting on the sidewalks during the last days of the holy month of Ramadan.

Shortly afterwards, the street vendors returned, and the clean employees started blackmailing, looting goods, arresting, as well as fining with or without receipts.

The excuses of the clean employees for their rampant behaviour were: spoiling the look of the streets, causing traffic jams, effort to improve the capital, and that the street vendors were selling inferior goods.

Al-Jassaf noted that sometimes gangs and tramps are hired by the clean employees, which create a panic among the street vendors and street hawkers.

"Our goal is to solve the problem, and stop the looting", said Al-Jassaf.

The Street Vendors Syndicate was established in May 2008 and was joined to the union of syndicates of the Yemen labours in August 2009, with an aim to protect the street vendors, all over Yemen, from the attacks of secretariat municipality, as well as to organize the street vendors and prevent the shops owners from taking over the places allocated to the street vendors.

According to Al-Jassaf the capital Secretariat is not responding to the Street Vendors Syndicate, because the officers of the capital Secretariat claim that there is a law which prevents the street vendors from using the sidewalks.

There are more than 13000 permanent street vendors, carrying their goods on wheelbarrows and who are registered in the syndicate, in Sana'a city, who sell their stuff every day of the year. Seasonally there may probably be more than 30,000 permanent street vendors, according to Al-Jassaf. When they are not selling goods, they take irregular daily wages jobs or don't work at all.

He said there are still many goods and wheelbarrows belonging to the street vendors lying in the jails of the capital secretariat, which were not



There are more than 13000 permanent street vendors, carrying their goods on wheelbarrows and who are registered in the syndicate, in Sana'a city, who sell their stuff every day of the year.

returned to their owners.

"When I was arrested, my wheelbarrow which cost exactly 183,600 YR was confiscated by the secretariat capital employees. I was being taken to Shuab district in a separate vehicle and my wheelbarrow was in another, when a man (I don't know whether he was a gangster or an official), attacked the vehicle which was carrying my wheelbarrow, and the wheelbarrow was eventually thrown in the middle of the road," said Sa'ad Qaid Mohammed an unregistered street vendor.

Sa'ad he lost more than 40,000 YR. "My goods contained, pistachios, raisins, almonds, hab alaziz, ding, and other things."

"The city maintenance regulations focus on two things; to ensure smooth traffic flow on the streets and to keep the footpaths free for pedestrians. Street vendors make it difficult for

pedestrians to use the footpaths who then walk on the roads and in addition the goods residues thrown in the middle of the streets, such as plastics, cartons, even the human residues, cause traffic jams," said Mohammed Algarbi Omran the deputy capital secretariat.

According to Omran article ten of the city maintenance regulation No.10, paragraph No.5, says "the following is banned, using the sidewalks and the streets by the trade shops owners, and the street vendors, or the others to display their goods or doing their works.". The law also states that the ministry office must define specific places for the street vendors.

The regulation enforces fines of YR 1000 on the street vendors for illegally occupying the sidewalks first time, YR 2000 if the violation is repeated and YR 4000 if it is repeated again for the third time according to Al-Garb.



Street vendors are seen as a threat by the business community which harshly rejects them, while the municipality hunts them down, many times destroying their merchandize and arresting them under the charges of 'disrupting the order of the streets'.

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CALLER PAYMENT	200	400	400	400	400	400
INTERNATIONAL CALLS	200	600	600	600	700	700
SMALL TELEPHONE CALLS	150	100	200	200	310	500



National NGOs Consultant Vacancy



Organization: UNDP-YEM
Duty Station: 80 % Socotra, 20% Sana'a
Duration: 2 months
Nationality: Yemeni

Duties & Responsibilities:

Through a consultative process, engaging NGOs/CBOs established or working on Socotra as well as relevant stakeholders such as local councils in Hadibu and Qalansia, Environment Protection Authority Socotra Branch and others, the consultant is expected to conduct a survey, including SWOT analysis, on Socotra NGOs/CBOs activities and involvement. In order to enhance the participation of the civil society in community development, gender, sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and resources management, a Strategy is to be outlined, including capacity assessment of NGOs/CBOs, proposed capacity building activities, practical tools and techniques and document Lessons Learned. Socotra Conservation Fund, as proposed in the project document, should be especially assessed in a view of its future role of an intermediary support organization for other NGOs/CBOs on Socotra. The consultant cooperates closely with the project staff on Socotra and in Sana'a and briefs the national project coordinator on the work progress.

Tasks:

1. Compile a list and verify legal status/scope of work of NGOs/CBOs established or working on Socotra
2. Review activities and achievements of the NGOs/CBOs using the SCALE methodology (System-wide Collaborative Action for Livelihoods and the Environment) and prepare document lessons learned.
3. Assess the organization, technical and financial capacities of Socotra Conservation Fund, and propose measures and capacity development needs of the fund including training scheme, budget and work plan
4. Assess perception of NGOs/CBOs activities, role and level of involvement by local authorities, EPA and other relevant stakeholders
5. Propose training schemes, including training work plan and budget, in order to build capacity of NGOs/CBOs ensuring their technical and financial sustainability. Main themes relate but are not limited to administrative, legal issues, project development and financial management, gender mainstreaming, natural resources management and biodiversity conservation, communication, fund mobilization, reporting and other relevant fields
6. Propose a tool to improve cooperation between NGOs/CBOs and local authorities, EPA branch and other relevant stakeholders.
7. Assist the SCF in preparation for its intermediary support role in relation to the other NGOs/CBAs on Socotra

Qualifications:

- Post graduate degree in environmental, social studies or business administration or 5 years relevant working experience after bachelors degree
- Training in monitoring and evaluation will be an asset

Competencies:

- At least 35 years of relevant NGO management, assessment and capacity building experience
- Good practical knowledge of legal, organizational, administrative and financial aspects of NGOs/CBOs, as well as project management
- Experience in capacity building, experience in gender mainstreaming, sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, natural resources management will be an asset
- Community-based project management experience will be an asset
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent report writing skills in Arabic, knowledge of English is an asset

Deadline to receive CVs is 17 January 2010
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Words of Wisdom



In the final analysis, it is in the hands of the people in charge of this country to make our transformation towards democracy real and meaningful. It would be unfortunate if the change in Yemen remains merely a show or something superficial. Our politicians need to believe in preparing for the 21st century. To do that, they have to internalize some new values.

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

OUR
OPINIONAmerican intervention
in Yemen

Every media that is any media is currently in Yemen. Large media companies sent their correspondents from Iraq, Palestine, Afghanistan or any troubled country in the region to cover the latest developments in my country.

Sometimes I feel like a wounded animal with vultures circulating the air waiting for us to perish so that they can attack and feast. At the rate at which news is going, I don't even think they will wait for us to perish, they would rather "give fate a push".

No grudges, but it does concern me how Yemen is projected in international media. A failed state, Al-Qaeda haven, the next Afghanistan and so on. We've had some businesses cancelled because foreigners don't want to come to Yemen anymore. "It is not safe" is the reason they give us.

Yemen is a country in transition. It has always been going through something or the other. We need the international community to stand by us, not on top of us.

In my opinion the US intervention in Yemen is not a positive one. There are many international analysts that agree with me. They say, don't support the regime, but rather support the people. I am not saying 'ignore how corrupt and weak the state is'; I am saying the international community must support the Yemeni people through reforming the government.

The most significant problem Yemen is facing now, is not the security issue or the lack of it. The issue is the lost credibility of the state. Yemenis do not trust their government anymore and hence will not support it. This simply means that no matter how many soldiers are distributed in problematic areas and no matter how many security groups are present on the streets, acts of terrorism or rebellion are bound to happen. And just that in case of intervention, they would become even more bloodier and cause further fragmentation in the social texture.

One should not forget that the very Yemeni soldiers who fight demonstrators and attack tribal areas are but a part of the same people who demonstrate and belong to the tribes where terrorists are supposedly hiding. And, a time will surely come when these soldiers will question their own loyalties and that will be the time when, the security apparatus, within which even today strong tribal affiliations exist, will suffer from internal complications.

What does the USA have to say about the attack and arrest of Al-Ayyam editors? Are they also terrorists? Or does it turn a blind eye to such violations as long as the government is on board regarding Al-Qaeda and its alleged members.

What I don't understand is why can't the USA and other great countries apply pressure on the Yemeni government to force it to become more just and less corrupt? It's not like they don't know what is going on, they have all the information they need. Then why was it that only after the Nigerian man with explosives was traced back to Yemen, Yemen has become the center of attention?

A day will come when we all look back at these times and realize what crucial mistakes are being done and how the state and its international friends have made Yemen a failed state, not Al-Qaeda and definitely not the Yemeni people.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

This is no country to do business with
Those powers who have tried to dominate
Yemen have done so to their immense cost

By: Victoria Clark
The Independent

A faulty pair of "Made in Yemen" exploding underpants have diverted the world's attention to a new destination. The most physically attractive and anthropologically colourful, but also the poorest and least known, country on the Arabian Peninsula is the one we're worrying about now.

Within days of the botched attack, on New Year's Eve, Yemen's foreign minister was begging for help against an estimated 300 jihadists; helicopters, counter-terrorism training and money were on his wish-list. On New Year's Day Gordon Brown was responding with a plan to host an international conference to discuss ways of stopping a country he described as an "incubator and potential safe haven for terrorists" becoming another Afghanistan. By yesterday Yemen already had a pledge of funding for a new counter-terrorism unit and reinforcement for its coastguard. The US has doubled its spending in Yemen - from \$70m to \$140m for this year. Fresh intelligence of a planned attack in Sanaa has led both the US and UK to close their embassies there. Yemen - or, more precisely, its president, Ali Abdullah Salih - is an ally in the War on Terror we have been fighting this last decade so it's nice to be lending him a helping hand, but there is arguably little we can do at this stage without running a serious risk of our efforts rebounding on us.

In an ideal world, President Salih is not someone we would like to be doing business with. Although far from being a blood-thirsty tyrant in the mould of Saddam Hussein, he has maintained himself in power these past 30 years by a skilful balancing of interests made possible by the financial blandishments he has been funding from Yemen's trickle of oil revenues since 1986. This slowing trickle, the source of three quarters of Yemen's revenues, is no longer enough to dampen dissent against a regime that has been branded by the American academic, Professor Robert D Burrowes, as a "kleptocracy run by and for the thieves". Corrupt, unjust, primitive, criminal are a few of the adjectives educated Yemenis would use to describe it.

It is no surprise therefore that President Salih has been contending with two serious dissident movements for the past half decade - one in the north-west of the country, one in the south - both of which threaten the integrity of the country. The Zaydi Shiite rebels of north-western Yemen hate Salih for effectively selling Yemen's soul to Sunni Saudi Wahhabism, a policy that started in the early 1970s when Sanaa sought a bulwark against the Marxists who had seized power in south Yemen after the British departed in 1967. The southern uprising against him, meanwhile, is rooted in fury at the way the union of north and south Yemen has been handled since its enactment in 1990; in late 2004 an influential southern sheikh named Tariq al-Fadhli, an old friend of Osama bin Laden's from Afghanistan and the anti-Soviet jihad but ostensibly a loyal supporter of President Salih, confessed he wished the British would return to Aden, "before lunch, if

possible!"

Assessing his two dissident movements as posing a greater danger to himself and his relations than al-Qa'ida, President Salih has been expending the bulk of his resources on them since 2004. Billions of dollars' worth of Russian MiG jets have been bombing civilian targets in Saada, and counter-terrorism efforts have been concentrated on harassing and imprisoning journalists, comedians and dissident politicians, instead of supervising mosques and schools, let alone uprooting al-Qa'ida.

Yemen's jihadists have been at liberty to regroup since 2006 when 23 of them "escaped" from a Sanaa jail run by the central security agency, the PSO. Just as in Pakistan, there has been a credible question mark over the extent to which the PSO has aided and abetted the jihadists.

On my last visit to Sanaa however, one of the president's advisers assured me that al-Qa'ida had moved up the agenda since Salih had realised that they had him directly in their sights; an old woman tending a grave in a cemetery near the airport had reported the mysterious appearance of a hut among the graves and, in so doing, exposed a plot to shoot down Salih's aeroplane. In December, the uncovering of plots against the US and UK embassies in Sanaa prompted some rare direct action against al-Qa'ida. With publicly acknowledged US back-up in the form of weaponry and intelligence, Yemeni jets bombed what the US identified as al-Qa'ida targets.

Instead of making more enemies out of friends, and before wading into Yemen as Senator Joe Lieberman recommends - all guns blazing in all directions and on the side of an unpopular and failing regime - we might consider a few factors.

The hearts-and-minds propaganda war has been more or less lost in Yemen thanks to the invasion of Iraq and the unpopularity of President Salih, America's ally. Yemen is home to many different shades of Islamism, many of whom are Salafists like bin Laden - the Muslim equivalent of Puritans - but the vast majority of whom are not jihadists, even if they do distrust the West and reject its values.

The spread of radicalisation in Yemen might be slowed if pressure were applied to Yemen's wealthy Gulf neighbours to host Yemeni migrant workers and, in the long term, invest more in the country.

Our political advice to President Salih might be that he needs to decentralise as fast as possible, before the country falls apart. Yemen is unlikely to become a reliable safe haven for jihadists. Powers who have sought to dominate Yemen since the 16th century - the Ottomans, the British, the Egyptians, the Soviet Union - all learned to their immense cost that Yemen's tribes are interested in money and land, not any ideology - whether religious or secular.

Iraq's Sunni tribes were eventually bribed out of al-Qa'ida's clutches. That tactic might work in Yemen, though the dealings would certainly be better handled by fellow Gulf Arabs than by any Western power.

Victoria Clark's 'Yemen: Dancing on the Heads of Snakes' will be published by Yale in April



By: Hamid

COMMON SENSE

The illogic of American
intervention in Yemen 3/3

This observer has often called on the parties now actively engaged in Yemen in one way or another to go back to the historical background of Yemen and try to figure out just how the current picture of Yemen emerged. This is specifically directed to the foreign entrants in Yemeni affairs, including some of the regional powers that have willingly or not put their feet in a very slow sinking quicksand that will surely represent the biggest challenge to confront them. Saudi Arabian role in the developments in Yemen go back to the First and Second Saudi State (1744 - 1818) and (1824 and 1891) respectively (see (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wahhabism>) and (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia#History)). The Saudi advance was deeper into Yemeni territory in the former and the Imam in Sana'a at the time was for a while compelled to abide by Wahhabi religious dictates (destroy domes and large and elaborate tombs). During the Second State, Yemen was mostly under Ottoman rule and the Saudi/Wahhabi alliance was bogged down in a struggle for power with their rivals the Al Rashid and Al Sabhan clans of Nejd.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

After the Egyptian Army, which was backing the Republic after the September 26, 1962 Revolution, left Yemen in the wake of the defeat of the Arabs (Egypt, Syria and Jordan) in the Arab Israeli War of 1967, peace was arranged between the surviving Yemen Arab Republic and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republicans and the Royalists reached a national reconciliation with ease once foreign influence was minimized.

Saudi influence in Yemeni politics nevertheless remained strong and the Wahhabi Establishment in Saudi Arabia was beginning to send "missionaries" to spread the Wahhabi Salafi creed and to have the latter replace the traditional mainstream Shafer and Zeidi sects that prevailed in Yemen. This was done initially subtly and with little fanfare, as the Wahhabis started to first set up "Quranic Schools" and then Scholastic Institutes for the advanced stages of Wahhabi indoctrination, so that by the end of the 1970s and especially with the helms of authority taken over by the current President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Salafis or Wahhabis had an open mandate to expand as they wish anywhere in Yemen. These institutions also were even beneficiaries of state budget funds as the Wahhabi Scholastic Institutes and Quranic Schools became merged with the Yemeni public educational system. In addition, the religious syllabus of the normal public schools began to be infused with Wahhabi teachings. With ample funding from Saudi Arabia and now even the Yemeni Government, the growth of the Salafi Constituency was eminent. In addition, other sects were not given any further encouragement to educate future generations on Shafer and Zeidi, especially with respect to the latter. The old learning institutes of the Zeidi sects were either closed or faced obstacles that prevented them to teach, as informal as such schools were.

As the tensions between North Yemen and South Yemen grew and declined from time to time, the regime of Ali Abdullah Saleh, either through Saudi prodding or out of need, began to use the newly established Salafi constituency in Yemen as paramilitary units, which presumably were to come as Jihadist forces fighting against unfaithful radical or leftist guerillas. The socialist rebels had dug in heavily in the Central Highland extending from Ibb to Ta'ez and from Utuma to Al-Beidha. This of course gave most of the Salafis greater power than the rest of the citizens of the country and they were accorded more facilities (land, buildings and other assets). It was obvious to most Yemenis that the regime was going to give these Salafis, who eventually formed the Islah Party, all the liberty and maneuverability to make them the number one religious institution.

Yemen was able to give many volunteers to the Mujahideen fighting Soviet occupation in Afghanistan. This would enable these groups to gain considerable armament training. This is where Yemeni Salafi leaders like Abdul Majid Al-Zindani began to gain prominence and were used very aggressively to raise the number of volunteers.

With the ample real estate that the Wahhabis in Yemen were able to acquire, most of them were given to them gratis by the Government or sometimes "donated" by private citizens, foreign elements of the Wahhabi genre, were brought in to teach and train the followers of the faith on paramilitary tasks and further indoctrination in the Wahhabi creed.

With such a large constituency of Salafis, it is easy to see why more extreme radical Wahhabi groups can easily find nests to roost in as they escape from one hot spot to the next, either to avoid being caught or killed. After 9-11, Yemen was found to be a major contributor to AQ activities, especially in terms of personnel.

Despite all the foregoing it is for certain now that the US increased military presence will not bring an end to AQ or any other propagators of terror or religious extremism. While Yemen may have contributed many personnel to Jihadist activities, as long as there is ample funding available to Jihadist activities, they will just continue to relocate from one niche to another.

On the other hand, to have American forces also engage against the Houthis is not helping one bit against the War on Terror, since the Houthis as the record shows have not engaged in any of the bizarre military and para military violence activities that the Salafi Jihadists engage in (kidnappings, murder, suicide bombings and all the other almost maniacal acts that Salafi gangs have been known to unleash. President Barack Obama should not be goaded by the likes of Joseph Lieberman, who is an extremist of the Zionist genre. Mr. Lieberman would not be serving the interests of the United States if he championed US involvement against the Houthis, since the Houthis have done nothing to undermine anyone's interests in the manner which AQ is suspected of having done so. What Jo Lieberman and the other pro Zionist lobbyists in the US are worried about is that the Houthis might be a menace to Israel (as they see Hezbollah as such). In other words, those who are vying for US involvement on the side of the regime in Sana'a are only serving the interests of the Israel, notwithstanding the "newly tailored explosive underwear", which again the Houthis have nothing to do with.

The only reason the observer is pointing this out is that American involvement in Sa'ada on top of being suicidal, will lead to large numbers of civilians getting killed for no apparent reasons, with respect to the US and AQ would simply relocate and set up new domiciles, thanks to the ample funding they have access to, probably from the newly producing oil fields of the Empty Quarter Desert, which used to belong to Yemen, but now have been turned over to our gracious neighbors up North.

For more historical background see
<http://www.watchinghistory.com/2010/01/context-in-yemen.html>

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World's tallest building opens in Dubai

(AP) United Arab Emirates - Dubai opened the world's tallest skyscraper Monday in a blaze of fireworks, then added a final flourish: It renamed the half-mile-high tower for the head of neighboring Abu Dhabi, whose billions bailed out Dubai amid last year's financial crisis.

Long known as Burj Dubai — Arabic for "Dubai Tower" — the building rises 2,717 feet (828 meters) from the desert. The \$1.5 billion "vertical city" of luxury apartments and offices and a hotel designed by Giorgio Armani also plans to have the world's highest mosque (158th floor) and swimming pool (76th floor).

Its backers wanted the skyscraper to be a monument to the boundless, can-do spirit of Dubai — one of a federation of seven small sheikhdoms that make up the United Arab Emirates — but the timing could not be worse. Property prices in parts of Dubai collapsed by nearly half in the past year, the result of easy credit and overbuilding during a real estate bubble that has since burst.

Riding to the rescue was Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the ruler of oil-rich neighbor Abu Dhabi, which pumped tens of billions of dollars into Dubai last year as it struggled to pay enormous debts.

As officials opened the tapering metal-and-glass spire with fireworks and multicolored lights, they unexpectedly announced it would be renamed Burj Khalifa, to honor the Abu Dhabi leader who is also president of the UAE.

Thousands of cheering, clapping spectators watched as a tally projected on huge screens at the opening ceremony revealed the tower's most closely guarded secret — its height of 2,717 feet (828 meters). That made it more than 1,000 feet (305 meters) higher than the skyscraper known as Taipei 101 in Taiwan, which at 1,667 feet (508 meters) had been the world's tallest since 2004.

The tallest building in the United States, the Willis Tower in Chicago, comes in at 1,451 feet (442 meters), although with its spire it measures 1,729 feet (527 meters)



and would be considered even taller than Taipei 101. Before they were destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the World Trade Center towers both topped 1,360 feet (414.5 meters). The Freedom Tower being planned for the site will measure 1,776 feet (541 meters), with completion estimated in 2013.

The exact number of floors for the Burj Khalifa is not known, and could reflect

how the developer chose to calculate the total.

Mohammed Alabbar, chairman of the tower's developer Emaar Properties, initially said Monday it had "more than 200" stories, but he later backtracked to more than 165 inhabitable floors, given its tapered top. Promotional materials sent before the tower's opening said it contained 160 stories.

Developers say they are confident in the safety of the tower, which is nearly twice the height of New York's Empire State Building.

Greg Sang, Emaar's director of projects, said the Burj Khalifa has "refuge floors" at 25 to 30 story intervals that are more fire resistant and have separate air supplies in case of emergency. Its reinforced concrete structure, he said, makes it stronger than steel-frame skyscrapers.

"A plane won't be able to slice through the Burj like it did through the steel columns of the World Trade Center," he said.

Dubai has not been a target of terrorist attacks or threats that have been made public.

The tower was designed by Chicago-based Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, which has a long track record in engineering some of the world's tallest buildings, including the Willis Tower.

Ahmed Elghazouli, a professor of structural engineering at Imperial College London who was not involved with the Burj's construction, said such groundbreaking buildings typically employ some of the world's best engineers, and go through more rigorous testing and require more studies during design than standard towers.

"I have no doubt that it has been looked after very well in terms of design and construction," he said when asked about the building's safety. "I would be much more comfortable getting into a building like this knowing that so much background work has gone into it."

Dubai was little more than a sleepy fishing village a generation ago, but it boomed into the Middle East's commercial hub in the past two decades on the back of business-friendly trading policies, relative security, and vast amounts of overseas investment.

With little oil of its own, Dubai relied on cheap loans to pump up its international clout during the frenzied boom years.

But like many overextended homeowners, the emirate and its

state-backed companies borrowed too heavily and then struggled to keep up with payments as the financial crisis intensified and credit markets froze up.

The sheikhdom shocked global markets last year when it unexpectedly announced plans to reorganize its main state-run conglomerate Dubai World and sought new terms in repaying some \$26 billion in debt. It got some aid from Abu Dhabi's bailouts.

Dubai's hereditary ruler, Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, in recent months has increasingly spoken of the close relationship between the two emirates, declaring in November that "Dubai and Abu Dhabi are one" and will "be there for each other." Sheik Mohammed serves as vice president and prime minister of the UAE federation.

Analysts had questioned what Dubai might need to offer in exchange for the financial support it received from Abu Dhabi, which controls nearly all of the UAE's oil wealth. Abu Dhabi provided \$25 billion last year as Dubai's debt problems deepened.

"It's really quite remarkable to have to name your biggest and most memorable landmark after the living monarch of a neighboring emirate," said Christopher Davidson, a professor at the University of Durham who has written extensively about the UAE.

Burj developer Emaar is also partly owned by the Dubai government, but is not part of struggling Dubai World, which has investments ranging from Dubai's manmade islands and seaports to luxury retailer Barneys New York and the ocean liner Queen Elizabeth 2.

Emaar's Alabbar said the landmark Burj is 90 percent sold in a mix of residential units, offices and other space, offering a counterpoint to Dubai's financial woes.

At their peak, some apartments in the Burj were selling for more than \$1,900 per square foot, although they now can go for less than half that, said Heather Wiperman Amiji, chief executive of Dubai real estate consultancy Investment Boutique.

Amiji said some buyers may struggle to find tenants at going rates once the tower's expected high service charges are factored in.

The building ranks as the world's tallest structure, beating out a television mast in North Dakota.

Early designs for the Burj had it edging out Taipei 101 by about 33 feet (10 meters), said Bill Baker, the building's structural engineer.

"We weren't sure how high we could go," said Baker, of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. "It was kind of an exploration ... a learning experience."

Work began in 2004 and moved rapidly. At times, new floors were being added almost every three days. During the busiest construction periods, some 12,000 people worked at the tower each day, according to Emaar. Low-wage migrant workers from the Indian subcontinent provided much of the muscle.

The Burj is the centerpiece of a 500-acre (200-hectare) development that officials hope will become a new central residential and commercial district in this sprawling and often disconnected city. It is flanked by dozens of smaller but new skyscrapers and the Middle East's largest shopping mall.

That layout — as the core of a lower-rise skyline — lets the Burj stand out prominently against the horizon. It is visible across dozens of miles of rolling sand dunes outside Dubai. From the air, the spire appears as an almost solitary, slender needle.

An observation deck on the 124th floor opens to the public Tuesday, with adult tickets starting at 100 dirhams, or just over \$27 apiece. The ride to the top took just over a minute during a visit for journalists Monday.

Dubai landmarks like the sail-shaped Burj al-Arab hotel and the manmade Palm Jumeirah island were visible through the haze.

The Burj itself cast a sundial-like shadow over low-rise houses and empty sand-covered lots stretching toward the azure Persian Gulf.

VACANCY

A full time position is now available at the Yemen Basic Education Support and Training (BEST) Project funded by USAID as Field Finance Assistant. This post is in the city of Hodeida. Under the supervision of the Finance Manager, this person will be responsible for providing accounting services for project activities and his/her responsibilities will include:

- Handling the daily petty cash transactions according to AED policies and procedures and recording them in the cash log on a daily basis.
- Preparing training advances, clearances and all related financial summaries.
- Paying out the activities allowances to the participants.
- Reviewing the travel advances request of the field staff and following up on their clearance.
- Supporting the technical staff in preparing for their travel such as car rental ,hotel reservation ,etc
- Supporting the technical staff for preparing for workshops or training events such as hall rental
- Keeping a daily attendance sheet for field staff.
- Maintaining the field office archive of financial documents and official correspondences.
- Facilitating the procurement process which includes getting quotations and facilitating the payments to vendors.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in Accounting
- Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Good English language skills, both written and verbal
- Three years previous experience in accounting

Qualified applicants should send their CVs with cover letters no later than two weeks after the date of this announcement to the following address by mail:

Attn: HR Officer
PO Box 22377
BestYemenOpenings@yahoo.com
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

VACANCY

A full time position is now available for a driver at the Basic Education Support and Training (BEST) Project funded by USAID. Under direct supervision of the Field Office Coordinator, the driver will provide logistical support and transport project staff and equipment within the Republic of Yemen. The base office for this position is Hodeida city and most travel will be between Hodeida and Rayma governorates.

The driver will be responsible for:

1. Serving as driver of the project vehicle, at all times strictly observing traffic laws, sound safety procedures, and courtesy toward passengers, pedestrians, and other vehicles; Taking weather and road conditions into account when driving project vehicles and transporting staff and/or equipment
2. Being constantly aware of the mechanical condition of the project vehicle and promptly inform his/her immediate supervisor of necessary repairs and of any other matters pertaining to the operation of the vehicle;
3. Maintaining project vehicles in good order at all times – cleaning, washing, polishing, tightening and all other similar details – as required and as specified in the daily/weekly check lists;
4. Maintaining project vehicle mileage and service logs

General Requirements:

1. High School Diploma
2. Valid Driver's License
3. Minimum of ten (10) years driving experience
4. English proficiency preferred
5. Vehicle Maintenance skills preferred

Qualified applicants should send their CVs with cover letters no later than two weeks after the date of this announcement to the following address by mail:

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Dr. Obad Abu Lohom, Yemeni dermatologist and deputy chair of the Arab Dermatologist Association

“Doctors in Yemen hardly have any rights”

Dr. Obad S. Abu Lohom comes from a well known family in Yemen, known for its significant contribution to the 26 September revolution and strong political and tribal influence. Coming from one of the strongest tribes, Nihm, did not stop this gentleman from opting for power through knowledge rather than tribal influence. After graduating in medicine from King Edward medical College, he specialized in the USA in dermatology in Pennsylvania Philadelphia in Thomas Jefferson Hospital between 1994 and 1997.

After practicing for several years in the States, he returned to Yemen and worked at the Jomhuri Hospital as a dermatologist before starting his own private clinic - the Specialized Dermatology Clinic in 1988.

Dr. Abu Lohom participated in many international and Arab Conferences including those organized by the American and European Academies for Dermatology. After being an active participant in the Pan-Arab dermatology conferences especially in the Gulf, he was elected as Vice President of Pan Arab League of Dermatologists in 2008.

“I participated in the GCC conferences sometimes representing myself and my practice and sometimes representing the government and gave presentations in some of these conferences, as well.” says Dr. Abu Lohom, who is also a member of the American Academy of Dermatology and is one of the few specialized professionals in laser therapy for cosmetic purposes, in the region.

Dr. Abu Lohom is married and has five children. Nadia Al-Saqqaf interviewed him for the Yemen Times.



Dr. Abu Lohom: We need to ensure that the patients are aware and educated enough about their medical options. Only then would the relation between doctors and patients improve.

In your 15 years of medical practice, what are the main skin diseases which you have seen common in Yemen?

There are no special diseases as such in Yemen that would not be found elsewhere. Although many a times a lack of adequate healthcare or insufficient awareness regarding the problems becomes more critical. The most common diseases which we see in the clinics and hospitals, in Yemen, are Eczema and Acne followed by infectious diseases such as bacterial and fungal infections.

Are there any differences in the spread of diseases related to local climates?

The temperature and humidity alone are not reasons for spread of diseases but they could play a role in aggravating the conditions, especially in places of poor hygiene, such as in poor areas with inadequate water and sanitation systems. Obviously literacy and education or the rather the lack of them is always a disadvantage. Certain diseases such as Scabies which is a skin condition caused by a tiny mite, usually causing a typical itchy rash, are more commonly seen in poor areas. This is why the first instruction I give my patients who appear to be untidy, is to go take a good bath and get cleaned up before any diagnosis is done.

You will be surprised to know that many patients think they have a scary disease and their skin is inflamed and breaking and eventually it turns out to be only a hygiene issue.

Psoriasis is also common in such places. It is considered a skin disease, but in reality it is the result of a disordered immune system. This disease causes cells to build up rapidly on the surface of the skin, forming thick silvery scales and itchy, dry, red patches that are sometimes painful if it

involves the joints.

Psoriasis is not as common as other skin diseases but it has a stigma attached to it because of its appearance and it is usually stimulated in the mountainous areas, during winter. Unfortunately there is no cure but the disease can be controlled.

Occupational Eczema is also quite dominant among women. It is also called the Housewife eczema and is a severe skin reaction to detergents and bleaches. The skin of certain people is extra sensitive to the chemicals found in these cleaning products and because of their excessive use the skin becomes irritated and infected. Between 30 to 40 percent of the female patients suffer from this. Unfortunately there is no cure for this and the irritation cannot be avoided by wearing gloves. The only medicine we prescribe in these cases is Cortisone, moisturizer, antihistamine and local antibiotic to reduce the inflammation and advise the patients to avoid contact with the chemicals as much as possible.

Have you seen any changes in the dermatology infections or diseases in the last say, ten years, of your practice?

There is a huge difference between the old times and now. One main difference is that the prevalence of diseases caused by a lack of hygiene and a lack of good health practices is rapidly decreasing.

However, though in general, people are living better hygiene-wise, Yemen still lags behind due to high illiteracy rates and difficulty in accessing healthcare in remote rural areas.

Many times I read a dermatologists comments or expert opinion on infertility or sexual diseases. How are these two fields related?

There is a misconception regarding this matter. The American school of

thought, in dermatology, does not mix these two fields while the European school connects them through the fact that many sexual transmitted diseases (STDs) such as syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, genital warts and herpes are also skin diseases. Many times these STDs, when present, are a barrier against conception. So when a patient comes to a dermatologist complaining of infertility, we conduct several tests to see if the problem is a dermatology one and we treat it. We also conduct sperm count tests for men and when we find out that this is a genuinely reproductive system problem we refer the patient to a specialist in this field.

How is the situation of professional skin doctors in Yemen? Do they have an association or an assembly?

The problem with the medical profession in Yemen, generally, is that many doctors do not spend time improving their knowledge and keeping up with the latest technologies in their fields. This is especially true of doctors in government hospitals or those who do not have their own clinics. These doctors are swamped with more work for less pay and very little motive to progress. When doctors open their own private practices, however, they start opening up to the world of knowledge especially, as they try to compete for the trust and respect of their patients. But still, most private practitioners are again too busy treating patients and find little time to improve their professional capacities. This system by its very nature prevents the poor from accessing the good healthcare which is being provided, at a high cost, to

those who visit private clinics.

This also explains why most good Yemeni dermatologists are working only in the private sector.

Also this is why, Yemeni physicians abroad are much more skilled and qualified. It's not just that they get access to better education and training but also motivation and space for learning is much more than in Yemen. Doctors in Yemen hardly have any rights.

Tell me then about the Arab Dermatologist League?

The organization holds a regional dermatology conference once every two years for its members from all Arab countries and other nationalities could attend as guests. Through these conferences dermatologists from the entire Arab world connect with each other and learning events take place. We get to know about latest practices in the field and it is especially a good occasion for young professionals to see the 'who is who' in this field.

The league also organizes other side conferences and events and publishes specialized magazines for those who want to participate and connect with Arab dermatologists. I am the focal person for this organization for Yemen. And this means I connect the league with the Yemeni doctors as well as provide some of my time for the league during its conferences or events.

In Yemen, there are two associations for dermatologists and they work independently of each other. Through my regional capacity I try to serve them both without being part of either. It is easy for me to do this as I do so through my own company which is the Kazen International Group for Trading & Contracting and I have many focal points in the main cities of Yemen.

There are many emerging schools for treating skin diseases using traditional or alternative medicine. Do you use this in your treatment?

Alternative medicine is better if it is from authentic sources and tested. Because as we doctors use cortisone as an anti-inflammatory this treatment is bound to have side effects since it is eventually a chemical and its excessive use is dangerous. However, alternative medicine if it does not work it also does no harm.

But when it comes to buying the so called “alternative medications” off the shelf, people need to know that most of the products sold in Yemen are not genuine, but only imitations of what internationally renowned companies produce. Think about it. How could these products cost hundreds of dollars abroad and just a few dollars in Yemen?

Once I brought a bulk of high quality cosmetic creams and ointments from the USA at a good discount but they were rejected locally because the purchasing power in Yemen is small.

Increasingly there is interest in cosmetic surgery whether to remove scars or for beauty purposes. Is this medical facilities present in Yemen? How good is it?

Let me answer your question from my own experience. I started learning about cosmetic minor surgery and minor construction in 2002. Since then I have been professionally learning about this practice from established institutions outside the country. When I mastered some operations such as laser, chemical peeling, crystal, cellulites treatment; I started asking patients who come for other cosmetic issues whether they would be interested in these operations. The answer was mostly negative.

I realized that until now, in Yemen, there is only a small percentage of people who go in for beauty related cosmetic surgery. And most of these people will not do it in Yemen and are rich enough to do it, outside the country, anywhere they want.

I'll give you an example; in 2004 I had some Yemeni patients who had done cosmetic surgery abroad, and who referred to me for follow-up by some my colleagues outside the country. She found out that our laser machine is much better than outside the country and the result was much better, people now a days are aware of high quality cosmetics either by laser, chemical peeling, Chrystal and minor surgery. Yemenis used to consider high quality cosmetic products as a luxury and people did not want to spend a lot of money on them.

There is, however, a very slow growing interest in the cosmetic surgery in Yemen. People are gradually becoming aware of the different procedures. And simple operations such as laser surgery, chemical brailing and crystal are becoming popular, especially through the word of mouth, once the results are seen.

How do you evaluate the relation between Yemeni doctors and their patients?

There is mistrust between Yemeni doctors and the patients. This is a great problem that is based on the low economic conditions of the people in general.

When doctors cannot afford a decent life with their own salaries, they start considering commissions and sending patients around for redundant tests. They start seeking new ways of generating income even if it means taking this money out of the patients' pockets through subscribing unnecessary medications. Of course there are exceptions. But this has become a common practice and patients have now learnt to handle this. For example, many patients tell the doctors that they are not from the same town and have to travel back home as soon as possible. The doctor then only prescribe necessary tests.

However, if the financial situation of doctors improves, they will be encouraged to uphold the professional

ethics of this noble profession rather than wasting energies on only trying make a living and making ends meet.

But this is only one side of the story. Patients also are very much to blame for this bad relationship. First of all many patients do not take their medicines as prescribed and many do not come back for the checkup's as instructed. The lack of interest in follow-up usually causes the illness to return and the doctors are wrongly held responsible when there is no improvement.

In the general medical practice you are bound to come across some difficult patients. Some patients do not accept the fact that complications may arise and some blame the doctors when an operation is not successful. For me, I personally talk at length with the patient and his or her relatives before I undertake a risky surgery or one that could have complications. I warn the patients and get them to sign an agreement that they understand the risks and are willing to take them.

Some patients do not respect doctors and can even get physical with them.

We need to ensure that the patients are aware and educated enough about their medical options. Only then would the relation between doctors and patients improve. We also need to encourage investigation into cases of medical malpractice and negligence. We have forensic medicines and autopsy to discover the causes of death and whose fault it was. We need to make sure these become public records in order to create an environment of transparency and professional quality.

The problem is that accountability, in the real sense, does not exist in Yemen. So there is no one to say whose fault it was and what should have happened.

So how do you comment on what happened to Dr. Al-Qadasi who was murdered last year by relatives of a deceased patient?

Murdering Dr. AL-Qadasi was a crime and is very sad news for the doctors, and a catastrophe for his family. I'm sure that there is no reason to kill him, but the absence of the law and order has brought us to a tragic consequence.

What happened in Dr. Al-Qadasi's case is unacceptable for so many reasons. Ignorance on the part of the patients and their relatives, lack of order and disrespect for hospitals and doctors, and also the shortcomings in the rule of law.

No matter what the issue was, there is no excuse for brining in a weapon to a hospital and attacking doctors.

I remember an incident that happened when I was a general practitioner at the Jumhuri Hospital in 1992. My shift was in the emergency room and suddenly I heard gunshots at the hospital's gate. Soon four wounded men who were shot and bleeding entered. They were escorted by other armed men who shot at anyone that tried to stop them from entering the ER.

Some doctors even fled the scene and I had to shout at the armed men to let us do our job and help their wounded men. We just did some first aid and basic treatment and needed to transfer them to Al-Thawra Hospital because it was more equipped to handle such cases.

It was a crazy scene and blood was everywhere. We eventually got them to the other hospital but the point here is that the spread of arms and the disrespect of the state and its institutions creates such chaos. Luckily today the spread of arms is much less among ordinary people.



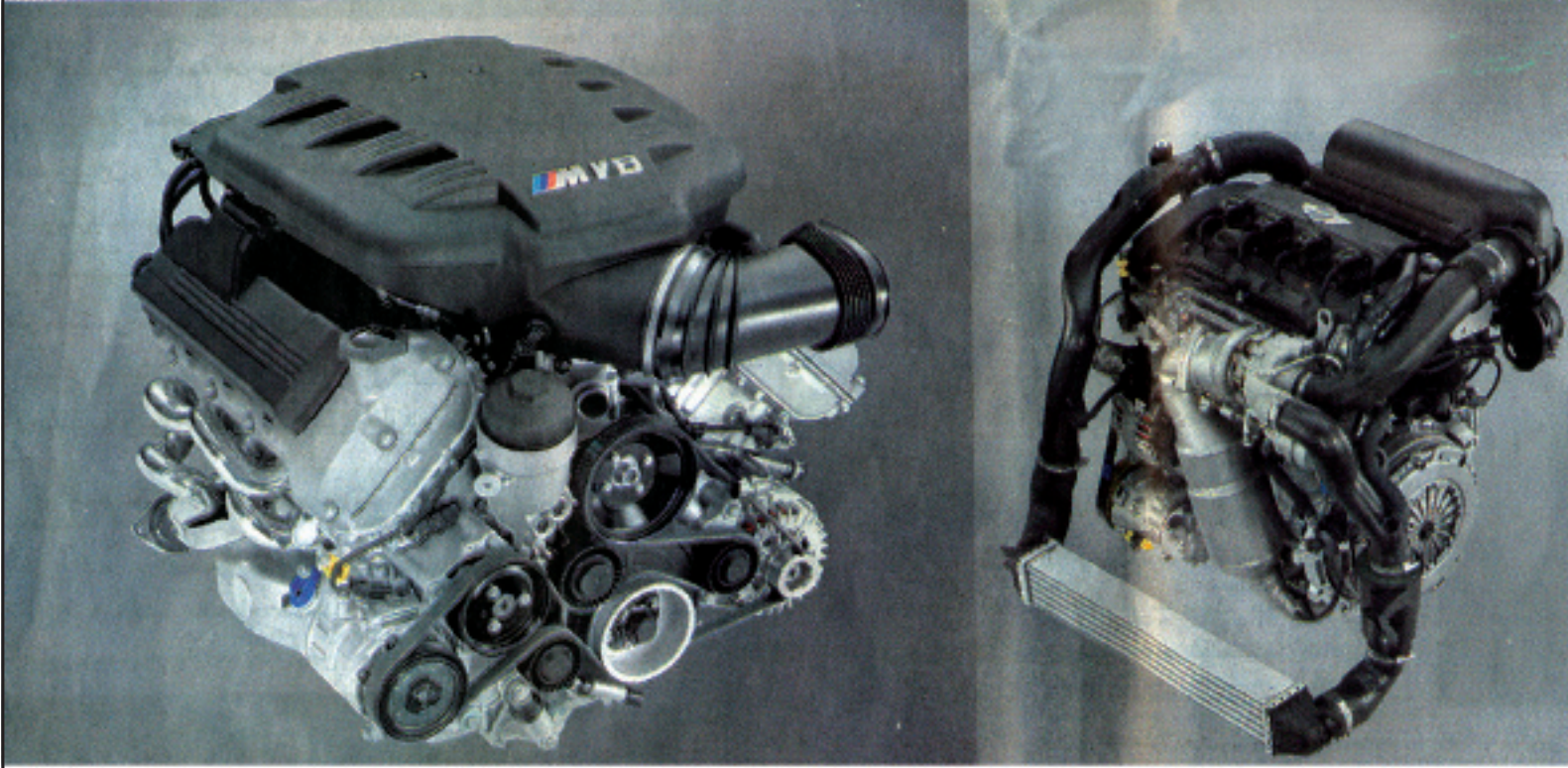
There is, however, a very slow growing interest in the cosmetic surgery in Yemen. People are gradually becoming aware of the different procedures. And simple operations such as laser surgery, chemical brailing and crystal are becoming popular, especially through the word of mouth, once the results are seen.

4U

For more information on available cosmetic procedure in Yemen contact Dr. Obad Abu Lohom at droad@kicye.com or call the clinic at 01-514510/11

فوز ثلاثي لـ BMW في جائزة «محرك العام» ٢٠٠٩

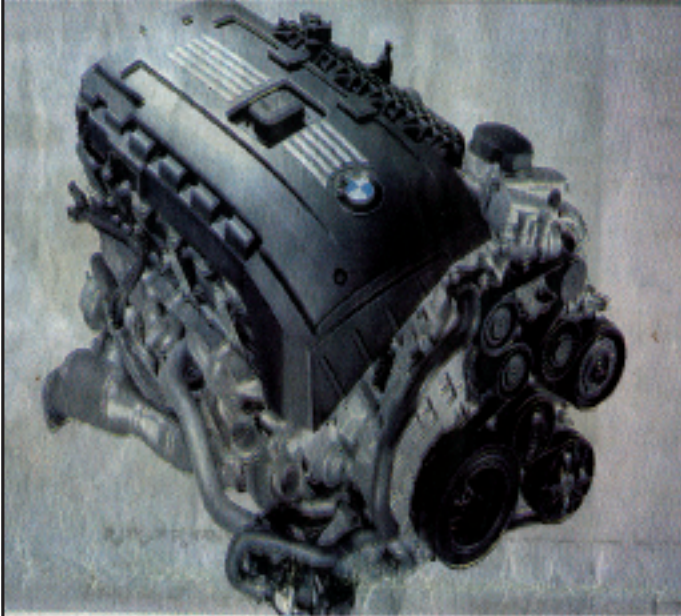
مجموعة BMW تواصل نجاحها بإحراز جائزة «هاتريك» في أقوى مسابقة للمحركات في العالم



نجحت مجموعة BMW الألمانية العريقة مرة أخرى هذا العام في إثبات ريادتها التاريخية وترتيبها على عرش صناعة المحركات المتميزة التي تجمع ببراعة بين القوة في الأداء والدقة في الاستهلاك عبر إحرازها الفوز بالمركز الأول عن ثلاث فئات مختلفة من المحركات في إطار جائزة محرك العام الدولية التي تعد الأقوى من نوعها على مستوى العالم في هذا الشأن

وقد حصلت محركات BMW الثلاثة ، الـ V8 المستخدم في طراز BMW M3 الرياضي فائق الأداء والمحرك سداسي الاسطوانات مستقيمة الوضعية الـ six- Straight المدعوم بتقنية التيربو المزودج والمتضمن في العديد من طرازات الشركة مثل الفئة الثالثة Series.3 والفئة الأولى Series-1 وطراز X6 ذى الدفع الرباعي وأخيراً المحرك رباعي الاسطوانات المدعوم بشاحن توربيني Turbocharged الذي يلحق بطراز ميتي كوبر S على فوز ثلاثي ساحق كل في الفئة التي يمثلها وهي فئة المحركات ثمانية وسداسية ورباعية الاسطوانات على التوالي حيث تم تقديم الجوائز للشركة في حفل كبير بمعرض المحركات في السابع عشر من يونيو بمدينة شتوتجارت الألمانية .

ويأتي هذا الفوز الثلاثي ليؤكد مواصلة مجموعة BMW لقصة النجاح التي سطرت حروفها باقتدار على مدار تاريخ مسابقة محرك العام الدولية والتي تشهد منافسة شرسة وقوية بين باقة من ألمع وأقوى الأسماء في عالم صناعة السيارات ومحركاتها ، فمنذ بدء هذه المسابقة في عام 1999



أضافة ملموسة لنجاح BMW في فئة السيارات الرياضية ذات الأداء الفائق بالسوق العالمية بفضل قوته الذهبية بين المحركات سعة 4000 سي سي مولدا قوة قدرها 420 حصاناً ولعل ذلك هو ما جعل الشركة تضيفه إلى المزيد من طرازاتها ومن بينها Coupe M3 و M3 saloon و M3 Convertible . أما المحرك سداسي الاسطوانات المدعوم بتقنية التوين تيربو وحقق الوقود فائق الدقة HPI والذي تبلغ سعته اللترية 3000 سي سي ويولد قوة قدرها 306 حصاناً فقد حصد هذا العام فوزه الثالث على التوالي مهمبنا

على فئة المحركات التي تتراوح سعاتها اللترية بين 2500 و 3000 سي سي .وعن فئة المحركات 1400 وحتى 1800 سي سي ، فقد واصل محرك BMW المستخدم في طراز ميتي كوبر S فوزه المتتالي منذ عام 2007 وهو محرك رباعي الاسطوانات سعته 1600 سي سي ومدعم بوحدة تيربو تشارجر مع نظام حقن الوقود المباشر ويولد قوة قدرها 175 حصاناً ليظل المعيار للحد لهذه الفئة من المحركات . ومن الجدير بالذكر أن قرارات جائزة محرك العام Inter - National Engine of the Year Award اتخذها لجنة تحكيم دولية مكونة من أكثر من 15

خبير تحكيمياً من الصحفيين المتخصصين والعروفيين في قطاع السيارات والذين يمثلون أكثر من 32 دولة من أنحاء العالم ليختاروا الفائزين في ثمانية فئات مختلفة للمحركات بناء على معيار سعة المحرك إلى جانب ثلاث فئات خاصة وجائزة مستقلة للمحرك الفائز بالتقدير العام وعلى مدى 11 مسابقة تم تنظيمها منذ عام 1999 وحتى الآن ، نجحت مجموعة BMW في الفوز عن جدارة بأكثر من 40 جائزة مختلفة فيما يعكس اثباتاً واضحاً على قدرة BMW التنافسية الفريدة عالمياً في قطاع تطوير المحركات وأنظمة توليد الطاقة في السيارات .

نظام X للدفع الرباعي يلتقي مع نظام M الرياضي المتفوق من BMW

عذراً لمصنعي السيارات الأخرى

القوة الحصانية	التسارع 0-100 كلم	إستهلاك الوقود	الاسطوانات	نظام القيادة
555 حصان	4.7 ثانية	13.9 لتر / 100 كلم	V8	AWD مع نظام ستيبترونيك رياضي M

JUST ANOTHER DAY IN THE CAPITAL (13)

Coming down the Jabal Bura mountain: From a non-existing kitchen, to baboons, to embassies shutting down

By: Judith Spiegel
For the Yemen Times

“Food?, for food you must go to the shop, up on the mountain. You can cook it here in the kitchen.” This is the cheerful announcement of our guide Salim when we ask about our food and beverage supply during the next days of hiking. So up we go, for the shop. And up, and up and up. Finally we find tomatoes, onions, tuna, spaghetti, potatoes, eggs and cookies. This should get us through the days. Except that, when back at the camping ground, guide Salim announces, with the same cheerfulness, that there is no kitchen after all.

We do have a tent, sleeping bags and sleeping mats. That is how far our preparation goes for three days hiking in Jabal Bura, the mountain range between the Haraz Mountains and Hudayda. For the rest, we are unprepared. And, apart from the non-existing kitchen, there is a lot to be unprepared for during this trip up and down the mountain.

Like the extraordinary beauty of the surroundings. It is early in the morning when we start our ascent from village to village. On one side of the steep path the mountain drops into deep valleys, where clouds are still covering the coffee and qat trees. Giant cactuses stand as guards on the steep slopes. On the other side of the path, the rooftops of the village are



crowded with children and women in beautifully embroidered dresses.

We are also unprepared for the children and donkeys running down the narrow paths of the mountain.

With a little embarrassment we stare at our professional hiking boots. Why do we struggle with the big stones and steep steps and do these boys on their oversized flip flops run down the mountain like it is a flat and soft meadow? And why does our guide need no food or drinks while we reach for the water bottle or a ginger cookie every twenty minutes?

The next day, we make a five hours descent into the wild life reserve at the other side of the mountain. We are prepared for the hundreds of children asking for photo's, pens and money. But not for the women, who carry huge and heavy bunches of branches on their backs, all the way up to their villages, where the animals and the fires need to be fed. When asked why the men do not do this heavy work, guide Salim looks surprised. “No, it must be the women”, he says,

and searches his pockets for a few more fresh qat leaves.

And then down in the valley there are the monkeys, tens of them. There are baboons all over the place and at some point we expect them to ask for pens and photo's as well. But they don't, they just stare. Until a pick up shows up, which brings us back to Bajil, a depressing town on the road Sana'a-Hudayda. There appearing from the dust, as if sent from heaven, a bus shows up to bring us back to the capital. For a quiet night, or so we think.

But it turned out differently. Because while we were walking obliviously in the mountains, there was another thing we were unprepared for. It was the Al Qaeda threat that had become serious overnight. Embassies have been closing down and more importantly, the Western media all of a sudden have a great interest in Yemen. Apart from the worried messages from family and friends, my inbox is full with requests from the media from my home country (the Netherlands). They need information, information and information. Because what is this country, where all of a sudden the whole world has set its worried eyes on?

Radio interviews are set for tomorrow morning so there is work to do. First there is a restless night where aching muscles are pushed to the background by brain breakers of how to explain in three minutes that Yemeni's are

not burning American flags on Tahrir square. That Yemeni's are not all bearded men who worship Al Qaeda. That they merely consider the Al Qaeda problem the umpteenth problem of Yemen, and another example of bad publicity for their country and their religion.

Then, there is the early rise for a walk in the city, to check whether indeed no flags are burnt or big demonstrations are being prepared. There are not, life goes on like it did yesterday. Tahrir square is empty and at the market fresh fruit and vegetables are offloaded. Admittedly, some hotels have increased their security measures and at a shopping mall more soldiers seem to hang around than normal, but Sana'a is not exactly a barricaded city this day. Or like Mohammed, employee of a language school says: “this is a little problem for Yemen, but big for the world”.

At 9 AM, the first radio interview is given, at 9.30 the next. Shortly after, a Dutch newspaper asks for a realistic picture of the country. Could this be guide Salim, who is happily chewing his qat on his mountain, promising a non-existing kitchen? Or Mohammed who shrugs his shoulders and reassures me there is no problem at all? Or are these just one of the many realities and unexpected surprises Yemen presents every minute of the day. There is more work to do. And more travels to make. To remote places in the country and its people's minds.

HEALTH WATCH

By: Dr. Siva



This weekly column is to disseminate health information to the readers in Yemen and outside. Dr. Siva is currently working at Aden Refinery Company Hospital. Life style diseases and cancer prevention are his special interests. Complementary medicine and Naturopathy are his passions.

Am I going to be a mother?



Ansam and Ali have been married for seven months now. Ansam is excited and overjoyed. She has just missed her period. She and her husband are curious to know if they are going to be proud parents of a bonny child.

Many married women of child bearing age often ask their doctor, “Am I pregnant, doctor?”

Most women are familiar with the signs and symptoms of early pregnancy, even if they were not pregnant before. There is varied observation of symptoms of pregnancy amongst different women. Some women who have been pregnant before can easily recognize the symptoms which occurred in their previous pregnancy. Some women might have had several symptoms in one pregnancy and hardly any symptom in the next! It is surprising that the symptoms in each pregnancy can be different. Also, a woman may not have the same symptoms or the same intensity of symptoms during each of her pregnancies.

What are the common symptoms of Pregnancy?

1. Missing a period

This is one of the most common reasons for determining a pregnancy. Women who have regular periods will take this as the first sign of pregnancy. Only a urine or blood pregnancy test, followed by a pelvic exam, can positively confirm a pregnancy. Occasionally a period can be delayed due to hormonal problems or anemia, even in the absence of pregnancy. When a woman wants to be pregnant, she should keep track of her periods. She should mark the first day of her period on a calendar. The first day of the period is what determines the due date of the pregnancy.

2. Nausea with or without vomiting

This is the most common symptom experienced by many women in the first three months of pregnancy. People call it ‘Morning Sickness’. Rarely do women experience this symptom throughout the pregnancy. The most common reason for this symptom is the rapid rise in the hormone estrogen, produced by the fetus and placenta. Though most women have these symptoms in the mornings, nausea can occur at anytime of the day or night. Most women become oversensitive to smells or the sight of food. Almost anything can trigger a bout of nausea and vomiting. The most common foods to trigger morning sickness during the first weeks of pregnancy are coffee, tea, milk products, spicy and strong smelling foods, oily food and fish. Women may dislike even their favorite foods.

3. Discomfort in the lower abdomen and cramping

Many women experience pain and cramping sensation similar to what they experience during periods. These symptoms are noticed in the very early months of pregnancy. This is because the uterus begins to expand as the developing baby grows. This discomfort can continue

for the first few months. Usually it is worse on sitting down and getting up or on turning from side to side while lying down. In the later months of pregnancies, some women experience pain on one or both sides of the lower abdomen. This is because of the stretching of the round ligaments which hold the uterus in position.

4. Exhaustion and unusual tiredness

These symptoms are experienced by almost all of the pregnant women. Exhaustion, tiredness and sleepiness are caused by a hormone called progesterone, which is produced in large amounts in pregnancy.

5. Some common changes in the body

For many women, swollen, tender, or sore breasts and nipples are often the first signs of pregnancy. The reason for this is because there is an increased production of the hormones estrogen and progesterone in pregnancy. These hormones prepare for breastfeeding. That is why these changes occur.

6. Frequent urination:

This is caused by the growing uterus pressing against the bladder. This symptom is worst in early and late pregnancy. Sometimes women pass a few drops of urine during sneezing or coughing. This is called stress incontinence. This symptom will usually disappear a few months after delivery.

7. Feeling of weakness or dizziness

This is a common symptom which occurs in early and late pregnancy. When a pregnant woman stands for a while, the blood rushes to her legs because of the dilatation of blood vessels in the lower limbs. This can cause a sudden feeling of dizziness, or may even lead to fainting.

8. Changes in Mood

Many women face mood swings in early pregnancy. Emotional ups and downs happen because of hormonal changes. Very often a pregnant woman bursts out into tears or, gets angry and upset for no apparent reason.

9. Constipation

Constipation is due to poor intake of food and fluids in the early weeks. Later on, these may be due to intake of iron supplements that are prescribed for anemia. Pregnant women should take enough fluids, salads and fruits to relieve this problem.

10. Headaches

Headaches during pregnancy are often intense and occur usually in the early months of pregnancy.

11. Feverishness

Many women will complain about feeling feverish in the first few weeks of their pregnancy. This is because the basal body temperature rises in early pregnancy.

Pregnancy is a life event for every woman. The symptoms of pregnancy might sometimes be distressing but ultimately, the reward is worthwhile.



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Towards combating poverty and curbing unemployment

CSSW Receives a Grant from WU

The Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) received a grant from Western Union Foundation located in the United States of America. The grant, with a total cost of (30,000) US\$, comes within the framework of its support to Income-generating Projects Program carried out by CSSW. The program aims at contributing in combating poverty and curbing unemployment in the community



WESTERN UNION FOUNDATION

It is worth mentioning that the grant will be allocated to provide 2 taxis, 5 french-fries making machines, 5 motorcycles, 3 small groceries and one clothing shop for a number of poor householders in Amran, Raymah, Al-Mahweet and Hajja governorates during the 1st quarter of 2010.

families to enable them form small income generating enterprises to meet the needs of their livelihood.



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National Bank Of Yemen



Trust & Experience الخبرة والثقة

New Achievement Sizing the High Trust

Highest among the banks in term of financial strength

"Capital Intelligence" International Rating Agency in its report issued in November, 2009 has upgraded the sovereign Rating of National Bank of Yemen from (B-) to (B) and the long-term foreign currency dealings from (B-) to (B).

The Agency retained the financial strength rating of the Bank as (BB) due to the strong financial position it maintains.

In its report the Agency declared this is the strongest and highest rating among the banks in Yemen.

As for the future (outlook) pertaining to the bank, the rating is (stable) for the coming foreseeable years.

The Agency demonstrated in the same report main effective factors of the banks for this upgrading as:

- a portfolio of continuous profitability for many years.
- Highly liquidated assets.
- High indication of capital adequacy beyond the local and International requirement.
- Continuous stability in the size of customers deposits.
- Wholly owned by the Government of Yemen.

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Qat, the cursed plant in Yemen

Part I

By: Yusuf Al-Shiraif
Translated by: Eyad Al-Samman
alsammanworld@yahoo.ca

For many times, the Yemeni President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, appears on TV in his sporting wears while practicing jogging, swimming, and diving. Some other times, His Excellency the President works on a computer and browses the Internet. All of that for emphasizing his intention in quitting chewing the qat and consequently becoming more vigorous and active.

Maybe the Yemeni people imitate the president in his campaign for the national project which the Yemeni President himself established under the slogan "Yemen Without Qat." In the regard of the qat plant, Yemeni politicians, scientists, authors, and poets have said a lot of critiques and satires about it. Many public organizations and associations have confronted all over the country the qat's catastrophes since 1995. Additionally in the early 2003, huge public demonstrations were organized in the whole Yemen and composed of nearly 5 million Yemenis in a country with a population of 20 million. The demonstrations were headed by different officials and public entities' representatives in an open war amid Yemeni society and the qat's dictatorship. In spite of this the situation of being free of the qat's curse is still like daydreams and happy wishes. This cursed plant still defies everyone and even attracts daily more enthralled victims despite all sayings about its harms like losing money and minds, destroying health, and also wasting time, private, and national income.

You will wonder about the courage of the Yemeni nation who passed successively revolutions and revolts using its strong willpower and succeeded in becoming liberated of the odious Imamate in the north and the British colonization in the south of Yemen. This nation destroyed the isolation's walls facing



the world which extended for centuries and started rebuilding bridges with its civilized heritages. The Yemeni people achieved the miracle of the Yemeni unity and held on it forcefully when the cession's conspiracy fought against it in 1994. The level of wander increases since it is the same people who suffer from surrender and spontaneous submission for the qat's power.

I was in Yemen during the outbreak of the 1962 revolution when suddenly the revolution's brilliant star started fading when President Abdullah Al-Sallal applied himself to condemn the qat's curse, call Yemenis to quit chewing the qat, and threaten of rooting up its plants. When the President realized that he was swimming against the tide, he stopped talking about it.

In 1972, Muhsin Al-'Aini, then Prime Minister of Yemen, returned to inflame the war against the qat using a different method. He firstly consulted Judge Abdul-Rahman Al-Iryani, then President of the republican council, who was a prominent historical personality and a religious expert character and respected by everyone. Al-'Aini convinced Al-Iryani to issue a fatwa (legal opinion) which emphasizes that the qat is abhorrent by Islamic law

(sharia) due to its numerous harms. In the same time, Al-'Aini issued a decree for rooting up the qat's plants planted in the lands possessed by the state and the lands of endowments on the pretext that paying out the money from the revenues of such lands on sheltering orphans and building mosques is illegal by Islamic law. But nobody of the qat farms' owners paid an attention to these initiatives or rooted up the plants. They instead found religious men who gave a legal opinion on the legality of planting and selling the qat and enjoying chewing it peacefully and contently.

Al-'Aini had not lost the way to continue his war on the qat. He brought from Egypt a shipment of boxes containing an enormous quantity of bollworms (cotton worms) which ruined Egypt's national crops of cotton. He charged persons with deploying secretly the boxes' contents in several the qat's farms for the possibility that the bollworms could play a national role in destroying this cursed plant. He thought also that the bollworms would crawl, eat the qat's leaves, lay eggs, and hatch in millions. After that, the bollworms would spread in other the qat's farms and devoured all the leaves indicating of the inevitable end for this

pernicious evil!

It seems that Egyptian bollworms refused to intervene in this case according to the ironic sayings of Yemeni people. The bollworm abstained from embittering Yemeni mood and it might enjoy and milk the qat's taste with a good appetite. The worm fulfilled the proverb: "I came to you Abdul-Moa'aen to help me but I found you the one who needs to be helped" whereas the proverb: "Try to treat me with the source of the ailment itself" did not fit on this case. Al-'Aini did not surrender and called fathers, poets, preachers, and heralds to support his campaign against the qat and he gave them financial incentives generously. One of those poets, Ahmed Al-Mu'alimi, versed a hopeless poem denouncing the qat and said:

*"And as an opinion to fight the qat
Since the qat is an evil and its cure is uneasy
Qat is an insult and a shame on us
Which is soaking us with mud
Qat is a plague and its least harm is
Spending hours without a work
Qat is a time's killer and it is an evil
For our youths, old men, and middle-aged men
We live in the space era and we no longer
Are still living the unenlightened life of
camels and mules
Our era invades other planets whereas
Some of us still walk barefooted"*

When Al-'Aini heard the poem, he enjoyed it and thought in generalizing this poem in the official mass media but he retracted when he knew that the poet wrote the poem when he was chewing the qat and recited it in one of the qat's sessions. In that way, the relation between Al-'Aini and the qat's Mafia became critical and was a sort of revenge. Consequently, Al-'Aini had the honour to be dubbed "The First Enemy of the Qat" when he said in an interview: "We cannot stay as the sultan's idlers, chewing the qat, whispering the evil, dreaming, relying on each other,

lazing and extending our hands for others to build us schools, hospitals, nourishing us, building plants, reclaiming lands, opening for us universities, and offering scholarships for our sons and daughters as if we are the time's delight of the eye. In another interview on the Yemeni satellite channel, Al-'Aini made right in his opinion against the qat when he said that Yemenis in the past were not addictive to the qat as they are today. They sometimes used to chew only some of its leaves. He di-

gressed." It is true that the qat's session is a catharsis for dialogue and joy but it is becoming more serious and especially amid youths and young people who are joining consecutively the chewers' groups. Hence, I feel the danger which threatens Yemen's present and future." This was the tiniest and most provable indicator on the credibility and necessity of embodying the slogan of the national campaign "Yemen without Qat."

Source: Weghat Nazar Magazine

Grassroots management of Muslims' extremism and terrorism on a space TV. Program..... Soon

All national and international NGOs are called and welcomed to be partners in supporting and funding an upcoming youth space TV. program of three parts which analyzes and addresses the present Muslim extremism and terrorism.

The program aims at eradicating ideologies that nourish Muslim extremists and terrorists. It also presents an effective strong strategy for preventing spread of such ideologies to young people. The work is led by Dr. Sami Almoayad, a medical doctor and an influential youth trainer on attitude and behavioral change. The director of the program is Um Ammar Alkohali, a well known Yemeni TV program director.

The first part is a ten-episode show, 45 minutes each. The program achieves its goals through deep systematic discussions and thoughtful discussions managed by five young very carefully selected and trained Yemeni persons. It will be performed in a very extraordinary and creative way to attract the young audience in Arab as well as non Arab countries as the program will include subtitles in other languages.

The program is the first of its kind worldwide in terms of its subject and goal of grassroots specialized management of Muslims' extremism and terrorism as well as its expected impact on Muslim extremists. If the team gets enough support and funding, it will disseminate healthy positive messages to both Arab and non-Arab Muslims. At later stages the program could be transformed to other types of media such as booklets and articles or Internet materials. The program with its three parts would be a unique great reference and strong base in the ideological war against Muslim extremists and terrorists. And eventually lead to defeating them.

A Yemeni local TV. program production company estimated the cost of the first part at sixty thousands USD if produced in Yemen and much more if produced outside Yemen.

If you like to be a partner in this project or to support the program in any way please email Dr. Sami Almoayad at: samialmoayad@yahoo.com the sooner the better.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT Project Manager

A national company involved in real estate development project seeks the employment of a for its Aden residential project.

The successful candidate is responsible for the overall direction, coordination, implementation, execution, control and completion of the project ensuring consistency with company strategy, commitment and goals, and reports directly to the General Manager.

Skills & Education:

- Holder of a bachelor degree in civil or architectural engineering, with minimum experience in the same field for not less than 5 years.
- Have Good command of written and spoken English, ability to write reports and deliver presentations and literate in computer.

Interested applicants may apply by e-mail to
aalmurayri@gmail.com



Job vacancy

The Embassy of the United States of America announces for immediate job opening within its organization:

"Carpenter"

1. Performs carpentry repairs on household furniture. Makes doors, doorframes, windows, and wooden shelves, makes wooden picture frames. Fixing windows, doors, fixing cloth wardrobes, drawers, cabinets. And build shipping crates. In addition, is responsible for installations for security up grade like safe-haven doors, Locks, bolts.
2. Also, assists in usual maintenance task and help other technicians.

Qualifications Required

- A. Education:**
Completion of secondary school, with some vocational training.
- B. Prior Work Experience:**
3 years of working experience in the field of carpentry.
- C. Language Proficiency:**
Level II English (Rudimentary).
Level III Arabic.
- D. Job Knowledge:**
 - Knowledge of use standards for carpentry system, knowledge of general maintenance and activities in FMM section, knowledge of safety in work areas.
 - Incumbent must have ability to design all kind of wooden work such as furniture, doors, windows, cabinets etc.
- E. Skills and Abilities:**
Must have the ability to follow instructions, and be reliable in attendance and performance.

Grade/Salary: *Ordinarily Resident:
FSN-4 (Full Performance Level) US \$7, 849 Starting Salary per annum.

Detailed Position Description is available at <http://yemen.usembassy.gov/yemen/vacancies.html>

How to apply:

Interested applicants should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. (with awards, recommendation letters, copies of degrees earned) that addresses the qualifications and requirements of the position, as listed above, and send it to the Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa or via Fax No. 303-182 or through e-mail address: hrosanaa@state.gov no later than January 20, 2010.

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

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Tareem . . . the Capital of Islamic Culture 2010 A History of Scholarship and Aesthetics



YT photo by Nadia Al-Sakkaf



YT photo by Nadia Al-Sakkaf



YT photo by Nadia Al-Sakkaf



YT photo by Nadia Al-Sakkaf



YT photo by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

By: Abdul Kareem Abu Yazan
Courtesy of Yemenia Magazine

Tareem is an astonishing city; whether a visitor has written about it, a photographer has frozen its image in a picture, or even a painter tried to capture it with his brush, nobody has been able to describe its grand history, or its mysterious riddles and secrets on paper, in a picture or a painting.

Tareem... a most extraordinary place

Tareem's wonders are often disquieting. One may wonder why but the answer is simple: it is so challenging attempting to settle on where to commence one's exploration of the city's treasures as it is blessed with three incredible attractions: mosques, mountains and land.

The palaces which still occupy this ancient land bear witness to the marvelous architecture the city is famous for. Tareem's palaces are so breathtaking that they truly defy description. These palaces provide a testament to the residents' taste for grand and timeless beauty. Tareem's wealthy are the owners of this unique architecture that dates back more than half a century.

Just as the residents of Tareem display grand artistry in terms of architecture and erecting palaces, they also have great aesthetic taste when selecting the names of these places. The names of famous Arab cities and places such as Al-Ryadh, Asmara and Dar Al-Salam have been selected for the palaces.

One of the most famous monuments in Tareem is Al-Renad Fort,

which was built four hundred years prior to the arrival of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). The Al-Katheer Sultans renovated the palace in 1938. The palace is apparently being converted into a museum in the future, where ancient handicraft samples are to be displayed.

Tareem mosques

Mosques, if chosen first to meditate in, will fill one with wonder for they surround the city, now number approximately 100 and once numbered roughly the same as the number of days in a year.

Unfortunately, as a result of age and decay, the number of mosques has decreased. Some of the old mosques have collapsed and been rebuilt as one mosque. As a result, there are no longer 360, but around 100 mosques in Tareem. The list of magnificently designed mosques in Tareem is endless. There are far too many to provide more than a few examples.

During this renovation and expansion of mosques, many magnificent decorations and designs were inserted into the mosques. One prime example of this is in the mosque "Al-Jame'e" which stands in the heart of the city and was built a thousand years ago. It is said that Husain Bin Salama was made the ruler of Tareem in 375 of the Hijri (or Islamic) calendar. This mosque was renovated by Bin Salama three times: in 581, 585 and 960 of the Hijri calendar. The last time it was renovated was in 1392 Hijri, until now.

The mosque's is estimated to be 19,110 square feet. It has eight gates and (its 115 foot high minaret is built in the middle of the eastern wall. In each mosque, there is a minaret, from

which the Muslim imam call for prayer. This minaret is 155 feet high. The mosque is on the second floor, while the first floor is an Islamic library named Al-Akhaf, established in 1972, which consists of Islamic scripts compiled and gathered from the libraries of scholars after they had passed away.

Al-Mihdhar mosque is another example of the mosques in Tareem. It was commissioned to be built by Omar Al-Mihdhar Al-Saqaf in 1333 Hijri. The square-shaped minaret is 175 feet high and contains stairs reaching to the top. The most astonishing fact about this minaret is that it was built from straw, clay and palms' roots. It was designed by the poet

Abu Baker Bin Shihab who died in 1334 Hijri and it was built under the supervisors of the contractor, Awadh Al-Tarimi.

One of the most beautiful mosques is the old mosque designed Imam Bin Alawi, which was built in 530 Hijri. Clay and gypsum were used to erect this mosque. It was renovated three times before the minaret was built. The mosque is 24 meters long, and the square where worshippers pray is 10 meters in length.

Tareem's history

Tareem is considered the religious capital of Hadramout's valley since it has always been a center for scholarship and knowledge.

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At the end of the fifth century and the beginning of the sixth Hijri century, seekers of knowledge from neighboring countries, be it the Far East to East Africa were heading to minaret this source to quench their thirst for knowledge.

When visiting Tareem, do not be surprised to see East Asian-like faces or even the darker skin tones more often associated with the African continent; people from these areas and elsewhere have been coming to study in Tareem for centuries. Conversely, the natives of Tareem, in the past, used to travel to India, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines to spread Islam.

Tareem has been an Islamic cultural center for centuries. There are many "Me'lamas" in Tareem. A Me'lama is a small place where Islamic sheikhs teach young children the Holy Qur'an. Abi Mariam is one of the most famous Me'lamas in Tareem. It was established in the sixth Hijri century and still exists today.

There are other Islamic schools to be found in Tareem in addition to the Me'lamas. The Tareem Scholarship Association and Dar Al-Moustafa for Islamic Studies are a few examples of the progress Tareem has made as an Islamic center.

Tareem's location

Tareem is located at a longitude of 48 degrees east (52 minutes east to JMT) and a latitude of 16 degrees north of the Equator. According to Captain Besh, a British Orientalist, Tareem is 207 feet above sea level.

Climate

The weather is hot in the summer and cold in the winter; it may be dry and cold especially in the valleys. In general, it is mild and gentle weather from time to time.

Traditional attire

There is uniformity to the attire in Tareem. The people of Tareem were greatly influenced by the Malawians due to the immigration of people from Yemen to Malawi in the past. Upon their return to Tareem, these

people brought back the attire of the Malawians with them. Almost everybody in Tareem dons the Al-Saroom (kelts) and the short jackets associated with that African country. Perched on nearly every head, you can see hats, if they are not Sheikhs; the latter wear the long white dress and turban. As for women, they usually wear the Islamic wimple. Most women are housewives.

Poetry and hunters:

Poetry is in the blood of Tareem's residents. Most houses in Tareem boast poets as this gift is bestowed upon the younger generation by the elder. Abdullah Al-Saqaf, mentioned in his book, Poets of Hadramout's History, that many poets hail from Tareem.

As for hunters, they show great interest in hunting deer and ibex. Groups of hunters gather in the mountains, particularly in the winter, to stalk and hunt their prey.

Family daily gatherings

Tea gatherings are what distinguish a family in Tareem from others. This ritual was first established in the fourteenth Hijri century. Upon arrival, a guest will find himself served tea as a matter of course.

Other gatherings take place as well during various times. Young people and children will sometimes gather at night on a hill and enjoy their time together as only children can. Such gatherings usually occur on the seventh day of Tho Al-Hija (the last month in the Hijri calendar) and on the last Wednesday of Safar (the second Month in the Hijri calendar).

Tareem ...a divine and unique place

It is truly a daunting, perhaps impossible, task to attempt to list Tareem's numerous wonders. When searching history and trying to uncover its past, one discovers that historians could not but stand in awe before every civilization Tareem witnessed. They could not but be impressed and record the smallest detail of these civilizations.

Tareem is a city where a divine presence is felt wherever you head.

Business class available on Yemenia flights

Yemenia, Yemen's national airline company has recently added business class to its passengers in addition to the economy and first class. Muneer Mohammed Jahoush deputy director of the commercial affairs at the airlines said that a number of first class seats in Yemenia Boeing 737, Boeing 800, Airbus 300 and Airbus 310 were transformed into business class seats while maintaining the exact services for those seats as if they were first class.



Meanwhile now onwards first class passengers on Airbus 300 and Airbus 330 will benefit from additional services and facilities without any extra charges.

With these two upgrade operations 24 business class seats have become available for Yemenia passengers starting from 15th of this month.