

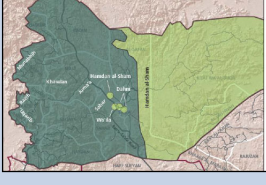
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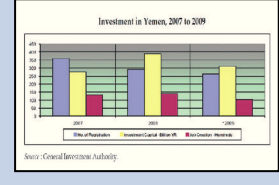
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2010 could be the year for an upturn in Yemen's economy

Marib power station repairs almost finished

The damage to the Marib-I power station is estimated to cost millions of dollars, but it will soon be fully functional again.

By: Sadeq Al-Wesabi

MARIB, May 12 — A tragic fate faced Marib-I, the first stage of a natural gas based power generating plant. It was to be inaugurated by the president, as one of the key events celebrating the 20th anniversary of Yemeni Unity, on May 22nd. However, according to state security, a group of vandals carried out attacks on the station over two consecutive days, Sunday 9th and Monday 10th May. "There are heavy security measures put in place to protect this strategic investment. The security is not only around the station but also the surrounding area, as there is also an oil company in a nearby location. Despite this, there have been repeated attacks on the station. Why did not all these security measures protect it?" asked a source at the Yemen Public Electricity Corporation. The damage has affected all Yemeni governorates except for Hadramout, which has its own probationary station,

and a 24 hour operations unit is working to fix the problem. During this time, Yemen is buying electricity from four international power supply companies at a tariff three times more than a Yemeni citizen would pay. "We have almost finished the repairs, working night and day under the burning desert sun of Marib but now the station is back in operation. However, we can't ensure that another attack will not take place, resulting in more financial and moral losses," said Abdulaziz Mohammed, Power Generation Affairs Deputy Director at the Yemen Public Electricity Corporation. He criticized the attackers, stating they want to vandalize a project worth millions, and much more in moral value, to the country. Specialized international experts have been sent to the site. However, because of the devastating damage, especially from the second attack which resulted in completely terminating power generation. Another source at the corporation predicted more time



Marib power station was attacked by armed tribesmen in protest at government neglect.

would still be needed for a complete, uninterrupted power supply from the station. Although Marib-I has been having some functionality problems, the corporation is working with the Supreme Tenders Committee to start the process

of Marib-II, Marib-III and Ma'abar-I in the Dhamar governorate. **Tribal demands** The tribes in Marib are demanding jobs for their young people, who are mostly illiterate and lack any professional

capacity. The Electricity Ministry promised jobs to 1,500 of the locals in Marib, but hired only 200 of them. Of those, the ministry sent 80 men to Arab countries for training so as to build their skills and help integrate them on their return to the power investment project. The remaining 1,300 unemployed locals are causing further problems, according to our source at the corporation. They are demanding to be hired soon or they are threatening to create more damage. The locals are also demanding that, since their area is a source of power for the whole country, the villages around Marib should be connected first, before anywhere else in the country can enjoy the benefits from this power station. The ministry is said to have agreed to this and initiated the process of a 10 billion YR tender for companies to carry out a lighting project and an Indian



company has won this tender. They have started work and many villages are being connected to the electricity network, according to the corporation. However, it seems the government process is taking a long time. Several other demands have been requested from the area, as more and more sheikhs have started making new claims, wanting more investment to come their way.

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Rain damages IDP camps

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, May 12 – Rain on Monday damaged 250 tents, food and mattresses of those displaced by the Sa'ada war and living in the Al-Mazraq camps in Haradh, Hajja governorate, according to the Ministry of Interior. The police said that rain, strong winds, and dust storms damaged 50 tents, and that floods damaged the food and furniture of internally displaced persons. The added that the damage extended to Mazraq 3, the third camp, where rain damaged 200 tents. In the last few weeks, Yemen has witnessed torrential rain and flash floods in different parts of the country especially mountainous areas. In Sana'a, flash floods killed seven and wounded several others. "From April 12 to May 5, some 1,000 tents were damaged in the Mazraq camps 1 and 3 as a result of unprecedented storms (heavy rains coupled with violent wind) in Haradh, Hajja governorate," Marie Marullaz Associate External Relations Officer for IDPs at the UNHCR told the Yemen Times in an email. "All of them were replaced by UNHCR to ensure adequate shelter to



The Mazraq camp in March. Hundreds of tents were damaged and people lost their food because of heavy rain in Haradh this week.

our people of concern," she wrote. "UNHCR also made sure that relief items damaged by the exceptionally heavy rains were replaced for displaced civilians both inside and outside the camps." The UNHCR's site and its partners in the field have been working on improv-

ing the water drainage system of the Mazraq camps 1 and 3 preparing for any more heavy rain and wind, she wrote. Marullaz however stressed that improving water drainage in the camps required funding, whereas UNHCR projects in Yemen remain underfunded.

"The establishment of an improved water drainage system of the Mazraq camps 1 and 3 supposes funding, that so far have remained limited," she wrote. "UNHCR is seriously concerned about the current lack of funding." So far UNHCR operations in Yemen remain funded at just 35 percent of the overall needs, according to Marullaz, who added that the UNHCR is thus reiterating its appeal to all donors from the region and beyond. UN agencies in Yemen in February rang the alarm bell and appealed to the international community to meet the gap in funding for them to continue their programs in Yemen, notably supporting the displaced by the fighting between the government and the Houthis in the north of the country until this February. The UN's World Food Program last month said that it would cut food rations to people in the camps by half this May, as a last resort to make food last longer because of a lack of funds. Maria Santamarina, reports officer at the WFP, told the Yemen Times that the WFP started distributing food rations in the camps earlier this month because some had lost their food in the floods. *Continued on page 2*

Houthi leader killed inside mosque

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 12 — Last Friday, during the noon prayer, a group of armed men killed Houthi leader Yahya Al-Hames at the Mohammad Al-Ezzi mosque in Majez, Sa'ada. The Houthis have since threatened tribal mediators who said they would surrender five of the killers to the government. The Houthis have said that they would start a war if the killers were not handed over to them, according to tribal sources. Last Monday, tribal leaders from Sahar in Sa'ada, convinced the Houthis to end the quarrel peacefully. According to the Houthis' website, Al-Minbar.net, last Friday's mosque attack was not the only one against a Houthi leader last week. Three soldiers in a military car stopped the Houthi leader Abu Taha last Tuesday as he was returning from Harf Sufian. The three soldiers showered Abu Taha and the men accompanying him with a hail of bullets. Some of them were killed and others were injured, although the exact figures are still unknown, Abu Taha reportedly survived. A source at the Houthis' information office said that if the army continues such attacks, they would be understood as an end to the ceasefire between the government and the Houthis. The source denied that the Houthis were blocking roads or attacking military positions. He put the responsibility on the Harf Sufian committee, which is responsible for investigating any attacks. Houthi representative Abu Taha

accused the head of the Harf Sufian committee, Sheik Abdulwahed Al-Bukhaiti, of delaying the committee's duties. Al-Bukhaiti, however, denied this. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior has accused the Houthis of kidnapping four soldiers and seizing their cars. The Houthis responded that these allegations are false and are part of the government's propaganda campaign against the Houthis. "The government always launches such allegations for its own interests... why would we kidnap four soldiers, what would we gain from this," a Houthi source is quoted as saying. Houthi field commander Abdulmalek Al-Houthi said that Houthis would like to collaborate with the opposition Joint Meeting Parties. He added that they have the right to form an alliance with any political party because they are part of Yemeni society. The Houthis said that the government does not want them to be part of the political process and this is why it does not want the Houthis to sign an agreement with the JMP. He added that the state's allegations against the Houthis, such as holding up a Hezbollah flag, are ridiculous and that the state started the war in 2004.

Many now suffer from poverty and hunger because of this war, he said.

Education on hold
The head of the Ministry of Education in Sa'ada, Mohammad Al-Shamiri, said that the Houthis have settled in schools in the provinces of Al-Safra, Bakem, Razeh, Saher, Saher, Kufaf and Majez. "Teachers could work for the first two months of the 2009-2010 academic year," he said, "but then the Houthis prevented teachers from entering schools they occupied, and raised flags saying 'Death to the US and Israel, and triumph to Islam'." He said that only around 30,000 pupils could attend their primary and secondary schools. Many schools opened in February, after five months of clashes between the army and the Houthis. Thus, the first semester studying period will be from February 27-May 18, and the second semester will be from May 23-August 15. Al-Shamiri said that, of the 121,000 students in Sa'ada, 85,000 have resumed their studies in the governorate's 725 schools. The remaining students, however, cannot return to their schools because the Houthis have taken up posts in their schools.

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Al-Qaida in Yemen claims responsibility for attack targeting British ambassador

SANA'A, May 12 (Xinhua) — The Yemen-based al-Qaida group claimed responsibility for the suicide bomb attack that targeted the convoy of British ambassador to Yemen Tim Torlot on April 26, according to a statement obtained by Xinhua on Wednesday.

The defiant statement apparently released about two weeks after the botched suicide bomb attack.

"Britain is the close ally with U.S. in its war (on Islam)," the al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) said in their statement that justified their suicide attack.

"Britain called for the London international conference, in which they plotted against Muslims in the Arabian Peninsula," it added.

In their statement, AQAP identified the bomber as 22-year-old Osman Ali Noman Asaloi from the southern Yemeni province of Taiz.

Asaloi had been previously imprisoned in the capital Sanaa for two years, and was released a year and a half ago, his father told Xinhua in an exclusive interview.

The father said his son "disappeared a month and a half before the inci-

dent."

On April 26, the suicide bomber wearing an explosive belt threw himself at the convoy of Torlot near the British embassy compound in the capital. The attack only left the bomber dead and three passersby injured while the diplomat and his escort survived unscathed.

Security officials said the explosion was not strong and immediately identified the suicide bomber as Asaloi, whose remains were scattered following the blast.

The British embassy closed down

after the attack.

Yemeni police stepped up security presence after the attack in the capital Sanaa, particularly around western embassies.

Yemen, the ancestral homeland of al-Qaida network leader Osama bin Laden, has intensified security operations and air raids against terrorist groups, after the Yemen-based al-Qaida wing claimed responsibility for a botched Christmas Day attempt to blow up a U.S. plane bound for Detroit.

In the meantime, the United States widened sanctions on an al-Qaida

branch based in Yemen Tuesday, punishing more of the group's leaders by restricting their travel, freezing their financial assets and slapping an arms embargo on them.

The sanctions are targeted at Qasim al-Raimi and Nayif al-Qahtani, both senior leaders of al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula. The group claimed responsibility on the failed airline bombing plot last Christmas on a Detroit-bound plane.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton approved the sanctions, and the measures were published in the Federal Register

Tuesday. The group was designated a terrorist group in January, and sanctions against its top two leaders Nasir al-Wahishi and Said al-Shihri were put in place then.

Meanwhile, the State Department said Tuesday it's considering designating the Pakistani Taliban as a foreign terrorist group. The group is implicated in the botched Times Square car bombing attack early this month.

"We are considering the question of designating the Pakistani Taliban," said Department spokesman Philip Crowley.

Rebel occupation of schools threatens northern ceasefire

SANAA, May 10 (IRIN) - A rebel occupation of a number of schools in the northern Yemeni governorate of Saada is preventing thousands of children from attending classes and threatening to undermine a recently signed ceasefire between the government and Houthi-led rebels, according to local officials.

"Rebels have occupied dozens of schools in [Saada's] al-Safraa, Majaz, Kitaf, Baqim, Razih and Sihar districts, where teachers have not been able to resume classes, although it has been two months since the 2009-10 school year began in Saada," Mohammed al-Shamiri, head of the governorate's education office, told IRIN.

"They are preventing teachers from entering these schools which they have decked out with 'Death to America and Israel' and 'Victory to Islam' slogans," he said. "At least 30,000 children are unable to go to their primary and secondary schools."

Ali Abu Holaiqa, head of a peace committee in charge of implementing the six ceasefire conditions in Saada Governorate, said the committee had suspended its work as "Houthis are refusing to stop occupying schools."

Mohammed Abdussalam, a spokesman for the Houthis, said many of their followers had occupied the schools after the government refused to release their relatives from jail.

"More than 1,000 Houthi men are still in jail although the government promised to release them. Their release is one of the conditions of the ceasefire," he said. "Many of them have been sentenced to six years imprisonment."

He blamed the government for rais-



Students attend class in a school in Malahidh District, Saada Governorate. The school administration says their education is often interrupted by violence

ing tension and "putting the ceasefire at risk", and warned that violence may reach schools and public facilities in other areas unless the government releases the detained rebels.

Targeting teenagers

According to Razih District local council, Houthi followers in April broke into schools and replaced national flags with slogans. "They plan to attract youngsters to their side and engage them in any potential fight with government troops," it said.

"They [Houthis] use machine guns and armoured vehicles, which they looted during the clashes, to intimidate young people refusing to accept their views," Abdullah Dhahman, a local councillor from the governorate's Matra

District, told IRIN.

Houthis are targeting teenagers in grades 8-12 because they think this age group is easier to influence... and they believe teenagers could be worthier fighters in the long term than older men," Mohammed Ezan, an analyst from Saada, told IRIN.

"They are trying to attract youngsters to their Believing Youth Organization and inciting them against the current government with the aim of restoring the rule of the Imamate [in north Yemen before the 1962 revolution] to the northern governorate," he said. "They resort to violence only when they are resisted by students, schoolmasters or teachers."

According to Mariam al-Shwafi, the manager of Shawthab Organization, a local child rights NGO, Houthis are

handing out leaflets to schoolchildren telling them that joining the Believing Youth Organization helps them get closer to Allah.

"They use kids to recruit their peers at school," she said.

Ahmad al-Qurashi, head of the local NGO Siyay Organization for Childhood Protection, also told IRIN he believed the Houthis were trying to indoctrinate teenagers. "Kids are more responsive to religious influence than any other group. Houthis see them as human ammunition for the future," he said.

The weakness of the education authorities in Saada Governorate was also "allowing Houthis to replace displaced teachers in areas outside Saada with clerics from Believing Youth," he said.

Disruption

Education has been disrupted in the governorate for some time. Hundreds of schools were only able to reopen on 27 February 2010 - five months later than normal - due to clashes between the army and Houthi fighters from August 2009 to February 2010.

The first semester runs from 27 February to 18 May, and the second semester from 23 May to 15 August, though normally the school year begins in October and ends in June.

"Some 80,000-85,000 of the 121,000 children once enrolled in the governorate's 725 schools are now attending classes. The rest couldn't go to their schools, which are either controlled by Houthi fighters or severely damaged as a result of the clashes," Saada Governorate's education office head al-Shamiri said.

Government accuses opposition of allying themselves with Houthis

By: Mohammad Bin Sallam

SANA'A, May 10 - During a public festival on Saturday in Al-Mahwit governorate, west of Sana'a, Prime Minister, Ali Mohammad Mujawar, accused the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) of supporting Houthi activities and secessionist groups.

In the festival, held on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Yemeni unity, the Prime Minister said that the JMP, which contains six parties, aims at assisting Houthis and attaining their political targets via this suspicious alliance.

Mujawar pointed out that Houthis were behind the bloodshed and have made thousands of people homeless in north Yemen, following the war between them and the army. He added that the JMP elements have committed crimes of which the people in Yemen had no prior knowledge.

A responsible source in the JMP condemned these accusations and said that, by his statements, Mujawar offended the

members of the JMP who participated in bringing about unification in Yemen, 20 years ago.

According to the opposition Islah party's website, Al-Sahwa, the source said that Mujawar should have bettered their country's policies instead of publishing accusations.

The ruling party renewed its commitment to the February Agreement 2009, signed between parties having membership at the parliament, to take part in the national dialogue.

The JMP had earlier wrote to the ruling party stating that they received a letter from Al-Iryani, telling them that President Saleh had negated two articles of the agreement. These articles are related to the release of remaining prisoners and the neutrality of the media toward the opposition parties.

Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, the second deputy of the party, sent back a letter to the JMP's head, Abdulwahab Mahmoud telling him that the party will not go back on its commitments in the agreement or accept any new

conditions.

The ruling party asked the JMP not to impose any new conditions outside the prior agreement signed by both parties.

"The amnesty by Saleh, regarding the prisoners, included the release of the remaining prisoners, but the JMP released a statement in April 2010 demanding their immediate release, as if no suggestion had been presented by the February agreement committee," Al-Iryani said.

The ruling party said that they refuse dialogue, because the JMP "uses it to impose whatever they want."

The JMP can defend the prisoners in court. These prisoners blocked the roads, killed people, held up secessionism flags and plundered public property," Al-Iryani added.

"Regarding the media attacking the opposition parties, the government will stop all public media outlets belonging to the government from attacking the opposition. But the government will not deprive the latter's right to defend themselves, if anyone publishes defamatory material," he explained.

The ruling party condemned the JMP's inconsistency in demanding the right to say what they want in the media but then asking the governorate to stop the same media from attacking the opposition.

Houthis accuse army

The Houthis accused the army of committing violations regarding the ceasefire. They said that the army took people's cars and blocked roads in Sa'ada.

According to the Emirati newspaper, Al-Bayan, the Houthi leader, Abu Malik, placed responsibility on the committee in charge of solving problems in Harf Sufian, Amran.

He added that if the committee remained silent and did not stop these army violations, it would soon lose credibility. He pointed out that they are still waiting for the committee to fulfill its duties and visit the Harf Sufian area.

"The other committees do their jobs well," he said. "This committee, however, is procrastinating and neglects its work."

New Sana'a city civil society guide now available

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, May 11 — A group of active young Yemeni women came with an idea to document the civil society organizations in the capital secretariat as a first step to documenting civil society in the country as a whole.

The group itself created a civil society organization in 2009 which was called Media Gate. The aim of Media Gate is to offer media services to nongovernmental organizations. This is why they started through documenting them, and giving them a chance to freely publicize their work through the newly launched guide.

"Our main objective is to activate the role of media in highlighting civil society organizations and help them make their work more effective," said Wafa Wafi director of Media Gate.

The 116 pages colorfully designed guide has information about 180 civil society entities categorized into five main types: National and international organizations, foundations, associations, centers and forums. The details of each organization include information about the vision, mission and objectives, activities scope of work and projects, and contact details including emails and websites and some pictures.

It also includes an index of all the Ministries and embassies along with their contact numbers.

"We appreciate the work Media gate is doing especially as it is a group of young enthusiastic women who want to be a role model for other organizations. Mapping civil society in the capi-



tal Secretariat is very important and we hope that all concerned agencies would make use of it," said Amin Juma'an secretary general of the Capital Secretariat State Ministry.

"We are proud to introduce this publication which was created through an initiative of active youth. We are impressed that they thought of the idea and persisted on the cause and we at the ministry will continue to support such initiatives," said Ali Saleh Abdullah Deputy Minister of Social Affairs for Social development.

The guide was launched last week under the patronage of Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the guide contact
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Email: media.gate@yahoo.com
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Fuel prices increase for the second time in three months

Domestic prices of fuel and electricity: comparison between the beginning of 2009 and May 2010

Item	Price at the beginning of 2009	Price now
Diesel	YR35	YR39
Liquid petrol gas	YR500 per cylinder	YR1,100 per cylinder
Kerosene	YR35	YR45
Fuel	YR60	YR70
electricity	YR17 per kwh	YR17 per kwh

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A May 12 — The Yemeni government has raised the price of fuel to YR 70 (USD0.311) per liter, up from YR 65 (USD 0.288). This action is the second of its kind in the last three months.

Raising the price of fuel may cause riots; in 2007 prices hikes led to several demonstrations across the country and dozens of people were killed or injured during these protests.

In February of this year, the government raised the fuel price to YR 65 per liter up from YR 60, but no riots were reported except one failed attempt by minibus drivers in Hodieda governorate to strike over the new prices.

The Yemen Petroleum Company used to circulate notifications to petrol stations with the new prices, but this time petrol stations were informed of the new price via telephone calls, according to a worker at a petrol station on Hadda street in the capital.

The increase is not only confined to fuel, it also includes other oil derivatives.

Kerosene has increased to YR 45 per liter up from YR 40 and it was

increased in February from YR35 to YR40.

The cooking gas price also has risen to YR 1,100 from YR 900 per one cylinder, according to locals in Sana'a.

Under these new measures, the price of diesel has remained stable at YR 39 per liter; however, it was raised in February from YR35 to YR39.

Although this increase is estimated at around 8 percent, the World Bank said, in its first quarter report of 2010, that the local price of fuel and other oil derivatives in the country are still less than international prices by around 60percent.

Every time the government raises the price of fuel, it claims that it is attempting to revive the economy through abolishing fuel and diesel subsidies.

The current increase is expected to save about USD 120 million or 0.4 percent of the GDP, according to the World Bank first quarter report of 2010.

In 2009, the power subsidy reached about 20% of general expenditures and the fuel subsidy reached around 8% of the GDP, according to the World Bank.

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Continued from page 1

Rain damages IDP camps

About 22,000 internally displaced people IDPs remain in the camps, according to the ICRC.

Due to the risks of the war remnants in the area and the possibility of conflict renewal, displaced people still feel it is unsafe to return to their areas. Although some have visited their areas to assess the situation and some have chosen to return home, many remain in the camps.

"IDPs are concerned about their security, highlighting fear of landmines and unexploded ordnance as well as absence of the local authorities in some areas of return," said the UN agency's latest brief.

Over the past months, several international agencies have organized awareness campaigns to educate the displaced about the appearance and dangers of remnant explosives so that they

are careful when they return home.

"Many people just want to return home, live in a safe environment, work their land and put their children in school," Jean-Nicolas Marti, the ICRC's head of delegation in Yemen was quoted as saying in the ICRC's latest update. "Only last week, more than 850 people decided to leave the camps in Sa'ada and return home."

"Many will probably not make it that far, however, and even if they do, they may well find that their homes, and also their schools and other public buildings, were damaged or even destroyed in the several rounds of fighting," he added.

According to UNHCR, since the beginning of 2004, an estimated 250,000 people have been displaced by the war between the government and Houthis in northern Yemen. Over 60 percent of the total displaced population are below the age of 18 and 15 percent are under the age of 5.

In Brief

SANA'A
Al-Alimi affirms importance to instill national loyalty in all students

Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defense Affairs and Minister of Local Administration Rashad al-Alimi affirmed on Sunday the importance of promoting values of national loyalty of all students.

This came during a ceremony organized by Yemen Youth General Union Organization and the «Yemen First» Organization held in Sana'a on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Yemen, May 22.

Al-Alimi praised efforts of Yemen Youth General Union Organization, the «Yemen First» Organization and the leadership of the local council in raising the community awareness against harmful ideas of extremism, terrorism, underdevelopment, fragmentation and separation.

For his part, Minister of Civil Service Yahya al-Shuaibi pointed out the power of youth in the defense of national principles and the unity.

Republican decree issued

A republican decree No. 10 for 2010 was issued on Monday appointing Wahib Abdullah Abu Baker al-Toufi director of the office of the Presidential adviser Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal.

GAI registered 56 investment projects in 1st Q of 2010

General Authority for Investment (GAI) registered 56 investment projects at sum of YR 12.5 billion during first quarter of 2010.

Muntaha Ali, head of the promotion department in the authority told Saba that

the assets of these projects reached YR 7.7 billion, adding that the projects would offer 1,230 jobs.

She pointed out to contributions of the authority to efforts of the government to better investment environment, and attract further investments in the country.

Yemen's debts reached USD 5.8 bln until 1st Q of 2010

Total of Yemen's foreign debts was USD 5.8 billion during first quarter of 2010, according to a report of Central Bank of Yemen.

The debts increased at USD 140 million compared to same period of last year.

Debts of Yemen for International funding corporations reached USD 3.1 billion during the first quarter of this year, the report said, the total of Yemen's debts for Paris Club members was YR 1.7 billion during the same period.

WB keen to continue providing support for Yemen

World Bank (WB) affirmed here on Sunday its keenness to continue providing all available support for Yemen.

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul-Karim al-Arhabi along with the WB country director and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) country director reviewed issues related to the promotion of the exiting cooperation between Yemen and WB.

Al-Arhabi noted to the WB and IFC contribution in propping up the development and reforms process in Yemen, affirming the significance of assuming more effective role by the WB to enhance the partnership frames with Yemen.

For his part, the WB official pointed

out to the level of cooperation between Yemen and the WB.

SNACC head meets UN official

Chairman of Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (SNACC) Ahmed al-Anasi received on Monday coordinator of the UN regional program over arrangements of transferring the presidency of Arab Network for Transparency and Combating Corruption to Yemen.

They also discussed arrangements to hold the conference of the network in Yemen next July and transferring the presidency of the network from Jordan to Yemen in addition to partnership between the authority and the program in field of combating corruption.

ADEN

Police officer killed, three injured due to two explosions

A security source in Aden said Monday that some destruction elements had put and blown up two explosive devices in and outside a children park in Al-Tawahi district of Aden.

The explosions rendered a police officer dead injuring another and two civilians.

The source made clear that the perpetrators behind this inhumane act, which targeted the lives of innocent people, reveal their haphazardness and bloody approach, affirming that security apparatuses will track down on them to bring them to justice.

Aden governor Adnan al-Jafri, for his part, described this incident an outlawed criminal act, strongly condemning the

incident and affirmed that it will not divert the government from development process.

Verdicts on 12 Somali pirates to be passed soon

The Specialized Penal court is to pass on Tuesday sentences against 12 Somalis on charges of piracy and kidnapping a Yemeni oil tanker, the state-run 26sep.net reported on Monday.

In the first session on September 29th, the prosecution has accused the Somalis of kidnapping a Yemeni oil tanker called «Qana» while sailing from Mukalla port

to Aden on 26 April 2009.

The Somali pirates resisted security forces as trying to free the ship causing the death the sailor Salah al-Qu'aiti and four injuries in addition to consider another sailor as missing.

Japanese support for Yemeni coast-guard in Aden discussed

Yemen and Japan held talks on Tuesday in Aden city over the Japanese support for enhancing capacities of the Yemeni coast-guard in combating piracy.

In a meeting- brought together director of the training center for Aden Coast-

guard Faisal Dhafullah with the head of the Japanese consultation team- discussed assistance of Japan for the coastguard which includes technical equipment and modern boats.

The assistance is based on agreement signed between authority of coastguard and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) last April.

The director of the center valued the Japanese support for the authority.

The Japanese official affirmed concern of the Japanese government to support technical assistance for the authority of the Yemeni coastguard.



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 - ✓ Plan and implement multiple voluntary Access activities per session;
 - ✓ Make sure that Access session surveys and other documents are distributed and returned in a timely manner;
 - ✓ Collect Access student photos and other work/documents for timely submission in report format;
 - ✓ Make sure that quarterly reports are prepared, edited, and forwarded to the Assistant Country Director;
 - ✓ Help coordinate recruitment and selection for new Access students;
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Their News

Human Rights and Conflict Management Master Degree opportunity

Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna in Pisa, Italy, calls for applications for the IX Edition Master of Arts in «Human Rights and Conflict Management» (a. y. 2010-2011).

Applications for admission by EU citizens shall be sent no later than 15th October 2010. The selection process of Non-EU citizens will instead be held in two rounds. The application deadline for the first round of selection of non-EU candidates is set on 2nd July 2010, while the application deadline for the second round is set on 15th September 2010. We encourage applicants to apply in the first round, as space in the class may be limited by the second round. In addition, applying in the first round leaves more time for visa procedures.

Key facts:

1 year post-graduate professionalizing program. Language of instruction is English

Running from 10th Jan 2011 till Feb-March 2012

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550 hours internship and final project work

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For further details, please visit www.humanrights.sssup.it

Yemen Airways selects Airlogica's Zeus product for BDT analysis and GDS strategic planning




A month of auditing can be completely automated. The ease of balancing invoices and the large Zeus user community also factored in this decision," said Ashraf Mughalles, Commercial Systems Manager. "One of the great benefits of using Zeus is that Airlogica actually maintains and updates the pricing tables for us, which for all carriers is a very difficult and time consuming process.

David Harms, President and CEO of Airlogica added, "Airlines are doing everything they can to limit cost inefficiencies, and using Zeus is a great step in the right direction".

Yemenia, based in Sana'a, Yemen, is the flag carrier of Yemen. Yemenia is a member of the Arab Air Carriers Organization, and operates a fleet of both Boeing and Airbus aircraft. Yemen Airways proudly serves 26 international and 9 domestic destinations.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dove Energy Ltd. is an independent UK company, formed to manage worldwide oil exploration and production acreage. Dove discovered the Sharyoof & Bayoot Oil Field within its primary asset, Block 53 East Sarr.

Dove Energy Limited invites *Yemeni Nationals* only to apply for the position of HSE Coordinator. The HSE Coordinator is responsible for the day-to-day safety activities in Sana'a office. He will be reporting to QHSE Manager.

Position Title : HSE Coordinator
Location : Sana'a Office
Deadline Date : 30th May 2010


Responsibilities:

- Prepare, maintain, improve and implement DOVE's HSE management systems.
- Ensure that the operation of Block 53 production operations and Dove drilling and completion activities in a safe and prudent manner, so as to minimize the risk to personnel, company property and the environment
- Responsible for training of all Dove employees in matters of safety, health and environment
- Specify the Purchase Orders for health and safety materials including training material, signs, field safety equipment, personal protective equipment.
- Prepare an annual HSE budget and ensure expenditures are managed within budget.
- Carry out Safety Audits of Block 53 Operations, Drilling and Completion Operations and Contractor procedures and work sites.
- Review Contractor Health and Safety Procedures and Practices
- Maintain Environmental standards including supervisions of any Environmental Impact Assessments
- Prepare HSE statistics for monthly operational report and annual review
- Perform line supervision function for Site Doctor/Safety Officer
- Visit the Block 53 Field at least monthly to attend safety meeting and discuss safety issues with Operations Manager, Safety Officer and all staff.
- Perform other tasks and duties as directed by the HSEQ Manager

Qualifications and Experience Preferred

- Yemeni Nationals.
- A degree in a relevant discipline and or related experience.
- 5 years HSE experiences, preferably in the Oil and Gas industry
- Good oral and written skills in both English & Arabic languages.
- Good PC Skills.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CV's and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: hr@doveyemen.com. (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Dove Energy Ltd. is an independent UK company, formed to manage worldwide oil exploration and production acreage. Dove discovered the Sharyoof & Bayoot Oil Field within its primary asset, Block 53 East Sarr.

Dove Energy Limited invites *Yemeni Nationals* only to apply for the position of ESP Technician. He will be reporting to Maintenance Supervisor.

Position Title : ESP Technician
Location : Block 53
Deadline Date : 30th May 2010

Responsibilities:

- Perform tasks and duties as directed by the Maintenance Supervisor.
- Operate and maintain the ESP/VFD equipment at the block 53 wells in a safe and prudent manner so as to minimize equipment downtime and lost production.
- Optimize the ESP/VFD equipment performance so as to maximize the production rates from the wells at all times.
- Handle or facilitate the servicing and repair needs of the ESP/VFD equipment.
- Troubleshoot equipment malfunctions and operational problems.
- Perform preventative maintenance checks on the ESP/VFD equipment in accordance with the Dove Energy Preventative Maintenance Program.
- Gather operational data and enter into the reporting system as often as deemed necessary.
- Closely monitor well and equipment performance and report any variance from the normal operating conditions.
- Report immediately to the Maintenance Supervisor all safety issues, equipment malfunctions, and changes in equipment operating conditions, that could potentially interfere with the safety of the on-site personnel, and production volumes.
- Monitor and maintain the ESP/VFD spare parts inventory as required.
- Strive to keep equipment repair and replacement costs to a minimum.
- Recommend to management equipment changes or modifications that could improve the field operations.

Qualifications and Experience Preferred

- Yemeni Nationals.
- A degree in a relevant discipline and or related experience.
- 7 years ESP experiences, preferably in the Oil and Gas industry
- Familiar with the operation of Electrical Submersible pumps and be a qualified Electrician or Mechanical Technician
- Good oral and written skills in both English & Arabic languages.
- Good PC Skills.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CV's and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human Resources Department, by email to: hr@doveyemen.com. (Please type the position title in the subject box) Responses will only be made to short listed candidates. Kindly do not contact the company to ask about the status of your C.V.



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Tribalism and Zaydism: Roots of the Sa'ada conflict

By: Ali Saeed

Since its beginnings in 2004, the conflict in Sa'ada between the government of Yemen and Houthis has been fueled by tribalism and Zaydism, according to a recent study prepared by the RAND Research Institute for the US Department of Defense.

The conflict in Sa'ada has displaced over quarter of a million people from the warzone and resulted in great human and material losses. In the recent sixth phase of the war that broke out in August 2009, Saudi Arabia intervened and airstrikes from both Saudi and Yemeni air forces damaged houses, public facilities and farms.

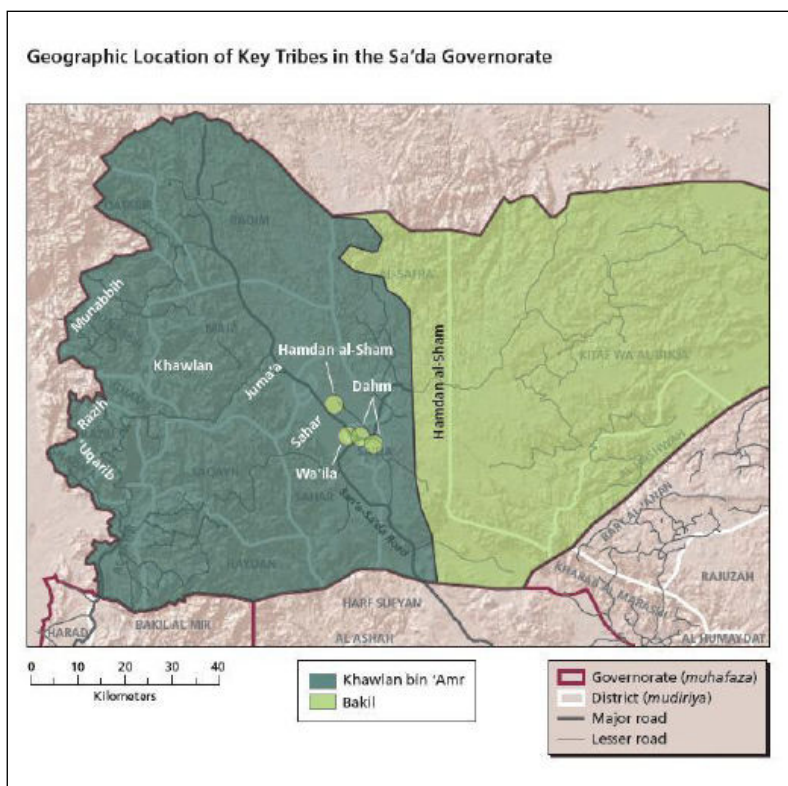
The study investigated these cycles of war by understanding the socio-cultural characteristics of northern Yemenis and came out with a finding that tribalism and religion were two large factors that have been feeding the conflict.

The study said that when the Yemeni government sent military forces to the Houthis' land in Sa'ada, the Houthis supporters in the north considered this as a violation to the qabyala (tribal) norms, used to resolve strife with mediation and preempt violence.

The Yemeni government has labeled Houthi fighters as terrorists or rebels, according to the study. However, it speculated that Houthis should not be considered as insurgents, in terms of having specific goals.

The Yemeni and pan-Arab media has been describing the fighting in Sa'ada as guerrilla war, according to the study.

It confirmed that the Yemeni government sought both to tar Houthis as Iranian Shiite pawns in the Arabian Peninsula and to have them listed as a terrorist organization by western governments.



The warring parties in Sa'ada enlisted the loyalty of the governorate's different tribes, fomenting lasting social division in the area, according to the new study. Map taken from the study

The study analyzed the Yemeni government's action of permitting international mediation with the Houthis through Qatar as an operational pause to reassess their future actions.

It also claimed that the government employed tribal elements as proxy forces and oppressed Houthi supporters in education and media, as it closed Zaydi schools and mosques.

The study indicated that the state justified its actions by portraying Houthis as anti-republicans who wished to restore the imam rule, ended in 1962.

As to the military, the government focused on the physical elimination of Houthis principles and the destruction of the region of Sa'ada.

It also said that the Yemeni govern-

ment considered Houthis as foreign supported imamists, threatening Yemen's republican nature and they have internationalized the conflict, by portraying Houthis as a danger to regional Arab Sunnis.

In their defense, the Houthis said that they are working on rejuvenating Zaydism and fighting for Zaydi Yemenis against Wahabism or Salafism.

The study explained the emergence of the Houthis to the lack of state presence and lack of state citizens.

It said that in the south, the Marxist regime attempted to eliminate tribalism and created the meaning of state citizenship, but in the north, despite the abolition of imam rule, the former Yemen Arab Republic did not result in a state presence or state citi-

zens and this marked the northern Yemenis as a tribal society.

It speculated that the tribal feature among northern Yemenis made it easy for the Houthis to emerge and resist the state forces.

The study highlighted that Sa'ada, after unification, remained one of the least developed governorates, politically, socially and culturally.

Its proximity to the Saudi border and its dependence on expatriate remittances, prior to the 1990's, also allowed Sa'ada residents to develop local economic initiatives, which increased their self-reliance and economic autonomy parallel with the political autonomy of tribal leaders.

It said that people in the north are socially fragmented between qabili (tribal) and non-qabili (non-tribal), as sayyids or descendants of the prophet Mohamed who have social and cultural prestige directly from Zaydis. Other non-qabili persons in the north, such as butchers, café workers and singers, are an inferior social class.

In addition to these differences among northern Yemenis, the structure of the tribes in the north is also not unified, the study noted.

In addition, it linked religious sectarianism to the socio-cultural characteristics of the conflict, saying that Yemeni Muslims in the north are largely Zaydis and southern Yemenis are Shafi'i Sunnis.

Sa'ada itself is the center of Zaydism and some parts of the north are Shafi'i Sunnis.

After the revolution in 1962, the Zaydi elite in the regime of the former Yemen Arab Republic started to disconnect themselves from the Zaydi sayyids. Instead, they turned to follow mainstream Sunnism, aligned with pan-Arab currents.

It said that the regime in the Yemen Arab Republic and the unified Yemen, after 1990, supported the Salafi existence in the northern highlands and Sa'ada itself, where Zaydism is large-

ly dominant.

Moreover, Zaydism itself is not a monolithic system as it differentiates between the general community and those families claiming descent from the prophet Mohamed through the line of Ali who is the prophet's cousin, the study explained. Known as Hashimis, the Zaydi theology entitles them to political rule in the form of the imamate, as it used to be in northern Yemen before the revolution in 1962.

The study said that the regime and Salafists in the 1980s benefited from this divide among Zaydis each for its own purposes. Zaydis revivalists responded by taking action to rehabilitate Hashimis to save Zaydism against the Salafism spread in the north. Because of the state standing with the Salafi spread in the north, Zaydis felt that the regime was targeting Zaydism as a whole, while the regime accused them of attempting to revive the imamate's rule, the study noted.

Houthi leaders, who originally live in Sa'ada in the village of Houth, claim their descent from the prophet of the line of Ali and thus have sayyid privileges.

It mentioned that with this division among northern Yemenis, the regimes in both the Yemen Arab Republic and the unified Yemen, after 1990, have fed this social and cultural division.

Government presence in Sa'ada

Today, Sa'ada is divided into 15 districts which are also sub-divided into sub-districts, the study indicated. Sa'ada has the greatest turnover rate of around 22 governors among all Yemeni governorates since 1962, demonstrating the inherent difficulties of establishing any government control over such a naturally ungovernable territory.

The study said that partisan pluralism and competition created another channel for social division, as the

state empowers some at the expense of others.

A religious and social phenomenon

The study also highlighted that Zaydism emerged in the 8th century among those early Muslims who felt that Ali should have followed the Prophet Muhammad as his first successor (caliph) in the Muslim leadership.

It went on to say that when Abu Bakr became the first caliph in 632 CE, the partisans of 'Ali (shi'at 'Ali, hence Shi'a) felt the latter's claim was more legitimate because of his reputed nomination by Muhammad and his family ties to the Prophet ('Ali was Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law).

Sunnis (or ahl al-Sunna, meaning 'people of accepted tradition') recognized Abu Bakr and his successors as legitimate, whereas partisans of 'Ali considered only those from the family of the Prophet, in the form of 'Ali's male descendants, to be worthy of ruling.

These male descendants became imams, one from each generation—although on a few occasions, disagreement emerged over which descendant of 'Ali was to be considered an imam. This explains the emergence of Zaydism.

Zayd bin 'Ali, a grandson of 'Ali's son Husayn, was killed leading an unsuccessful rebellion against the Umayyads in 740. Whereas most Shi'ites regard his brother, Muhammad al-Baqir, as the Fifth Imam. Some considered Zayd to be the Fifth Imam, and they became known as "Fivers" or Zaydis.

Zaydism, as a doctrine, has emphasized philosophy and rationalism rather than textual literalism. In practice, the later Zaydi Imambates demonstrated tolerance for Shafi'is, the dominant Sunni school of thought. In Yemen, these are said to make up slightly over half the population.

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Bad fences

By: John R. Bradley

In Washington today, many blame America's terrorism problem on Saudi Arabia. In an August 2003 Washington Post op-ed, for instance, Senators Jon Kyl and Charles E. Schumer accused Riyadh of continuing to deceive the United States, "acting as our ally [while] supporting a movement--Wahhabism--that seeks our society's destruction."

But Saudi Arabia has a scapegoat of its own: Yemen. The Saudi government says smugglers from its neighbor provide the explosives and weapons used by radical Islamists, who carried out two massive suicide attacks against civilian targets in Saudi Arabia last year, killing more than 50 and injuring hundreds. Saudi Arabia, one of the most vocal critics of Israel's security fence, is even emulating Israel's example, erecting a highly contentious barrier along its porous frontier--part of a larger plan to build an electronic surveillance system across the entire length of the kingdom's land and sea borders.

Yet this strategy is unlikely to succeed. Yemeni smugglers moving arms and explosives are already developing creative ways to evade Saudi controls. And, for the crackdown to be effective in stopping the weapons trade, Riyadh will need the cooperation of the Yemeni government, which is not likely to be forthcoming. In Sa'ada, only 25 miles from the Saudi border, I walked through the biggest of Yemen's numerous arms bazaars, where row after row of dealers peddled firearms, grenades, and rocket launchers. I was offered an 85-millimeter surface-to-surface mis-

sile for only \$2,500--a projectile that could blow through a building. Anti-aircraft missiles, the type of weapon fired at an Israeli jetliner in Kenya last year, were no longer on display, but, when I asked a few dealers, they told me these heavy weapons were still available--for the right price. "There is complete freedom here," a Sa'ada local said proudly. "Anyone can buy whatever they like, as long as they have enough money."

The smuggling of drugs, alcohol, luxury goods, and arms across the mountainous, sparsely populated, and largely unmarked Saudi-Yemen frontier has been a problem for years. Enmity between the two countries has only made it harder to stop. Saudi Arabia has a history of supporting disaffected Yemenis, in an effort to destabilize a country Riyadh sees as a security threat because of its large population and strategic location. When Yemen was divided into two nations during the cold war, opposition to unification became a stated Saudi foreign policy objective. When Yemen unification took place nonetheless in 1990, the Saudis increased clandestine funding to various Yemeni insurgent groups. According to a prominent Yemeni journalist, many tribal leaders in Yemen opposed to the central government in Sanaa remain on the Al Saud payroll. And the two countries have continued to squabble over how to demarcate their shared border. This conflict peaked in the early '90s, resulting in border clashes in 1994. Three Yemeni soldiers were killed by the Saudis in border skirmishes as recently as 1998, and, despite an agreement reached by the two nations in 2000, resentment

lingers.

In recent years, cross-border smuggling has grown more prevalent and violent. Between March 2002 and February 2003, 36 Saudi border guards were killed in Jizan, a Saudi frontier town. And these arms are now going to terrorist groups. The Saudi media have reported that the perpetrators of a series of recent terrorist attacks inside the kingdom used explosives smuggled in from Yemen. Since the May 12 bombings, Saudi border patrols have seized weapons and explosives in large quantities on a daily basis, including more than 90,000 rounds of ammunition, dozens of grenades, more than 2,000 sticks of dynamite, and hundreds of bazookas.

Worried, the Saudi government is beefing up border protection. Saudi Interior Minister Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz recently told Arab journalists that Riyadh constantly pressures Yemen to police the frontier more seriously. Not content to rely on Yemeni cooperation, Riyadh is also building a border-surveillance system. The project, which will include fences, cameras, and other electronic-detection equipment designed to prevent vehicles from crossing the frontier, has quietly been in the planning stages for several years. According to a recent report in the Paris daily *Le Figaro*, the French aerospace group Thales is "on the verge" of being awarded the contract to oversee construction of the system--a contract said by *Le Figaro* to be worth up to \$8.75 billion.

But the border crackdown isn't likely to work. The history of Saudi-Yemeni enmity makes the Yemen government wary of working with Riyadh, espe-

cially on border issues. In fact, this week, a Yemeni delegation arrived in Riyadh for emergency talks about the fence, after the Yemenis submitted an official complaint to the Saudi government. The 2000 treaty demarcating the common border stated that twelve miles on either side of the border should be neutral territory. Yemen's complaint states that, by building the wall in the middle of that territory, Saudi Arabia is effectively confiscating this neutral land. Ordinary Yemenis I spoke with in Sa'ada share the government's anger: They even still bitterly refer to Najran and Abha, two towns inside Saudi Arabia that used to have close links with Yemen before a 1934 border war, as Yemeni cities.

Yemeni tribes who straddle the border and oppose its fencing-off have already started to flex their muscles, attacking workers building demarcation posts. A prominent leader of the Wayilah tribe last week told *The Yemen Times* newspaper that up to 3,000 tribesmen "are ready to fight any time if Saudi Arabia doesn't remove what they have built in our country." Meanwhile, long-repressed Saudi Shia living in the border region near Yemen have little desire to assist their own central government. In the southern city of Najran, Shia have revolted over the arrest of a local imam trumped-up charges of "sorcery," and dozens of other protests have recently occurred across the south.

Many Yemenis are furious that Saudi Arabia is pinning so much of the blame for terrorism on them. Though Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has strong ancestral ties to Yemen, and many Al Qaeda operatives come from

there, Saudi Arabia itself is a source of ideological inspiration and financial support for Yemen-based militants. They receive much of their funding from Saudi sources; many are products of the Saudi education system, which breeds extremism; and several work closely with Saudi-born terrorists. Al Qaeda's leader in Yemen, Saudi-born and -educated Mohammed Hamdi Al Ahdal, who was arrested last year, is a case in point. He has revealed under interrogation that both Saudis and Yemenis were involved in funding two major terrorist attacks in Yemen--against the USS Cole in October 2000, which killed 17 American sailors, and against the French supertanker Limburg in October 2002.

And the writ of Yemen's central government doesn't travel far. Yemen has scored some recent successes--with assistance from Washington. In November 2002, Yemen looked the other way while the CIA used a remote-controlled missile strike to kill a top leader of Al Qaeda, Qaed Salim Sinan Al Harethi, while he was driving near Marib, east of Sanaa. The Yemeni government has also rounded up hundreds of militants, and some urban roads inside Yemen contain many army checkpoints. Still, since outside major cities Yemen remains a largely lawless country, where all males past puberty openly bear arms, Yemen's arms bazaars are hard to shut down. In Sa'ada, rows of arms shops attract thousands of buyers each day, and overall there are an estimated 60 million weapons in Yemen, a country of 20 million people. On open display in the bazaars are weapons from China, Russia, Belgium, Spain, and even Israel--a

country Yemen doesn't recognize. Worse, during a brief 1994 civil war, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who is still in power, paid tribal leaders to ensure their support, which brought him a swift victory. Tribal leaders in rural areas, whose support Saleh still needs, fear that giving up arms will mean being marginalized from political life, so they are unwilling to close down weapons souks. To do so, Saleh fears, might provoke a popular uprising: Ibrahim Al Hamdy, a former Yemeni president, was assassinated in 1977 in what many believe was a plot by tribal leaders angered by government involvement in their affairs.

At the same time, smugglers are becoming more inventive. Saudi security officials say donkeys have been trained to carry gunrunners along narrow mountain trails across the border. The animals have become expert at crossing and recrossing the border on their own. And, though the United States has been training the Yemeni Coast Guard, paying \$55 million to provide them with high-tech speedboats and other equipment and training, neither the Saudis nor the Yemenis have been able to stop trade in contraband by sea. Small ships continue to unload illicit goods at dozens of tiny islands off the Saudi coast and then move these items onto even smaller boats that slip undetected onto the mainland. It will take more than a fence to stop them.

John R. Bradley, former editor of the Jeddah-based Arab News, is author of the forthcoming book Saudi Arabia Exposed: Princes, Paupers and Puritans in the Wahhabi Kingdom.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula: A primer

What you need to know about the organization that gave us the Christmas bomber.

By: Michelle Shephard

On a February morning in 2006, as Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, was jolted awake by the calls to prayer from the city's mosques, 23 Yemeni prisoners crawled their way to freedom.

They had spent weeks patiently digging a 140-foot tunnel that would extend from their basement prison cell to a nearby mosque. Among the escapees were Jamal al-Badawi, the alleged mastermind of the 2000 USS Cole bombing that killed 17 American sail-

ors, and Jaber al-Banna, a Yemeni with U.S. citizenship who was counted among the FBI's 26 most wanted.

There was widespread speculation that the men had help from both inside the prison and out, only fueling fears about Yemen's revolving doors of justice. It wasn't the first time al-Badawi had escaped.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh's government vowed swift action, and while almost all of the prisoners, including al-Badawi and al-Banna, were later recaptured or killed, two of the lesser-known escapees eluded authorities.

Those men, Qasim al-Raimi and Nasser al-Wahishi, a 33-year-old former jihadist who fought alongside Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, disappeared into the largely autonomous

tribal region outside Sana'a.

In the four years since, they have helped build what is known today as Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, the Yemen-based group which was thrust into the spotlight following the botched Christmas Day bombing of a Detroit-bound passenger jet. Nigerian suspect Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab claims that he received training and the explosives used in the attempted attack from the group during his travels to Yemen.

Though it may seem that AQAP has suddenly emerged as Al Qaeda's newest and most virulent branch, the organization has increasingly been demanding the attention of intelligence agencies. "The group's growing ambition and increasing strength really shouldn't

come as a surprise to anyone who has been paying attention," says Princeton's Gregory Johnsen, one of the U.S.'s foremost experts on Yemen. "Just because people in the West haven't been focused on Yemen, doesn't mean Al Qaeda has not been active there."

In August, the group narrowly failed to assassinate Saudi Arabia's security chief, in a plot bearing similarities to the Christmas Day attack. The 23-year-old suicide bomber was on a Saudi most wanted list but managed to persuade officials that he was ready to repent and surrender directly to Prince Mohammed bin Nayef. He was even brought to see Nayef aboard the prince's private plane, apparently concealing the bomb in his rectum.

The bomber was the only one killed when the explosives were detonated (reportedly by a cell phone, but accounts of the attack have varied). He did, however, manage to get close enough to injure Nayef in the blast.

Yemen has had a long and complicated relationship with Al Qaeda, stemming back to the late 1980s when Arab veterans of the war against the Soviets in Afghanistan were welcomed back as heroes. In the conservative country, where bin Laden remains a popular figure, Saleh's government has always understood the importance of cooperating with Islamic leaders, and keeping the Arab-Afghan jihadists close. In 1994, four years after Saleh was proclaimed the president of the newly unified north and south, many of those fighters were dispatched to stop a southern attempt to separate.

President Saleh was, however, among the first foreign leaders to pledge his support to the Bush administration following the 9/11 attacks--a position he made clear during a November 2001 visit to Washington. A year later, an unmanned CIA drone killed the head of Yemen's Al Qaeda branch. Shortly thereafter, his replacement was arrested. While Saleh paid a high price at home for allowing the U.S. strike, the loss of the group's leaders, in addition to the war in Iraq

that attracted hundreds of Yemeni jihadists, made it appear in 2003 as if Al Qaeda had been largely defeated in the country.

But three years later, al-Wahishi took advantage of the lapsed vigilance by the American and Yemeni forces and built his group. As Saleh's government tried to quell a northern insurgency and a secession movement in the south (still regarded in Yemen as far greater threats to the country's stability than Al Qaeda), al-Wahishi's group waged attacks on local oil and gas facilities.

In June 2007, a suicide bomber targeted Spanish tourists, and six months later two Belgians were killed when gunmen ambushed their vehicles. A series of other strikes followed, culminating in the September 2008 suicide bombings of the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a that killed 18, including the six assailants. Meanwhile, Saudi fighters were increasingly bolstering the group's ranks, since many had fled south across the border following Saudi Arabia's heavy-handed crackdown on extremists.

The Saudi and Yemeni branches of Al Qaeda made their "merger" official in January, adopting the name Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula. A January 23 video broadcast on an Al Qaeda website identified the new Saudi leaders as Said Ali al-Shihri, a 35-year-old former Guantanamo Bay detainee who had been released in November 2007, and Abu Hareth Muhammad al-Awfi, identified on the video as Guantanamo detainee 333.

Embarrassingly for both Saudi Arabia and the U.S., due to past praise of the Kingdom's handling of Al Qaeda, the AQAP leaders had both participated in the well-funded Saudi rehabilitation program. Though al-Awfi surrendered to Saudi authorities a month later, al-Shihri is still an important figure within the group.

AQAP represents what many consider Yemen's second generation of Al Qaeda--and while the group may have ties to "Al Qaeda central," the organization appears to act independently.

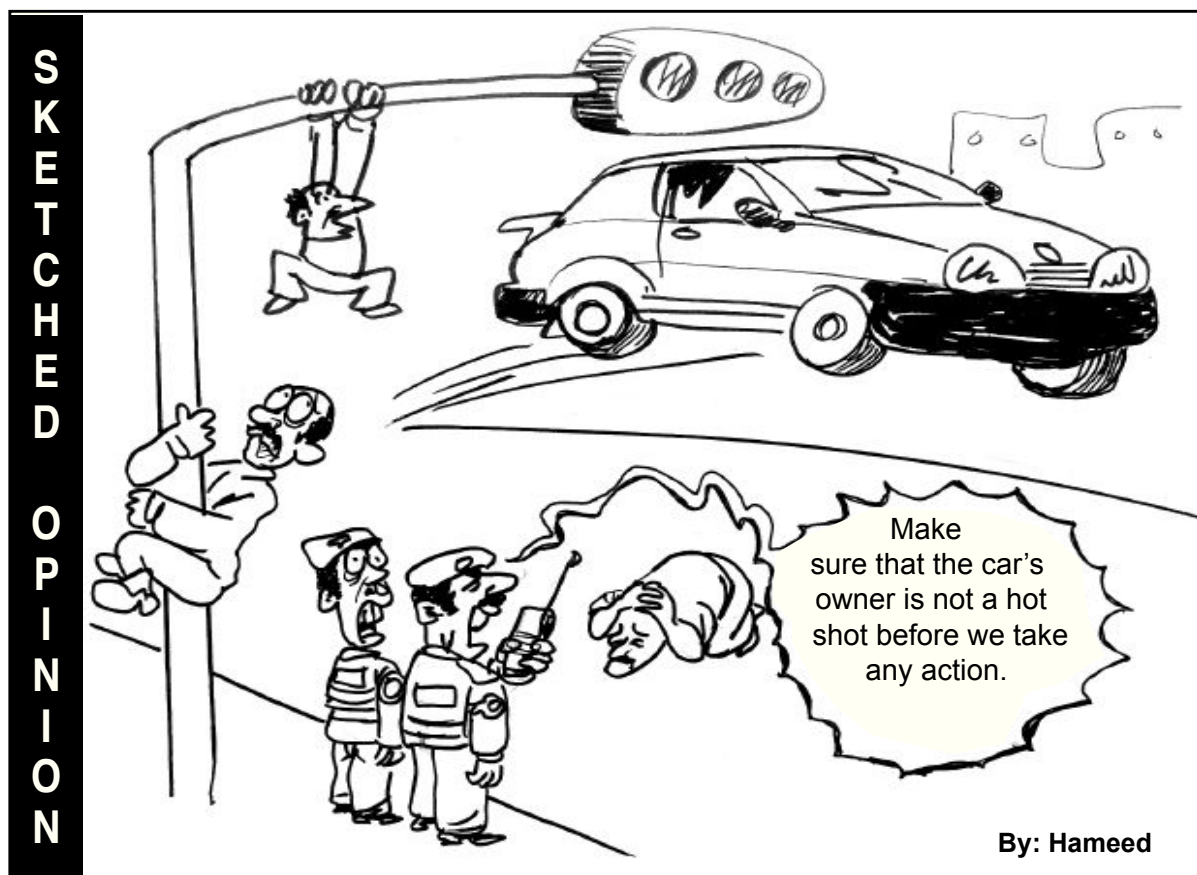
Counterterrorism officials believe AQAP has learned from its recent past and built an organization that can withstand the loss of its leadership. Savvy in delivering its message, the group even has its own magazine, *Salah al Malahim* (The Echo of Battle), which covers everything from biographies of suicide bombers to advice columns on how to become an Al Qaeda foot soldier.

Reports on AQAP's membership vary widely, with some Yemeni security experts saying they number no more than 50, while others believe there are more than 200 operatives in the country. Most of their goals still seem to remain local, as reflected in their statement following the Christmas Day attack that warned all non-Muslims in the Arabian Peninsula that they were at risk.

President Saleh faces huge challenges. He continues to struggle with crushing domestic woes, and he's simultaneously trying to attain a diplomatic balance between supporting the U.S.'s demands for action without appearing to be a puppet. His government also has limited influence in the tribal areas outside of Sana'a where AQAP has set up its base. Yemen's foreign affairs minister said he feared that situation wouldn't change until Yemenis stopped turning to their tribal leaders to provide what the government cannot.

"Yemen cannot really build a modern state unless we re-define the role of government," Abu Baker al-Qirbi argued when we talked in his office this summer about the rise of AQAP. "If one spends a fraction of the money that is spent on combating terrorism, on how to rehabilitate and how to address some of the issues that lead to extremism--education and poverty--maybe we would have achieved a greater success in fighting terrorism."

Michelle Shephard is the national security reporter for The Toronto Star and author of Guantanamo's Child: The Untold Story of Omar Khadr.



By: Hameed

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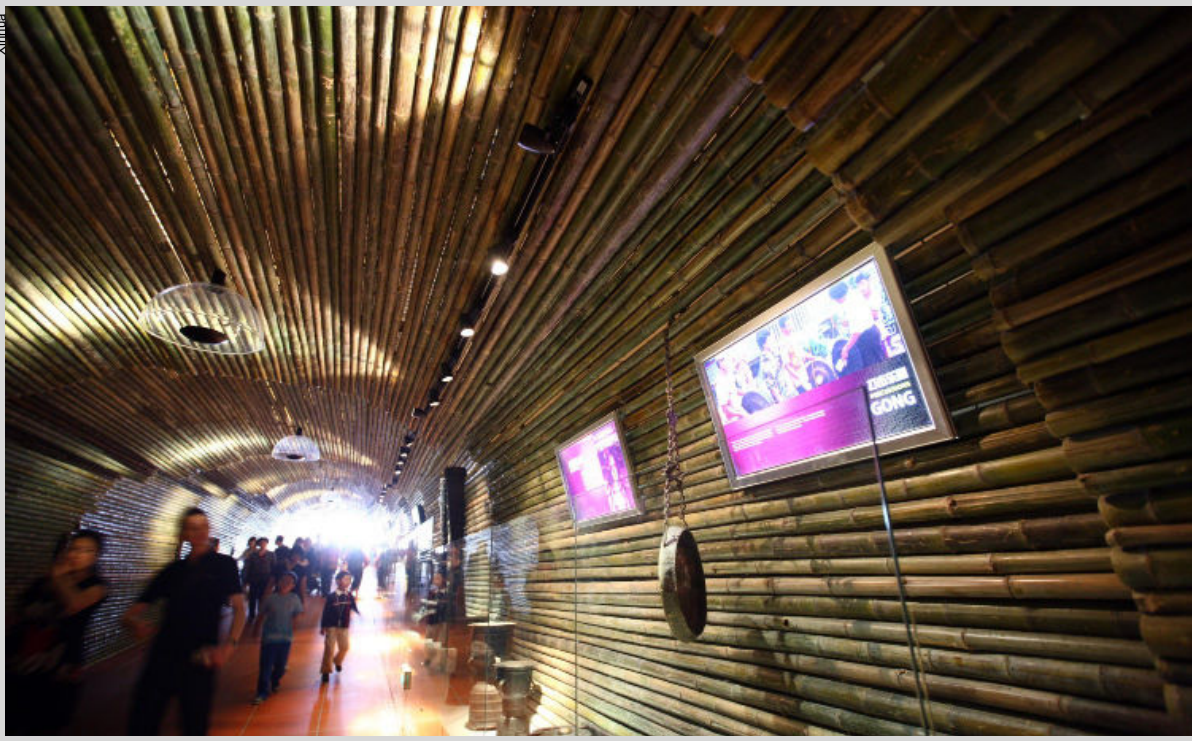
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Shanghai, May 5: Tourists in a passage that was built with sugarcane in the hall of the Shanghai World Expo. The hall was built from sugarcane to embody the idea of using natural eco-friendly resources.



London, May 6: Beside the Tower of London, a child and a colored elephant from "a demonstration of elephants", an exhibition that aims to increase public awareness about African elephants endangered with extinction.



Somalia, May 4: An explosion in a mosque in the Somali capital Mogadishu. The explosion killed at least 34 people and wounded more than 70 others.



China, May 4: A bride from the National Nanxi of the city of Lijiang in Yunnan Province, southwest China, playing in the desert. Between May 2 and 4, a mass wedding ceremony was held for 112 young people from 56 ethnic groups across the country in the Tianshan Mountains in Xinjiang Autonomous Uygur, northwest China.



New York, May 8: US security forces lift the ban on "Times Square" shortly after the evacuation of the square in central New York.



Iran, May 9: An Iranian visiting the flower and plants exhibition in Tehran that opened on May 9 and will continue for six days.



Syria, May 9: Artists from the Chinese Opera House present Torandot at the Dar Al Assad for Culture and Arts, Syria. It was the first show hosted by the Syrian opera since its opening six years ago.

2010 could be the year for an upturn in Yemen's economy

Despite the considerable economic challenges that were mostly triggered by insecurity and political problems in Yemen, World Bank economic forecasts predict a growth of at least 7.8 percent which is double what it was in 2009.

Report summarized by Nadia Al-Sakkaf

To average Yemenis, the situation of Yemen is only getting worse especially since the prices of commodities have significantly increased in the last few months. The bus drivers' syndicate called for several strikes around the country complaining of the slight increase in fuel and gas prices.

However, according to the World Bank's Yemen Quarterly Economic Review for Sprint 2010, an overall growth is forecasted to double to about 7.8 percent of GDP, largely reflecting the coming on stream of the new Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant.

Moreover, Yemen's trade balance will benefit from the favorable market conditions for its hydrocarbon sector forecasted to lead to a reduction in the current account deficit to about 4 percent of GDP.

The world economic crises carried a small positive effect on Yemen in one way as the decrease in global prices helped decrease the inflation rate to 3.6 percent (from 19 percent in 2008), albeit recent months have shown again a rising rate.

However, these improvements take place in the oil and gas sector which drives more than 70 percent of the country's national revenues. There has been some efforts in the past to enhance the non-oil sector but due to insecurity which caused lack of investments not much improvement has been seen.

Ironically in 2009 when the non-oil sector deteriorated because of the security problems, revenues from the oil sector slumped as its revenues almost halved in the same time. This has led to increasing unemployment and many people lost their jobs. Therefore, although 2010 will probably show an improvement from the previous year,

growth in the non-oil sector will remain relatively flat at about 4.4 percent, according to the report.

The fiscal deficit increased from 3 percent of GDP to 10 percent. The current account deteriorated to 11 percent of GDP (from about 5 percent in 2008). Savings have declined dramatically in 2009 to 3 percent of GDP (from 11 percent in 2008), underlining the stressed economy.

A new economic strategy

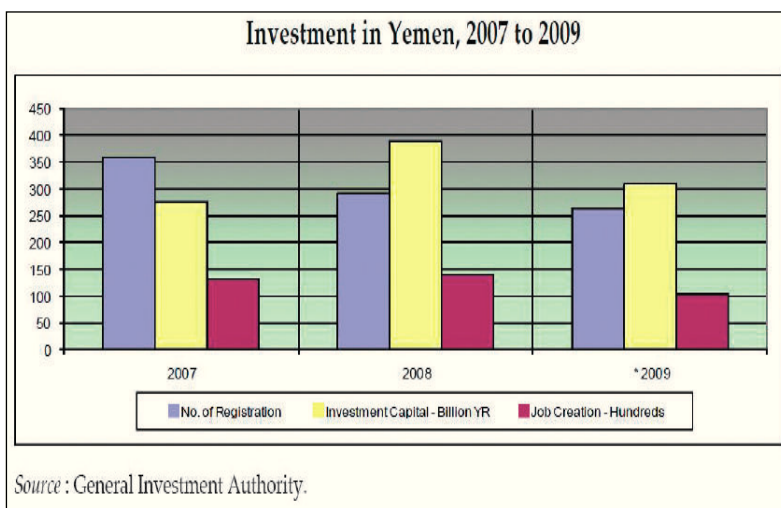
Sensing the severity of the situation, the government initiated a number of economic solutions such as starting discussions with the IMF on possible support for an economic reform program to re-balance the macro-economy.

The 2010 budget assumes a deficit of 7.5 percent of GDP. It is possible that the ongoing negotiations with the IMF for a 3-year support program result in a lower fiscal deficit in 2010.

The firming up of oil prices in 2010 and the full operation of the LNG plant could help improve hydrocarbon revenues and add to lowering the fiscal deficit. Inflation is estimated to rise modestly in 2010, as global commodity prices firm up.

Simultaneously, to address recent build-up of domestic debt and the pressure on the exchange rate, the government made it more attractive to hold balances in Riyal by increasing the deposit interest since February from 10 percent to now 20 percent (March 29th), underlining the government's resolve to redress macroeconomic policies.

In February 2010, the monetary authorities increased the benchmark interest rate on Riyal deposits by 200 basis points to 12 percent. By late March the interest rate for deposits reached 20 percent. This rise in interest rates seems to have been motivated by the desire to make local currency holdings more attractive and curb dollarization.



Source: General Investment Authority.

Currently, Yemen's interest rates remain among the highest in the region.

According to the latest Doing Business Report (2010), Yemen has witnessed some improvements in the business environment in 2009. The overall ease of doing business ranking has improved moderately from 103 to 99, mainly due to improvements in obtaining credit. Yemen's regional ranking achieved 9th place amongst the 19 surveyed countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The

globally (out of 155 countries) against 113 in 2007, and 6 in MENA (out of 11 countries surveyed).

The index measures the country's performance in the areas of customs, infrastructure, international shipments, 12 tracking and facilitation, and timelines.

The country was particularly weak in its performance in the areas of domestic logistics costs and ease of arranging international shipments.

In light of these challenges, the Yemeni Government is expressing interest in undertaking concrete economic reforms. Given the very difficult economic situation, compounded by the political tensions, the Government is currently pursuing ways to strengthen its reform program, helped by an arrangement with the IMF, and with support from its traditional development partners, including the World Bank.

main factors that continue to negatively affect businesses in Yemen are related to paying taxes, financing, trading across borders, and legal protection of investors rights

Yemen has shown a slight improvement in the 2010 World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI). According to the latest LPI, Yemen ranked 101

In addition to that, Yemen saw its highest ranking in the area of customs processing and timeliness, which reflects the efforts to improve trade facilitation through the implementation of ASYCUDA PLUS (an automated information system for customs data) in 2007.

ASYCUDA PLUS is now being used

in all major seaports and airports, thus covering most of the Yemeni imports. The ASYCUDA system is accessible by other agencies like the tax authority, CSO, and the Central Bank and to some three hundred commercial companies. The custom inspection of containers has also been improved by the introduction of x-ray scanners, which have now been installed at six main customs checkpoints, in addition to two mobile x-ray scanners. Furthermore, the government has submitted new modernized customs legislation to the Parliament to replace the current 1990 legislation.

Even on the financial legislation level, 2010 could potentially prove to be a better year. The Parliament approved a new anti-money laundering and anti-financing terrorism law in 29 Dec 2009. The law was drafted in accordance with standard United Nation proposed legislation and best practices against financing terrorism and money laundering. The new law meant to help authorities step up their efforts in combating money laundering, and enhancing the related security procedures in place.

Rescued by the fuel prices

The second half of 2009 was marked by a steady, but slow, improvement in crude oil prices.

Despite the recovery, prices in 2009 remained below their 2008 historical record. Brent crude oil averaged about \$62 per bbl for the year, about 36 percent below its level in the previous year. Meanwhile, Yemen's oil output continued to shrink reaching about 274 thousands bbls/day (net), about 7 percent below the previous year.

Moreover, fuel prices witnessed an increase in February 2010. Recent price adjustments cover diesel fuel (from YR 35 to 39 (11.33%)), regular gasoline (from YR 60 to 65 (8.33%)), kerosene (from YR 35 to 40 (12%)), and LPG gas cylinders. The current increase is expected to result in fiscal saving of about US\$ 120 million, or 0.4 percent of GDP. Despite the recent price increase, domestic fuel prices are still about 60 percent below international prices. Energy subsidies amounted in 2009 to about 20 percent of the overall public expenditures, and fuel subsidies up to 8

percent of GDP in 2009.

As the Yemen LNG Plant was inaugurated in November 2009 with a first shipment of 1.49 million cubic meters of LNG, the Ministry of Finance estimates to obtain some \$233 million in revenues from the LNG and gas export in 2010. Once the production capacity reaches its targets (two production trains equal 6.7 mtpa) in the course of 2010, the annual revenue

flow is expected to amount to about \$370 million. However, government net revenues from LNG sales will not reach their full level for the next first 6 - 7 years, as cost recovery by the companies will weigh in to compensate for the initial investment.

Although the overall growth could increase to about 8 percent, reflecting the new LNG plant full operation in 2010, this is not enough to actually pull Yemen from its problems.

Growth in the non-oil sector will remain relatively modest at about 4.4 percent, and will remain modest if the government's fiscal deficit financing continues to crowd out the private sector. Improved oil export prices in 2010 and new revenues from LNG exports could help sustain fiscal revenues.

However, a broadening of the tax base and especially a switch in expenditures, away from energy subsidies, is required to restore the fiscal balance in a sustainable way and create conditions for long-term growth.

Yemen's trade balance is an expected to benefit from increased hydrocarbon exports in 2010. Meanwhile, inflation is likely to rise in 2010, if the level of public borrowing from CBY continues, and given the gradual recovery of the world economy, which is assumed to positively affect international commodity prices.

"Friends of Yemen", a group that was formed holding its first meeting in February 27-28 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia will possibly be a rescue boat for Yemen. The group has held a series of meetings which aim to improve donor's coordination and make aid more effective. And although only 10 percent of the \$5.7 billion pledged international aid during the CG meeting in 2006 has been disbursed so far, signs show that more projects will be finding their way from paper to reality soon.

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A glance behind the tempest

By: Nora Saif
nora.saif95@yahoo.com

As a little girl, I often had the luxury of my mother reading to me. We would sit together on my father's big chair, or I would lie in bed and fall asleep listening to her voice. The books told of silly characters, adventure, mystery, tragedy, everything a little child could imagine. However they all shared the same basic plot— everyone lives peacefully, a crisis occurs, the characters find a solution and live happily ever after. One particular story comes to mind: a happy bear family becomes involved in a heated argument. The subject of dispute does not contain any significance, but just as the first nasty remark is made a huge thunderstorm cracks the sky. The family continues to clash until the children submit to their mother and begin to make amends. As soon as the situation is smoothed over,

the sky ceases its torment and reveals a colorful rainbow—a symbol of the family's new peace.

In this tale, the storm represents the quarrel among the bears. It arrives as the argument begins, and disappears when it draws to a close, showing how anger can come quickly but can leave just as abruptly. This truth is comforting for a child unaccustomed to the sorrow and hatred of the world. And yet, how can one listen to such an account without noticing that reality does not always offer the same promise? Indeed I have often wondered why true life cannot be as simple as the bear story.

In real life the thunder and lightning last a lot longer, crashing down and abusing the land. I have endured such a thunderstorm, and I still await complete recovery. Within the past year, I've had to deal with several deaths— some of close friends, others of mere acquaintances. The most recent losses were of two friends, much like older

siblings to me, who drowned on a vacation earlier this year. The situation was sudden and heart breaking. I felt numb to any feeling other than guilt and a deep incurable pain. And yet, after these tragedies, no rainbow lit my sky, no beautiful flower rose from the trodden down ground. Only more rain streamed down into my face.

Yemen has also suffered many hardships. Newspapers capture attention with articles of kidnappings, headlines scream about the losses in war, and the internet scares people with the latest rumors on Al Qaeda. The news brings one lightning bolt after another, hitting the ground with its hateful words. The storm only brings devastation. No one enjoys a downpour that only carries misery. Why would one love the lightning that threatens life? There is no reason to be thankful for the dark clouds that cover up the sun, unless...

...Unless one remembers the end of my story. My mother showed me, through that little children's book, that

God can and will bring sweet healing and peace if people really submit and trust Him. Yes, we have fear and anger in this world but we can also have joy and tranquility. God sees our needs and our wants and He knows how to take care of us. Just as the rain, through its tumult, brings water and life to the earth, so does God use the present disorder to refine people, to transform them into His servants.

Even though it may seem doubtful, these hard times will pass away. And with that hope each person must live longing to become upright in God's eyes. I will never feel happy, since the death of my friends, unless I depend on God to bring joy back into my heart. Life will not necessarily change and horrible things will still come, however our outlook and our actions can increase the speed of recovery. Do not look back on the past; look forward to where God is leading. Focus past the rain and gaze at the rainbow of peace and hope.

Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Alkholidy
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Will electronic books replace paper ones? (II)

Dear readers, can you imagine yourselves carrying a whole library in your pocket? This was the topic of my last article in which I shed light on how electronic books have become increasingly widespread nowadays. In this article, I am going to shed light on how some people, for some reasons, reject the idea of reading soft copies of books.

Those who reject the idea of reading soft copies of books say that the traditional books on paper are better to read because they are easier to focus on than computer files. Reading hard copies keeps the mind focused on the lines and it is easy to comprehend the ideas there.

Another reason is that hard copies are much easier to read than the soft copies. That is to say, books on paper can be read at a desk, lying on the bed, or even moving around a room, whereas soft copies can be read only in the computer and this may negatively affect the reader's physical health.

Reading books on paper is less detrimental to one's eyesight than reading a computer screen, although there exist protection screens for computers.

Books on paper can be kept in good condition if the readers deal with them in the right way. They cannot be corrupted or damaged by viruses or any electronic unexpected reason. People can preserve them in good condition by wrapping them or keeping them in a library. But the soft copy books cannot be so easily preserved. If a book on paper is damaged, usually only some papers are damaged and can be recovered, while a virus can damage a whole book in its soft copy irreversibly.

Moreover, hard copies can be saved for years and for generations. We find thousands of books from our ancestors. They can be kept for years for future generations. This feature could be the same in the case of the soft copies.

Hard books can be carried by the readers without carrying a computer to read them on. The reader can take a book to read when he is traveling and he may read on the bus or airplane. He can also read the book whenever he wants, in the cafeteria or in the bus station. But although soft copies can also be carried around, but they cannot be read without computer.

Hard copies, for some people, are more valuable than soft books. Because they pay for them, they take care of them and read them. This does not happen in the case of soft books which can be free in large numbers. This makes people careless about owning them, and subsequently they may not read them.

This is not an advertisement for traditional books on paper, but just a review of how people view hard copies. Sometimes, those who prefer ink on paper transform soft copies into hard ones by printing them. Next week, I will address the benefits of soft copies. Readers can also write in to share their opinion.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinion writer from Taiz. He holds an MA in English, and is the former editor of Taiz University's English-language magazine.

Happiness

By: Nasim Jamil Al-Saidi
nasim.jamil20@gmail.com

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Then you can find the entrance.
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And shaping your own personality.
It makes you taste the air.
Of fun and makes you declare.
Your real satisfaction.
Of your right direction.
Which will be full of sadness.
And loneliness.
But you try to overcome.
And you will become.
The happiness maker.
And your goals maker.
Cuz happiness were your aim.
Which could overcome that pain.
Through all the difficulties.
And give you all the qualities.
To be strong.
And never be wrong.
It is covered by memories.

And sings wonderful melodies.
That have the tone of our misery.
And the music gives every.
Picture of that sorrow.
Which will end tomorrow.
And there will not be sadness in the evening.
But the sun will see the brightness in the morning.
There will be only peace.
Which will find out a place for freedom.
And it will have hug kingdom.
It will hear the voice of laughing.
And see every1 smiling.
There wont be place for more tears.
Cuz happiness end those years.
And it becomes the main cause.
Of ending sadness because
Sadness was its real enemy.
But this the real destiny.
Which will befriend happiness tell the last day.
Then happiness will be in the heart of everyday.

When hearts meet

By: Majed Ahmed
majedahmed1985@yahoo.com

When hearts meet
Brains sit side by side to accommodate
Grudges grow less in the souls
Clash stops
And hearts no more angry with others
All are concordant
The eyes full of hatred weep
And clear the obstinate spites out
Hands shake hands
Arms put arms around others

Kisses hum
Joy swells in the rooms
And sings a song of prothalamion
So as to create an apt climate
Words swarm to speak
Ears listen and see
Faces pumply smile
Yet they feel ashamed
Of recollecting the awful days of war
But instead they look forward to the unity
A very future of land

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- Supervise and assist to assemble and prepare equipment for installation and service.
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- Prepare status reports, job tickets, time sheets and other similar administrative/ operation forms.
- Monitor equipment, instruments and gauges to assure proper operating conditions of the units.
- Supervise & assist in performance of hydrostatic testing on Blow out Prevention (BOP) and reels during pre/post job procedures including Preventative Maintenance (PM's).
- Assure proper routine maintenance on all equipment is performed.
- Maintain effective communication with internal and external customers.
- Train subordinates on equipment, job procedures and safety regulations & assist in running a job.
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- Excellent skills of generating technical reports.
- Holding well control certificate.
- Excellent English verbal & written communication skills
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- المستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٨٦/٨٧
- مستشفى حدة الأمل ت: ٠١-٤١٢٨١
- المستشفى الألماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠/٦٠٠٠٠
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فنادق

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- فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٣٣٧٥٠
- فندق موفيك ت: ٠١-٤٦٦٦٦
- فندق سينا ت: ٠١-٣٧٣٧٢
- فندق ريلكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١
- فندق وأجنحة الخليج السابحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٣٥ - ٦٠٢١٣/٨

البنوك

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- فرع عنن ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٨٢٩ فاكس: ٢٣٧٨٢٤
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فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٤٥٩٨٥
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مطاعم

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تلفون: ٢٦٦٦٧٥ - ٥٠٤٢٠٠ - فاكس: ٢٦٦٦١٩

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- بكالوريوس لغة إنجليزية - جيداً (جامعة تعز) - خبرة في الترجمة والسكرتارية - يرغب في العمل في أي شركة. للتواصل: ٧٣٤٧٤٣٣٨٦
- ربيع محمد - بكالوريوس صحافة وإعلام - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً - يجيد العمل على الكمبيوتر. يبحث عن عمل في محافظة عدن. للتواصل: ٧٣٥٨٦٩٥٥٤
- وليد القديمي - بكالوريوس محاسبة - خبرة في مجال المحاسبة في شركة خدمات نفطية - خبرة في إدارة مخازن - خبرة في مجال المراسلات التجارية - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية بطلاقة ويجيد استخدام الكمبيوتر. للتواصل: ٧٧٧٤٣٩٣١١-٧٧٣١٧١٧١٦
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Light on culture A dialogue between Yemeni and Dutch architecture

By: Ashwini Bhanagay
For Yemen Times

Architecture reflects the way people live. The habits and culture of the people of a country shape its architecture giving it a distinctive character. But there are also some universal values, habits, fears and desires, which are reflected as 'similarities' in architecture across countries, regions, cultures and religions, which brings nations and people closer.

Netherlands and Yemen are two such countries, far away from each other and yet amazingly similar in the way they decorate their houses, add the element of interest to their interiors, the way they receive and honor their guests and at the same time, interestingly distinct from each other in the techniques used and habits.

On the May 8, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sana'a, Yemen, inaugurated the exhibition 'Light on Culture, a dialogue between Yemeni and Dutch architecture,' at the National Museum, in Sana'a, which explores similarities and differences in the way the people of Yemen and Netherlands designed their buildings, over the past decades and centuries.

The exhibition, which was opened by H.E. Dr. R.H. Buikema, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Yemen, in the presence of some dignitaries in the country, tourists from Holland and the media, will go on until May 20y. The exhibition has been organized to contribute to the European week in 2010 and comprises of over 50 photographs offering a fascinating insight into the culture and architecture of Yemen and the Netherlands.

The ambassador in his opening speech welcomed the guests, thanked the National Museum for its hospitali-



ties, on how cities in both countries defended themselves and developed, the interiors of some buildings such as houses, museums and iconic buildings of the two countries.

A glimpse of the use of stained glass in both the countries shows that there are some differences, especially in context of where it is used as well as the technique. For example, in the Netherlands whereas traditionally stained glass was used in churches, the more contemporary architecture uses stained glass in public buildings such as shops. In Yemen on the other hand, one will hardly find a house without stained glass windows. Palaces, old houses of the common man, contemporary houses all have to have the 'qamariyyas' or the stained glass windows. But the main difference is in the technique used. The Dutch laid stained glass in lead stripes whereas in Yemen the glass is set within two frames of carved gypsum.

The magnificent iconic buildings of both countries have so much in com-



because they were easier to defend from hostile tribes and gave protection against unpredictable floods, while in the Netherlands the skyscrapers in Rotterdam came up in response to the towering land prices and technological advancements that made it possible to build high-rise buildings on the slurry soil of Rotterdam.

The doors from Yemen and the Netherlands, both somehow turn limitations into advantages. According to Anna, today's modern doors are nothing but blank planks. But in olden times, doors were works of art. Pointing to one photograph of an old Yemeni door and another from Holland, she said, "This photo shows the way doors were made in Yemen, where the structural parts of the door were distinctively shown and used as decoration. This is similar to this door in Holland where again the structural parts of the door are shown and used for decoration, although the style is different."

The exhibition also shows subtle similarities in aristocratic interiors. A photo of the main living room of 18th century nobility from Holland is exposed beside one of the 'fadilah' or the main reception room of a wealthy Daw'ani family from Yemen. Although very distinct in terms of the style of interior, in both cases the rooms are

richly decorated. Also on show are the humble interiors of common people where guests are to be honored and social gatherings must be a ritual, although how guests are received in both cultures differs. A mafraj in the house of a rural Yemeni sheikh and the living room of a working class family in the twenties from Amsterdam show the unique ways in which the people from these cultures received guests. Whereas the 'mafraj' or the traditional Yemeni seating, 'mada'a' or the Yemeni water pipes, and thermos flasks show that it is customary to have floor seating for guests and that tea or coffee and pipes form a part of social gatherings, the interior of the working class house in Holland shows that it was customary for guests to sit formally at a table to drink tea.

Similarities in the use of plasterwork in interiors are also very interesting. Though the roofs of institutional or religious buildings were decorated with plaster in both countries, but the kind of plaster used and the forms were different. In Yemen carved stucco plaster was used, whereas in Holland rococo plasterwork was used. As for accen-

tuating the structure in the interiors, lines were used in the architecture of both countries for this purpose. For example, the characteristic of rational Dutch architecture of the 20th century use clear straight lines, like the lines on floors and walls, lines of columns and beams. Similarly, in some Yemeni architecture, the use of lines to accentuate the structure is evident. But, whereas in Dutch architecture the lines are straight, devoid of any color and the structure was in concrete, in Yemeni architecture, the lines were less straight, colored and the structure was in wood and mud.

The reactions of the people who had come to attend the inauguration showed that they liked what they saw.

Thea Bongentman, a Dutch tourist, said that she especially liked the 'qamariyyas', the stained glass windows, of Yemen and the old ceilings which show the plastered structural wooden beams. Thea, who lives in Rotterdam, a modern city, said that "Stained glass work in Yemen is similar to that in Holland, but the difference is that in Holland, stained glass was used mostly in churches and museums, whereas in Yemen, it is seen to be used in every house."

Bert Huguenin, first secretary for education at the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, said, "I like the decoration, 'the qamariyyas', the strong structures of Yemen and the fact that the Yemenis were able to build tall structures and that too in mud! I think the Yemenis are good builders."

Abdulaziz Al-Jindary, project director at the National Museum said, «I like everything about Yemeni architecture and in this exhibition I was especially drawn to the illustrations of the similarities of how the two countries defended themselves.»

Another lady from Holland staying in Yemen said that, "always when I return from a vacation in Holland, I am amazed at the architecture of Yemen, and what I like the most is the people of Yemen."

Wandering through the exhibition, one thing becomes very clear. Like the architecture of most countries around the world, the architecture of the Netherlands has developed over time, changed, is still changing and is more contemporary than traditional. There are so many innovations going on, so many new types of buildings coming up and so many expressions, that it is difficult to represent its architecture by one or two buildings.

Standing still in time

The uniqueness of Yemeni architecture is that, in a sense, it has stood still in time.

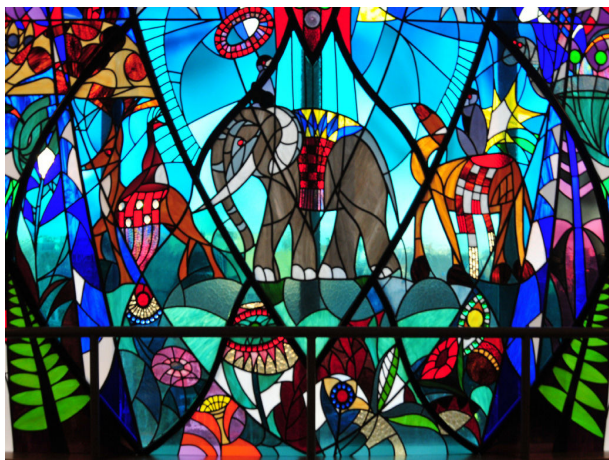
The architecture of the entire country makes one strong statement. When asked about this, Anna said, "The architecture of the Netherlands is fast

changing, but the architecture of Yemen is more traditional and I hope that it continues to remain so. There is not much sense in borrowing from modern architecture at the expense of such a rich tradition! Though I would like to see the plans, the interior spaces, especially the 'hammams' or washrooms and 'matbakh's' or kitchens improve."

The architecture of the Netherlands has challenged age-old social norms and concepts and set new trends, more in tune with changing times. For example, the Spaarndammerbuurt, a 20th century working class housing in Amsterdam, made a statement that the poor also have a right to live in a beautiful home, and the use of stained glass in roofs of shops in Enschede broke the norm to say that shopping can be very enjoyable and set new trends.

The architecture of Yemen glorified social customs, norms and crafts, and treasured its traditions. The Yemeni city of Zabid, the finest example of Ti-hama style, glorifies traditional brick-work and plaster and in every house in Yemen, whether modern or old, stained glass windows are a must.

So many similarities and such interesting differences! Isn't this the best way to find out more about our neighboring countries and to share what we have with them?



ty and said that, "Architecture, which is a part of every culture, changes with the changing times and this change helps to understand the cultures better."

"The exhibition started in the garden of the ambassador over a discussion about Yemeni and Dutch architecture and whether there are any similarities between the two, when the ambassador asked me if I could do anything formal in the way of comparing the architecture of the two countries.» Anna Bukhari, the architect who prepared the exhibition, told the Yemen Times. «In the beginning I was not sure. But the more I read and the more I saw, the more I got excited and the exhibition came about. Though the countries are far apart, the similarities are amazing."

Bukhari, an architect from Holland specializing in modernizing old buildings, is on her fifth visit to Yemen. "I would love to work on one of the old buildings of Yemen," said Bukhari, who loves Yemeni architecture.

The exhibition takes us on a meandering journey through striking similarities and distinct differences in the architecture of the two coun-

mon. The Dar Al-Hajjar or Palace on the Rock, built 100 years ago on a huge singular rock, has become of Yemen's most well-known icons because of its unique form and because it represents the architecture of typical Yemeni houses very well. Similarly, in the Netherlands, the just opened Intell Hotel in Zaandam, 70 remakes of little wooden houses characteristic of the city stacked one on top of the other, has become an icon. Both are similar in their style, in that they look like random stacking of typical houses.

Clever cities all set to defend themselves in both countries have done so responding to their unique geographical circumstances. In the Netherlands, an elaborate system comprising of dikes, sluices, fortifications and fortresses, using water to protect the cities, was used by its engineers to design beautifully planned cities, like the star shaped city and fortress of Naarden featured in the exhibition. In Yemen, on the contrary, huge rocks in many parts of the country proved to be a natural barrier and the Hayd Al-Jazil in Wadi Daw'an, built on one rock is a striking example. In Yemen, the people of Shibam built high-rise buildings

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