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On his 27th anniversary

President declares ending his rule!

By NADIA AL-SAKKAF & YASSER AL-MAYASI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A, 17th July — On the occasion of the 27th anniversary of his presidency, President Ali Abdullah Saleh delivered a speech delivered in front of ministers, government officials, ambassadors and international as well national organizations. He talked about the various stages of his rule and the obstacles as well as the achievements. He talked about how his regime tried promoting human rights, multiparty system, women's participation and he stressed on the need of true opposition. He said

"opposition is not about being the enemy, it is about complementing the state, it is the other face of the country. Unfortunately it is misunderstood by many and this is not helping anyone." He also talked about the international relations with Yemen. He said that we are a country with sovereignty and will not allow any country or power whether be it the European Union or the United States or whoever to interfere in our internal affairs. "Yemen is a poor country, if these countries want to help us they should do so through official channels or through approved NGOs" he said. He continued that Yemen has shown a role model in many aspects; "we proved ourselves when the Yemeni Unity, we proved ourselves in instating democracy and multi-political system, we proved ourselves in encouraging women and accommodating opposition. We solved our boarder issues with all our neighbors and we gained back our island Hunaish when it was attacked. When the conspiracy of summer 1994 we maintained a firm decision and maintained the Yemeni Unity and then we declared complete pardon to all those who hurt us and wanted to harm our unity. Now it is time to play a role model again and show the world that Yemen is a democratic country where peaceful passing of power is done." On this note a number of people in the crowd signaled their objection and some even shouted that they want the president to remain in power. He then hushed the crowd gently and declared clearly that it is time for someone else to lead Yemen. He said that he has served 27 years and God only knew what he had gone through and done for Yemen. "I hope that someone else comes and continues on what I have founded. it is time for the honorable Yemeni youth to come forward and I would promote and side by any person from any party who thinks he is good enough to rule this country."

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has opened the gate for new faces and names now by declaring his position as not running for elections again, "Thanks to all, to everyone who supported and loved Yemen. I will serve the remaining of my rule which is one year and two months at my best



President Saleh

capacity, then I leave it to the hands of the honorable men and women of this country," he ended his speech.

President Saleh's story in power is a story that is worth considering, especially in a country that has witnessed little stability in its previous eras.

On the 17th of July 1978, the President came to power in the Northern part of Yemen, where he marked a turning point in the Yemeni modern history.

The terms of office he spent through parliamentary elections are also one of his major achievements.

Yemen was no exception in the unstable conditions it was experiencing at that time as a result of the international cold war. The Arab region was a victim for the split between the two major powers. As for Yemen, it was divided into two parts representing the conflict between these powers. The southern part was under the domination of the Soviet Union, one of these powers that were distributing the world among them.

North Yemen was not stable. There were a lot of confrontations which were only motivated by illiteracy and absence of information.

Development started in Al-Hamdi's era but could not go for long because of the dispute on power between several

parties. Development didn't have a chance to flourish.

The wisdom of the President was clear in his success in establishing a comprehensive reconciliation with all political powers at the time. This resulted in what is known as the National Pact.

Let us asses the seventies and the eighties from a neutral point of view. What was the then prevailing factor? Was it not illiteracy and the million pieces of weaponry?

The post 1978 era was not an easy one either. President Saleh was faced with a number of defiance. Yemen was divided into two North and South parts. We speak here of Yemen before unity. The Northern part was not stable. It was experiencing major problems that presented a setback for development that started for a short time in President Alhamdi's time. Development needs greater efforts in attracting international aids. There was a need for security and stability. President Saleh succeeded in that and won the confidence of the international donors.

Without Courtesy, President Saleh succeeded in resolving many complicated problems in the period of 1978-1990.

The period that followed 1990, witnessed undeniable achievements. In 1990 the Southern and Northern leadership made the Yemeni unity. The greatness of this unity was in its multi party and journalism democratic trends.

Freedom and democracy that Yemen adopted encouraged the international community to introduce developmental helps to Yemen.

The electoral experiences were unique among Middle East regimes that suffered from totalitarian governance.

President Saleh has wisely tackled the war on terror issue. Yemen has suffered the post 9/11 terror acts that undermined the investment efforts.

Today there is a consensus between both president Saleh's supporters and opposers, in that the most important achievement would be the uprooting of corruption. It distorts his image and history. Fighting the corruption and the corrupted ones will certainly make him strong and consolidate his next term in office.

Will President Saleh's next agenda be elimination of corruption? We warmly hope so.

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International advice to develop press law

MOHAMMED AL-QADHI
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni journalists discussed with some international media legislation experts the possibilities of setting up a more liberal press freedom law. In a workshop titled "Developing Media Legislation in Yemen" organized Wednesday July 13 by the Joint Yemeni Media Development Program and the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) in cooperation with the German and US embassies in Yemen, the Yemen Minister of Justice Dr. Adnan al-Jifry said that the draft press law put forward by Ministry of Information last May was hasty. Reliable sources at the Justice Ministry told Yemen Times the information ministry's draft bill has been neglected and that there will be just amendments on the press and publication law No. 25 for 1990. Al-Jifry said after amendments which include a chapter on the YJS are incorporated,

the law will go to the Consultative Council, which is an appointed institution by the president, for further debate and discussions.

Journalists in Yemen have already rejected the new draft of the press and publications law saying it is even more restrictive than the existing bill.

During the workshop which was attended by experts from the US and Article 19, al-Jifry who is the head of the government committee conducting the amendments on the law regretted that the YJS was part of the committee, saying that "journalists should be consulted as they are the beneficiaries of the law and the people concerned with the development of their profession."

The situation had looked set to improve when Yemen's president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, specifically demanded the removal of a clause allowing the imprisonment of journalists under certain circumstances, in June 2004.

Continued on page 3

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Yemeni-Saudi border committee to hold meeting

SANA'A- The Yemeni-Saudi border committee is preparing to hold a meeting in the final week of July.

The committee is expected to discuss cooperation-related matters as well as the joint efforts for organizing the land border authorities and the border patrols of the two bordering countries, particularly after the increase of weapon trafficking through borders.

The Yemeni authorities handed Saudi Arabia 12 wanted suspects

within the framework of the joint security cooperation.

Press sources mentioned there has been a dispute and a deterioration of relations between both countries, leading Saudi Foreign Minister Saoud al-Faisal to absent himself from attending the conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers.

For his part, Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Qirbi denied any dispute or relation crisis between the two Arab countries.

Development of Expatriates investment projects

Yemen Times Staff

Mr. Abdulhman Alzabidi, general manager of promotional investment, in the Ministry of expatriate's affairs, confirmed that 60% of the investment projects in the country are for expatriates. He pointed out that there is an immense expatriate demand for investment. He attributed this to the facilities that the investment law furnishes. He added that there are great good strategic investment projects for the expatriates in the fields of tourism, agriculture, health, fish and ships. He said that the investment in tourism comes on top of all these. He asserted that the present survey for expatriates investments, in the country which the ministry is now conducting in Ibb Taiz Hadramot and Abian, con-

firmed that there is a great demand for investment, in spite of the problems and the frustrations they face. These frustrations come from investment related authorities like customs, constructions and tourism. The ministry is always following up to solve such problems. It communicates with the concerned parties by presenting these problems to ministerial committee so as to solve them. He hoped that the concerned parties should live up to their commitments by coordinating efforts to achieve this goal. He confirmed that there is a continuous coordination between the Ministry and the General Authority for investment. He invited businessmen for more investment, especially the Yemenis who are regarded to be the wealthiest of the international businessmen.

Human Rights Observation and documentation



SANA'A SAT. 17/7/2005

The first training course in the field of observation and documentation was organized by The Yemeni

Observatory for Human Rights (Y.O.H.R.), in coordination with the German Frierich Ebert Stiftung.

The course was for four days. During this time the participants

were trained in a number of skills. They also attended important lectures on Human Rights documentation, and how to deal with them.

Some concerned people and media people have also attended lectures conducted by expert trainers.

Some of the subjects that were

Readers' Voice

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

This edition's question:

After 27 years in power, do you think president Saleh's achievements are satisfactory?

Yes
No
I don't know

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tackled were the categorization of rights according to the international Human Rights charters, and the categorization of Human Rights according to the Yemeni legislations.

The method of design and formation of forms for observation was also tackled.

Participants also received field training that they will benefit from in their observing of Human Rights.

Due to lack of insulin

Diabetics' lives put at risk

TAIZ- Diabetics from different classes in Taiz Governorate experience a constant suffering and their lives are put at risk due to the lack of insulin.

These diabetes sufferers used to take the insulin medicine from health and population offices for free through cards dispatched to them on a monthly basis.

A well-informed health sources told the Yemen Times the latest quantity of insulin was dispatched to al-Jumhuri Hospital. The quantity, offered to the hospital two months ago, comprises 165 vials for 422 patients.

Diabetics usually go the hospital for

insulin and can not get any due to the limited quantity and this threatens their lives.

The same source stated the Ministry of Public Health and Population and the Aden-based Regional Office intend to dispatch a considerable quantity of insulin containing 1000 vials to be distributed to different governorates.

Only 200 vials will be the share of Taiz Governorate for 4000 diabetes sufferers and al-Jumhuri Hospital will receive 50 vials for 422 diabetics while the remaining sufferers will fall prey to the epidemic.

YSP to hold fifth conference

By HASSAN AL-ZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) is expected to stage its fifth general conference on July 26. The event is due to last for three days.

The conference is due to be attended by around two thousand representatives from different Yemeni governorates and some YSP leaders who are now outside the country, as well as newly elected members of the party existing in Yemen.

A spokesman for the YSP said it is illegal to deny the party leaders who are abroad their right to attend the conference unless they themselves do not want to attend.

A source at the YSP denied any postponement of the conference and confirmed the party will discuss all the matters scheduled in its agenda.

The YSP will elect new leading figures and any change in the party leadership will be done under decisions of the general conference, the source added.

As dialogue with the opposition is due to start

PGC confirms importance of dialoging with parties

SANA'A- An agreement was reached between the political forces at the Parliament and the ruling People's General Congress in their meeting with President Saleh last week.

The meeting included representatives from different political parties and organizations.

A source told the Yemen Times some opposition party leaders are expected to hold a meeting with the ruling party next Wednesday to set the points and mechanisms of the dialogue.

The same source mentioned that up until now all the political forces have

never suggested any themes to be discussed with the ruling party and that their main focus is to discuss different political, social and cultural issues that are expected to serve the national interest.

The dialogue will be conducted on the base of the constitution and the operating laws and the enhancement of their role in the public life.

Other sources stated that the PGS presented a project for the dialogue consisting of 5 pages, and the opposition, as a condition for conducting the dialogue, demanded the government to not implement the dose reforms.

Regarding what the Popular Forces Unionist Party (PFUP) is subjected to, Dr. Mohammad Abdulmalik al-Mutawakil, Assistant Secretary-General of the party confirmed that he will inform its party representatives to include their matters within of the agenda of the dialogue.

The Party Affairs Committee had a look at a memo forwarded by dissidents from the PUFF in which they notified the committee of the appointment of the third general conference of the their party to be chaired by Sheikh Ali Bin Naji al-Ghadhi, Head of the Preparatory Committee.

A spokesman for the Party Affairs Committee said the committee accepted demands of the PUFF, as the people who contacted the committee are PUFF's Shura members.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the project "Decentralization and Local Development Support Project (DLDSP)".



Post Title: Accountant Responsibilities

- With the assistance of UNDP, get familiarity with the ATLAS system for the purposes, which relate to this consultancy.
- Using the DLDSP work-plan and budget and the ATLAS codes, enter the budget into the accounting software. Ensure that that expenditures, account numbers, activity, project numbers (output) and donor codes are all consistent with ATLAS.
- Customize the accounting software to enable tracking of DLDSP expenditures against budgets and work-plan, and reporting by expenditures, account numbers, activity, project numbers (output) and donor codes. The reporting functions should consolidate expenditures accumulatively by day, week and month using the ATLAS coding system
- Customize the accounting system to ensure the ceilings and allowable budget lines (set by UNDP) under the imprest account are complied with.
- Customize the software to reconcile bank statements with the imprest account transactions on a monthly basis or when \$25,000 has been expended.
- Train at least two DLDSP staff from the Technical Secretariat, one intensively and one as a backstop, on the use of the accounting system and its functions of data entry and reporting.
- Provide a work-plan of activities and outputs for the backstopping for the ongoing 20 hours a month. This work-plan should include, further on the job training and use of the system, assistance with the production of reports, quality assurance functions and ensuring the quality of outputs from the accounting system.

Qualification:

- A university degree or diploma in the field of accounting.
- A minimum of 3 years demonstrated experience in accounting, and familiarity with UNDP financial systems and procedures would be an advantage.
- Good communication skills.
- Good knowledge of Arabic and English Languages.

Interested candidates may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ye@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 27th July 2005

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the project "Electoral Support for the Supreme Commission for election and Referenda".



Post Title: Driver Responsibilities

- Drives for the project and carries out all assignments as requested.
- Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, checks oil, water, battery, brakes, tires etc., performs minor repairs and arranges for other repairs when necessary and ensures that the vehicle is kept clean.
- Logs official trips, daily mileage, gas consumption, oil change, greasing etc..
- Collects and delivers mail or documents when required.
- Ensures that the steps required by rules and regulations are taken in case of involvement in an accident.

Qualification

- Primary education, driver's license, knowledge of driving rules and regulations and chauffeur courtesies, skills in minor vehicle repair.
- Four years work experience as a driver, safe driving record.
- Knowledge of English is preferable.
- Strives for quality client-centered services (internal/external).
- Participate effectively in a team-based environment, collaborating and cooperating with others.

Interested candidates may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

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The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 27th July 2005

Unless demands are met GSOW urges workers to go on strike

SANA'A- The General Syndicate of Oil Workers (GSOW) sent a letter to all the laborers working for Yemen Hunt Oil Company, clarifying all the steps and procedures it has taken to come out with legal solutions and demands concerning the service reward and other allotments for any worker exceeding 20 years of service.

Oil Company asserted the company tends to be indifferent to their demands.

The letter states that the GSOW gave the company a three-week ultimatum to meet all the demands of workers.

The GSOW urged workers to hang the red badges and start staging a comprehensive strike from August 2 unless the company meets their demands.

In return, workers at Yemen Hunt

Continued from page 1

International advice to develop press law

Although in the new draft, jail sentences have been removed, journalists object to clauses forbidding them from being able to 'criticize the head of the state' or 'publishing or exchanging anything that directly and personally prejudices monarchs and heads of brotherly and friendly states.'

The 1990 law bars criticism of the president and lists a wide range of vaguely worded offences that can land a journalist in court and prison, according to international media watchdog organizations.

"We believe the media in Yemen is at cross roads. A number of changes have been achieved during the last few years in Yemen. Unfortunately, the new draft law is setback rather than a continuation of the positive trend as there are things in the law that do not comply with the international standards," Daniel Simons from Article 19 said. "We hope that we make a written overview of the situation and how can the law meet the international standards. We will work on this during the coming few weeks and present it to the Yemeni stakeholders," he added.

During the meetings the three international experts had with Yemeni officials, stakeholders and human rights activities, they raised concerns over the draft press law and penalties journalists could face under the country's Penal Code, Archive law, Criminal Procedures code and civil law as the penalty mounts to the death sentence in the Penal Code. The death sentence can in theory be applied in cases where information related to national security or state secrets are published.

"Imprisonment remains in the Criminal law. Should not it be changed if the abolishment of the imprisonment penalty becomes a reality," said David McCraw from the New York Times Company.

Concerns over a number of issues like the vagueness and open-endedness of some provisions in the law, big authority given to the ministry of information, prior censorship on

printing press and others were raised during the event that saw heated open debates by a host for journalists. Some of them went to call for abolishing the ministry of information, the press law and the press prosecution, demanding liberalization of broadcast media.

The Information Ministry's draft law is full of other shortcomings that constitute a major hindrance for the press to operate freely, granting more authority to the information ministry, journalists claim. For example, to establish a newspaper/magazine, one has to get a license from the Ministry of Information.

Although the current law No. 25 of 1990 has imposed huge financial burdens involved in starting a paper, the Minister of Information's Decree No. 9 for 1998 states that 'for establishing a paper or a magazine, the publisher's capital should amount to YR 2 million for a daily newspaper, YR 700,000 for a Weekly paper, YR 1.2 million for a Weekly magazine and a Periodical, YR 100,000 for an Advertisement Bulletin.' Yet, the new draft law has stipulated that the publisher should have a deposit in a Yemeni bank no less than YR 5 million for an individual and no less than YR 15 million. "Such kind of conditions make it impossible for anybody to start a print media as this draft law puts a condition of 5 years experience for anybody interested in opening a print media. As journalists are poor enough to have such a mount of money and businessmen do not have experience in media, no one will be able to run a newspaper or magazine" Nabeel al-Muhamadi, the YJS legal consultant said.

The YJS said that it would present their ideas and remarks on the press law as well as the other laws. "The press law is overlapping with other laws. We will present a matrix of amendments of these laws," Hafiz al-Bukari, YJS Secretary-General said. He urged the government not to be hasty in presenting the amendments to the cabinet before remarks from the journalists are assimilated.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with the project "Support to the Implementation of the National Cultural Strategy and Cultural Development Projects in Yemen - Phase I"



Post Title: National Project Assistant

Responsibilities

- Support and follow-up on project activities, in coordination with the Chief Technical Advisor (CTA).
- Prepare documents in both Arabic and English languages and organise meetings in the framework of the preparation of projects and activities.
- Assist the CTA in his functions as required, organize and follow-up on meetings (round tables, CTA visits, negotiations, etc.) organized by the Project, by acting as a Reporter; ensure the preparation of documents and prepare minutes.
- Review and translate into Arabic all documents and projects on a day to day basis, as required by the development of the activities;
- Closely coordinate with the CTA to supply all needed documentation and studies for resource mobilization.
- Compile, summarize, plan and arrange briefings on different aspects of culture and cultural development; preparation of reports on different aspects of cultural matters and disseminating them, thus contributing to the overall awareness and mitigation activities of the project.
- Secure the participation of government bodies, and local communities in the selection, formulation, and implementation of priority projects.
- Prepare documents and assist in the undertaking of the situation review of institutions (Ministry of Culture and Tourism, General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities and General Organization for Antiquities, Manuscripts and Museums).
- Liaise and lobby with the office of the Minister of Culture services in Sana'a on project implementation.

Qualification

- Degree in Literature, Social studies, English language, or any other related fields of study.
- At least four years of experience.
- Excellent command of Arabic and English languages is mandatory including experience in Arabic and English translations.
- Good computer and internet skills.

Interested candidates may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.

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Najda police fire at a citizen in Hadah

A group of Al-najda police men on a police car, with plate number (5744) stormed a citizen's communication center opposite to the Malaysian embassy.

They started firing randomly in the area which the citizen fled to. This aroused panic among the citizens. The citizen took refuge in a house of one of one of the dignitaries, because the najda men have beaten him severely.

Sources said that the police stormed the citizen's place because they found a pistol with him in a round about. He accompanied them to his place in order to pay money, in return for his release, but he then refused to hand in neither the sum nor the gun.

(وبشر الصابرين الذين اذا اصابتهم مصيبة
قالوا انا لله وانا اليه راجعون)
صدق الله العظيم

بطلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره تقينا نبأ وفاة الاخ الاستاذ

عبد المجيد عبد الحميد شومان

رئيس مجلس الإدارة لمجموعة البنك العربي

وبهذا المصاب الجلل لا يسعنا سوى أن نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة
الى الاخ /

محمد عبدالمجيد عبدالحميد شومان

نائب رئيس مجلس إدارة البنك العربي - المدير العام

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وكافة موظفي البنك العربي

سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتعمد الفقيد برواح رحمته

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Yemeni female scholar achieves excellence in the U.S.

BY WALID AL-SAQAF
WASHINGTON, DC
FOR YEMEN TIMES

One may call her an achiever, others could say she is a humanitarian, but there is no doubt that this year, Dr. Bilqis Mohammed Jubari, 36, can be described as a revolutionary pioneer that brought pride and hope to her country.

Mother of a boy and wife of prominent Yemeni scholar Dr. Mohamed Al-Maitami, Mrs. Bilqis has demonstrated that Yemeni women can achieve excellence when given the opportunity. By receiving the 2005 Family Counseling Program's certification distinction with honor from the Towson University in Maryland, the USA, Bilqis has a lot to feel proud of.

Her dedication at work and passion in caring for others are among the things in which she believed. As a scholar, a mother, and a community leader, by winning this certificate Bilqis has opened the eyes of the American community to the potential of Arab and Muslim women. In fact, her impact was widely felt by the Glenwood Life Counseling Center where she worked to the degree that the management asked her to stay and join the staff as permanent member. Yet, despite the attractive offer, she declined it for one noble reason. "I want to come back to my home country to help Yemeni women who are in much greater need for my professional expertise," she said.

For the last year, Bilqis has been practicing her knowledge and using her expertise at Baltimore's Glenwood Life Counseling Center, which is among the most prominent counseling centers in the state of Maryland, and arguably the whole country. During her time there, she had passionately assisted in the recovery of eight patients with psychological disorders caused by the excessive use of narcotics and drugs for about 20 years. She was able to help six of them regain their lives after a rehabilitation process in a record time of less than a year. Thanks to her, the five patients have embraced life again and gradually turning to be active citizens. Her unique skills and talents have made her a distinguished mem-



Dr. Bilqis Mohammed Jubari

ber of the Center and resulted in requests by the management that she stays.

A successful mother herself, Bilqis believes in her ability to prove all those doubters in the abilities of Yemeni woman wrong. Coming from a traditional and conservative Muslim background, Bilqis has demonstrated that Yemeni women can serve their community as well as their families. Looking at the history of Bilqis, one can easily find the marks of a dedicated hard working individual directly influenced by the love of learning and teaching others. She taught English language in a preliminary school in Sanaa before she moved up in the hierarchy to become a researcher at the Yemeni Center for Studies and Research at Sanaa University. With the support and motivation she received from her husband, she climbed up the ladder to become a prominent Professor of Psychology at the Faculty of Arts in Sanaa University, to which she is still affiliated today.

Pursuing academic excellence and being a female pioneer have always been a mark of her academic career ever since she received her BA and MA in Psychology from Sanaa University, all with honor degrees. Her Ph.D. thesis was on 'Marital Adjustment and its Relation to Parental Dealing with Children and

Children's Psychological Health', which gave her a distinction degree with honor from Sanaa University in 2003.

It would have been very difficult to predict that a woman born in the town of Dhamar, known for its strict Islamic and conservative traditions, is now a pioneer Arab Psychology scholar in the US. Many female activists in Yemen believe women like Bilqis serve as a clear example of the potential of every Yemeni and Arab woman.

Today, Bilqis wishes to help her country combat the many social and community challenges it is facing. Poverty, illiteracy - particularly among females-, and outdated backward traditions are a few obstacles that have contributed to Yemen's inability to catch-up with other more developed countries in the region. Lack of human resources is another challenge, so is lack of proper conditions for work and productivity. Despite all of those problems, Bilqis believes she has a mission to accomplish in Yemen, and as she helped American patients in Maryland, she wishes to help thousands back in Yemen, the country where she belongs.

She is one of a few Yemeni pioneer females that will be remembered as a shining example of a dedicated female scholar in Yemen's modern history.

Inauguration of strategy of advocacy of woman political participation and girl's education

BY HASSAN ALZAIDI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

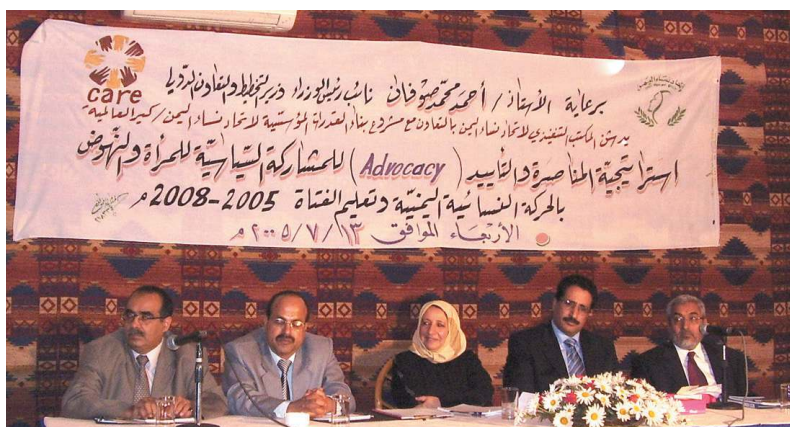
In the presence of a large number of Yemeni women leaders, the Yemeni Woman Union (YWU) and the civic societies interested in women political participation and girls' education, inaugurated the strategic advocacy for the political participation of women and girls' education for 2005-2008. It is in cooperation with Care International.

In her speech Dr. Ramziyah Aliriani, head, of the Yemeni Union (YWU), confirmed that the promotion of women to participate in the political and economical decision making is a must. She disclosed that a future substantial strategy has been inaugurated. She also added that an implementation mechanism to break the vicious circle of slogans to achieve a joint work mechanism that would help implementing the ideal method that will enable women to obtain at least 10% of the seats in the parliament and 20% of the local governance seats. She also spoke of a deal between parties to warrant a quota for women and frame a legal justification, to allocate constituencies for women to contest in apart from that of men.

She also called for an effort to change the traditional perspective towards women, so as to be able to participate in the social and economical development.

Dr. Rau'fa Hassan presented a summary of the aims of the strategy. It constituted the steps of how to contain the gap of educational and decision making. She insisted on the state recognition of the equal rights of women, and live up to the international accords it is signatory to.

Khadija Radman, head of the foreign relations in the general secretariat in the (PGC), highlighted the interest of the (PGC) government in the basic woman rights. This is clear through the establishment of girls' education, and the legislations that organize women rights and



their role in the political life. She said that women are occupying leading positions in the (PGC). She also pointed out that the (PGC) is adopting a certain allocation of posts in all of the state's establishments, be it legislative, executive, judicial or diplomatic. The (PGC) is observing measures in their political agenda that guarantee the advancement of women. It also observes handling the traditions that hold back her natural rights.

Mohamed Qahtan, head of the political secretariat in Islah party, said "Islah backs the women demands. Both man and woman suffer and the earnest political participation is a real defiance for all of us. We feel that we face an immense commitment to overstep our retardation. In our party, we push towards raising the awareness of women as voters. We are also preparing a draft to present it to the higher committee demanding that two women should join the supervision committee. We also demand that women should be members in the higher election committee. The ruling party should cater for wider chances of representation for women in the Consultancy council. Our party suggests 20-40 seats.

We should not overbid in the women's demands, because theirs are our demands. The male and female together make mankind.

Shafiq Murshid, head of women sec-

tor in the Socialist party said, "Our party is conducting a number of functions to achieve the national strategy that is being agreed upon. I think that women's situation was better before 1994 war

Women are still secluded from the masculine community. I don't think this seclusion will help in the process of economical, social and cultural developments.

The representative of the organization of Development of Electoral Process confirmed in his speech that there are a number of issues that need strategies and plans to address them.

He said that for a woman to run the next elections, an intensive effort is needed. What happened in 2001 was not enough, in a country that boasts of being the first country in the region that observes Human Rights. The quota suggestion is not clear especially from partisan point of view. The best thing for women to participate in political life is the proportional representation.

Mr. Abdulsalam Aljaufi, Minister of education confirmed that our community problems can only be solved through increasing education rate and girls' education in particular. He added that Yemen is suffering three main problems; population, water and economy. He added that his ministry has established specialized center for girls' education.

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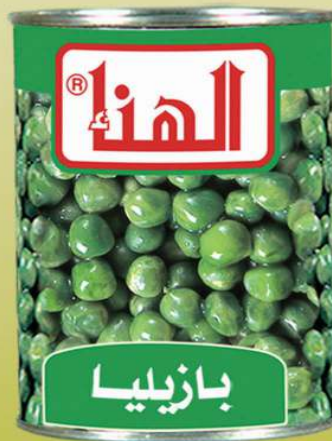
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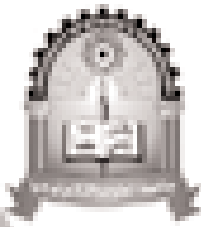
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H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh,

President of the Republic of Yemen

and to the Yemeni people on the commemoration of July 7, Unification Victory Day, and July 17 the anniversary of the President's rise to office,

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نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة - المدير العام

Words of Wisdom



I personally feel that female journalists can play an important role in the presence of women in public life. They will be the torch-bearers because they will influence society, and they play role models for other women. We will help them, provided they satisfy the minimum - not optimal conditions.

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



OUR OPINION

Terrorism and political marketing

Now that the terrorists' trail in Sana'a has been postponed because the Judge has taken his annual "vacation", the case is on halt. Nevertheless, it seems that judiciary vacations have taken a political trend off late. In Yemen, the judicial system takes leave for the month of Ramadan every year, however, it seems that "taking leave" for judges has been related to other occasions or needs. For example journalists and human rights activists have complained for long because of the unnecessary delay and elongation of al-Khaiwani's trial early this year. Followers of the trail were shocked when it was announced that the Judge suddenly went on leave to Mecca to perform Omra (visit to the holy places). As if he had nothing much to attend to, forgetting that a critical human rights case with international dimensions was on stake. Nevertheless this is just an opinion and perhaps this deduction is wrong. Consequently, now that the current terrorists' trail is on halt as well, which triggers questions whether there are further implications to the timing, especially that it is not usual for judges to take their annual leave this time of year.

Yemen as a country has been adamant in fighting terrorism and eliminating terrorist groups. Most of these attempts have been promoted internationally and the Yemeni government has clearly stated its position in the "war against terrorism" movement, naturally on the United States of America's side. Simultaneously, Yemen as a government also has a number of demands in this regards from the supreme power of the world or as known in this context "the strategic ally", these demands include release of Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo and pressure to surrender Sheikh Mohammed al-Muaid who is accused of terrorism and remains in USA custody currently.

Moreover, the terrorists' trail that was supposed to be going on these days in Sana'a was over shadowed by the London bombing and would not have received the publicity the Yemeni government would have liked. Therefore, probably the decision to delay this issue until the international attention to Yemen's efforts in fighting terrorism is secured and once again Yemen's firm stance in fighting terrorism is highlighted. Why not? Especially that the Yemeni government has seriously taken extreme measures and went to great lengths in controlling and eliminating al-Qaida cells in Yemen. This was announced by Prime Minister Bajamal when he declared that "Yemen has been able to control al-Qaida organisation in Yemen", with the exception of Sa'ada crises which was not appreciated internationally as a part of the anti-terrorism efforts.

Nevertheless, these are only speculations and the truth awaits the return of the judge from his vacation to be unveiled.

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From pro-war to anti-war Living through America's transformation

By WALID AL-SAQAFF
WASHINGTON, DC

I must say that I am among the many lucky Arab journalists to have been able to observe and live through the incredible transformation in the public opinion in the United States from a pro-war to an anti-war majority. The anti-war percentage has also been growing by the time I wrote this article. After staying for more than four months in Washington DC, I have no doubt that this is a landmark and pivotal point in American modern history.

Having said so, this doesn't necessarily mean that Americans have become less favorable of preemptive strikes, but rather because of the ongoing war's devastating impact that Americans are starting to feel in their own lives and threatening their own wellbeing. As more American soldiers are dying and as conditions of security in Iraq continue to deteriorate, more reports are surfacing in the media and talked about in various levels. As more spending is made for the war and as volatility continues in the Middle East, oil prices are rising steadily reaching record highs and impacting every household budget across the country, especially through this summer, and fingers are crossed for an anticipated a tough cold winter when oil prices could rise because of over-consumption for heating.

There hardly is any American state today that doesn't have activists calling for the return of soldiers from Iraq. The other day I noticed a sign posted near a bus stop in Washington DC saying "Bring our troops home". American friends told me that they could not have even imagined such a thing happening, at least in this pace, a year ago. This trend is becoming more visible as Americans are becoming

more aware of the true picture of the happenings in Iraq and their direct and indirect consequences on their lives.

Meanwhile, Al-Qaeda insurgency has demonstrated its propaganda capabilities in spreading out its news on various websites and discussion groups all over the internet. In its latest video, which was designed with high quality digital audio and video formats, Al-Qaeda was able to reach out to even more sympathizers. From the responses in discussion rooms, it seems Al-Qaeda has gained some sort of solid existence on the web. This will probably add to the insurgency activity in the war-torn country, whose citizens are blaming the US for the mess they are in today.

The pressure on the US administration has been mounting and not only coming from families of soldiers in Iraq and non-governmental activists, but nowadays politicians even from Bush's Republican party are beginning to question the implications and cost the war has had and some have openly called for the return of soldiers. Those anti-war Americans with less political influence have used the Internet more than ever. Hundreds of websites are now actively using it to reach out to potential campaigners to call for the return of the troops. George W. Bush is being referred to now as Dubya more than ever - Dubya represents the Texan pronunciation of his middle initial 'W', reflecting his diminishing popularity in polls and public opinion. One simple Google search for the word 'bring troops home' will result in hundreds of thousands of pages, most of them criticizing the war and calling it a mistake from the very beginning.

One of the major factors behind the growing anti-war trend online is the growing number of bloggers - a blogger is a

person or group that posts to their own weblog, usually with a controversial approach- who have been setting the stage for an unprecedented flow of new conspiracy theories raising more questions than answers. Whatreallyhappened.com, rense.com, and prisonplanet.com are among the most widely read. Many of the most influential bloggers believe the mainstream media had played a negative major role in motivating the public to support the war on Iraq by not scrutinizing the facts presented by the administration concerning the motives behind the war and issues concerning the mysterious issues with the 911 attacks.

This time is quite critical in American history because it resembles a somewhat worrisome transformation for Bush and may well rise to an unprecedented level. Some speculate that if things continue to deteriorate in Iraq and a crisis occurs, i.e., American forces are forced to withdraw because of casualties, then American President may face impeachment for taking the country into a war based on weak evidence that Iraq was a serious threat to the US, while costing hundreds of billions of dollars and unrecoverable damage in the form of loss of thousands of lives.

It is indeed an exciting time in the US and for many who have been following the poll numbers carefully, there is a wide belief that things are not predictable from now onwards. Simply said, it is a critical time for all Americans, and if there is some person who should be worrying the most about the situation, then it should be Bush himself.

I am not certain whether the future could result in an impeachment of Bush or not. But as the Americans are becoming more skeptical of the war and less eager to support it, I am certain that Dubya will have a lot of explaining to do.

Letters to the Editor

Poverty isn't natural

The opinion of Al-Hashimi, "poverty should be development's top priority" in Yemen Times issue (855), volume 13 is an idea that has to be bought wholesale by every one if for once the political heavy weights, the media group, and the entire public are real patriotic to their soil.

A great number of Yemenis are living in absolute poverty. I think that the problem is the unequal distribution in the economy. Too few Yemenis have too much money, while too many starve and suffer to survive. Many don't believe that poverty isn't natural but the reality is that poverty is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.

It's clear that to achieve sustainable development in the agricultural industry Yemenis should focus on promoting agricultural and rural development.

Food production is a vital source of economic growth, eradicating poverty, reducing vulnerability and generating sustainable living in our society. It is a fact that the nation does not produce its own food but its own Qat, and is not independent since it always relies on other countries to feed its population by importing better part of the food products. The burning question here is why is this food not produced in Yemen when Qat is produced in high quantity? Until when will Yemen have to depend on its neighbours and foreign countries? What would happen if these countries that are supporting us now decide to terminate their assistance? Who would be blamed? What is this eventually going to entail? I think the Yemen people should be empowered to produce their own food to fight against poverty, hunger and unemployment. Let us make an effort to enhance the country's capacity by lifting up the agricultural industry. The times is now for the all Yemenis to seriously address

issues of poverty reduction, lack of skills, lack of employment and other issues.

I was really taken aback when a hawk selling apples related to me that the American apple is more expensive than the Yemeni apple when I could not differentiate which apple is the American apple or the Yemeni apple. This simply meant to me that Yemenis have no trust in their own products and such ignorance needs to be eliminated.

Mohamed. F. Ibrahim
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Are we in need of decorated councils?

The big question posted itself currently is whether we are in need of both the Deputies or Shoura councils. Having a glance to both councils makes one wonder to find out what achievements such two councils accomplished. Examining the democratic societies abroad and hearing an everyday slogan of DEMOCRATIC YEMEN, I try to ask myself after passing years what the deputies council achieved. It is a crime posed upon the people to spend the tax payers money to pay salaries for the members of a decorative council whom, believe me, are members whom never spoke a word in the bodium of the council (take e.x. representatives of hadhramout governorate: Awed Al-Sogatriee, Abubaker Ahmed Abad, Ahmed Hasan Bakran .etc). On the other hand, take the Shoura Council. It makes me laugh having well trained members with higher degrees from one side doing nothing than discussing issues which they know in advance that they are having no effect nor results upon such issues. From the other side we have militants and other types of groups being put in the council for no reason than getting rid of them and paying them a monthly allowance to keep their mouths shut. We need to look for transparency to end corruption, to dissolve such

currently unaffected councils and build ones which are and will have an effect on people's daily life, to stop corruption and absence of transparency which one can notice now, which is spreading to the international community in Yemen in which the late father Abdulaziz Al-saqqaf once wrote upon, which I hope to write in a future date about.

Dr. Sameer Bajersh
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Loving ones country

Personally, I don't believe it is practical to love your country, especially when that love is inspired by Hollywood blockbusters. Your country is simply where you have been born.

It is, however, absolutely right to have a proper knowledge and appreciation of the good points of your country, just as it is proper to have an appreciation of the bad points. It is good that people love the traditions, culture, etc. of their country. But it should only stem from true understanding. The history of Europe is littered with the tragic results of ignorant nationalism (most recently Serbia in the 1990s). Revolt for suppressed countries is another matter. Then your love for your country is an expression of disaffection for corruption, brutality and the like. People understandably revolt with love for their country in their heart. But those sentiments are no basis for day-to-day life. I don't know how every day life looks like in Yemen. But the struggle to improve life should be based on struggling to apply ideas that are universally good to your particular country.

S.Bailey
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London terrorist attacks: many question marks

"We strongly and totally condemn these terrorist and atrocious attacks; and we hope the doers were not Muslims" this was the ini-

COMMON SENSE



By Hassan Al-Haifi

The goriness of a senseless conflict

As the horrible conflict in Iraq continues unabated, it seems the observer is going to have to resort to tension pills as the bloody displays get more gorier every day. It is impossible to express the horror and dismay one is bound to feel at seeing so much senseless spilling of blood. This conflict has defied rational analysis and certainly is the most horrible reflection of man's unkindness to his fellow man. No, that would not be enough, it is a reflection of the unlimited affinity to evil that man will sometimes go to, in order to achieve selfish motives or serve the interests of souls that have lost their humanity long ago and like vampires seek to suck on the blood of their fellow human beings, because that is the only nourishment they can find for their mundane hopes and aspirations. The death of 32 children in the most recent barbaric attack in Iraq has defied all sense of logic or justification and the observer can only look up to the Heavens and wonder, can't the Lord put some mercy into the hearts of these murdering nincompoops, whose origins is becoming more obscure. Needless to say, the American Adventure in Iraq has simply been a bad miscalculation to say the least, not to mention its absolute disregard for the loss of human life (American, Iraqi, Egyptian, French, Italian and God knows how many nationalities must loose their sons in one of the most senseless conflicts of all time), that has become a primary trait of this ugly war, the end of which seems farther than it ever was. The Americans say their presence is for maintaining the security and peace that no one else can keep. To put it mildly, they have shown a notorious failure to do any of that. On the contrary, it seems that it is their continued stay that will produce the kind of bloody horrors, we are witnessing on a daily basis, like the children's massacre. To put it mildly, one is inclined to believe that anything will be better than a continued American dominance of the Iraqi scene, especially if the Iraqis are given more leeway in running their affairs.

It is hard to believe that such murderous scenes are not planned to be just that; bloody horrific scenes that defy explanation as if to try to convince the rest of the world that well, if no one bows to America, this is what you can expect and not just a simple occupation, with a polished Administrator dictating his daily commands to a puppet government that does not have one degree of freedom in deciding how to go about managing the affairs of state.

Enough for the American demonic occupation, except to remind our American friends, believe us when we say that condescending to the Zionist lobby is only dragging the United States into the gateway of hell and eternal hatred, no matter who it is that is behind this wanton display of sadistic cravings.

As for our fellow Arabs, Moslems and whatever they are, who have let themselves become cursed tools of soul taking, without adherence to the least rational guidelines that they purportedly wish us to believe they are upholding, may you be damned until the end of time. These monsters have nothing to do with humanity, let alone Islam or Arab nationalism or whatever guise they are wearing with their corny rhetoric and their false pretensions to devotion to Allah. We know what Allah has decreed and what they are doing is the exact violation of those decrees and principles and thus we are at liberty to state they are as Godless as any devious monster could ever be and God and we are fully innocent of their actions.

For this reason, it has come time for the people of the United States to reassess the performance of their Government in Iraq and elsewhere in the world. Have a heart and bring some sense back into your government! The death of thirty-two innocent children is just as much the responsibility of the United States Likudnik mentality that has prevailed in deciding the foreign policy options for the United States for the last four years as it is of the local instruments which enjoy displaying their ugly thirst for blood in the most gory ways. Have they forgotten that they were once like those children, not having the least idea of why grownups would find pleasure in turning streets into rivers of spilt blood? The observer is baffled by the rather weak sense of mercy that Americans have shown in their reactions to such wanton murder. Believe us when we say that this is not Islam, nor is this the sound way to avenge the death of another senseless murder on a mass scale like that of 9/11, for which Islam and the children of Iraq are fully innocent of.

One is compelled to believe that whoever is behind the misadventure in Iraq is also behind the venomous acts that have become standard TV viewing. The New York Times states that about 800 to 1,000 Iraqi civilians (and police) are being monthly in Iraq, not to mention the thousands who are maimed and wounded. There is only one conclusion that can be drawn from this mayhem: Had the United States stayed away from Iraq and listened to the rest of the world more than three years ago, such ugly bloodletting would not be the source of our nightmares, which we now seen on a daily basis.

By Ahmed A. Al-Hossam
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Yemen Press Review

Review By Abdul-Slam Al-Korari.



Al-Sahwah, 14 Jul.2005.

Main Headlines:

- Al-Eslah Emphasized on Political Reform as a Prerequisite for a Comprehensive Reform.
- Al-Eslah Denounces Pressure on Press and Backs Up Teaching Bodies and Physicians.
- The Joint-Grouping Demands Renouncing the Targeted Opposition Policy.
- WB: Investments are Coming down and Good Governance Structures are Fragile.
- Al-Ahmmar Warns of Marketing the Gas without Making Sure of its Quantity and Price.

The paper published the final communiqué of the Shourah Council of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform Party (Al-Eslah). The communiqué expressed the party's views and stances on the different issues as the following:

In the domain of freedoms and rights, the council appealed to the president of the republic to use his mandates to enforce the laws and prevent the constitutional encroachments that occurred frequently. The council called on the government to give up its intervention in the civil society organizations. The council condemned illegal acts and practices against the journalists and the violations of freedom of expression. The council stressed the need of political reform as a prerequisite for the overall reform.

With respect to the economic situation, the council called for fighting corruption, reducing poverty and taking the advantage of the surge of

oil prices to support the development programs and improving the citizens live conditions.

The council confirmed that Al-Eslah party disapproves the law of wages and salaries for it does not afford the minimum level of modest livelihood for the state's employees. Concerning to media, the council stressed the necessity of impartiality of the public media and demanded official media to stop appraising the ruling party and disseminating the culture of malignance as well as describing anyone who might be anti government policy as a treacherous.



Al-Gamahear, 13 Jul. 2005.

Main Headlines:

- Al-Ba'ath Rejects the Dose and Demands Alleviating the Citizens Suffering
- Commercial Forgery Brings Industry Down... And Endowment Discloses Corruption
- Citizens Demand Halt of Security Personnel Harshness.
- Sada'a Merchants Reiterate Their Objection to Customs's Procedures.

In his column, at the back page, Al-Gamahear's editor-in-Chief, Mohammed Al-Zoubairy, wrote "Why We Do Reject the Dose" He stated that the planned "Dose" the government is due to carry out in the upcoming few days, comes amid economical conditions are so miserable due to the failure of the previous package of economical reforms which had brought about heavy bur-

den upon the citizens who are no longer able to bear further "Doses". Thereupon, Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party has got to object to the proposed 'Dose' for the following reasons:

This part of reform comes within the framework of the reformatory campaign the government has been embarking on and the package of reform turned out to be useless after it had failed to push up the national economy as the indicators showed up.

The reforms program is based on increasing the tax percentage and lifting costumes restricts consequently, the national products would sustain huge losses and the citizens would come under heavy burden.

The package of economical reforms had made 75% of the population live under the poverty line and give rise to more corruption. Thereby, we do advise the government to postpone the planned "Dose" and to look for another alternatives which could save the country a possible dilemma.

Al-Wassat, 13 Jul. 2005.

Main Headlines:

- The Opposition Calls for Avoiding the Dose and the PGC Sets out Principles for the dialogue.
- The Joint-Grouping Leaders Confer with the PGC.
- Ministry of Information Tightens the Censorship upon the Printers
- Mediation's Efforts to Sttle down Sada'a Issue Standstill
- The Join-Grouping Accuse the Security Body of taking Control



By Samer A.

over the Headquarter and Newspaper of the Union Popular Forces Party.

- Clashes Renewal Between two Tribes in Al-Gowf Governorate.

Al-Wassat came out with a detailed report about Squandering large amount of money by the two ministries of Youths and Immigrants. The paper reported that the Central Organization for Auditing and Controlling (COCA) had revealed in its report issued recently that more than 44 million YR were misspent in favor of some officers in the two ministries of Youths and Immigrants.

The COAC's report stated that 40 million and 347 thousand and 394 YR had gone to the pockets of Abdul-Bari Hussen Al-Thammayy and Ahmed Ali AL-Woshally as salaries in abroad for the two guys who work as civil servants at the above mentioned ministries.

26 of September, 14 Jul. 2005.

Main Headlines:

- The General Committee of the GPC Confirms: The Country and Peoples' Interest is the Main Edifice upon which the Dialogue among parties is Based
- The President: We're Keen on

Accomplishment the Reforms that Serve the Citizens

- Al-Gefery: The New Law Draft Bill Emphasizes on Upholding the Freedom of Press.
- Yemeni-Saudi Borders Committee is to Convene in the Later half of this Month.

The prominent columnist Abdul-Wahed Al-Khamesy wrote "Tons of ink were used in writing about the necessity of combining the political reform with the economical reform and suddenly, we find that there are some people have been trying to "float" the political reform and to generalize it at the national level and even call openly for putting off the financial and administrative reforms until the political reform is being realized, this is actually would serve as an excuse for authorities to neglect their duties".

The columnist went on saying much to surprise, is that such claims are going around in our country which is in dire need of the economical reform after it had managed to make great strides in the field of political reforms but it could not keep the pace in the area of financial and administrative reforms where is huge piles of corruption".

Al-Khamesy suggested that the national forces should seek for developing the political reform in our country, and strive to accelerate the economical reform not to postpone it. He concluded that political reform can't be completed unless

there is a parallel reform in the domain of finance and administration.



Al-Osbou, 14 Jul. 2005.

Main Headlines:

- Preventing Officials from Traveling Abroad.
- The IMF is Upset over the Sales Tax.
- The Government Employs New Medical Cadres Don't Go on Strike.
- If Vaccination Campaigns Fail, Yemen Needs 3 Years.

The paper came out with a leading analytical article by Hussen Al-Odainy, dealt with the bomb attacks in London. The writer suggested that the United States of America might not be innocent. He cited several arguments to support his point of view as follow:

The terrorist attacks in London might be in favor of the American president George Bush who has been suffering from the Iraqi quagmire so the criminal acts in London serve as a reasons to secure the alliance support to the war in Iraq.

The terrorist attacks in London aimed at turning the anti-war mode into pro it as it is a war against the terrorism. as president Bush repeatedly proclaimed.

Democracy is never evil guys!

It seems that the media barrage between the government and opposition parties is leading us to a real fix. I have been appalled when I read the Thursday issue of the army paper 26th September writings literally saying: "the reality has shown after 15 years of freedom of speech and political pluralistic system is no more than a superstition and a great risk which have resulted in negative outcomes to the society as this freedom has produced parasites that have found those who teach them how to differentiate between the freedom of opinion and defamation or insulting."

This is a very serious statement coming from an official paper, claiming that democracy has been experienced for 15 years and now proved to be something bad for the society. This is exactly what the paper which is very close to the presidential office wants to say.

The paper harshly attacked in different pages those people calling for political reform, alleging they are enemies of the society, being of harm to the so-called al-Thawabit al-Watania (national established norms) because they are hinting to get the support of foreign forces in a way that will violate the national sovereignty of the country.

It has even said that some journalists whom it has described as childish and

parasites are exploiting the scope of freedom we enjoy to ferment disorder and devastate the interests of the nation.

Hey guys, please note that democracy is no more a gift of the rulers they can give or usurp whenever they want. It is rather a basic human rights and a global value that all nations are seeking to achieve. Democracy is a value that will grow and flourish with more freedom. It is not a garment that we can wear put on or off according to the rulers' wishes and interests.

I believe is very unwise for the official paper to show the anger of the rulers with democracy and the practices of journalists and opposition figures in such a way, though it translated the reality. Yet, this discourse is even against the statements of the president and government officials that democracy is the choice of the Yemeni people.

I know that democracy sometimes hurts the rulers, mainly in an emerging democracy like ours, and becomes a pain in the neck for them but here we feel its sweetness as it enables to the people to question and hold their rulers accountable. This is the essence of a democracy.

I do not know what thawabit watania those people are taking about. I am really one of those guys who do not believe in such a thing and think that

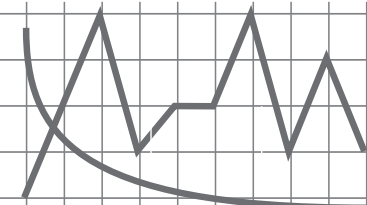
we should all be governed by the law rather than thawabit watania which exist in the air. Why do not we apply the law and order and if someone has done a mistake, try him within the provisions of the law rather than thawabit watania, a disgusting concept to me.

What is funny also is that the newspaper itself threatened that the replacement of dialogue would be "the application of the law against anyone who intends to harm the country, its stability and the interests of its people." What does this mean? It means that our laws are halted and never put into effect which is a shame to these people in charge.

To drive the point home, to criticize the corrupt officials who are not doing their job properly or those people in power doing business, abusing their positions to get enriched is not a thing that would destabilize the society or harm its unity; it is not an act of treason at all. It is rather a job we all have to do if we like this society and want to prosper and develop. Criticizing officials for their wrongdoings regardless of their ranks in a professional and responsible writing should no longer be a taboo or a prohibition.

We might not agree with the content of some of the writings of journalists but this does not justify the stupid calls to give up democracy as it is no longer in their hands to decide so.

YT Business



Yemeni study: the majority of expatriates are from rural areas, 79% of whom are married

BY NABIL AL-OSAIDI
FOR THE YEMEN TIMES

The Yemeni immigration constituted a selective phenomenon in terms of type and age. Analytical study, done by Dr. Waheeba Far'ee, Queen Arwa University Rector and Dr. Nora Ali Ahmad Professor of Sociology at Sana'a University, indicated that 98% of immigrants coming from the rural areas are males and this has its negative effect on gender inside the Yemeni society.

The ages of expatriates range between 15 and 44, and this is thought of as the stage of productivity among youth.

Concerning features of immigration and the Yemeni immigrant and their influences on the society, the study mentioned that 79 percent of immigrants are married, 94 percent immigrated without their families.

According to the study, the majority of expatriates coming from the rural areas are farmers and craftsmen that have not got access to education. Most of them have humble jobs such as construction, however all of them share the same goal, that is to improve their living standards.

The study added that expatriates in Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf countries left their families to devote all their efforts to the countries they work in. All this has its negative impacts on the future of the country.

From the point of view of the two researchers, the negative effects of immigration are represented by the absence of the productive elements. Most of the youth leave the agricultural work, causing extra burden upon the rural women and an increase in the wages of workers as well as an increase in the production cost. In addition, there is a noticeable deterioration in the agricultural crops, more tendency in importing products and replacing the local workforce by a foreign one.

The phenomenon of immigration contribute to inflation due to the increasing cash flow and transfers from expatriates to their relatives, as well as the emergence of some unacceptable behaviors such as raising dowries and marriage cost. This led most of the rural families to prefer expatriates to others when proposing marriage to their daughters.

According to the findings of the study and its randomly selected sample numbering up to 507 women from Sana'a, Taiz, Hadramout, Hodeida and Ibb, there is a positive tendency toward

reproduction, and only 9.5% of the rural women do not have children, and there is still a great chance for giving birth.

With respect to the rate of children per women, the governorate of Hadramout topped the list of governorates followed by Ibb with each woman having four children, and 4-6 children in the other three governorates.

Regarding the educational status of married women whose husbands are expatriates, the study showed that 72% of them are illiterate, 17.6% have a humble access to reading and writing, 5.1% have primary school certificates and 1% of them completed secondary school. A very low percentage of expatriates' wives are university graduates.

In the case of husbands, illiteracy does not exceed 26.2%, 44% of who have access to reading and writing. The remaining percentage is shared by primary and secondary school holders and university graduates.

The study made a mention that the period of immigration a husband spends has its positive effects on the improvement on the economic conditions and living standards of a family.

The houses of long time expatriates are found to be well furnished and decorated. Some expatriates are realized to establish projects for their children to add to the family income including the purchase of lands in the cities and other agricultural lands.

There is a proportional relation between the period an expatriate

spends away from his family and the daily expenses of the family. The study clarified that expatriates could pay previous debts on them and provide the basic needs of their families and children.

The study also showed a relation between a husband being an expatriate and his wife shouldering the responsibility of the family. Wives of expatriates are found to contribute economically to add to the family income. They pursue several handicrafts inside and outside their families to make money.

With regard to the social situations of the family, they seem to be negatively influenced by the phenomenon of immigration, and numerous expatriates have been found to get married to other women. Wives are not allowed to

Exchange Rate for the Yemeni Rial

Currency	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	191.6100	191.9600
Sterling Pound	337.4600	338.0800
Euro	231.6100	232.0300
Saudi Rial	51.0900	51.1900
Kuwaiti Dinar	656.0800	657.2700
UAE Dirhem	52.1700	52.2600
Egyptian Pound	33.1400	33.2000
Bahraini Dinar	508.2300	509.1600
Qatari Rial	52.6600	52.7600
Jordanian Dinar	270.4600	270.9600
Omani Rial	497.6800	498.5900
Swiss Franc	148.6600	148.9300
Swedish Crown	24.7300	24.7800
Japanese Yen	1.7109	1.7140

Source: Central Bank of Yemen

dispose money of her husband while living with her relatives in the house.

Confining the role of wives and preventing them from disposing their husbands money as they like are among the factors that weaken the morale and the spirit of women and may, in some cases, destroy their lives.

President orders implementation of Yemeni-German cooperation mechanisms to eradicate corruption

BY MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered the government to implement findings and recommendations of the workshop on activating the role of monitor units and office inspection to maintain the public money and eradicate corruption.

The workshop was organized from April 16-18 by the Presidential Office in cooperation with the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) and the German Foundation for Technical Cooperation.

The workshop, which aims at maintaining the public money and eradicating corruption, is an extension of previous presidential directives to the government to activate procedures of monitoring the public money issues and protecting the public money from being misused and embezzled as well as exterminating the financial and administrative corruption.

The workshop was organized as part of the Yemeni-German cooperation for eradicating corruption. It was dedicated to discussing situations of monitor apparatuses in the local authority and the role of the monitor units in fighting corruption.

Additionally the workshop reviewed the current situation of the monitor units at the administrative and economic system of the state at the central and non-central levels with the aim to set the suitable mechanisms in order to activate role of the monitor units in protecting public money and fighting corruption.

Findings of the workshop was attended by monitor and inspection managers at the state's administrative system, the economic sectors in all the Yemeni governorates and a team of German experts in the field of fighting corruption.

65% of the State's administrative system units have updated their monitor departments by virtue of the Cabinet's decision No.217 issued in 1999.

The findings of assessing the performance of the monitor units in the light of the field study conducted by the COCA revealed that only 2% of the monitor units do their duties in the required way.

Recommendations of the participants in the workshop included emphasizing the importance of reconsidering the legal frame that specifies tasks and mechanisms of the monitor units at the State's administrative system and the local authorities.

According to the workshop' recommendations, tasks and mechanisms of the administrative units should be compatible with the Cabinet's decisions No. 24 and 217 issued in 1986 and 1999 respectively, and the by-laws of relevance.

From the point of view of participants, the law No.4 issued in 2000 with respect to the local authority added a new domain to the importance of setting a legal frame to contain all the monitor tasks in all the State's units and institutions.

They said the law No. 4 will help embody the international monitor measures upon which the precautionary procedures are based to restrict corruption and eradicate it in due time.

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YEMEN: Social impact of temporary marriages

(IRIN) - Amal Mohammed is an 18-year-old Yemeni woman living in the city of Ibb, 150km south of the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, who says she is suffering from psychological problems and a constant headache following an unsuccessful marriage to an elderly Saudi man. She says she now sees marriage as a nightmare after being married and divorced in the course of only a few weeks.

Amal was the victim of a so-called 'summer' or 'tourist' marriage, as Yemenis call the unwittingly temporary unions which are having a negative impact on religiously and culturally conservative Yemen society.

Men from wealthy Gulf states flock to the country where they 'marry' young Yemeni girls. The couples

spend their honeymoon in hotels and then the grooms return to their own countries saying they will make arrangements and send for their brides soon. They say they need to arrange visas and make promises of a better life when they are reunited with their new young wives. Most of the girls never hear from the men again.

"A Saudi man came to my father and asked to marry me. I was 16 years old then. My father agreed without questioning. Three days later we got married. We spent some good times in the hotel. He left after one month. I later found out he was already married in his home country, some days later I got notification of divorce by mail," Amal said.

A study of the practice by Fuad al-

Shibami, a lecturer at Ibb university, showed that 65 percent of the victims of such marriages were under 24 years of age.

"There is a common denominator between those summer husbands - they like marrying very young girls to satisfy their sexual lust and desire," the study said. "Their prime goal in marrying such youngsters is sexual, with no consideration for social, religious or human aspects of the unions," it added.

The low incomes of the parents inevitably drive many parents to push their daughters into these sham marriages. According to the latest World Bank report, 42 percent of Yemen's 19.7 million people live on under US \$2 per day, literacy rates are estimated

at 50 percent and unemployment was running at 37 percent in 2003.

According to the UN World Food Programme (WFP) 7.9 percent of people in Yemen experience severe food insecurity and cannot afford to buy food for themselves or their family. The Ibb university study into temporary marriages is the first of its kind. It concludes by recommending an awareness campaign through the media and through mosques sermons pointing out the negative social impact of the growing practice and calling for government action to stamp it out.

For teenager Amal Mohammed any public awareness campaign is already too late. She says she is now stigmatised as a divorcee and will probably not be able to remarry.

Literary Corner

By: Abu Alkalmah Al-Tayyibah

The dreams of Nabila, A Yemeni tale (2/2)

Subject Book: The Dreams of Nabila, A Yemeni Tale'
Author: Aziza Abdullah (Abu Luhoum)
Language: Arabic
Publisher: Al-Khaniji Bookshop
Year Published: (1st) 1998

The Dreams of Nabila, is actually a play on words of the names of two characters in the story that Aziza Abdullah relates to us in the narrative. It is also a double narrative story, since Aziza retells the narration of Halima, or Ahlam, the story of a struggling Yemeni woman, who is trying to find her place in the world amidst so much transgression, ignorance and little regard for individual rights, especially those of a woman. The first woman is Ahlam. She is the fighting woman, who starts out as a helpless submissive girl ready to obey her parents and let them map out her life for her. Over time, Ahlam (which means dreams or aspirations in Arabic) becomes a woman that is forced to shoulder heavy responsibilities, of a negligent husband, who divorces her for no direct fault of hers and a father, who is overzealous in his enforcement of social norms, while at the same time ready to submit to his own emotional weaknesses. Nabila comes late in the story, but she is the symbol of all the agony that Ahlam has gone through in life. She is her dear younger brother's daughter, the last of the many children that Ahlam has had to bear responsibility for. Driven by circumstances and her own energy, Ahlam has gone through all this transition from a farming community daughter to a city socialite, yet without really finding anyone who will be ready to listen to her to get at the tons of disillusionment that the hearts must bear. The author places herself in the story as that of a high flying socialite, who still has not been overwhelmed by the nonchalance of rapidly rising socialites, who have forgotten that they also came from the same roots and origins that Ahlam, most of whom have questionable paths to wealth and prominence in the society.

The narrator per chance meets Ahlam in one of the social gatherings for women in Sana'a, where Ahlam has become a regular attendant. Nabila came to this gathering with the child of her brother sick in her arms, but then that is not so unusual for many Yemeni women, who must adhere to a continuous presence in the social life of their peers, even if they are like Ahlam, who is expected to know better. This was part of the rebellious spirit in Ahlam or Hlaimah. Even the sloppy way of how she makes herself up could not hide a hidden beauty, that still stands out in a woman in her fourth decade of age. For five years the author works hard on Ahlam. She got close to her by showing her concern for the child - Nabila - that was in her arms. Her concern was adorned with kindness as she had the child put in the hospital and cared for, even before she got the slightest hint of what Ahlam's and Nabila's background was all about. This concern was much appreciated by Ahlam and she was condescending to reveal her life story to the author/narrator of the tale.

In a privately arranged afternoon chaw, Nabila revealed her life story. Coming from the area of Haraz, Ahlam grew up and married and bore a child. She came from a typical farming family that did not

have much but managed to get by. Her father and her husband were also Yemeni expatriate workers, who would go on and off to work in the Gulf states, presumably the United Arab Emirates, make a little money and come back to spend it, dividing half for enhancement of their welfare and the other half to enhance their social status. Like all Yemeni families, Ahlam's family went through the ordeals of providers leaving for months sometimes unheard of throughout their absence. Only when they all of a sudden return does some of the deprivation and loneliness suffered by the remaining relatives, especially the young and aspiring Ahlam become addressed somewhat, only to be forced to return to another span of time of loneliness and despair. Because of a dispute over money between her husband and father, Ahlam was not allowed anymore to live with her husband, although she already bore him a son. When she was finally divorced, she suffered the ordeal of not being allowed to see her son, except discreetly. Her life moves on. Her brother has shot her sons (from the first and second marriages) and from there the story moves from the wedding where the accident took place to efforts to get her brother out of jail, the arrangement of the blood money and all the other calamities and ordeals that must be overcome in such a mixed up situation. The husband is bound to avenge the shooting of his son by the brother of his former wife. She undergoes a miscarriage.

The fast paced narration takes us now to Sana'a, where Nabila becomes the informal provider for her mother, her brother and her sons, as well as her brother's daughter Nabila. Her father is dead and for the first time she feels free and ready to shoulder her responsibilities with pleasure. Her husband has once again left for the Gulf to earn a nest egg. Her brother left for the United States. It is up to Ahlam to take over the household. She manages to etch out a living for all that is not extravagant but nevertheless gets them by. Eventually, as her mother in law and half brother decide to evict the rest of the clan out, she transforms into another person. A person seeking revenge against all those who made her life so miserable. She starts off by getting some powerful dignitary to get back the house she worked so hard to build up after her father died. She was able to get rid of her mother in law and her half brother. The story goes on with the new vengeful Ahlam prevailing. The author/narrator wants to help but realizes after five years that it is simply impossible to overcome what an ingrained social order has set in Ahlam in her four decades of ongoing struggle. Where does one start and where does one end? Ahlam is set on her wild anger against society, the hypocrisy she sees and the transgressions that never end.

A great insight into the labyrinth of a modern society yearning to come out of a decaying social regime.

The word "riwayah" in Arabic is sometimes used to mean novel, but the book under analysis here is more of a narrative of a tale revealed to the author by its leading player, who the author names as Halimah (Forbearing or enduring) and Ahlam (Dreams - along the lines of hopeful aspirations).

International concern for Official and Public neglect for Yemen's monuments and cultural heritage

By HASSAN AL'ZAIID
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

A workshop organized by the Italian embassy and in cooperation with the Ministries of Tourism and Culture was held in Sanaa last month, focusing on preserving and promoting Yemen's cultural heritage.

The workshop looked firstly at preservation and promotion strategies for cultural heritage with the presentation of three working papers.

Firstly, the joint restoration works by international organizations, presented by Nr Nicholas Astantley Bruce, Director General of an international organization of restoration experts in Rome.

Then, 'UNESCO policy for the pro-

tection of cultural heritage in cooperation with Italian projects in Yemen.' Which was presented by Anna Giuliani, an official from the Middle Eastern section at UNESCO.

Finally, Cultural Preservation and the future of tourism, presented by Richard Hodges, a lecturer from the University of East Anglia, in Britain.

The second section of the workshop was concerned with plans for the longer-term custodianship and care for the nations cultural heritage. For this three further papers were presented; Firstly entitled, 'Sensitive cultural heritage and its conservation.' Then, 'The role of restoration and joint works,' and finally, 'The al-Mareya Madrasa project, 1985-2005.'

The Dutch ambassador and the Italian Charge d'Affairs reiterated in

their speech Yemen's richness in cultural inheritance, saying that it is of 'regional significance,' and that this should be considered an economic resource and an important element in Yemen's development. Their speech also shed light on how preservation and restoration of historical monuments can in the longer term be profitable if approached with significant efforts and investment.

In an statement issued in connection with the workshop, the economic significance of cultural heritage and the necessity of increased support for the protection and preservation of artifacts was reaffirmed. The statement highlighted the success of the al-Mareya Madrasa project

Also highlighted were efforts of the Commission for the preservation of the Monuments of Rome that, under the

direction of the American institute of Yemeni Studies, and financed by the Cultural Heritage Fund in cooperation with support from Italy and Holland, has managed to salvage over 600 monuments of 16th Century Islamic pattern-work at the al-Mareya Madrasa from ruin during the last twenty years.

The international concern for the state of Yemen's cultural inheritance is due to the widespread neglect and disrepair of many of the country's monuments, which represent thousands of years of history and a remarkable succession of civilizations, by the official authorities and the public. Although the monuments and remnants of civilizations that are present in Marib and al-Jouf are well known, there are many others which are yet unknown. It is these that we must rescue before neglect allows these dwindling monuments to be destroyed. There are already well known cases of theft from these areas, which is only heard about when occasional cases are reported to the authorities or when the stolen items are returned to Yemen. Notably has been the rejection of the findings of a visit by Dr Adb al-Karim al-Irani, who with a number of foreign experts, recommended that the people of the al-Jouf region take increased care for the many monuments in their region. In a letter explaining their rejection they asked how they could take care of the ancient monuments of their region when they do not have access to even the basic necessities of life.



JOB VACANCIES

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquid natural gas processing plant at Balhaf which will export 6.7 million tones of LNG per annum. The project offices will be based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now preparing to recruit the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

All candidates applying for these positions must be Yemeni nationals

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All applicants for these positions must have excellent IT skills including extensive experience of Microsoft Office systems. Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English are essential, and candidates will be tested to assess their current level and training needs.

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Story Forum returns under a new YWU leadership

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

After a long period of inaction, the Story Forum (Almaqah) is expected to resume its functions, said Mohammed al-Gharbi Amran. He added that in the few coming days the Story Forum will return strongly into the cultural scene as the reasons behind the inactivity have been removed. "The Story Forum will be functioning under the Yemen Writers Union which should cover all creative institutions in the country," he said.

The Yemen Writers Union held a conference last month to elect a new board with Dr. Abdullah al-Bar as a President and Dr. Huda Ablan as a Secretary General.

Of the first achievements of the new leadership was the establishment of a social care fund to boost cultural activities and promote the literary movement.

President of the Republic donated YR 10 million to the fund when he met the new board.

اعلان

تعلم جامعة صنعاء عن تمديد فترة فتح مظاريف المناقصة الخاصة بإعداد الدراسات والتصاميم الهندسية لكلية الصيدلة والعلوم إلى يوم الاثنين ٢٥/٧/٢٠٠٥ م. رسوم الوثائق ثلاثمائة دولار لا ترد.

Please help this child

By ABDULWAHAB A. AL-SOFI
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Life without trouble is an impossible dream but there is nothing like cooperation for making people happy. Life is full of tragedy, disappointments, and frustration. It is the age-ill due to a damnable germ called poverty. Concealed pains which twists in our chests, spread and increase year by year in Yemen, is poverty and starvation... It destroys our conservative society. Moral deterioration is mainly caused by them. Our good values started hiding itself in our society as we began to further ourselves from Islamic concepts. Rich people should support and help poor people as our Islamic religion orders. The practical and best way of cooperation in Islam are the Alms. On the other hand, Merchants use their tricks to double their wealth. Our government disables to get a salvation for people. We live among an unmerciful society and a perverted government that rules us. The majority of people in Yemen only think about food for today and tomorrow. Nothing else, but to be able to provide for their children's daily need. Vacancies are hardly found. In case people are lucky getting jobs, salaries do not cope with the presently hard livelihood. Many people work at jobs they do not like, even hate, because of the money they get from it. These people have pressing commitments to be met such as supporting, a large family and caring for their children. What I have said, without a shadow of a doubt, is not only painful but gets worse in the following case: My body shudders at the sight of a poor family, who lives in a house that consist of a room, kitchen, and a bathroom. The family consists of a parent; grandmother and four



children. They are too poor to save for tomorrow's food. Moreover, they are inflected with a disabled baby called Abdullah, three years old, who can neither walk nor crawl. His eyes reflect pity and his face bears the stamps of suffering. He has been twisting of pain since birth. More so, he cannot sleep due to a horrible pain in his mind. He cries all day and night, with his mother staying up with him. I was deeply affected by his status. He enjoys neither his childhood nor his future. Some doctors diagnosed his case as oxygen shortage during birth. At that time, it is said that he wasn't born naturally and was kept in the hospital for a month. Some doctors advised to get medical care and continuous medicine that would cost up to three thousand YR daily. His father is very poor and cannot afford it because he only works as a laborer as a cargo's porter. He sometimes cannot even afford his children's meals. I have nothing to say but to invoke to Allah to recover this child and to endure his parents. Even though they welcomed me into their

house, they were disappointment that I couldn't do anything. They are so anxious about their son that they are about to lose their minds. They do not know what to do with him except to depend on Allah Almighty and the help of people. We should feel the prick of conscience and its torture, come back to ourselves, and side with poor people, with our sick children.

Doesn't this boy deserve to get medical care just like any other boy?

Isn't it his right to receive help from the government, as we are a Moslem society? What is he guilty of? As we love our children to be healthy, we should also care for others. Does the government do something for those poor people? If not, where is the Human Rights Organization? Is this child not a human being? It is unfair for the government to treat us like this. Such treatment would make anyone rebel. Please have a mercy. Mercy is an attribute of ALLAH. If there is no desire to help poor people, help for the sake of Allah for protecting your children at least.

Dia French Organization handover Al-Gorafy and Al-Zukeriah project / Al-Mokha district

YEMEN TIMES
TAIZ BEAUREAU

We all know that Taiz city suffers from water shortage and the Yemeni government is unable to find any good solutions for this problem. But two remote areas, Al-Gorafy and Al-Zukeriah, are now lucky to have a complete water project implemented by the Dia French Organization and financed by Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) / European Commission (EC) with cooperation of the associations, authorities and people. This project has been carried out for 11 months (April 2004-February 2005). On Monday morning 04/07/2005, an official big ceremony was held at Al-Zukeriah School to hand the projects over to the beneficiaries. The ceremony started with recitations from the verses of the Holy Quran, then followed by a speech delivered by Mr. Remi Boggio, chairman of DIA in France, clarifying that through the activities that Dia has been carrying out for several months in the area, two networks of 40 km have been achieved, which is a very good result. He said, "We all should be aware of two points that guarantee sustainability of the project :- Resource : Water and the network including wells, tanks and networks."

Regarding water, everybody knows that water is rare that is why it is a joint responsibility to conserve it by reducing random digging of wells and having good management of wells. Here in Yemen, there is an authority (NWRA) concerning that.

The network always needs maintenance, financial and human resources. It is going to be a water committee's role to make such maintenance as they should identify a good water price and follow beneficiaries up in order to guarantee the sustainability of the project.

Dia is going to work with the water committees and train them as it did during the implementation of the project to make sure of the sustainability of these networks. This is one of Dia's activities in the future as well as identifying a new remote area to start a project in. I am sure that there will be good use of water



at households".

At the end of his speech he thanked all those who were involved in this project, especially the Dia team which include Mr. Mohamed Bencebbl-Technical Adviser, Mr. Olivier-Technical Coordinator, Mr. Abdullah Al-Homidi-Head of project, Mr. Bakeel Ali Mohamed-Field Engineer, Mr. Raja'a Naser-Social Activities Leader, Miss. Tahani-Assistant Local Associations, the water committees and beneficiaries.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Homidi, head of project, then explained in detail the components of each network which include: one well, pumping room, tank (160 m3), main and secondary pipes. The length of the two networks are about 40 km. More than 400 water meters have been installed. The number of beneficiaries are about 5000 people in 15 villages. One water committee has been elected for each network as it has received many training courses on different fields such as management, bookkeeping, operation, maintenance and plumbing. Each committee has been provided with tools required for maintenance of the network.

Then, Mr. Mohamed Ali Al-Maqdashy, deputy of Taiz governorate delivered speech in which he praised ECHO- DIA's humanitarian projects in all fields especially water projects in remote and deprived areas. He called for having good management to guarantee sustainability of the project since many

projects failed due to bad management.

Next, A speech on behalf of the beneficiaries was delivered in which ECHO and DIA were thanked for moving people from very bad condition to a very good one. People especially women and students used to fetch water from far places. This hard job let many parents prevent their children from going to schools but now with the water meters water is at home. They were also thanked for the training courses and awareness on health, environment and how to use water. Mr. Abdulgaleel, the contractor was thanked for the job he did.

At the end of this ceremony, Hand over Agreement was signed by Mr. Remi Boggio, chairman of DIA in France, Mr. Ahmed Kaed Salah, Director of Al-Mokha district and chairman of the Local Council Mr. Abdullah Saleh, NWRA manager, Mr. Sameer Al-Shakhsy, GAWRA manager and chairmen of water committees under the supervision of Mr. Mohamed Ali Al-Maqdashy. Dia handed the project over to water committees in Al-Gorafy and Al-Zukeriah areas. The agreement includes 12 articles some of which are running the project honestly and fairly, identifying water price, making maintenance,etc.

The ceremony has been attended by many sheikhs, Akels and people who expressed their happiness to have drinkable water at home after long period of suffering.



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A tribute to liberal France on its Revolution Day

They dedicate their days to us

BY YASSER AL-MAYSAL
YEMEN TIMES STAFF
ymayasi@yahoo.com

France celebrated its independence day which falls on July 15. The France Embassy to Yemen celebrated the great occasion in a special manner. The celebration in Yemen was distinctive to a large extent. It was marvelous and impressive, denoting great human values of liberal France who is still standing on the ground of its historical principles: liberty, fraternity, and equality.

The surprise is that the French mission celebrated their occasion by arranging an award ceremony for a Yemeni woman figure who has been able to make great changes in the life of Yemeni women amidst difficult circumstances. The awardee was Amat al-Alim al-Soswa, Minister of Human Rights, who received the 'Légion d'Honneur' medal, the highest honor in France to be given by the French president Jacques Chirac.



Amat al-Alim al-Soswa, Minister of Human Rights, received the 'Légion d'Honneur' medal. (Yemen Times photo by Yasser al-Maysal)

Consider deeply how the French respect their principles and encourage other people to seek them.

Last Thursday's evening, French Ambassador's residence garden was crowded with a large congregation of diplomats, politicians, pressmen, governmental officials and NGO representatives. Sana'a nice summer weather was further softened by drizzles of rain. It was dark but the garden was extraordinarily picturesque but the more fascinating were the warm words delivered at the celebration. The French Ambassador's speech spread love and beauty with expressive more words.

Do you believe that he did not mention France's merits nor did he numerate its giant achievements over the past period in a variety of fields? I think you know how much our rulers boast about the achievements of their revolutions,

the majority of which are a failure especially in the Arab area.

"France has decided to honor Yemeni Minister Amat al-Ali al-Soswa," thus did Mr. Alain Moureau, French Ambassador, commence his speech. "The awarding is in recognition of her unrelenting struggle to create a successful model of a woman."

He added that the French government appreciates al-Soswa's efforts to push women forward and help them continue their education.

"She could carve a niche for the Yemeni woman through difficult circumstances in a country and area characterized by ignorance of women's rights. She is awarded because she decided to defend rights and liberties and other valuable human concepts being held nowadays in respect by France and all

kind," the speech went on.

He thanked the Yemeni government for granting rights to women, something of which other women are deprived in other countries of the region.

The Ambassador welcomed all the attendants but specially welcomed the Minister's mother, an old woman who came with other family members to take part in the celebration of her daughter.

The Ambassador was proud of women present in Yemen such as al-Soswa. He described Yemen's hard conditions and how many women could make human and scientific achievements against all odds.

Here, we should pause and consider "how they celebrated their Revolution Day." They truly celebrated their Day by bestowing happiness on us. Contemplate how they decide not to dis-

play their greatness and sophistication. Think of their modesty and how they turned their celebration into our celebration. They deserve our respect.

Amat al-Alim: a woman who challenged the impossible

The story of Amat al-Alim and her history need to be meditated and respected. Here, we are trying to highlight certain facts of her life. Amat al-Alim lost her father when she in her primary school. However, her mother stood by her side and took care of her. She was appointed as an announcer at the Yemeni TV and different positions at the Ministry of Information. She could assert herself locally and internationally through her scientific successes. She could realize her dream while Yemen was going through difficult circumstances, at a time when young males could not find education opportunities, let alone girls.

However, her indomitable resolute was the channel through which she accomplished her consecutive achievements.

She graduated from her secondary school to be employed at a local radio station as an editor of woman and child awareness programs. Then she travelled to Egypt and the US, and received high certificates in media. She speaks many languages: Arabic, English, French and Russian, to contribute to promoting international dialogue.

She does her duty well and this is why she is successful. All people admit this and this is why she has received many awards and merits in the recent years from different countries all over the world. She is an intellectual, having self-confidence and deserving respect and admiration.

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