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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Road accidents during Eid periods increase significantly

BY YASSER AL-MAYASSI  
 YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 27- The statistics of traffic administration indicated that most traffic accidents take place during Eid periods as a result of the large numbers of travelers who travel back at their home towns and villages to spend Eid holidays with their families, causing traffic jams, accidents and confusion among drivers, converting happiness of Eid into tragedies with casualties.

Most accidents take place in inter-city highways and are a result of excessive speed and ignorance of traffic safety regulations, in addition to the lack of appropriate malignance of vehicles especially public transportation vehicles and taxis, which tend to operate continuously to satisfy passengers' demand during this peak season on the expense of vehicle's inspection and maintenance, and the driver's ability to work for continuous and sleepless hours.

Indeed, this factor causes the most accidents in commercial transport, as drivers exhaust their concentration in order to create considerable profit during this period. Drivers also tend to overload their vehicles with passengers and goods and sometime use vehicles which are not suited for human transport such as Pick-up vehicles and Lorries, which contribute to the casualties and loss of life in traffic accidents.

The badly designed and narrow streets have their contribution to this problem, especially that the same routes are used by bigger trucks and commercial vehicles which tend to block the view and don't allow smaller passenger cars to overtake easily causing accidents, as a matter of fact most passenger car drivers complain of the ignorance of lorry drivers for the basic

safety rules of driving jeopardizing the lives of other vehicles on the roads, taking advantage of the lack of surveillance and non-regulation of the traffic, as traffic men do not exist on inter-city roads except on selected locations along the highways.

### Yemen Times meets passengers and traffic executives:

Adil Ahmed, who is a passenger traveling to Taiz expressed his concern that passengers may utilize any means of transportation available, even if they can see that vehicles are in no condition to travel or even if they were unfit for human transportation, as the high demand for these services derives higher costs of transportation in turn making passengers seek cheaper means of transportation regardless of their safety.

Traffic man Anwar Hassan says that the passengers are to blame for the high prices and creating the price anarchy, he said the presences of the arbitrary cars that work during this time is due to shortage in the public commuters. He said that if these cars are not allowed to carry passengers, passengers will not be able to go and spend Eid with their families. Observers say that traffic men do not care about passengers' lives; their tasks are limited to preventing unlicensed vehicles from carrying passengers commercially.

Passengers demand severe measures to be taken against reckless and dangerous drivers, even at the peak season of Eid, and require long-term solutions in order to save peoples lives and decrease the numbers of accidents and casualties.



## USA updates travel warning for Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The USA consular section in the American embassy in Yemen has updated its warning to U.S. citizens traveling to Yemen and urged U.S. citizens to reconsider. The U.S. Department of State is concerned of the prospect of terrorist attacks by extremist or terrorist groups against US citizens and interests in the country.

The warning indicated that security threats remain highly possible because of terrorist activities in Yemen, and urged American citizens to take prudent measures to maintain their security and exercise

caution.

The communiqué added "US citizens should maintain high level of vigilance, avoid crowds and vary times and routes in their travel inside Yemen. They should also vary times and routes in their travel inside Yemen. They should carry their travel documents while they are in Yemen".

The American Embassy in Sana'a said that the communiqué is a routine warning for the Americans that is issued every six months, denying the existence of any new information or possible acts of terrorism to take place in Yemen.

### Parliament Member Al-Houthi:

## Security Agents torture our people to disability

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Oct. 31- MP Yahia Badrdeen Alhouthi requested Human Rights organizations and international bodies to investigate the assaults and torture practiced by security agents and law enforcement bodies against his followers in Yemen.

In a Message to Al-shoura.net this Saturday, Al-houthi alleged that the security authorities and government intelligence have tortured three of his followers until they were completely paralyzed, hereby deliberately ignoring all human rights treaties.

He added that the security authorities in Sana'a have recently released three of his followers who were arrested prior to the 2004 war in Saada governorate north of Yemen. The prisoners

who were healthy when detained suffered physical and psychological torture to inflict the maximum pain & distress imaginable. Political security prisons have adopted a new torture techniques that affect the nervous system of prisoners and deliberately paralyze prisoners in either full body paralyzations or paralyzations of specific body parts, some of the prisoners who suffered full body paralyzations are: Abdulateef Ahmed Almortada, 25, Lotfalla Dhafir AlSaifi, 27, Ali Maza'am, Ahmed Hajar, among others.

Examples of partial paralyzations include Abdulaziz Alnajdi Almarani who was partial paralyzed in his write arm, and a Minor, Ibrahim Alsiani, who was paralyzed as a result of weaponry used in air raids on his village in Saada governorate recently.

## High Child mortality in Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A - Oct. 31- A recent official report revealed an increase in child

death rates during the first part of this year and the previous year as a result of lack of proper health care and insufficient use of vaccination against polio in rural areas and poor urban areas in Yemen.

The research was undertaken by UNICEF in coordination with official bodies in the ministry of health, through which field visits to remote governorates and villages revealed that 107 children out of 1000 die in the rural areas. The report revealed that 78 % of the pregnant women do not undertake any type of medical or child care

research prior to delivery because of their illiteracy and non-availability of accessible healthcare centers.

The report warned of the slow or negative improvements in health care, and the need for establishing motherhood and child hood centers in all governorates in order to avoid any increases in child mortality during coming years.

On another front, the spread of polio virus in Yemen surpassed previous periods and estimations in spite of the continuous vaccination campaigns conducted by ministry of health in cooperation with the World health Organization. Indeed, sources at The European Commission said that polio cases in Yemen resemble 40 % of all cases discovered in the world last year,

therefore the EU has granted half a million Euros to support concerned bodies in carrying out house to house vaccination campaigns for all children under five, with a target of four million children.

The spread of polio and the new cases were attributed to failure in vaccination processes and the failure to reach the targeted children; as there are remote areas that were not accessible by vaccination teams and the Yemeni ministry of health has no information about.

WHO representative in Sana'a said last August that registered polio cases in the ministry of Health reached 426 cases, resembling almost 75 % of all polio cases in the world, considering that the official data includes all actual cases existent in Yemen.

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# Ramadhan in India

Although India is not an Islamic country we can find Islam, since the religion is spread all over India with a big, Muslim community. Islam was once the official religion of India, especially during the rule of the Mughal



By **ADEL AL-HADDAD**  
YEMEN TIMES  
CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, INDIA.

Sultans. As a result, there is a lot of mosques in India, such as Jama Masjid that is considered as the largest Masjid in India. More than 20,000 people can pray at the same time. Nizamudin area is the biggest community of Muslims in New Delhi. Muslims who immigrate to India can find an Islamic atmosphere, but in a different way than in other Islamic communities because of the influence of Indian culture.

On the other hand, there are a lot of difficulties that non-Indian people face particularly during the holy month of Ramadan. Ramadan in India is like any other month. Muslims from other countries cannot see any of the special things that we used to see and do in Ramadan. For me it is the first time I am fasting abroad. This year I am in India, not in Yemen. I miss many things like the spiritual atmosphere,

bleasing nights and above all my family and dear friends. How unique Ramadan is in its great atmosphere!

Ramadan is the Holy month of Muslims, in which Muslims can practice most of the Islam pillars, particularly the fast. Muslims live in a spiritually unique worship in this month. Ramadan is the month of mercy and asking for forgiveness of Allah. On the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, Yemen Times has the opportunity to talk to some Muslims from different nationalities, particularly Yemenis, who live in India. Muslims in India face a lot of difficulties during Ramadan.

They have told us about how they practice Ramadan in India, their impressions and especially the different things they miss from their homeland:

Abdulhafed Saif is PhD student in JNU, New Delhi, India. He has been in India for three years. He is preparing PhD in applied linguistics.

We need to be aware of the fact that Ramadan is the month in which Muslims become purer and more obedient to God. It also gives us the chance to accumulate more alms, feel for the poor and to be Muslims in the

true sense of the word. I fast, read the Holy Qura'an and meet my Yemeni friends whenever the chance arises. I go to bed at five and get up at 12 pm and then go to university to pursue my work. I share a flat with a Yemeni friend and we have a small kitchen where we cook our own food. Yemeni Ramadan has its own flavor.

To be honest here is nothing special to talk about, but meeting friends now and then may be the best part of it. Unlike Yemen, life in India never changes in Ramadan as every one practice their own lives as if it was not Ramadan. We miss Ramadan in Yemen. God bless Yemen in this holy and sacred month.



**Zagheraldeen Bello Iman is Nigerian. He studies Computer Science at Hamdard University, New Delhi. He has been one year and 6 months in India:**

I practice Ramadan according to Sunnah of our Prophet Mohammed (Sal Allah Aleh Wa Salam). I am fasting in India with my Nigerian friends and friends from the Arab world like Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, etc. I believe that the whole world should start fasting at the same day, as I know that we are one world, one nation, one sun and one moon. Indian Muslims are fasting after two days of Ramadan. Last year I fasted with them after I realized that they follow the calendar. I hope that India looks for the moon to fast better than the calendar.



**Ahmed Sultan has got PhD in computer sciences from Delhi University. He has been in India for 8 years:**

Ramadan in India is difficult for us who are away from home. Students still try to simulate Ramadan as we do it in Yemen. Usually, after the Iftar meal, we gather with most of Arabs at the Sudan Embassy's mosque for Taraweh

prayers. Then the students gather to meet each other.

We miss fasting at home since Ramadan has its own flavor in Yemen. Thanks to Yemen Times for its interest to follow the Yemenis abroad and tell about how life is for Yemenis abroad.

Mohammed Hassan Banna is from Bangladesh. He studies pharmacy at Hamdard University, New Delhi. He has been in India more than one year:

Ramadan in India is strange. They start to fast after two day of the moon sighting. It is really funny for me how the moon is visible after 48 hours of its appearance. Ramadan in India look is like most other months of the year. As Muslims we fast, but we do our work as we do in the other months. During the holy month of Ramadan I want peace in the world. Ramadan teaches us brotherhood and I especially believe that we learn proper Islam from it.



**Gibreel Sadeq Suleiman Alaghbari is a student at Punjab University. He got married and has one child. He has been in India for three years:**

The small Yemeni community go to university and do our work during the day. We go to a small place where we can pray for Taraweh and afterwards go back home to our everyday activities. The Ramadan dishes may be a little different, but we get all our needs covered. The only problem we always face here in Ramadan is to decide when the holy month should begin. Some of us follow the Yemenis, some the Saudis and some of course the Indians. The other problem is when to celebrate Eid Al-Fitr and Eid Athha. I hope this reaches the hila authorities in Yemen whom I hope would advise their sons in India and elsewhere on what to do. For example, some of us begin Ramadan on Tuesday, some on Wednesday and some on Thursday. I guess that is a big problem.

I would like to congratulate all Muslims and hope we all use this chance to pray sincerely and give up our bad habits. I would also like that all Muslims pray for their fellows in Palestine, Iraq and other occupied Muslim territories so Allah alleviates the suffering.

**Abdullah Al-Eryani has got MA in linguistics. He has been in India for three years. He is preparing PhD in Applied linguistics in Chandigarh University:**

As an intellectual and multi-religious society, Indian people don't give enough importance of Ramadan. We Muslims try to practice the Holy month by ourselves. Most of the Yemenis in India are students, so we gather in groups to spend the daytime together, especially for Iftar and to pray together. If possible we try to spend the nighttime at one student's place, discussing some general affairs. We try to keep ourselves in contact most of time.



**Tafazul Ali Wani is Indian. He has got M.Sc in Toxicology:**

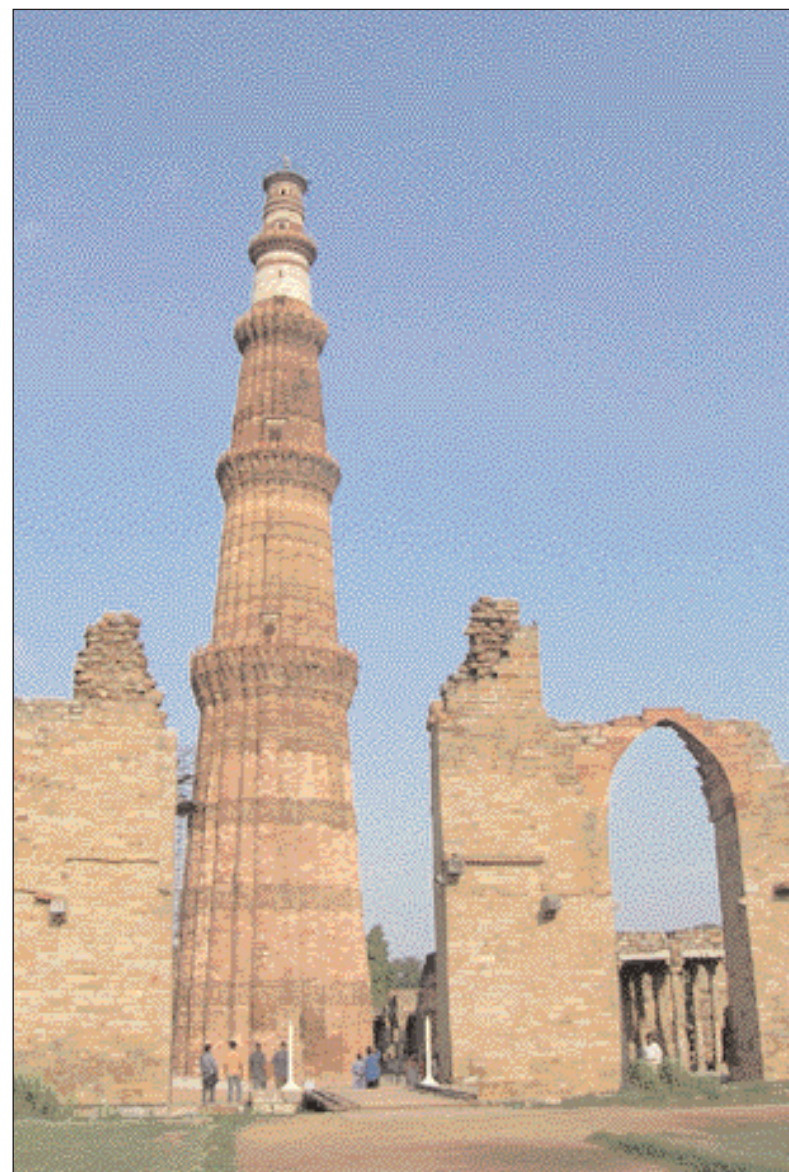
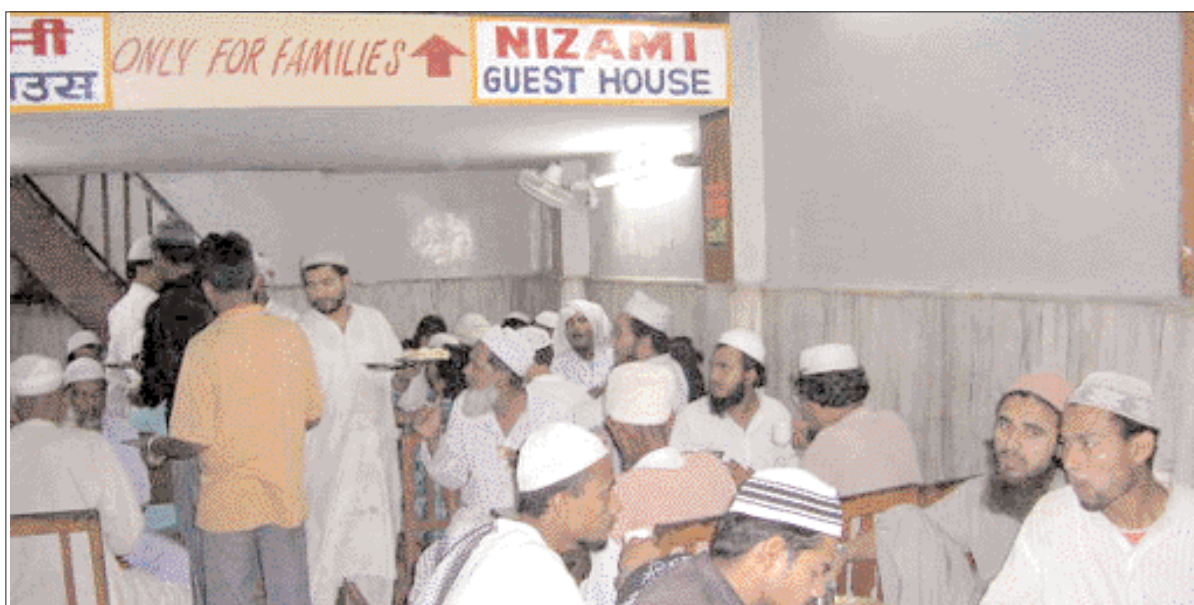
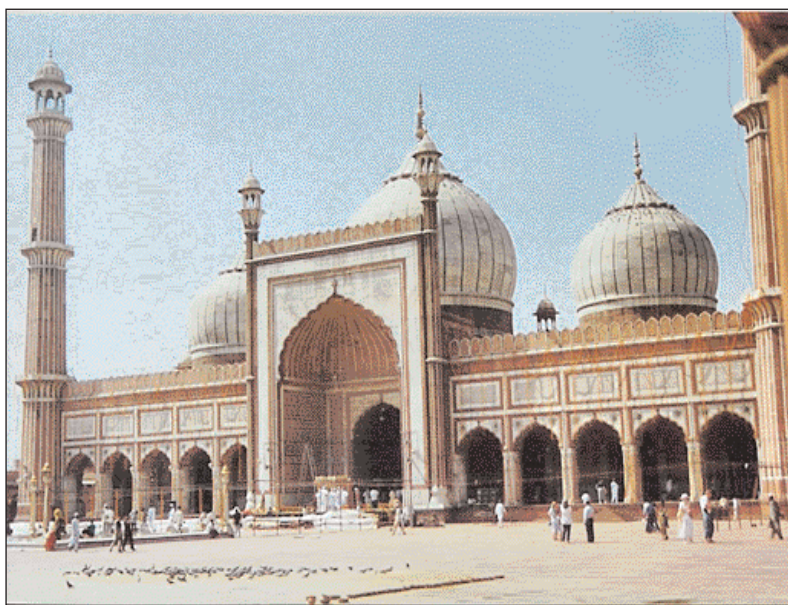
Since I grew up in Kashmir I can tell something about the Holy month of Ramadan in Kashmir. This month is the most holy month of the year. The Iftar meal is so nice that one can hardly visualize. People offer Taraweh prayer with great enthusiasm. All hatred among people is shed off. There is only one thought on mind, and that is to pray. I siren rings at the time of Sahour and Iftar.

Although Muslims in India are in minority we still fully enjoy the rights to be a true Muslim in India. I hope to visit Mecca and Yemen (Insha Allah).

Yahya al-Fagier is a supervisor in the ministry of Education. He has been in India for three years. He is preparing PhD in Applied linguistics.

Ramadhan in India is of course different than Ramadan in Yemen. Most of the traditions are different. For example people in India sleep in the night. People are doing their routine. Fasting here is more difficult because most people do not fast.

As Yemenis and Muslims, we try to visit each other. Every student invites his friends, especially in the night.



## Poverty + Tourism = Prostitution

**Hakim Almasmari**  
Yemen Times Staff  
Hakim\_Almasmari@hotmail.com

As Yemen undergoes numerous procedures in improving its economy, while desperately trying to receive its membership with the Gulf States Council, things are changing, and sometimes change is not always good. Yemen introduced tourism many years ago. It was seen as a good asset to improve the country's crumbling economy. But in reality, it is changing our lives, and most importantly the face of our traditionally conservative society. Poverty has been an ongoing phenomenon for as long as we can remember. Recently, poverty rates reached record levels and according to

the latest World Bank Report, forty two percent of Yemen's 21 million people live under the U.S. \$2 per day, while unemployment is reaching an unbearable forty percent. When poverty is introduced to tourism, what conclusion arises? Prostitution. This has been noticed in almost every nook and corner of the country and increasingly during the last five years. Before 1990, this issue almost never existed in Yemen. A man and women walking while holding hands in public were just seen as people who lack self-respect.

Unreal, unbearable, and unbelievable stories of sexual harassment and prostitution are heard and noticed on a daily basis, damaging the image of our country. Famous hotels are loaded with many prostitutes who work under the bogus slogan of "Attracting Tourists to

Yemen." It (prostitution) is really an issue which is attracting many hotel owners, even more than the hotel business they are running, said a local hotel owner. "Things have changed so much, it's hard to keep up with the corruption that is spreading at an unreal pace, he added.

Recently, in an undisclosed location a prostitute admitted of indulging in sexual conduct three times a day during the summer holidays, and she insists that most costumers were Gulf tourists who flocked Yemen in order to save money, rather than go to more expensive countries like Egypt, Lebanon or Malaysia. "They don't care about Yemen nor the Yemeni people, they could buy virtually anything they desire with the money they have, said a local prostitute who wouldn't mention her name. "Our gov-

ernment has made us worthless and of no value, oppressing us with these unstable conditions, moreover forcing us to indulge in actions that will haunt us for generations to come. Do you think we like doing what we do?", she added, as tears rolled down her eyes.

Many famous hotels in Aden, Sana'a and other major cities around the country are full of such corruption. Government forces are even seen guarding these hubs from any attacks that could occur from angry citizens who feel that prostitution is destroying the country from within. If the government continuously declares that it fights crime and corruption, why isn't this crime being fought?

According to sources within the circle of prostitutes, the number of prostitutes in the capital Sana'a alone number

over 1,000, while in cities like Aden and Hodeida the number is much higher. Aden's being higher due to the spread of tourists in that region, and Hodeida for its weak economic situation. Prostitutes actually travel from city to city for the reason of eluding detection by locals or government officials. In most situations they live in two story houses in neighborhoods where schools are located. This strategy is used in order for them to walk in and out of their houses at times when female school students go home through this path. As a result, they are almost impossible to notice, while their hideout remain undetected.

Many who fall in the trap of prostitution, feel it is almost impossible to walk out. Even if they wanted to do so, where would they go? Who would accept them after the disastrous mistake they made

in their lives? If I have been doing these actions unwillingly for a short period. I want to stop, but how? Who will accept me as a repenter from this sin? We are not angels, said Sara as she wept. "We were put in this situation by an error in judgment. But we deserve another chance to change our life to the better, she added.

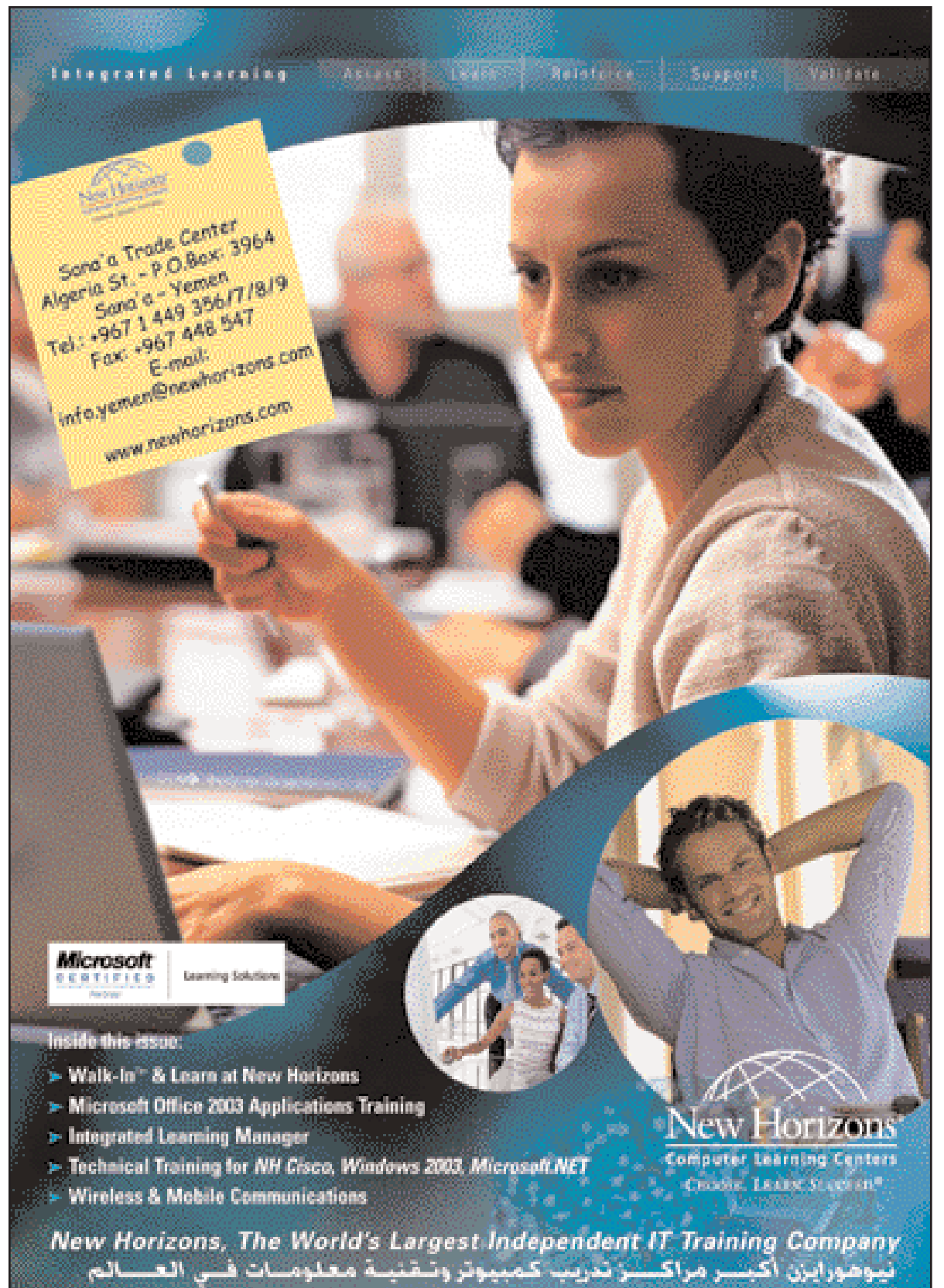
The government must find a solution for this crisis before it is too late. Families are being destroyed one after the other. Lives are being taken away with no one being there to save them. Organized governance is the key in solving all the corruption cases that exist. If no effort takes place in ending such a rising concern, life will be harder to tolerate, as more lives will be destroyed, the result being the end of a society once seen as conservative.

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## Words of Wisdom



The rate of population growth is an extremely vital factor in the ability of the country to successfully develop. It is imperative that the government, Non government organizations, the media, educationists, and intellectuals join hands to make it clear to families that a large number of children is a burden which neither the parents nor the society can handle

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

OUR  
OPINIONPaper work  
in Yemen...?

If you find yourself having to go through the awful experience of doing paper work in any of the Yemeni government offices then you should know you are cursed, whether it was a driving license or applying for a job transfer or having to pay your taxes, it means spending many hours if not days at the various rooms of the governmental offices, especially if you are a foreigner residing in Yemen., there is a huge amount of effort and time spent to get the legal paper work done for any foreigner who wishes to reside in Yemen, to work, study or even volunteer.

When it comes to projects between countries then the dimension of pain is much worse, a donor country may feel satisfied and happy to assist in the development in Yemen through financial aid or through providing personnel, needed equipment or supplies. However, once they send their delegates, with the project proposal from the Yemeni side and it seems things will go fine, then once all of a sudden the dilemma starts with the paper work having to be done. These delegates do not really realize the hard time their Yemeni colleagues are going through just to get the legal paper right.

Tens of signatures, killing bureaucracy coupled with careless employees creating the worst nightmare one can have, what adds to the frustration is knowing that you are only following the rules in case of personal paperwork or you are doing this for the sake of the country such as this case of donor projects.

The problem is that government employees do not appreciate the importance of public service or feel responsible towards others; they don't care if they are wasting people's time or energy, unless, of course, the magical work of bribery is involved, forcing people to bribe their way to get their paperwork done.

Donors are put off because of these incidents, having to lost their trust in the Yemeni system (a fact today, that lead to reducing donor aid), but also it slows down progress in turn hindering the development process of this country, where time stops in governmental agencies and work is only done by means of bribery and seducing public service employees to get their jobs done.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf  
Editor-in-Chief



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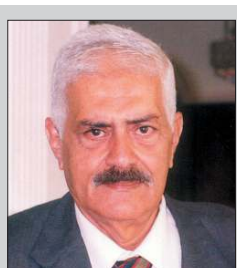
By Samer A.

Administration: The gate  
to comprehensive reforms

Genuine administrative reforms represent the actual entrance and crossing gate for the ideal implementation of comprehensive reforms in all areas as well as to attain the situation of coordination and integration intended from the process of comprehensive reforms.

The priority in the administrative reform is in its connection to the process of commitment to law and order and the application of their terms seriously and honestly, not accepting impairment or prone to selectivity. This is the point that enables the process to attain the farthest range in realization of its resanence goals so that completion and prevalence of the state of law and order one of its most and more sublime objective.

As the president pointed out in his latest visit to the ministry of civil service work with order would disseminate the feeling that those who follow the law can acquire and gain all he rights that is one of the strongest requirements and conditions of fixing the connection and

By Prof. Dr.  
Abdulaziz al-Tarb

relationship with the law and order in the general conduct, and constitutes the real guarantee for the application and realistic embodiment of legislated laws. The certain thing is that the administrative problem is the basis and major cause of the phenomena of failures engulfing perform-

ance in various aspects and fields of life. Mostly the administrative problems springing from defects in efficiency and failing in carrying out terms of law and order that provides vent for interference of other practices imposing their effects on the course of the management process, such as mediations, nepotism and change the management process upside down in such a way that the interest of civil servant becomes a priority rather than the citizen for whom the officialdom was created in order to run his and the society's affairs, easing the dealings and securing sound relations among society members.

Given the consideration that the employee's duty is to work through the

authority of the law legislated by parliament, officialdom becomes a popular authorization to serve and achieve public interest. Reform of administrative disorders and riddance of the civil service apparatus of double jobs and disguised unemployment, the returns would certainly be in the saving of billions of riyals and providing thousands of jobs for those deserving them of university graduates. Consequently, efficiencies would find their way to occupy their deserved position and undertake their aspired roles in the administrative apparatus in the way meeting requirements of productive operation with utmost degrees of effectiveness and positive states, especially in development projects and services establishments.

Administrative reforms could be supported with many important enhancements leading it to the farthest distances of success through orientations of the educational revolution, which is scheduled next year when the present style of education would be abandoned and moved to curricula grouping both coping with modern developments in science and humanities and meeting the requisites of the labor market and consequently the requirements of development and building Human Capital in Yemen. The significant issue is joining interests and national efforts and working in coordination and integration with requirements of administrative reforms and educational revolution. In this context, the monitoring role of the parliament has to be enhanced because a strong parliament would be a major help to the government in its programs instead of a weak parliament controlled by the government, instead of its being monitor and practice accounting it and its performance.

It also seems important the more contribution and role of the political and social forces and the whole question is in need of interaction and dealing with it with live national conscience aiming development and realization of Yemeni comprehensive development.

In my personal view we need to establish an independent apparatus undertaking affairs of the civil service and administrative reform. It is also required the appointment of a state minister for administrative development whose executive establishment would be the national institute for administrative sciences, whose name should be changed to become an apparatus for qualifying and graduating leaders. The yearly increment and promotion should also be connected to education degree, training and qualification so that to urge all to compete in the best interest of society and to raise the slogan of simplified management with less cost and higher productivity.

Metaphorically speaking, genuine administration was murdered not in Yemen alone but rather in all of the developing countries. Its murderers are the executive and legislative apparatuses. Can we in this regard overcome this while we are in the process of applying a new strategy?

**SILVER LINING**  
By Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi  
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com

## How to help the poor

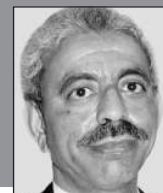
During Ramdhan, the "charitable" societies start strong competition to attract more support for their activities targeting the unprivileged people some of them flock to the main cities from their villages. Supporting these people is a good thing that these societies do. They help relieve the pains and ailments of the impoverished citizens who eagerly wait Ramdhan as a symbol of generosity and giving. Religiously motivated, the rich tend to spend more to help the poor.

But, some of these societies should not be politicized so that the support they provide to the helpless people is not used for political purposes. That is, these alms, which take different forms like projects for Eid dressing, Eftar...etc, should not be used as an instrument to influence the people and gain their loyalty to this or that party. This support turns into a means to exploit the urgent need of the naïve people. I am not against the political parties to practice their right in attracting as many affiliates as they can. But, this should not be under the influence of the of dire need and the support collected in the name of Allah.

Another remark is that the activities

of some of these societies should not be limited to Ramdhan only. The people need food or clothes not only in this month but during the rest 11 months. Who is going to give them?

My question here strikes a very important issue to which I want to drive the attention. It is not enough for some societies to run activities in one month and sleep all the year. Their job as civil society organizations should not be restricted only to collecting foodstuff and clothes, distributing them among the needy. However, they should have strategic plans on how to support the poor people on a long term perspective. They should think of having training centers to train these people how to perform a job and earn a living and the private sector can help into this effort. I know that granting these people foodstuff and clothes will make them happy and pleasant. However, this happiness does not last long and will make them dependent on others. If a person is well-skilled in professing any job, he/she will not go to beg or stay at home waiting for alms and generosity of Ramdhan. This is the best way to help these people to earn their living in a decent way.

COMMON  
SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

First Libby, then...

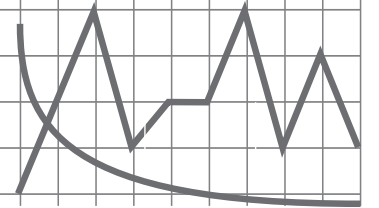
The noose  
begins to tighten

For all their big noise and blusterous approach to statecraft, the Bush clique and the Neo Con establishment that stands behind it are as legally fragile as any evil concoction of men and women. It is obvious that any force or political agglomeration that is based on the imposition of its own dictates on its own society – and the world at large – cannot be expected to pass the test of honor and conscientiousness in flying colors. Sooner or later, the true colors of scandal and misconduct, as well as the abuse of power it has relied on to institute its will and dictates will show in their true living colors and all their claims to goodness and "freedom and democracy", not to mention their promises of safety and security for all can be thrown against the wall.

First it will be Mr. Libby, the Chief of Staff of the icon of icons in this establishment, Vice President Dick Cheney. However, pretty soon, one will start seeing the strings of attachment and links to the network of evil that has overtaken the American political scene for half a decade now with its false façade of loyalty become clearly manifested to the American people and they, more than anyone else will certainly demand a very strong explanation, if not justice from their Congressmen and Congresswomen for their long silence on the bad behavior of their executive leadership.

Of course, one might probably say, well, what is it to the observer what happens to America and what business is it of yours to meddle in the internal affairs of the United States? One of the interesting phenomenon that the Bush Administration is that it has adopted as an inalienable right for states to meddle in the internal affairs of other states and to use all their influence and power to do so and achieve their objectives accordingly. Thus, we have all been affected by all the policies that have long ago reflected an evil streak in them, which have been called for by the neo cons and the icons of the Bush Administration in seminars and conferences mostly organized and endorsed by the International Zionist Establishment. We have also warned that, from the very beginning, this establishment is after something that will probably have a strong bearing on the trend in American politics and state of being – for the worse of course. Logic will dictate to anyone that an alliance that is deeply nurtured in the concept of the "ends justify the means" cannot etch its place in society without having to inflict pain on many people and destroy the lives of many others. The Zionist establishment, which has spoon-fed this Neo Con establishment with false pretensions about itself and perceptions about the rest of the world is well known for its record of evil and deceit as a "genuine moral society" that is the pride of Western culture and civilization in the region. But surely, this establishment was not expected to railroad all the American people into believing that if Israel can enjoy the imposition of will by power and chauvinistic dogma, then imagine what America can do in the rest of the world? A frightening scenario it would seem to many an observer, and others might even say far fetched. But the fact is that the association of these Neo Cons to the Zionist establishment is there for everyone to see. It will be the right of Americans to ask, why all this mess we are seeing in Iraq and why this continued insistence to meddle in the affairs of other nations so far away and not directly having any effects on the affairs of state within the United States? It should also be important for the American people to know that they have been asked to pay a dear price for the implementation of policies that create enemies more than friends, increase tension more than they create an aura of international peace and they impose more autocracy than spread the call of freedom. Evil begets evil and there is no evil that this world has seen in these times more than the Zionist menace that has sought to dominate the affairs of state not just in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon (not to mention Iran) with the unflinching support of the Neo Con establishment in the United States, but has actually sought to deepen its niches in the American political establishment through the adoption of typical "twist your arms" tactics, financial string puppetry and scandalous connivance (the Monica Lewinsky Affair is not far behind in one's memories). If the Bush Administration believes the American people can be misled and have their trust exploited forever, then how could the rest of the freedom loving people of the world ever hope for a brighter future?

# YT Business



*After investment regulations in uninhabited islands,*

## Speeding up establishment of free zones for investment

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The draft law of foreigners' possession of real estates, the Yemeni government had discussed, defined cases of foreigners' possession of real estates, terms of possession and its geographical regions. The discussions emphasized the necessity that the law takes into consideration attraction of investment in Yemen in comparison with the existing competition in the neighbouring countries in addition to the necessity of defining investment regulation in the Yemeni uninhabited islands. In this regard, there must be a consideration of benefit from experiences of countries having similar circumstances and legal and social systems.

The government's discussion also affirmed that the treatment of the foreigner intending to possess lands in the similar way applied to the Yemeni with regard to duties and other various commitments. Therefore, with regard to the state interest and attention to the investment process, as it is working on modernization and development of relevant legislations, the extent of the importance of acceleration in the completion of strategic plans intended for building free zones at land crossings, and seaports and islands in order to founding investment opportunities in vital areas that usually



attract local and foreign capitals for investment.

It must be noted that success of investment process in any country depends on how much attention is paid to the building of those free zones because in the first place they mean placing local and foreign capitalists before an existing investment reality based on scientific and economic

foundations for projects to be invested in at the land and sea inlets and islands in accordance with their importance and possession of investment constituents.

The free zones would provide the secure and stable climate for capitals and provide their owners with elements of trust as well as available opportunities for using their money.

They present them with assurance in development of their looked for profits from the investment process. The government has approved modernization of its perception regarding the establishment of the free zones and this trend should be translated on the ground so that the country would be able to expand fields of investment and polarization of

capitals for implementation of the new projects that are surely to contribute to creation of wide-range job opportunities, activate investment activity in various areas.

Many countries that recorded success in this field have built free zones specialized in implementation of gigantic industrial projects, tourist and services projects that effected big renaissance in areas of work and production and contributed to reduction of unemployment rate in addition to bringing considerable financial revenues to their nation income.

Hence, the State Authority for Free Zones should shoulder the responsibility for activating its tasks in development and expansion of the areas of investment in the Free Zone in Aden and the free zones decided to be built in the new regions. To fail in realization of those goals and implementation of responsibilities towards the free zones, would mean continuation in the lagging behind in the growth of investments and influx of capitals which seek well-studied projects to be run and obtaining profits from them.

The legal facilities approved by the law for attracting investors would not achieve the mutual interests but with the establishment of free zones in the Yemeni seaports, land inlets and islands. Businessmen who obtain investment licenses also need feasibility studies and necessary infrastructure and services necessary

for success of projects.

Successful investment is interrelated to practical procedures urging investors to manage their work in secure and safe climate and establish their projects in area possessing integrated and qualitative constituents so that outputs of the process would be quick in realization of the common interests of both investors and the state. Such a successful operation would, in the long-run, yield its fruits in improving the productive and economic performance and moves the present stagnation in investment in all of its tracks.

Yemen possesses huge constituents in its outlets, ports and islands for the achievement of investment process through building the selected free zones that would not only attract local and foreign capitals but also strengthen commercial relations with the neighbouring countries, upgrade internal marketing and activate re-exportation to external markets.

If the investment process remained hostage to talking on the importance of building the free zones without implementation, the efforts for activation of the present stagnation in investment would remain in its place. The solution lies in the extent of the concerned parties' resolution to implement the new plans in this respect, speeding up their translation into reality attracting local and foreign capitals to change the present appearance of investment.

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## Reflections on Ramadan

# Scientific explorations into the essence of matter

All the information we have about the world we live in is conveyed to us by our five senses. The world we know consists of what our eye sees, our hand feels, our nose smells, our tongue tastes, and our ears hear. We never think that the "external" world can be other than what our senses present to us, since we've been depending on only those senses since the day we were born.

However, modern scientific research in many different fields points to a wholly different understanding, creating serious doubt about our senses and the world we perceive with them. This approach's starting point is the notion that any "external world" is only a response created in our brain by electrical signals. The red hue of an apple, the hardness of wood, your mother, father, your family, and everything that you own—your house, your job,—and even the lines of this article, are composed of electrical signals only.

Thanks to present technological developments, it's possible to have realistic experiences without the need for an "external world" or "matter." The incredible advancement in virtual reality technology has come up with some especially convincing proofs.

To put it simply, virtual reality is the projection of computer-generated three-dimensional images that appear to be real with the aid of some devices. This technology, with its diverse range of applications, is known as "virtual reality," "virtual world," or "virtual environment." Its most important feature is that by the use of some purposely constructed devices, it misleads the person experiencing it into believing the experience to be real. In recent years, the word "immersive" has begun to be used in front of the term "virtual reality," reflecting the way that witnesses are literally immersed in the experience.

The rationale of any virtual reality system is based on our five human senses. For instance, when the user puts on a special glove, devices inside transmit signals to the fingertips. When these signals are relayed to and interpreted by the brain, the user experiences the sensation of touching a silk fabric or ornate vase, complete with all of its surface details—without any such thing actually existing in the environment.

One of virtual reality's foremost applications is in medicine. Michigan University has developed a technology that trains assistant practitioners—in particular, the personnel of emergency wards—to

learn their skills in a virtual reality lab, in which environment is created by projecting the details of an operating room onto the floor, walls, and ceiling of a room. The "picture" is completed by projecting an operating table, complete with the

important scientific development. The article reported that scientists melded computer chips with patients' nervous

*A wise person is one who keeps a watch over his bodily desires and passions, and checks himself from that which is harmful and strives for that which will benefit him after death... (Tirmidhi)*

their "virtual" operation. And anyone viewing the images reflected on the 3-D glasses cannot distinguish a real operating room from this virtual one.

#### Do We Live in a Holographic Universe?

*New Scientist* is one of the best-known science magazines. Its March 27, 2002 cover story was written by scientist J.R. Minkel, titled "Hollow Universe." "Why we all live in a hologram" the cover headline reported. To sum up the article, we perceive the world as a single bundle of light. Therefore, it would be a mistake to consider matter as the absolute truth by relying on our perceptions. Admits Minkel:

You're holding a magazine. It feels solid; it seems to have some kind of independent existence in space. Ditto the objects around you—perhaps a cup of coffee, a computer. **They all seem real and out there somewhere. But it's all an illusion.**

Minkel's article states that some scientists call this idea the "theory of everything," and that scientists consider this theory the first step towards explaining the nature of the universe. This magazine article explains scientifically that we perceive the universe as an illusion in

very limited movement in his shoulders, left arm and left hand. As is known, such paralysis is caused by damage to the spinal cord in the neck and back. The nerves are damaged or blocked, disabling neural traffic between brain and muscles, and cutting off communication between the nerves that transmit signals back and forth from the body to the brain. With this patient, the aim was to bridge his spinal cord's damaged area with an implant, letting signals from the brain bring back a little movement to the arms and legs.

They used a system designed to recover basic functions of the left hand, like grasping, holding and releasing objects. In an operation, eight small coin-sized flexible cuff electrodes were implanted into the



By HARUN YAHYA  
www.harunyahya.com

our brains and that, therefore, we are not interacting with matter itself.

#### Perceptions Lost to the Senses, Recovered with Artificial Signals

In its March 11, 2002 issue, *Time* magazine published an article entitled "The Body Electric," revealing an

important scientific development. The article reported that scientists melded computer chips with patients' nervous

systems to treat permanent damage to their senses.

With their newly developed systems, researchers in the USA, Europe and Japan aimed to give sight to the blind and help paralyzed patients recover. They have already achieved partial success with this new system by planting electrodes into the relevant areas of the body, and silicon chips were used to connect artificial limbs with living tissue.

Following an accident, a Danish patient by the name of Brian Holgersen was paralyzed from the neck down, except for

very limited movement in his shoulders, left arm and left hand. As is known, such paralysis is caused by damage to the spinal cord in the neck and back. The nerves are damaged or blocked, disabling neural traffic between brain and muscles, and cutting off communication between the nerves that transmit signals back and forth from the body to the brain. With this patient, the aim was to bridge his spinal cord's damaged area with an implant, letting signals from the brain bring back a little movement to the arms and legs.

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*Say: "My prayer and my rites, my living and my dying, are for Allah alone, the Lord of all the worlds. (Surat al-An'am: 162)*








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# Sana'a Capital: Town of history



COMPILED BY: YASSER AL-MAYASI  
YEMEN TIMES STAFF  
ESHRAQ AL-BODIGI  
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Sana'a is one of Yemen's governates; it is situated at the center of the Yemeni plateau between two mountains in the Sana'a Basin. These mountains are the Nuqum and Ayban Mountains, and are on a height 2200 meters above sea level. Sana'a has a bright sun throughout the year except for a few weeks in the summer and spring, which are often cloudy. Generally, it is wonderfully fresh and moderate in summer and cold in winter. All districts and outskirts of Sana'a are mountainous.

Sana'a is considered one of the Islamic historical towns because it has the Old City of Sana'a that is a real miracle of old architecture. The old city of Sana'a is one of the most beautiful cities in Arabia and the Islamic World. The city is known by several names including the city of "Sam". It is also said that the city was built by Shem, the son of Noah, following the flood. It is also called "Azal" but the most common name is "Sana'a", which is mentioned in a number of ancient Yemeni

inscriptions, and means "the protected".

In Sana'a there are more than 50 mosques, five with domes and many with minarets, the most important of which is the Great Mosque, built during the life of Prophet Mohammed and ordered by him in the Eighth Hegira year 630 AD.

There are many other mosques, which are not less beautiful or wonderful with respect to the style of minarets, domes and artistic embellishments. Sana'a has the highest mountain in Arabia; the mountain of the Prophet Shueib, which is 3766 meters above sea level.

It has also the most beautiful village Al-Hajara and the best quality of Yemeni coffee and grapes.

### Tourist Area In Sana'a:

#### • Old Sana'a :

With its unique and marvelous architecture, Old Sana'a is in itself a living museum. The beauty of the city has inspired many writers, architects, poets, and even tourists. One cannot but imagine the talent and taste of the original architects of such a magnificent city.

The market is considered to be one of the significant components of the Arabic Islamic cities and the markets of old Sana'a are regarded as a living and rare example of this.

There are ten such markets, each specializing in a certain craft or merchandise such as the Cloth market, Grain market, Silk market, Raisins market, Cattle market, Thread market, Coffee Husk market, Caps market, Carpet market, Salt market, Brassware market, Silverware market, Firewood market, all of which are perfumed with the scents of the East.

There are about 15 steam baths in old Sana'a, which are a fundamental feature of the city, as baths are associated with cleanliness. It is said that the Persians introduced the baths.

Since 1984, the UNESCO has listed Old Sana'a among the international heritage cities as "World Heritage of Mankind".

#### • Samsarah (Caravansaries):

In old Sana'a there were a number of inns (Khans), which were used to perform specific functions that were

complementary to the business of the market, such as services of accommodation, storage, safekeeping of deposits and precious items.

Such facilities had a specific architectural style characterized by arches and terraces in the interior. The ground floor was usually used for camels and horses, there are even now samples of such brokerage inns. One of them is Al-Nahas Caravansary at the entrance of Salt Market, Bab Al-Yemen (Yemen Gate). This is now used as a center for the training of craftsmen and for the displaying of their products. Near by is another example called Samsarat Al-Mansour, which is presently a center artists whose medium is paint.

#### • Dhahr Valley :

Wadi Dhahr is located 14 km to the northwest of Sana'a and is considered to be the most important recreation area for the city of Sana'a. Here all kinds of fruit are grown. In the center of the Wadi perches Dar Al-Hajar (Rock Palace), a palace built on top of an enormous rock dating back to 1786 AD, and ordered by Imam Mansour Ali Bin Mehdi Abbas.

In addition, there are a number of ancient monuments scattered within the Wadi. Yemenis like to come with their families to this vantage point and gaze at the beautiful valley.

On Fridays tourists can witness traditional wedding dances in the plateau, visit the Palace and have small walking trips through the village.

#### • Al-Rawadha:

It is situated 8 km to the north of the city center. There is an ancient mosque in Al-Rawadha with artistically decorated minarets dating back to the 17th century. This mosque is called Imam Gasim Mosque. It also has rural clay houses made in the Sana'a style in addition to numerous vineyards.

Many people in Sana'a throughout history have gone to Al-Rawadha in order to relax, especially in the season of grape harvests. Another ancient landmark in this area is Al-Rawadha historical Palace, Which dates back to the early twentieth century and used to be one of the Palaces of Imam Yahya. It is now a hotel.

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