

Hertz
Take A Break From Your Work Load and Take Hertz Along with you.....
Universal Rent a Car
Sana'a Tel: (01) 440309, Aden (02) 245625
Sheraton Branch (01) 545985

YEMEN TIMES

DHL EXPRESS
we move the world
Sana'a: Hadda St. (01) 441099/87/6, Zubairy St. 249878
Aden: (02) 245627/8, Tair (04) 252455
Hodeidah: (03) 286689, Mukalla: (05) 354844
Seiyun: (05) 404288, Ibb: (04) 407418

Monday, 28 November 2005 • Issue No. 898 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Inside:	Report: Obstacles to developing human capital in Yemen P4	Editorial: One minute of darkness for enlightenment P6	Business: Poultry prices drop, meat, fish prices rise P10	Culture: Glimpses of Yemen's ancient architecture P11	Health: Newcastle disease in Yemen P12
----------------	--	---	--	--	---

Opposition demands President's power be restricted

BY MOHAMED BIN SALLAM
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Nov. 26- The Joint Opposition Meeting Parties (JOMPs) has presented their project for political and national reforms to the Parliament, in a step that have outraged the regime as it comes only a few months prior to presidential elections claiming that 'such a time is not convenient for demands' even if it was discussed in the parliament.

However, the opposition commented on this ridiculous claim saying that this regime does not act in the best interests of Yemen, therefore it is the duty of the opposition is to stop the economic and political deterioration and prevent an eventual catastrophe if the current situation continues as it may result in the collapse of the country. The opposition parties have referred to the official and international reports that warned of bad consequences in Yemen unless there are reforms in different areas.

On the political front:

The JOMPs hold the view that symptoms of the Yemeni crisis are worsened in the absence of the law and reliable institutions, lack of equity under the law and the President's centralized monopolization of powers with maximum authorities and minimum responsibilities. They claimed that there is no accountability and equality as the legislature and judiciary authorities should be independent and yet they are controlled by the President. The described the current governmental system as "disabled".

The JOMPs learned from proven experience and Yemeni history that replacing the current regime by the Parliament will constitute a distinctive move in achieving political reforms and paving the way for reforms in other areas as well. The Parliamentary system, they noted, is due



to put an end to the people's sufferings from this centralized governance that formed a perennial issue for Yemenis.

They claimed that the current regime helped the ruling party in controlling all authorities, edge out the role of institutions, develop corruption into becoming a well-organized practice, and monopolize power and hand downs it to whom it wants in accordance with the interests of the ruling party and not the Yemeni people. Such malpractices lead to the spread of chaos at the expense of stability and the status of the law. Consequently, the Yemeni people have been systematically deprived from their rights and interests, and standards of individuals' loyalty to the ruling party have replaced their loyalty to the country and respect of the law and the constitution, the JOMPs commented. The outcome is in devoting the national abilities to serving survival of the ruling party and its leadership at the expense of fulfilling the basic needs of the Yemeni people and their economic, political and social well-being.

On the economic and social fronts:

According to JOMPs: 'Aspects of the crisis are reflected in the economic deterioration and disinvestment of national and foreign capitals from the country; Officials exploit their powers in interrupting businessmen and investors through imposing unlawful constraints and occasionally their partnership on them in profits, leading poverty to escalate over the majority of labor force and unemployment rate to hit a record...Aspects of the economic crisis are also reflected in the deterioration of the average per capita income which led Yemen to rank among the poorest and least developed countries in spite of its natural resources. There is also an evident deterioration in the level and quality of education, health services, electricity and all social services, as well as the backwardness of infrastructure.'

In their bill, JOMPs demand that the republican regime be reformed through

the establishment of an efficient, democratic and fair governance mechanism in order to achieve balance between authorities, develop the economy, boost democracy, ensure rights and freedoms, expand the operational base of political participation and make the peaceful handover of power possible, as well as to enable women to practice their constitutional and legal rights and play a positive role in the day-to-day life.

The second demand of the JOMPs is the creation of a strong civil community armed with independent and invulnerable institutions taking their strength from their independence and their ability to represent interests of the society.

The third of the JOMPs' demands is in pushing forward the wheel of sustainable development, tackling issues associated with poverty and unemployment, working hard in order to achieve justice, improving the living standards of citizens, combating corruption and eradicating the factors which breeds violence, extremism

and terrorism.

The fourth demand is employing Yemen's international relations for serving development and achieving stability and fruitful cooperation with other countries.

The JOMPs claimed the government should be held to accountable before the parliament in a regular and continuous manner, the President should be granted only the powers defined by the Parliament and be questionable thereafter. Also, the Central Organization for Control and Audit should be affiliated to the Parliament and decisions concerning the appointment of the Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen should be restricted to ensure entire independence of the bank.

According to the JOMPs, the legislature has to be, through the Central Organization for Control and Audit, responsible for monitoring the use of State's facilities and preventing them from being exploited by any parties or organizations. They suggested that the Parliamentary term be set at 4 years and the presidential term at 5 years and insisted on reforming the judiciary system, enhancing its role and maintaining its independence financially, administratively and technically. Supreme Court judges, they stated, should be selected by the Parliament, courts of appeal have to be canceled and the general attorney must be separated from the executive bureau and its apparatuses.

Continued on page 3

Al-Tajamu Weekly suspended for 6 months

BY YEMEN TIMES STAFF

SANA'A- Nov. 26- The Capital City's Southwestern Court issued on

Saturday a verdict against al-Tajamu weekly, mouthpiece of the Unionist Congregation Party, condemning the paper's chief editor and a columnist who published an article last August under the heading "commemorating anniversary of August 24 events-1968".

The court considered the article to be a crime and a violation of the press law, alleging that such tended to foment ethnic conflicts and shake national security and stability. The court obliged the pair to pay 50 thousand Yemeni rials each to the Public

Treasure of the State and suspended them from work for an entire year. It also shut down the newspaper and banned its distribution for 6 months.

Lawyer Jamal said in a statement to the Yemen Times: "We were informed of the verdict three days after it was issued, we were deliberately uninformed of the court session despite the fact the case has been postponed for 2 months. So, we appeal against the verdict, which is ironic and provoked curiosity especially as 37 years have passed since the August 24 events".

The article mentioned a bloody battle which broke out between troops and tribesmen in streets and zones of Sana'a, The fighting was between Zaidi leaders backed by the royalists and Sha'afi militants, and resulted in

the elimination of the majority of Sha'afi leaders from governmental positions and replacing them.

On the other hand, the Capital City's Western Court referred on Saturday the case filed against al-Thawri paper, mouthpiece of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the writer Mohamed al-Maqalah to the Appeals Court to rule on the appeal presented by the defense team, stating that the court is not the concerned party to look into the case.

Al-Thawri paper and the journalistic writer Mohamed al-Maqaleh were accused of publishing an article demanding President Saleh to abandon part of its power and not to quit presidency, following the President's declaration not take part in the coming presidential elections.

ALSAEED TRADING CO. LTD.
A member of H.S.A. Group of companies
EXPORT & IMPORT
Republic of Yemen - Taiz, P.O. Box: 5351
Tel: 00967-4-232727 Fax: 00967-4-223851
E-mail: ALSAEED@ALSAEED.COM.YE
Website: www.alsaeedtrading.com

HYUNDAI HEAVY INDUSTRIES CO. LTD.
POWER/SAFETY/TECHNOLOGY
We build a better future
A new chapter in construction equipment has now begun

هيونداي للمعدات الثقيلة
Technology in cab design

ZUBAYEN TRADING & INDUSTRY CO.
Sole Agent in Yemen

www.patchi.com

CHOCOLATE ARRANGEMENTS & RAMADAN GIFTS
Patchi
Sana'a Trade Center, 2nd floor
Tel: 01-448536, Fax: 01-448537, Email: patchi@y.net.ye

It's Nice To Feel Pampered.
05 EXPEDITION

natco
Tel: +967 1 267791
Fax: +967 1 267800
P.O.Box: 19732
Republic of Yemen - Sana'a

TeleYemen

"Joma'a Moubarakah... with TeleYemen"

Enjoy... with the off-peak tariff for your international calls during all the day on Fridays and National Holidays...

www.teleyemen.com.ye Customer Services Center 153

SWIFT

All services, spare parts and maintenance available at:
Suzuki Yemen (Member of Bamarouf Group)
سوزوكي اليمن - عضو مجموعة باماروف
Head Quarter: Al-Mimlah Road, Sheikh Othman Aden; Tel: 346000, Fax: 340049

Women involved in information technology

SANA'A- Nov. 26- The Women and Children Development Society (WCDS) has launched a new program titled "Women in Technology", which offers scholarships for women to study Information Technology (IT). The program is funded by the Institute of International Education in San Francisco located in the U.S., as part of the Middle East Partnership.

The program is implemented in collaboration with Cisco Academy at the General Telecommunication Institute. The Women in Technology program provides free training in IT for 250 women from all age groups and educational backgrounds annually.

The training period covers 17 months of standardized curricula (Microsoft Unlimited Potential and Cisco Networking Academy

Program). It will also organize professional development workshops including IT policy workshops, career skills training and practical experience for participants. The training course targets women and will be delivered by women trainers.

The Technology Program aims to help women gain remarkable hi-tech skills, crucial to access and participation in the workforce, which will lead to greater economic security and independence for women.

It also aims to narrow the gap of skills between men and women and enable women to enter a career in IT and contribute to the development of the IT sector in Yemen. The program is expected to enhance partnership between private and public sectors and involve NGOs, governmental bodies and academic institutions both as partners and beneficiaries.

Family & Development Magazine launches website

SANA'A- Nov. 22- The Family & Development Magazine, issued by the Yemen Times, launched on Tuesday the first phase of its website on the Internet.

Emad al-Saqqaf, the Magazine Chief-Editor and Chief of Yemen Times Taiz Bureau, pointed out that such a step comes as part of the magazine's plans to reach larger readership inside and outside the country.

"This step stems from its faith that the media message, in the world of today, described as the age of globalization net, has to cope with all the rapid advancements in the field of modern technology, mainly the global internet network," Emad al-Saqqaf said.

For his part, Abdulhabib al-Izzi, the



magazine technical manager said, "what we have achieved today is only an inauguration of the first phase, through which, the visitor of our website can read the entire content of the magazine and know about our activities and issuances."

"Currently, we have an ambitious plan to upgrade the website in the near future. This plan covers a number of services, most important of which is uploading the magazine on files of PDF design," he mentioned.

"Additionally, there will be news and information-related services for visitors of the website, and we aim to offer distinctive and competitive media services for any companies and corporations having the desire for such services via our website."

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:

Will the opposition parties agenda for reform receive positive response?
 Yes
 No
 I don't know

Last edition's question:

Al-Baidani is about to run for the coming presidential election. He promises reform and stability. If he hypothetically won, do you think he will be up to his words?

No, he's not quite into internal affair of the country 48%
 Yes, he will 33%
 I don't know 19%

Go to our website at:
yementimes.com/#poll
 and have your voice heard!

Teachers around the country hold sit in

SANA'A - Nov. 26 - The Yemeni Teachers Syndicate organized a sit in protesting the government's hesitation in the implementation of their legal rights and payment of financial allowances included in the new wage law. The sit in was held across at the ministerial Cabinet's premises in Sana'a.

Over six thousand teachers from the capital secretariat and the Sana'a governorate joined in the sit in along with members from the General Syndicate of the educational professions and syndicate of vocational and training education. The protesters also call for the amendment of the flaws of the entitlements of jobs in the new law.

The sit in continued from nine in the morning until two in the afternoon. The head of the teachers

Syndicate Mr. Ahmed Al-Robahi accompanied with other members of the syndicate led the demonstration and voiced slogans expressing their demands. Successfully, a delegation representing the protesters had met the Minister of Education; the minister of Technical training and Vocational Education and the State Minister and Secretariat Commission. The delegation discussed the demands of the protesters while government representatives successfully absorbed the teachers' demands, and requested an additional delay until the end of December to execute the details of the new wage law.

Other governorates which also witnessed sits-in. Hadramot, Taiz, Dhamar each having at least 2000 protesters.

Satellite television risks discussed

TAIZ- Nov. 24- A lecture and a discussion around the impact of regional satellite television networks on the culture and identity of the Yemeni family and its impact on the upbringing of children. Prof. Nabila al-Sharjabi, lecturer of Psychology, gave a lecture on the subject at the Faculty of Arts and Social Science of Taiz University last Tuesday.

The lecture was a literature review of scientific research undertaken with a sample of educated people in Sana'a, Aden and Taiz and collected data on the types of television programs watched by parents and children as well as Satellite channels.



The research discussed the urgent need to take measures to control the external cultural invasion evident in the behavior of children who are addicted to several preferred programs. The discussion included a discourse around the forged facts of history through several documentaries and dramas viewed in the television which were found to be politically motivated.

Yet, several academics commented that the lecture lacks a discussion of the variety of programs and the necessary recommendations that should be included in any study, among the other eccentric considerations of the methodology of the research, resulted in unreliable results.

UAE's RCS team conducts 140 eye surgeries in Socatra

SANA'A- Nov. 25- (WAM) - The UAE's Red Crescent Society (RCS) medical team has examined 1950 eye patients and conducted 140 eye surgeries since November 18 in the Yemeni Island of Socatra. Head of the RCS team Dr. Saleh Al Taie expressed his satisfaction at the performance level of his team and the success of operations,

as a part of the team's agenda to examine 2500 cases and operate 300 surgeries.

The team also toured the RCS medical camp established at Hadipo hospital on the island and offered quantities of medicines.

Dr. Al-Taie also inaugurated the society's anti-malaria campaign in

cooperation with the Yemeni health authorities and the WHO under a nation-wide drive to combat the fatal disease, Al Taie said the Society had contributed in setting up 16 anti-malaria centers in the country: "The RCS offered around 15,000 mosquito-resistant covers, 500 kilograms of insecticide and 21 microscopes in addition to

other medical supplies to the campaign" he added.

The team also took part in the third international symposium on malaria and a conference on immunization against polio. It also held talks with the UNICEF Regional Manager in Yemen on ways of enhancing joint partnership.

V A C A N C I E S

Financial Officer, Procurement Officer, Accountant, Administrative Assistant & Procurement Consultants (Basic Education Development Project - IDA Credits & Multi-Donors Trust Funds)

The Basic Education Development Project (BEDP) at the Ministry of Education (MOE) seeks applicants for the positions of Financial Officer, Procurement Officer, Accountant, Administrative Assistant, and Consultants to deliver on-the-job training for project implementation teams in the Governorates Education Offices (GEOs) on Procurement and Contract Management. Under the general directions of the Executive Director of the Project Administration Unit (PAU), the above-mentioned personnel will be responsible for the delivery of tasks described hereunder and will work closely with all sectors and departments of the MOE, GEOs and Districts Education Offices involved in the implementation of the Project.

A) The Financial Officer would:

- Manage and supervise all daily financial activities of the project.
- Ensure that there is a functional financial management system which includes:
 - establish proper accounting procedures and internal controls to ensure that the assets of the project are properly safeguarded;
 - solve any technical problems that may arise with the financial management of the project;
 - supervise subordinate accounting staff, as may be required, to assist with the operation of the project's financial management;
 - supervise the project's Special Account;
 - ensure that consolidated financial management reports for the project are produced on a timely basis and sufficient in content to enable the management of MOE and IDA to assess the financial position of the project.
- Act as a focal point for any dialogue on financial management matters relating to the project as may be required by the project's financiers.
- Report and update systematically the Project's Management on the status of financial activities and issues, and follow-up with MOE and other related Ministries and Institutions on financial and other Project's issues as may be required by the Project's Management.
- Contribute to quarterly Project Management Reports, and;
- Ensure that the project is audited annually in accordance with IDA's requirements and cooperate fully with the auditor in that respect.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Business Administration with major in accounting and finance.
- Minimum of 5 years of professional experience in a financial management and accounting position, preferably in the private sector.
- Familiarity with the government's and IDA's financial management requirement.
- Experience in the use of accounting programs and software.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

B) The Procurement Officer would:

- Planning functions
 - Preparing and updating the Project procurement plan for each year of the Project and ensure its distribution to all sectors/units involved in the Project implementation.
 - Itemizing and listing all goods required for the Project; grouping goods in packages and determining the procurement method: ICB, NCB, IS, NS.
 - Preparing and/or organizing and supervising the preparation of bidding documents and requests for proposals; and
 - Working with relevant sectors in developing TORs for the selection of consulting firms.
- Procurement Process
 - Preparing and ensuring the publication of Specific and General Procurement Notices for goods, and requests for expressions of interest for consulting services.
 - Ensuring that documents have received appropriate approvals in accordance with the Development Credit Agreement and Multi-Donors Trust Funds Agreement.
 - Systematically attending on behalf of the BEDP all bids opening, evaluation, and contracts award sessions and preparing minutes of bid opening and evaluation reports, in accordance with IDA guidelines.
 - Preparing contracts and ensuring they are timely approved, signed and notified, in accordance with the procedures described in the Procurement Manual.
- Contract Management
 - Inspecting and receiving goods, to ensure compliance with specifications and quantities with the purchase orders/contracts.
 - Arranging for safe custody and the proper delivery of goods to the Project institutions, if necessary, and installation in accordance with the contract and the target dates in the implementation schedule.
- Relevant Tasks
 - Acting as a focal point for any dialogue on procurement management matters relating to the Project as may be required by the Project's financiers.
 - Systematically reporting and updating the Project's Management on the status of procurement activities and issues, and follow-up with MOE and other related Ministries and Institutions on procurement and other Project's issues as may be required by the Project's Management.
 - Contributing to quarterly Financial Monitoring Reports.
 - Ensuring that procurement procedures provided in the DCA are respected at all stages.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in commerce, business administration, engineering, or equivalent qualification.
- At least 10 years experience in a procurement management position.

- Familiarity with the government and IDA's procurement guidelines and procedures.
- Computer literacy and proficiency in both Arabic and English.

C) The Accountant would:

- Prepare the withdrawal applications, claims, and related governmental letters
- Record transactions in the computerized accounting system of the financial activities of the Project:-
 - Maintain the petty cash.
 - Make the necessary vouchers and receipts for all deposits and withdrawal to and from the credit, and record them in the predefined chart of accounts in the system.
 - Make a monthly replenishment of the S/A and maintain the necessary control registers for all procured civil works, goods, & technical assistance.
 - Follow-up with related ministries and the Central Bank of Yemen.
 - Make a monthly reconciliation of the special account and other current accounts (if any), make a necessary adjustments and monthly closing entries
 - Make sure that all bank statements, withdrawal applications, claims, correspondence are properly filed and easily accessible once required.

Qualifications:

- A minimum of Bachelor's degree in Accounting.
- Minimum of 3 years of professional experience in accounting.
- Reasonable knowledge of International Accounting Standards.
- Familiarity with the government's and IDA's requirement.
- Experience in the use of accounting softwares.
- Proficiency in both Arabic and English.

D) The Administrative Assistant would:

- Provide secretarial and operational assistance to professional staff
- Ensure quality of outgoing correspondence and other related documents.
- Manage the filing system and record management.
- Manage the leave and attendance system and schedule appointments.
- Handle the logistics of conferences and workshops.

Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's degree with at least 3 years experience in office logistic management.
- Good interpersonal skills and excellent communication skills.
- Computer knowledge and familiarity with MS-Office applications.
- Proficiency in speaking and writing Arabic and English.

E) The Procurement Consultants On-the-job training would:

- Provide Governorates Education Implementation Teams with skills and knowledge in procurement and contract management relevant to activities that will be implemented at the governorate level.
- Develop and deliver an appropriate on-job training including the development of appropriate actual procedures for the trainees in Procurement Management and financial management skills relevant to BEDP. This will require the consultant to undertake the following activities:
 - Preparing the forms of bid opening, bid evaluations, in accordance with the World Bank forms and requirements.
 - Preparing the simplified guidelines for
 - sequence of operations in each process and (bidding document, bid opening, evaluation of bids, contracting and implementation process)
 - Preparing of time schedule for implementation of bid opening and bid evaluation.
 - Explain all prepared forms, guidance to the implementation teams in the GEOs, and be sure they are able to deliver all forms.
 - Participate on bid opening; and bid evaluation processes and train the implementation team during the process, and to ensure the procedures are being held in according to the WB instructions.
 - Review the bid evaluation reports before sending to the PAU.
 - Evaluate the procurement specialists' performance in GEOs, and recommend the training needs for them.
 - The availability to work on an on-and-off basis

Qualifications:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in commerce, business administration, engineering, or equivalent qualification.
- At least 5 years experience in a procurement management position.
- Familiarity with the government and IDA's procurement guidelines and procedures.
- A minimum of two years experience of delivering training programs to non-procurement specialists.
- Excellent command of English and Arabic with good communication skills.

All applications along with a detailed resume and supporting documents should be submitted by **Wednesday, December 7, 2005** at the following address:
Basic Education Development Project
60M Southern Road, Bait Meyad
Tel: 01-619160 / Fax 01-619219

Continued from page 1

Opposition demands President's power be restricted

The opposition urged for reforming the electoral system to ensure fair representation for different social classes though enhancing the neutrality of the High Commission for Elections and Referendum. The opposition activists insisted on reforming the local authorities, adopting the administrative decentralization, approving the principle of electing the governors and dis-

trict chiefs, and amending the local authority law to remove restrictions of centralization.

Regarding rights and public freedoms, the opposition parties demanded the provision of equal opportunities for all citizens in getting governmental jobs, banning the practice of partisan, ethnical and provincial discriminations in the distribution of jobs.

Party affairs committee should be cancelled and citizens should be enabled to establish and form syndicates, organizations and civil and private corporations through free and fair elections with no reference to the executive parties in the government, the opposition added.

Expressions of opinion, the right for protest, sit-in, journalism, as well as the right for establishment of visible and audible media corporations must be granted and ensured.

The JOMPs claimed stoppage of all kinds of assaults and harassments against rights and freedoms and the arbitrary arrests that violate the constitution and the law.

Among the JOMPs' demands is the cancellation of illegal prisons, prohibiting the administrative imprisonment, invalidating the law of public demonstrations, amending the law of political parties and organizations, the press law and the law of syndicates and associations and purifying laws and legislations from clauses which restrict rights and freedoms ensured by the law and authenticated by the international conventions.

The opposition's bill stressed on respecting and maintaining the patriotic style of the military and security forces and specifying their role to be in conformity with the constitution, the Parliamentary democratic regime and the political multiplicity. It also stressed on reforming the Ministry of Interior the security apparatuses and the affiliation of all the military and security forces to the Cabinet in their affairs.

The opposition demanded public media means be transformed into politically-independent national institutions and restrictions should be set to ensure their neutrality and prevent their being exploited to the advantage of any political party. It also insisted on the cancellation of the Ministry of Information.

With respect to administrative reforms and corruption eradication, the opposition parties urged for the approval of the standards of eligibility, efficiency, ability, integrity, seniority and qualification in the occupation of jobs. The principle of open competition for the occupation of jobs should be approved in the light of these standards and the sale and purchase of public jobs should be banned.

According to the opposition, the wage ladder should be modified to

cope up with the inflation and new economic changes, and that the President of the Republic, Vice-President, Prime Minister and the ministers should be banned from practicing any trade, investment or industrial activities.

Additionally, the opposition leaders claimed the provision of legal protection for journalists and media apparatuses and allowing journalists the right to obtain information and view any official registers and documents. They demanded rationalization of public spending, preventing the wastage of resources, increasing development-related expenditures and giving more priority to the sectors of education, health and public services.

With regard to reform of cultural and social policies, the JOMPS insisted on reforming the current educational system, developing the role of Yemeni woman in the society and empowering her to practice all her constitutional and legal rights. More emphasis was laid to the health insurance draft for all citizens without any discrimination and exception to maintain the dignity of citizens.

The JOMPs' demands for reforming the external policy included the restructuring of Yemen's external policy on the basis of national partnership and the transparent dealing in the specification of goals. Another demand covers Yemen's preparation for the Gulf Cooperative Council entry, enhancement of Yemen's relations with other brotherly countries and the improvement of dialogue with other countries.

Concluding their reform bill, the Joint Opposition Meeting Parties- the Yemeni Islah Party, the Yemeni Socialist Party, the Nasserite Popular Unionist Organization, the Arab Socialist Nationalist Baath Party, the Popular Forces Union and the Haq Party- are of the opinion that reform can be achieved only through proper media means and in accordance with the constitution and the law.

Job Vacancies

YemenSoft Company (IT and Software pioneer Company in Yemen) is looking to recruit highly qualified and talented personals to fill the following posts:

- Sale representative
- Graphic Designer

For detailed information about the above posts, please go to our website: www.yemensoff.net
Applications are only accepted online

APARTMENT FOR RENT

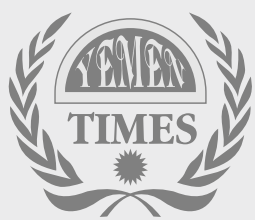
Located at the business area Al-Zubairy Street, near to all bank, hospital, Al-Q'aa Wet Market and Al-Huda Supermarket. Choice of 6 units, low density at the quiet area with parking.

FULLY FURNISH APARTMENT with luxury fitting and telephone line, 2 bedrooms, 1 living room, dining area, kitchen, 2 toilet and balcony.

SEMI FURNISHED APARTMENT with two-layer curtains, carpet, kitchen cabinet, stove and fridge. Choice of 3 or 2 bedrooms.

BASIC APARTMENT with kitchen cabinet, stove and fridge. Choice of 3 or 2 bedroom.

For foreigners only: Interested party call at 71246055 or 01 400033 or email at mmaon@hotmail.com for viewing and appointment.



Yemen Times is seeking to hire a News Reporter of the following qualifications:

- Excellent English & Arabic language abilities (speaking writing & reading)
- Good communication skills
- At least a five-year experience in working with Yemeni News media and news reporting
- Computer skills & internet abilities .

The vacancy is open immediately with rewarding salary. Please send your CVs with a cover letter to editor@yementimes.com by 8th December latest.

SANAA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



PROVIDING A HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION FOR 35 YEARS

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Beautiful purpose-built facilities on a spacious 34 acre site in a countryside setting. Sports facilities include soccer and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts. Large indoor multi-purpose area for volleyball, basketball, badminton, gymnastics, table tennis, musical and dramatic productions. Bus service available.

Main Campus

- Performance-Based curriculum for 5 years of age through secondary school
- Personalized education/small class sizes run by highly qualified & experienced teachers
- Over 40 computers available for student use, and computer instruction for all ages
- Extensive after school activity program involving music, art, craft, drama, & sports
- Advanced Placement (AP) college level courses available for qualified students
- Graduates attend American, Canadian, European, and Middle Eastern universities

SIS Pre-School

- Specific age appropriate experiences for 2, 3 and 4 year olds
- Attractive premises near the French Embassy including a garden and play area
- Certified experienced British teacher assisted by paraprofessionals
- School hours are from 7:55 a.m. to 12:00 noon (Saturday through Wednesday)
- Arabic program from 12:00 noon - 2:30 p.m.

Box 2002, Sanaa, Yemen Phone: 370 191-2 Fax: 370 193
Email: gordonblackie@qsi.org Web site: <http://yem.qsi.org>



Accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)
Member of Quality Schools International

وظائف شاعرة

تعلم شركة رائدة في تقنية المعلومات والاتصالات عن حاجتها لمهندسي تلفونات جوال على أن تتوفر في المتقدمين الشروط التالية:

- حاصل على شهادة البكالوريوس
- أن يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً
- خبرة لا تقل عن 3-5 سنوات

للاستفسار يمكنكم الإتصال على الرقم 01 - 510687

Invitation for Bids -IFB#33/05 for the Construction of Al Kadan Malhan Rural Road

Republic of Yemen
Rural Access Program
IDA Credit No.3514 Yem

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in *Development Business*, issue no. 626 of Mar16, 2004.
2. The Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of Yemen Rural Access Program and intends to apply part of the part of the proceeds of this Credit to payments under the Contract for the Construction of Al Kadan Malhan. This contract will be jointly financed by the Government of Yemen.
3. The Ministry of Public Works and Highways Rural Access Project Central Management Office now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the construction of Al Kadan Malhan RR (23.13 km) in Al Mahweet Governorate. The construction period is 17 months.
4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Bidding Documents.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from:
The Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH)
Rural Access Project, Central Management Office (RAPCMO)
Off 60 M Ring Road and Algiers, St., Near Sana'a Expo Center
Phone/Fax : 00967-01-448109/104/449422
Fax : 00967-01-448106
E-mail: rapcmu@y.net.ye
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given above from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM
6. Qualifications requirements include:
 - Average Annual Construction Turnover of similar to the project cost
 - Substantial completion of 1 similar nature project.
 - Availability of liquid assets and/or credit facilities US\$350,000.0.
 - Availability of the construction equipment,

- A margin of preference for eligible national contractors/joint ventures shall be applied.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a non refundable fee US\$150 or the equivalent in any freely convertible currency, plus the cost of courier for overseas delivery of US\$50. The method of payment will be cashier's check, or direct deposit. The Bidding Documents will be sent by courier for overseas delivery.
 8. Bids must be delivered to the address above at or before 11:00 AM, Jan 1, 2006. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically 11:00 AM, Jan 8, 2006 in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person.
 9. All bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of US\$60,000.0 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

Obstacles to developing human capital in Yemen

RAIDAN A. AL-SAQQAF
alsaqqaf@gmail.com
FOR YEMEN TIMES

Yemen is an interesting country for studying its human capital development due to its geo-political stretch, historical background, cultural experiences and economic development. Indeed, the significance of studying human capital in Yemen is derived from the proven importance of investing in knowledge and education which is, in turn, a prime engine for stimulating sustainable economic growth especially in the developing countries.

Until date, developing human capital in the country has been ignored in spite of the recent political and economic developments the country has witnessed since its establishment in 1990, considering Human capital to be the people's ability to be economically productive, and can be influenced by education and training.

Investment in Human Capital

Although most models of economic growth stress the importance of investment in creating a knowledge society, there are several indications that point towards a serious gap in knowledge between Yemen and its counterparts in the developed and developing world, reflected in the inability of Yemeni people to satisfy their non-material needs in addition to their economic constraints, therefore human capital in Yemen requires special attention and understanding of the political and economic circumstances that shape the human capital of the region. In line with Prof. Amartya Sen argument that development has to be more concentrated with

enhancing the lives of people: what a person is, or can be, and does, or can do. Therefore, education is essential to a satisfying and rewarding life and is fundamental to the broader notion of expanded human capabilities that lie at the heart of the meaning of development.

Similarly, education plays a key role in the ability of the country in order to modernize and absorb modern technology and in order to develop the capacity for self sustaining growth and development, considering the example of South Korea's commitment to education for the last thirty years and how this commitment helped it gain momentum as the pioneer of the Asian Tigers in economic development. Therefore, Education is largely considered to be a recipe for economic prosperity; "Arab countries should emulate the success of the Asian Tiger nations by adopting a policy of early and intensive investment in education, accompanied by sustained and rapid improvement of its level," say the authors of the Arab Human Development Report 2003.

Objectives of Development

There are three broad objectives of development shared by most developing countries, i.e. to increase the availability and widen the distribution of basic life-sustaining goods, to raise the standard of living, and to expand the range of economic and social choices available. However, reaching these three objectives of development does not solely depend on financial development or economic wellbeing, but it also includes creating a knowledge society that enriches the lives of its people and economic growth through the current supply and prospected demand of skills and knowledge, all in order to realize

the potential impact on individual incomes and the collective economic development of the country as a whole.

However, creating a knowledge society is not an easy task considering the current economic, cultural and political obstacles in Yemen. The collective body of previous research around the subject has indicated that issues such as access to basic education, the availability of proper primary schooling facilities, child labor, illiteracy, gender inequalities, inequalities within countries and societies, cost and quality of education among other social and economic factors are the most important obstacles specific to the Middle East region and most apparent in Yemen in order to achieve considerable development similar to that of the Asian Tigers. These obstacles are discussed in the following pages.

Obstacles to Development in Yemen

One of the major obstacles Yemen faces is the nature of the education, as religious education plays a parallel and substantial role in the upbringing of children, especially with limited governmental control over the curriculum, the tutoring or even the methodology of religious teachings, particularly as such a sensitive topic can influence to a great extent the mindset of the youth regarding the various happenings taking place around them and formulate various interpretations such as conspiracy theories or even resort to extremist actions.

Yet, a significant number of students fail to complete secondary education because of the poor quality of teaching or non-availability of tutors especially in rural areas of the country, hereby impairing education that should help families escape some of the vicious cycles of poverty in which they may be

trapped. Therefore children and youth tend to leave their schools in order to work due to their lack of belief in the returns of schooling.

Even students who successfully complete their primary education and wish to continue their higher education locally, the non-availability of suitable teaching facilities and qualified tutors in scientific disciplines induce students to pursue careers in non scientific subjects, statistics indicate that as little as 2-3% of students in Yemen major in applied sciences in their college education while that %age is at 20 % for south Korean students This is evident in the low number of patents and original contributions to the global sum of knowledge.

Another important obstacle is sexism; the conservative nature of the Yemeni society has established several constraints on women's participation in the society even if it was educational purposes, while this is slowly changing in most parts of the country, a considerable %age of women still suffer from sexism and gender-based discrimination against their educational options and literacy.

Nonetheless, the society as a whole suffers as a result of illiteracy through the failure of parents to assist their schooling children to learn and the non-ability to read any educational material they come across because of illiteracy, as the UNICEF indicated that several countries in the Middle East and North Africa region will not be able to reach their Human development objectives as a consequence of illiteracy, i.e. with implicit reference to Yemen.

Population distribution is yet another issue, as 72 % of the country's population resides in rural areas while the bulk of schools and education centers are

located in the urban areas, hereby forcing disadvantaged scholars to migrate to urban areas in search of better education and further education compared to the schooling available in their villages and small towns that are far worse in terms of quality than urban cities.

However, even after migrating graduates from these rural schools can barely compete with graduates of urban cities, as most of them fail to get the quality and grades that can entitle them admission in colleges due to their poor educational background, especially as only ~6 % of all successful university graduates originate from the rural areas accommodating 72 % of the total Yemeni population.

Yet, in spite of urbanization, modernization and the exploitation of natural resources in Yemen, primary school enrollment rates still lag far behind that of other developing countries; according to a recent research undertaken by The Conference Board, Primary school enrollment rates for low-income countries have risen from about 65 % in 1970 to about 94 % in 2001, while it barely reached 60 % in 2001 in Yemen in spite of the considerable economic resources the country has comparing to other developing countries.

The Conference Board also forecasted that by 2035 the emerging world may have almost 100 % literacy and with a significant rise in the number of knowledgeable college graduates from developing countries in consistency with their own cultures and economic values. However, literacy is no guarantee for creating a knowledge society or the build up of substantial Human Capital to drive economic development in developing countries, as there are fundamental issues that are currently ignored by most of the Yemeni popula-

tion, indicated by the tiny numbers of patents or the citation of research originating by researchers in the country, as it is the quality of the Human Capital that matters not the number of people who can sign their names.

Therefore, policy makers in Yemen should give direct attention to the Development of Human Capital in an equal manner to the attention given to economic development especially as the economy is growing rapidly, as evidence suggests that the level and quality of education are unjustly distributed among the people in Yemen, which has the highest rate of illiteracy in the Middle East region of 51% (74% among women) and therefore has recently launched an initiative for the Development of Human Capital in a similar manner to its neighbors in the Middle East.

The Government of Yemen ought to play a vital role in the build up of human capital through education and training through understanding the social, political and economics sources and causes of the severe inequalities and inefficiencies that continue to obstruct the accumulation of human capital in country. To that end, the government has allocated 10 % of its GDP to Education through three ministerial strategies, the first was the reform of primary and secondary education, the second is the activation of the technical and mechanical training ministry, and the third is through the Higher education and scientific research, however, there is no evidence that the role of these three ministries in the accumulation and creation of human capital would provide the needed Human Capital for Yemen's leap in to the future, as these obstacles have not been dealt with seriously enough.

Power-enhanced beauty

- Powerful.
- Easy payment terms*.
- 3 Years warranty*.

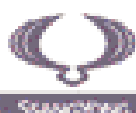


REXTON



Enjoy the comfort and power both on or off the road with the new Rexton. An SUV conceived by a true artist and fashioned by true craftsmen. The ultimate fusion of diverse style, luxury and futuristic sophistication coupled with ruggedness and power.

United Engineering & Automobile Co. Ltd.
P.O.Box : 12057 - Sana'a - Yemen
Tel : +967 1 330080 - 116
Fax : +967 1 330030
e-mail : usaco@y.net.ye



* Special conditions apply.

INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN



بنك اليمن الدولي

* Take off 06 AM
- Passport - ticket
+ Visa Electron

IBY Visa Electron..

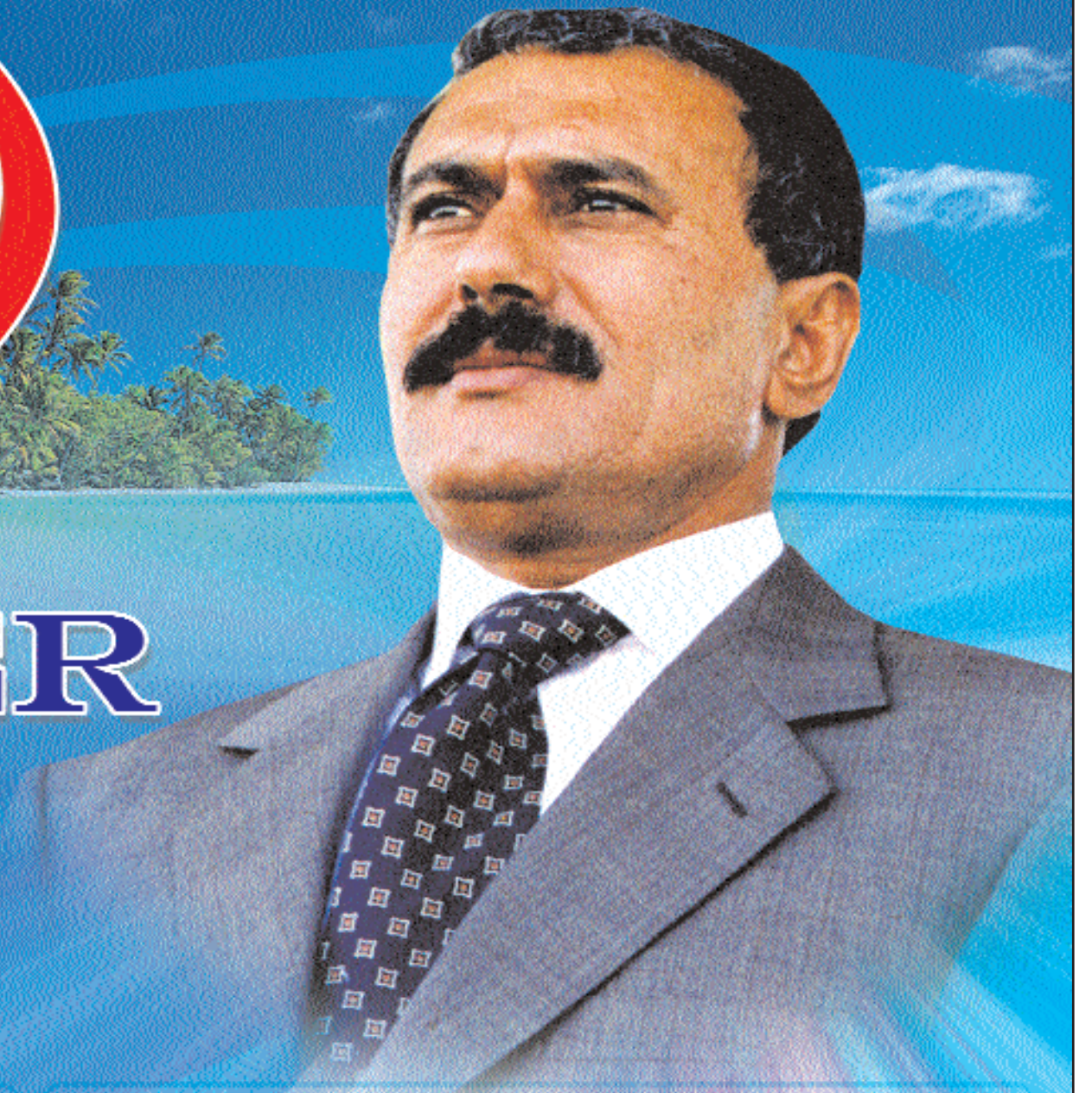
Wherever you are .. Your account with you



For more details please call us on 01 - 407030 or visit our website at www.ibyemen.com

30

NOVEMBER



Mr. Alistair John Mooney,
President and General Manager,

&

Mr. Ali Sohaiki,
Executive Director,

The Management Team, all staff of

Canadian Nexen Petroleum Yemen

and its Masila Block (14) Partners

Present their congratulations and
sincere wishes to

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen

On the occasion of the 38th Anniversary of
Independence Day 30th November

Many Happy Returns

السيد / أليستر جون موني،
الرئيس والمدير العام

و

الأستاذ / علي السحيقي،
المدير التنفيذي

والإدارة العليا وموظفو شركة

كنيديان نكسن بتروليم يمين

وكافة شركاؤها في قطاع المسيلة (١٤)

يتقدمون بخالص وأطيب التهاني والتبريكات
القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح

حفظه الله

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

بمناسبة الذكرى الثامنة والثلاثون

لعيد الجلاء ٣٠ نوفمبر

وكل عام وأنتم بخير

CANADIAN
nexen

Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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



OUR OPINION

One minute of darkness for enlightenment

In the world of today, military and violent revolutions have proved to be less effective than the peaceful ones. Organized community movements create a real difference in systems without a lot of bloodshed, and sometimes not even a single drop. In Georgia, a peaceful coup removed Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze from power. After three weeks of protests over disputed election results, roses had the final say.

Less recently is the Islamic movement in Turkey. The "One Minute of Darkness for Enlightenment" civil protest in February 1997 was an extraordinary example of how organized movements could make a difference. It started with a small group of intellectuals who wanted to make a difference. At that time such civil society movements were unheard of in Turkey and so the activists who planned for the coup had to opt for other means. The main idea is about connection and networking. While the groups of activists gathered in small numbers they stayed connected with each other in order to synchronize their movement. To throw light on their movement without causing violence the groups decided to switch off the lights for one minute all at the same time. People started to wonder what was going on and soon the word spread and many more people started joining the peaceful movement and started switching their lights off all together in the same time. When the movement supporters grew in numbers the leaders decided it was time to be heard, so they invented another mechanism. Beating drums all together at one go, all the houses in Istanbul, Ankara and many other governorates were rocking with the sounds of drum beats. Soon the government yielded and there was an extended hand for change, the drum beaters have been heard.

It was not an overnight transition. It took years for a peaceful movement to make a difference, so is nature's toll. Yet, it is amazing how societies are able to organize themselves in such a splendid way. In a world of increasing violence there is immense need for civil transitions. Some predictions about the future of Yemen are very scary. What happens if the new regime is not a popular one? What happens if there is no agreement on a new regime and the country lands up in civil war, *again!* Unfortunately it requires a lot of education, planning and organization to have a peaceful transition in Yemen. But most of all it requires commitment and dedication. Are the intellectual Yemenis both in the government and civil societies ready for such a turning point in this country's life? I am afraid not. It might take another hundred years for the Yemeni community to learn how to organize themselves and understand that perhaps one minute of darkness would lead to eternal enlightenment.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief



Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
First English Newspaper in Yemen, founded in 1991
by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief:
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakkaf

Head office:
Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661
Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

Email: yementimes@yementimes.com
For advertisement: ads@yementimes.com
Website: http://www.yementimes.com

Branches:
Aden Bureau Chief: Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed
Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596;
Fax: +967 (2) 347-056
Email: ytdaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Abdullah
Tel: +967 (4) 217-156
Tel: +967 (4) 217-157
P.O. Box: 5086, Taiz
Email: yttai@y.net.ye

Hodeidah Bureau Chief: Talal Hamoud Saif
Tel: +967 (3) 206-886

Regional Distributors

KSA:
Saudi Distribution Co.
Jeddah, Tel: 6530909
Tlx: 605350
P.O. Box: 13195

Qatar (Doha):
Dar Al-Sharq Printing,
Publishing &
Distribution
Tel: 4661265
Fax: 4661865
P.O. Box: 3488

Dubai:
Dar Al-Hikma
Tel: 00971 506589158
P.O. Box 2007

Policies:

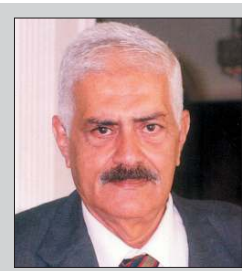
- All opinion articles that have not been written by Yemen Times staff on the Opinion and Op-Ed pages do not necessarily represent the newspaper's opinion and hence YT could not be held accountable for their consequences.
- Letters to the Editor must include your name and signature, address and telephone number. Letters should not exceed 2,000 characters in length. We reserve the right to edit letters and articles for clarity, style, length and legal contents. Any article or letter submitted cannot be returned to the writer under any circumstances.
- To advertise in the paper, contact the advertising department in any of the offices of the newspaper.

Opposition versus changes

Presently it is not the task of the opposition to be at the presidential palace because it is still occupied by a president. Its current task is to mobilize the people and muster the masses, mobilize the street and expressing the silent majority for preparation for the forthcoming round of local and presidential elections. For the coming legislative elections would be the second round in order to reduce control of the General People's Congress ruling party over the parliament and consequently continued one opinion and one party. The goal of the opposition is to surround the ruling party and keeping it away from dominating the parliament so that to be reduced to a minority party dominated by businessmen and political and financial corruption.

Objective of the opposition is to put Yemen on its natural track and place the people of Yemen in the heart of history movement so that the ruling regime fall as tree leaves fall in Autumn. Who rules Yemen now is not as significant as how to transfer power peacefully and leave polling boxes be the judge and to recognize their results in future. We want to close down the exception and that a president's tenure should not exceed two

years. Unity of the opposition is in the unity of its political forum and program and agreement on minimum degree of national unanimity. Nothing is wrong with principled slogans as an ideological announcement but the challenge is how to render it into a political program at a certain historic moment of Yemen's history. We reckon and see what happened and still happening in Egypt, Palestine,



By Prof. Dr.
Abdulaziz al-Tarb

presidential terms whatsoever the reasons were, away from betting and balances of local and international powers. Can the opposition and with it civil society organizations unite their forces in one front against the ruling party so that their votes would not be dispersed and consequently the candidates of the ruling party succeed? Those candidates would normally utilize all they have of ability of manipulation with electoral lists and the support of the state machinery and the media in the coming local elections. Would the opposition agree upon one candidate to run the presidential elections against the president in case he backs down and accepts demands of leaderships and branches of the GPC as well as the party's recommendation for his candidacy for the coming elections?

Unity of the opposition is in the unity of its political forum and program and agreement on minimum degree of national unanimity. Nothing is wrong with principled slogans as an ideological announcement but the challenge is how to render it into a political program at a certain historic moment of Yemen's history. We reckon and see what happened and still happening in Egypt, Palestine,

Sudan and Iraq of preparations for sought after changes. Thus role of the opposition and message of the national movement for the new change is to bring closer the viewpoints to be a focal point for the national unity and its heart. If that is difficult to attain at least there should be a full coordination between list of the unified opposition and that of the independents in order not to disperse the opposition votes. There might be some secondary difference between opposition forces but the major competition between it and the ruling party is the listening to the voice of the people. It is the undermining of the ruling party. The opposition has to introduce new blood to constitutional councils: parliament and the Consultancy council, local councils elections, preparation for peaceful transfer of power in the future presidential elections. Such new blood capable of coping with new changes and prepared for them.

The ruling party incapability of gaining sweeping majority is a normal indicator in the process of reforms and democracy and transfer of power peacefully. If the opposition did not attain what it aspired for, battles are coming and then the opposition and civil society organizations would have begun the first correct steps to inspire convictions with the Yemeni street and the international observer when analyzing results of the forthcoming local elections in April 2006.

Is Azerbaijan next?

By ALEXANDER MUZYKANTSKY

Azerbaijan gears up for parliamentary elections on November 6, the main question is whether the country is about to undergo its own "color" revolution, along the lines of those that have overthrown post-Soviet elites in Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan in the last two years. Such an outcome cannot be ruled out, but the prospects are uncertain at best.

Azerbaijan's ruling party, Eni Azerbaijan, faces challenges all around, despite the support of President Ilham Aliyev and privileged access to state resources. At least three opposition parties - Isa Gambar's "Mussavat," Ala Keremela's "The National Front," and the Social Democratic Party - have maintained support and political influence since Ilham succeeded his late father, Heydar Aliyev, in 2003.

Moreover, like Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan, dynastic politics in Azerbaijan reflects the dominance of clans whose members' success is determined by proximity to the president. While such systems may appear stable, they are inherently fragile, for they are synonymous with lawlessness, injustice, and abject poverty for the majority of the population.

The opposition has already started preparing the ground for change. The leaders of the three-party opposition bloc Azadlyg (Freedom) have declared that they will regard any electoral outcome that gives opposition parties less than 70% of the vote as having been falsified, and that street protests would follow. This would conform to the pattern seen in Serbia in 2000, Georgia in 2003, and Ukraine in 2004.

But can such a scheme work in Azerbaijan? A "dress rehearsal" failed in October 2003, when the opposition, incapable of uniting around a single candidate to challenge Ilham in the presidential election, declared the results to have been falsified and called people into the streets. Only several hundred showed up, and the police quickly dispersed them, arresting dozens.

This time, the opposition is united, having found it far easier to agree on mutual support for 125 parliamentary candidates than to settle on a single presidential candidate. But the authorities may have the upper hand. In Tbilisi, Kiev, and Bishkek, the leaders of the "color revolutions" had already held lofty positions in regimes that they now attacked as thoroughly corrupt; yet they succeeded in gaining the population's trust. That is far from a foregone conclusion in Azerbaijan, where the last stint in power by some of the opposition leaders in 1992-1993 still evokes bitter memories of a time of war and crisis that few can recall without horror.

Most importantly, however, the previous "color revolutions" underscore the crucial role of world public opinion and the global mass media that shape it. As in Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan, the fate of the regime and the country may well hang on whether the current government is portrayed on the world's television screens as a violator of human rights that is thwarting the will of the people and thus rejecting "generally accepted democratic values."

Such an image may be less valid in Azerbaijan. After coming to power in 1993, Heydar Aliyev stopped the war with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave, secured Azerbaijan's existence as a sovereign state, and, as the oil-and-gas sector flourished, oversaw the country's growing international authority. The transfer of power from father to son took place peacefully, and Ilham's administration has presided over completion of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline - to the annoyance of Russia and Armenia.

At the same time, high oil prices have enabled higher social spending and infrastructure investment. Today, the capital, Baku, resembles a huge construction site, with high-rise housing, stores, and roads being built at a breakneck pace - and apparently benefiting the broad strata of the population.

But none of this may ultimately matter if the West - and the United States, in particular - decides that Ilham's regime is not ensuring its interests and seeks to manipulate the global media image

accordingly. The West's main interest is not Azerbaijan's oil reserves, which accounted for just 0.06% of the world's total in 2004, but its geopolitical position at the crossroads of global energy and transport corridors and as a frontline state vis-à-vis an increasingly assertive Iran.

So far, it appears as though the West will back Ilham over the opposition. Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, the president of the European Parliamentary Assembly, Rene Van der Linden, and US Deputy Secretary of State for global affairs Paula Dopyransky have all visited Baku recently. As US foreign-policy doyen Zbigniew Brzezinski put it in an interview with a German radio station, "The majority of Azeris actually support President Ilham Aliyev. Therefore, we have a situation that differs from those that took place in Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan."

Nevertheless, the West appears to be hedging its bets by sustaining contacts with the opposition. As Brzezinski added, "Of course, it is important for the political regime in Azerbaijan to be as stable and legitimate as possible." If the West decides that the government has become unreliable, television shots of demonstrators' weekly clashes with the Baku police, Ilham's refusal to hold televised debates, and the confiscation of all orange objects from stores will come in handy.

Of course, modern technology alone cannot bring about a revolution. But almost all post-Soviet states remain weak, and therefore vulnerable to domestic turmoil. Azerbaijan is no exception, and Russia, having been burned by its naked intervention on behalf of the governments in Georgia and Ukraine, has given every indication that it intends to sit this one out. The government appears confident that high oil prices, administrative resources, and dominance of the local media will ensure an election victory. That may not be enough.

Alexander Muzykantsky is Chairman of the Department of World Politics, Moscow State University.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2005.
www.project-syndicate.org

Letters to the Editor

Yemeni Community Association in Manchester

I am the Vice Chairman of the Yemeni Community Association in Manchester, United Kingdom. I have also been a regular reader of the Yemen Times newspaper since the days of Prof. Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Saqqaf (May he rest in Peace).

We established the community centre just over a Year and a half ago, & have developed a number of activities for the youth & elderly, we have also established a school for the children & elderly & have just recently received a further round of funding (£140,000) from Barton Fare Share.

We would be interested in featuring in an interview with the Yementimes therefore to increase the awareness of the YCA in the Manchester area & we have a lot to tell on the future development we have in line for the centre.

I await your kind reply, & keep up the good work at the Yemen Times; I remember I use to look forward to picking up my paper on the Monday in Yemen to read the latest news in English, now hopefully we can feature in it.

Ali Mohammed Al-Lijee
alimohammed@email.com

Nadia Mohsin, again
I have been following news about Nadia Muhsen. And I

know that your newspaper is controlled by kind of power. So I'm not angry to you.

I just can't sleep many nights now, I'm only thinking and thinking about her.

There is nothing to even talk about - Nadia's husband can prove Nadia's words only by taking her (with children!!!!) to England to vacation and let her free in there for 1 month. If she was talking the truth, she go back to Yemen.

Because of this beg big conflict between West and East, many people in West read Quran to can understand the East. But the result of reading Quran is understanding Islam - it mean we can see

the ugly way many people use the Quran in East. By reading Qhoran, this beautiful Book, we can see sad facts about reality.

I just wanted to say for Yemen government, as I wish to say to USA government, and to many governments around the world, that admitting mistakes is very brave act and any government which do it, deserve a lot of respect. And governments, which dare to fix things, deserve great honour in eyes of whole world.

Please, please, please, can you make justice?

Monica Udras
wafaa10000@yahoo.com



COMMON SENSE

By Hassan Al-Haifi

In Yemen and Elsewhere...

Muckraking is no fun sport

"Son, wouldn't you better off be a tax man or a customs agent or even a military officer?" said Ahmed's mother as she beat the fenugreek on the small ball, taking a little of the slowly rising batter to the tip of the tongue to see if the bitterness has come out.

Ahmed was not pleased with his mother's suggestion: "Mom, what you said is as bitter as that fenugreek mix you got there before you put your magic touch to it. How can you suggest to me to be an in occupation that invites corruption and misuse of authority, when I have told you that my goal in life is to fight all forms of corruption and abuse of power."

Look Ahmed, your mother has a point there, journalism is no longer the 'in thing' anymore. Didn't you hear that even Uncle Sam now has made it a point to use all the weapons at his disposal to knock down any journalist who disapproves of his actions. Did you know that George W. Bush had a plan to bomb the Al-Jazeera Satellite TV network in all places Doha, Qatar? Wow! That is what I call really hating someone to the marrow of the bones." Ahmed's father was pointing to the printout he just made of an article he just took from the Internet.

"If America feels like that about the Freedom of the Press, what chances have you got in Yemen, where they will just follow you as you go home and stab you, bleed your nose, kick you in the ..." said his Ahmed's elder brother as he walked in from school.

Now, son watch your manners, please, you are a member of a respectable family, where such language is out of the question", said the father very sternly.

Shkeeb had a response with a question mark in it? "Dad, how would you feel if your friend just got attacked by some of the weird nightly ghosts that prowl the streets looking for anyone with a pen in his shirt pocket, thinking that he must be a journalist coming home from work at this time of night. They have been taught that anyone coming home so late must be a journalist sneaking his article in as he is attacking the Government, Israel or the United States?"

The aspiring journalist was still not shaken by all this: "Dad! Mom! How can you expect the world to evolve without freedom for people and a right to protest against tyranny, despotism and corruption in Government? Did you know that the American Revolution was launched by a journalist named Thomas Paine? Did you know that journalists, like Christiane Amanpour of CNN brought down bloodthirsty tyrants like Melosovitch of Serbia and saved millions of Bosnian Moslems? Did you know that it was the muckraking writers of America that stopped the undue justice of Corporate America as they squeezed every penny out of a mindless consumers, who ate everything that the mass production outlets of the American military industrial complex could produce? When I read about such things I get goose pimples."

"Well, son, I can foresee now that those goose pimples of yours are going to be mighty big sores by the time you get your first article on print." The father was not impressed with his son's aspiring heroism.

Shkeeb wanted to encourage his brother: "Go ahead Ahmed, if you become a journalist I will buy you a suit of armor and arrange to have a few guys from our club's wrestling team walk home with you every time you hit those buggers with a few biting words to let them know that the pen is mightier than the sword."

The father wanted to get in tune with the times: "Son, it wouldn't be a big deal if all he had to worry about were swords. Now you got even Stealth Bombers chasing journalists to even as close as the Al-Jazeera Headquarters is to the American Central Command. How can you feel so secure about your brother with the wrestlers in your club, who have never won a wrestling match yet?"

"The in thing for governments now a days is to beat up any journalist that annoys any big official anywhere. Look at Ahmed Mansour and the Arabiyah Channel photographers. Ahmed Mansour was not even in the Iraqi battle zone, but then Cairo is no peaceful heaven either. The mother always know how to add a few pointers to her husband's lectures.

"Do you know that well over one hundred journalists have been killed in Iraq alone by 'friendly fire'. Now, this only males me even more furious. How could the so called bastion of democracy in Washington allow such flagrant persecution of journalists, who have now clearly shown that the American war effort is no more than the concoctions of crazy idealists who want to turn the entire world into one global computer game, while the sponsors who put them in power eat of the cream of their spoils for selling their goods to keep US troops happy as they throw their phosphorous ordnances into the homes of innocent Iraqis, who would now pray to have the days of the tyrant, Saddam Hussein rather than these American bullies, who have no mercy on anyone who opposes them or even sleeps just yearning for the quite and secure days of a benevolent dictator." Ahmed wanted to show the essence of his quest for a journalistic career.

Shkeeb carried on his brother's long dissertation on the necessity of muckraking journalists carry on their fight against the oppressors of the society: How can you see a world not having journalists keep the world population - and those at home - aware of all the evil that surrounds them stemming from those who have been entrusted to lead their citizens to prosperity, peace and security.

The father took the conversation to the center of the issue: "Son, I do not want to weaken your sense of enthusiasm about doing good in this world and I highly praise it. That is why we brought you up the way we did. But then, your mother would never let me sleep as she worries about whether you got home safely tonight or not, when your headlines start to give goose pimples to the very elements that are supposed to guarantee the right you have to put down anything in print that is for the good of the people".

Yemen Press Review

Review By Mohammed Khidhr

Annas weekly, 21 Nov.2005.

Main headlines

- Hamza seeking asylum with America confuses the official authorities
- The government lives emergency state to prove good will towards reforms
- Journalists demand identification of the person attacked Journalist Nabeel Sobaei
- Ex- vice president announces his nomination to presidential elections in Yemen
- Parliament Speaker accuses ministers of violating parliament regulation
- Quotas system the best means for women to attain decision-making positions

Columnist Ali al-Jaraddi writes saying any opposition adopting regional and sectarian dimensions is a racist movement devoid of humane characteristic and attracts doubts of opportunism regardless of fairness of its demands. The authority bears the responsibility of emergence of regional and sectarian oppositions as a bad reflection of its filing practices and prioritizing chaos and discrimination to principles of justice, equality and equality of opportunities. Instead of feeding elements of national integration, the authority tended to sharp political polarization based on buying loyalty with money and post and thus created social cracks and national conflict at the level of the one social entity.

The authority has largely exposed its defects through evasion from its commitments to effect genuine political, economic and judicial reforms. International reports have been unanimous that the authority is following a road leading collapse. Thus, some European parties working as surrogates for America began to embrace the opposition, especially the southern, and prepare for what it may come with their eyes cast on Aden port and Hadramout oil and presently using this opposition to blackmail the authority to offer internal concessions and to carry out the role of a regional scarecrow.

The eye-catching thing is that the southern opposition flourished after fifteen years of the unity. It is supposed that through all those years there should have been established a social and ideological integration and building of a social and economic system allowing rights of equal citizenship.

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of the General People's Congress (GPC) 221 Nov.2005.

Main headlines

- Deputy Minister of planning and international cooperation: Loans and assistance Yemen receives are low and spent on development sectors
- Expected surprises in the GPC's 7th general conference
- Education, health, water and sewage, priorities of the government in the third 5-year plan
- WB praises success of economic reform in Yemen
- JMP insists on two committees at each election station

Writer Yahya al-Nouri writes in comment on recent statements of Jane Novak screened by al-Jazeera satellite channel lately and talked on the Yemeni American relations. He says no doubt Ms Novak was victim of the false information that regrettably some have recruited themselves to supply her with. She has certainly affirmed she has completely departed from the simplest rules of impartiality, professionalism and transparency in commenting on the Yemeni political event. That situation made her to appear shaken. If that was the cause for her falling in that situation because of her little knowledge about the image of Yemen, the Yemeni foreign minister Dr AbuBakr al-Qirbi, who participated in part of the program of al-Jazeera, extended an invitation to Ms Novak to visit Yemen and see closely all data, changes and transformations that Yemen is witnessing. Thus, the Yemeni foreign minister has offered a correct example to rectify the state of wrong information that affected the views of Ms Novak. No doubt, this invitation has had its impression on observers who found out that the invitation represents a strong argument and limitless confidence in the Yemeni discussion. Some observers have deemed that now the ball is in the court of Ms Novak to prove her credibility as researcher committed to the profession in dealing with the Yemeni affair.

Al-Wasat weekly, 23 Nov.2005.

Main headlines

- The president endorses death sentence against the assassin of Jarallah

- Omer, leader in the YSP
- JMP draft under formulation
- Supreme committee of Islah party condemns Qahtan's threats
- Kidnapper of the Swiss tourists hands them over to sheikhs of Abeidah
- HUNT Oil Company sues the government
- Oil trade unions threaten of all out strike
- Secretary-General of the syndicate resigns, Committee on protection of journalists asks the president to publicly condemn attacks on journalists

Editor in chief of the newspaper writes saying whether the president can brush aside what could be considered a personal injury, as he is the father responsible for the offender in a way aloof from personal vengeance in favor of the homeland. These are some of urgent queries while we are in year when the president is supposed to be more powerful in tolerance and more patient. However, what Al-Thawra newspaper has lately written in its editorial does not express that orientation. Its editorial was full of anger similar to the unjust verdicts passed against the YSP Thawri newspaper and its editor in chief and writers. This excitability state does not create a suitable and stable environment for elections bearing this significance. The president is no longer addressing his citizens directly. And such a way does not establish for an electoral forum because the people have acquired experience regarding this matter. The actual and objective action towards issues from which the people are suffering is the electoral forum. It should be realistic, objective and sincere in its diagnosis of woes of the homeland and the citizen as well as treating them.

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organisation (NUO), 22 Nov.2005.

Main headlines

- Yemenis undergo brutal torture at American and Jordanian intelligence offices
- NUO secretariat: What Syria faces is political blackmail to deal a blow to its geopolitical role
- Islah holds the authority responsible for what could happen to its political office chairman

Columnist Ali al-Saqqaq says in his article it seems that the United States of America has not understood well the

Iraqi lesson. America has suggested to its soldiers they are going into a short picnic in Iraq and would then return to safe to their mothers and wives. What happened, however, was the opposite. The American administration has driven tens of thousands of its soldiers into hellish inferno.

These days America is still prevaricates, as if the Iraqi lesson was not enough for it. Nowadays it is harassing Syria and tries under various pretexts to repeat the experiment in Iraq, though in a different way.

In doing so, and under foment from some Arab reactionary regimes, America like someone who tries to get involved in another quagmire. Maybe arrogance has blinded America's insight and made it imagine it could formulate what it has described as the greater Middle East in line with its schemes. It is doing so without paying attention to its failure in Iraq, which is an indicator to failure of its policies and collapse of its ambitions in dominating the universe.

Al-Shoura weekly, organ of the Union of People's Forces of Yemen, 23 Nov.2005.

Main headlines

- The parliament embodies influence sharing
- Politicians deem it a step for normalization with the Zionists, Warnings against the parliament participation in Ramallah conference
- Birdflu heats up government-parliament argument
- After two-year halt, kidnapping phenomenon re-emerges as a lead in local events.

Al-Shoura newspaper political editor discusses in his article the recent appointments of new Yemeni ambassadors saying recently the media reported the appointment of 14 ambassadors who have taken oath after acceptance of the countries they are accredited to. An appointment of the ambassadors has come following a group of local and external events and changes.

Some of them are related to relations of our country with world states and that include acts and behavior of some of our embassies abroad. An example of that was the behavior of the Yemeni former ambassador to Syria who had sought political asylum in Britain.

At that time, the Yemeni foreign ministry said the ambassador al-Hassani was suffering from mental disorder. That statement was also a scandal not less than



his mutiny and joining the outside opposition.

Al-Hassani's scandal was not the first nor would it be the last.

The writer mentions here financial and other scandals practiced by Yemeni embassies abroad but argued that most of them do not emerge to the surface. The writer mentions about behavior of some Yemeni embassies in dealing with the

Yemeni students studying in those countries as they are not performing the simplest of their duties toward those students.

The writer says the problem of our country's authority is that it makes political loyalties and considerations of spheres of influence as main criteria in offering persons posts and responsibilities inside the country and abroad.

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

Crackdown on corruption needs commitment

I have read a news report on the 26 September weekly newspaper issued by the army that an independent committee to fight corruption will be announced soon, involving a number of prominent personalities and NGOs interested in the issue.

I am afraid that this committee will be just like other committees which have done nothing and turned into a part of the corruption drive as their members just meet and work but when it comes to implementation, nothing takes place. Let's take the tribal revenge committee set by the president. What is the outcome of this committee of the Shura council? The members met and discussed the problem and that is it. No concrete procedures have been taken to address the problem.

The Central Organization for Control and Auditing, an anti-corruption watchdog answerable to the president, has been monitoring government revenues, spending, procurement and performance. But, its reports are either not taken into account or are being used to blackmail this or that government official.

Corruption is really a very serious headache that hits all aspects of our life. It has become an acceptable practice and a daily routine that people live with. Taking bribes is a more accepted practice by from high ranking government officials down to ordinary civil servants. One can not get his work done at any government institution without bribing their way through. This practice was looked as something bad in the past but now government employees ask for it openly. This takes place almost everywhere, including the judiciary, in schools, universities...etc. It has mounted to the extent of the sell-off of the country's oil for private benefit. Government officials go with the belief their appointment in key positions is a kind of reward given to them by the regime and therefore, they should work hard to abuse them as much as they can and get enriched. Some officials or influential tribal or military guys have suddenly become businessmen with huge investments. Their influence and abuse of power is the source of such wealth. The roads situation in our cities is a real demonstration of how corrup-

tion can cripple development. As the wrong companies owned by influential tribal people or government officials are contracted to do infrastructure projects, the loss is doubled as every now and then, streets are being repaired at the expense of the people.

I feel that corruption is no longer a domestic problem that matters only to us as Yemeni citizens. It is rather becoming a development challenge and detriment that is inviting the attention of the donors and international community. The World Bank is growing fed up with such pervasive problem and its officials said last month it would reduce by 34 percent its upcoming three-year loan assistance package to Yemen, starting July 2006, because of a lack of government transparency and good governance. The UNDP officials criticized that big chunks of the budget are located to security and purchasing of weapons, neglecting priority areas like health and education. The US officials are also aware of the lack of transparency and said they rate corruption as their second-most important issue after counterterrorism. This chaotic situation and the absence of accountability and independent judiciary that can enforce law have scared away foreign investors to come to the country, pushing away even local investors.

There is concern that corruption will widen the gap between rich and poor, deepen disenchantment with the political system and cause instability in a country soaked with weapons.

We are, therefore, coming to the moment of truth and I think that the regime should start seriously to stamp out corruption because it is the first obstacle blocking the country's bid to pull itself out of an economic crisis. However, our problems can not be sorted out by such committees. The president and other senior officials admit that there are corrupt officials. Why do not they prosecute them then?

We need a real commitment and a strong political will to start eradicate this problem.

The moment corrupt people are held accountable and prosecuted, we will believe that there is a serious crackdown on it. Otherwise, such talk and no action policy will lead us to catastrophe.

Feeling rich

By ROBERT J. SHILLER

Who is richer, you or I? As long as we both have enough to live comfortably, it shouldn't matter much. Many of us try not to let it matter. But sometimes such comparisons gnaw at us. In an era of globalization, with rapid economic growth in some areas and stagnation in others – and with television and the internet allowing us to see how others live – these comparisons are an increasingly important factor in the world economy.

The late social psychologist Leon Festinger argued that interpersonal comparisons of success, whatever our moral qualms about them, constitute a fundamental – and thus irrepresible – human drive, one that is present in every society and all social groups. Festinger argued that for any measure of success, whether wealth, ability, or merely personal charm, people tend to be most concerned about comparisons with others whom they see regularly and who are at a similar level of attainment. We tend not to be bothered by people who are either vastly more successful or vastly less successful. We consider them so different from us that we just don't care.

Harvard professor Benjamin Friedman's important new book *The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth* details what the feelings generated by these comparisons mean for social harmony and the success of our economies.

Friedman argues that comparisons of wealth are more dangerous to a society if

it appears that the rich are members of a different race or ethnic group. In that case, the comparisons become politicized, contributing to social conflict and thus tending to reduce economic success.

For example, South Korea's spectacular economic growth in recent decades owes much, according to Friedman, to the country's ethnic homogeneity, which dampens resentment of others' relative progress. By contrast, economic development in Sri Lanka, with a standard of living 40 years ago that was similar to that of Korea, was stymied by its Tamil minority's perception that their opportunities and advancement were blocked by the Sinhalese majority. The resulting ethnic violence has left real per capita income at just one-fifth the level of Korea today.

The economist Albert Hirschman once likened a society with recognizably distinct groups to a multilane highway where people are unable to change lanes. If traffic is stalled for hours and no one else is making progress, we tend to relax and accept the situation resignedly. If the traffic then starts moving in another lane, everyone will greet the change with elation. Even if we are still stopped, we sympathize with those getting ahead, imagining that we, too, will soon be moving forward. But if the other lane keeps moving and we do not, our elation is eventually replaced by annoyance and anger.

The same is true of economies that are starting to grow rapidly. People must feel that their own social group, however they define it, will eventually benefit.

A key insight in Friedman's book is the

fundamental importance of two kinds of comparisons that people make when judging their own success: comparisons with their own (or their own family's) past experience and comparisons with others that they see around them. When economic growth falters and people no longer see improvement over their past experience, the first comparison becomes more important – and comes to be shared by millions of people.

But when the downturn affects distinct groups differently, especially when members of some groups are (rightly or wrongly) perceived as doing better than the others, the second comparison gains significance as well. Consider the rampant anti-Semitism – some of it ultimately genocidal – that arose during the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Of course, that is the most extreme example, and Friedman does not show that a decline in economic growth rates necessarily leads to social turmoil. Indeed, many historical episodes of diminished or even negative growth have gone by without any unusual social problems.

Historical forces are complex; they defy any simple economic theory. Friedman is right that social comparison drives human anxieties, if not conflict, but this is equally true when economies are growing. In some parts of the world, rising expectations, if unfulfilled, could make the kinds of effects that Friedman describes especially strong.

For example, many people in China today feel great psychological pressure to live up to the expectations created by all the talk about their country's "economic miracle" – and the sight of others in their

midst with significant wealth – and they express anxiety about their own individual success.

As growth and development in emerging economies like China continues, people will increasingly compare themselves to the richer people in their countries' urban centers. These countries' successful people will increasingly compare themselves to people in other countries who are perceived as even more successful.

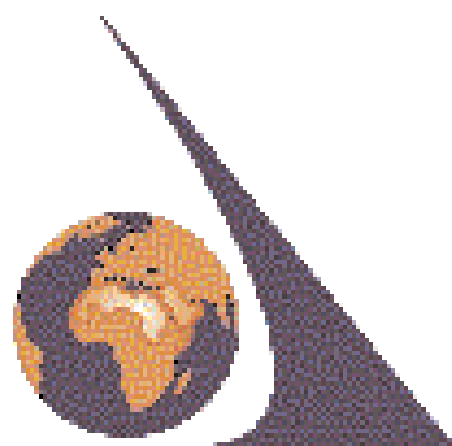
If Festinger and Friedman are right, little can be done about this, because such comparisons are a part of human nature. But, regardless of whether these comparisons occur in an economy that is growing or contracting, the anxiety that they engender clearly represents a potential risk of unrest and instability. So the question is whether anything can be done to minimize that risk.

Obviously, a measured pace of economic growth in the developing world – neither so high that it sets the stage for later collapse nor so low that it weakens the public's sense of solid progress towards a better life – would help ensure social and political stability, thereby fostering further growth. But, perhaps more importantly, people must believe that they live in a society that allows them to change lanes and move ahead faster when the route is clear.

Robert J. Shiller is Professor of Economics at Yale University, Director at Macro Securities Research LLC, and author of *Irrational Exuberance* and *The New Financial Order: Risk in the 21st Century*.

Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2005.

Sana'a hosts the 38th meeting for Arab Air Carriers Organization



الاتحاد العربي للنقل الجوي
ARAB AIR CARRIERS ORGANIZATION



اليمنية

Arab Air Carriers Organization is a new distinctive step:

The Arab Air Carriers Organization is considered to be a successful group which should be modded. A number of successful projects resulted from this gathering which the Arab air cargo companies benefited from.

The Arab Air Carriers Organization is the most successful among the other Arab associations. It achieved distinctive successes, most important of which are the commercial ventures under the Arab Air Carriers Organization and the Arabic Project for Comprehensive Booking (Galileo). This enabled the Arab agencies in Yemen, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Oman, to use this system to book automatically on international flights.

An agreement was signed between the Arab Association and Galileo in 1991 to disseminate this system which was adopted by some 120 travel agencies in Yemen. The member companies gained \$ 90 m. The Organization also established the second huge project that resulted in the establishment of commercial committee for fuel partnership for the Arab Aviation companies. The air carriers saved \$ 25m each year. This comes in addition to the new most important project for Arabic cooperation "Arabisk"

There are other huge projects for different committees. Of these is the technical committee which resulted in cooperation in technical and administrative training, and exchange of experience to decrease costs and promotion of efficiency. The great successes of Arab carriers made it one of the most successful projects.



Capt. Abdulkhalek Alkadi

Appreciation

With the advent of the 38th anniversary of general assembly for Arab Cargo Association, Captain Abdulkhliq Alqadhi Chairman of Yemenia, Head of the Arab Air Carriers Organization, presents his heart felt gratitude to all heads of local and international companies who sponsor the 38th General

Assembly of the Arab Air Carriers Organization to be held in Sana'a from Nov 29th to Dec 1, 2005 for their cooperation for the success of this round.

He added: 'I also thank the General Secretariat, Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Civil Aviation Authority and Sana'a Airport Administration, for their part for facilitating this session.'

Arab Air Carriers Organization

Sana'a hosts the General Assembly of the Arab air Carriers Organization from 29th November to the first of December this year. This conference will be an occasion to get information on the key trends and developments in air carriers

industry. It will also be in line with the strategy of the Organization in developing cooperation between the members, economizing costs, promoting marketing and developing air policy.

This conference reflects not only the important issues that would be tackled in it, but also highlights the historical and archeological sites, climate of Sana'a that make it one of the most attractive tourist cities in the world. The tourists will see Old Sana'a in which the old architecture blends with beauty.

There is also Dar- Alhajar which is one of the most beautiful Arab and international forts. Visitors will also be fascinated by Shibam Kokaban, the master piece that is built on hilltops. Sana'a will host the Arab Air Carriers Organization conference. That will no doubt bewitch both the participants and the rest of the guests, be they tourists or formal participants, coming into the charming world of Arabia Felix.

Actual guide for Aviation policy

Sana'a hosts the 38th round of Arab Air Carriers Organization during Nov 29th -

Dec 1st.

DC-3 joined in 1955- phased out in 1978

A 310 - 100 joined in 1993 - phased out in 1995

A330 -200 joined in 2004

Arab Air Carriers Organization a unique model to be followed

In 1998 Yemenia witnessed very important events represented by the appointment of Captain Abdulkhaliq Alqadhi as a new chairman.

The new young administration strived since then to achieve continuous successful steps in implementing modernization and development programs, which was incorporated into the strategy adopted by Yemenia.

Continuous Achievements

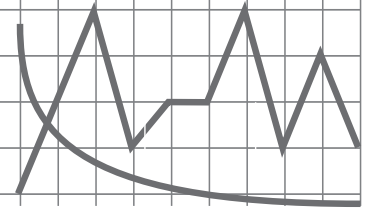
Yemenia carrier fleet is one of its important achievements. It is equipped with the most modern planes. Efforts are still exerted to reach this goal. Among the most important achievements is the establishment of the maintenance center, and its huge hangar.



Participants



YT Business



Poultry prices drop, meat, fish prices rise

By MAHYOUB AL-KAMALI
YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Yemeni poultry markets have lately seen a big drop in prices against red meat and fish. This happened following the big media campaign on the spread of birdflu virus in some European, Asian and Arab countries.

Several merchants and businessmen working in this industry have made it clear to the Yemen Times that local consumption of poultry has dropped by 40% during this month. They attributed this drop to the common fears of the birdflu disease. Last month the drop in poultry consumption in Yemen registered only 20%. And while this drop doubled consumption of fish and red meat increased.

Last week a government environmental working group from the public authority of animal wealth visiting the Qabita district of Lahj governorate had warned against eating chicken and bird meat. The specialists requested the inhabitants to examine chicken and migrating birds in the villages and report any infected birds. The team had taken samples of infected birds' lungs, and blood was to be taken to be examined. Bodyparts of the suspected birds were burned. However, the real cause behind the diseased birds was not yet declared by the team. The samples were dispatched to laboratories in Sana'a for diagnosis as a precautionary measure to see whether the birds were actually infected with birdflu or was it another disease.

In the district of Al-Hashaa of Dhaliq governorate, locals mentioned that unidentified disease caused the death of tens of chicken in some of the neighboring villages during the past ten days.



A central fish market in Sana'a

They said that this was an unprecedented phenomenon and the symptoms were new to the local people. Apparently the diseased chicken made loud noises as they jumped around as if in pain just before dropping dead. They expressed their concern regarding the delay in discovering the cause and type of infection, especially that dogs which have eaten the infected chicken have died too. In the district of Ans in Tamar governorate residents of some villages reported to the agriculture and health office in the governorate about the sudden perishing of 50 chickens, causing panic among the people for fear they were infected with birdflu. Director of the health office there said samples of perished chicken were sent to the central laboratory in Sana'a to be examined if the cause was infection of birdflu. He added that his office on Saturday 19 November had received report on death of large number of chicken in the district of Jabal al-Sharq more than the number reported in Ans district.

The agriculture and health officials also received reports on death of chicken in various numbers in some villages and districts of other Yemeni governorates, such as Ibb and Radafan district of Lahj.

No specific cause as to why the chicken are dying in those areas is given yet. Locals are beginning to wonder if the government was serious at all in handling the issue. Residents from the district of Bani al-Harith told Yemen Times they had seen a number of bags full of perished chicken in farms nearby the area of Thahban, asking the concerned parties to follow up the case to diagnose causes of their death.

On the other hand businesspeople mentioned that reduction of demand for poultry had led to big drop in the prices in the Yemeni markets. The average price of a chicken is presently around 300 riyals whereas its price in Ramadan was between 400 to 450 riyals. Simultaneously prices of animal meat registered a noticeable rise while fish prices registered a rise by 50%. Concerned officials at the Ministry of Health confirmed that the government is continuously taking precautionary measures expecting an emergency related to the birdflu. A substantial quantity of plasma and drugs dedicated to treating this disease as well as relevant diagnosis equipment are on their way to Yemen.

Latest statistics prior to the drop in

consumption of poultry indicate that this revenues from industry amounted to 150 millions annually. This includes selling of local bred as well as imported chicken.

Meanwhile, deputy minister of agriculture and irrigation Eng. Abdulmalik Ahmed al-Arashi, chairman of the operation room on the follow-up of the birdflu disease and primary results affirm that the measures taken in this regard prove to be of avail. He added that there were cases of local chicken deaths in a number of areas caused by the Newcastle disease and has nothing to do with birdflu disease.

The ministry of agriculture says that confirmation has come as a result of field teams reports written by specialists at the public authority of animal wealth entrusted with visiting a number of governorates. Their reports are based on checking samples they had brought from all governorates of Yemen. The establishment of an operation room on the birdflu came as part of the precautionary measures the ministry of agriculture is taking to guarantee that Yemen is free from that epidemic.

New terms for WB assistance to Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Despite the reservations of several donor countries and global organizations in offering financial grants to Yemen, the Yemeni government is appealing to donors with the hope of receiving more aid and grants to implement several development projects and economic reforms in the country.

Yemeni deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation Mr. Ahmed Sofan has affirmed Yemen's keenness on cooperation with the World Bank in order to increase the Bank's grants and assistance to development projects in the country.

In a consultation between the World Bank and the Yemeni government held in Sana'a recently, Mr. Sofan discussed areas of cooperation and measures taken by the government since 1990. He described the bank's regional strategy for assistance as a spring of experience and there better be a mutual benefit from the technical assistance and consultations it offers.

Mr. Sofan also illustrated how Yemen is at present in a viable economic situation; he says the rate of economic growth amounts to 8-10% and would continue in its upscale rate in the five years to come. Sofan also pointed out the importance of regulating efforts

between the government and the WB to establish a real partnership and increase in benefiting from investments provided by the bank.

On his part, WB's regional director has clarified that the strategy of regional assistance to support Yemen in the coming three years includes financial and technical aspects, pointing out that Yemen could benefit from the bank's non-interest easy loans extending over forty years with a ten-year grace period. He said the grants the WB receives from donor countries every three years were distributed to countries that deserve them the most provided that they are subject to audition every year, adding that the results of audition would either increase or decrease assistance to Yemen. He also made it clear that there are new terms for assistance and grants offered by the bank to Yemen as a result.

It is worth mentioning that the World Bank has reduced its assistance to Yemen to two third of its previous programs. Economists in the country attribute that to government way in implementing projects already funded by donor countries and financial corruption among officials and government agencies, which is evident in auditors' reports. Opposition parties claim that Yemen's crisis is the result of government failure and political corruption, the root problem producing corruption in all government agencies.



Sana'a University International Tender Announcement

Sana'a University announces an international tender regarding preparation of the studies and engineering design for **The Faculty of Information**, and invites interested consultant companies and offices (residing in and outside the Republic) wishing to participate in this tender to submit their offers, at the following address:

**The General Administration for Financial Affairs,
Sana'a University
Wadi Dhahr Road
P.O. Box (1247), Sana'a
Republic of Yemen
Tel: (01-464677)**

Tender documents can be obtained upon submitting a written request to the General Secretary, against a non-refundable amount of US\$200. Bids should be submitted in 2 envelopes sealed by red wax, original bid + 3 copies and duplicated (in Arabic and English).

A primary security (bid bond) at 2.5% of total bid value, by payable cheque from a bank recognized in the Republic of Yemen or a bank guarantee valid for 120 days from the envelopes opening date to be attached with the bid.

The date of opening bid (technical envelopes) shall be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 2005 in the presence of the bidders or any party representing them.

Glimpses of Yemen's ancient architecture

By YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Shapes of old Yemeni towns:

By examining the planning, it was known that a Yemeni town or city, had a rectangular area- shape such as Mareb. However, some historians thought the shape was square with round corners such as Shabwa and other ancient towns as Hareeb, Yalcut, Yalcut-Al-Oyoom, Saud Kharaba, and Maeen in Al-Jawf. Usually, each town used to be surrounded by square or rectangular walls such as Gharyoon, south of Al-Mash' had in Hadramout. Yet, towns like Al-Haz had an oval shape, whereas its height today ranges from 6 to 8 meters and its fence has five gates. Similarly, from the ruins of Qataban in Al-Naqab region situated northeast of Bayhan, this town was constructed in an oval shape. In other cases, Sokhum town was rounded; Sahreeb-Shamaal had a round fence with three gates only; and the ruins of Takhtisolomon show that it was also rounded. The latter was built in an area of 2100 square kilometer to the southeast of the Red Sea. So, the overall geometrical shapes of cities differed from one city to another.

Fundamental features:

Another aspect of the fundamental constructional features of the old Yemeni cities and towns is the fact that some of them were founded on highlands, such as Al-Baraber town in Wadi Girdan in the fifth century B.C. The town covered over 400 square meters area, and had a fence of three gates with corners of five angles. Yet, some towns were either of a highly-elevated bases, or were usually built on highlands and lofty mountains. In some cases, they were situated on level areas on hillsides such as those in al-Jawf region, ancient Mareb, Bayhan, Kahlan, Sheibn, and plateaus of Hadramout.

The castles and fortresses were often built for defensive purposes, as for example one situated in Maifan town of Naqab-al-Hajjar. This was described by the explorer R. Royan steade and by other expeditions to South Arabia since 1889. In regards their shapes, usually they were square and of a medium-size range, while the average height of the wall, that encompassed the residential complexes, ranged from 30 to 40 feet, with prominent

towers and two entrances on the northern and southern sides. Between those two entrances right at the middle was a water tank with a passage in front of them.

Al-Haz town represents an archeological site with a rectangular shape. On its northern side, there is an open yard with closed rounded sides rising two meters above the level of the street ground. The main town entrance was a gate in the middle of the front part.

According to Phillipy, the Nagran castle, located at the farthest end south-west of a long tunnel, was constructed with a wall of three meters in height, while the main town entrance was at the northeastern corner facing the town itself.

From the western and northern directions, the wall ran for 250 yards, and the constructed part of the town was of 250 square yards in area.

Usually, the stones used in the construction were big in size - 3-meters long, 1.4 meters high, and one-meter thick. The extension of the buildings and area dimensions of the ancient towns / cities had exhibited magnificence and might. For example, Mareb, the Capital of Sheba kingdom, had an area, according to historian Glazer, that reached 1740 square meters, while Tamnu' was 50 acres only. Again, within the same description, Shabwa was measured between 320 to 500 meters (75 acres) as recorded by few historians, while others mentioned it 50 acres only.

Nevertheless, these are noticeable sizes when we compare them with ancient Jerusalem - from 4 to 5 acres only. At that time, the length of a town's extension was not countable, or known, to ancient Yemenis. Shabwa was extending from the northeast to the southwest, with a main entrance on its northwestern direction. Qarnaw had in view of one historian an extension from the west to the north direction when it began to have a curved passage Same-horam (later known as Dhafar) had its buildings sprawl in the west and east directions, while its area had no specific shape. Moreover, it had a strong gate as its main entrance along with a temple.

The buildings of ancient towns/ cities were not described in details in the history records. As it is the case with many towns, Mareb was encircled by a wall in the middle of whose four sides was a side-way entrance. Qimaw's wall was 400

meters long and 250 wide, and the city inside was built 15 meters above the ground level in order to prevent inundations. On each of its four sides, stood a watch tower. As for Mareb, the western gate measured 2,90 meters wide and 2,4 high. Close to the strong sides of the main entrance gate ran a passage of 3,85 meters in length.

Distinguished design of houses:

So far, we know that ancient Yemen's architecture had two types of houses with square structure. In general, this shaping can also be defined as the one of a right-angle position. From the breakthroughs made until the present day, we can infer that they consisted of two floors, with the front-exterior having a wide area. The upper floor had a number of windows towards the exterior entrance. Usually, the first floor was vertically divided by three internal passages. This vertical separation of the house's front area was the determining factor, while the frontier portion itself was divided into three horizontal parts each extending to the front direction of the main door of the house. Such a construction pattern was found applicable to one sort of houses.

Another pattern of re-organized plan could also be detected in other two-story houses of a wholly extended square shapes, whereby both the floors were connected by walls of equal lengths and widths. The plan design of every house, similar to the houses built in northern lands of Arabia, included a basement situated below the first floor.

The Ottoman Museum in Istanbul is displaying one inscription of an outer aspect of an old Yemeni house consisting of 14 floors, the center of which has passages going all through the length of that whole exterior. As from the center of each equal portion of the whole length, there were small opening serially going down in descendant. They constituted one separately isolated group of holes based on five horizontally shaped sections, three of which were originating from the middle of that length. These five also keep the upper floor in one unifying shape through one common bridge-layer.

At the core of this group, the central opening contained three other yet smaller openings, and by which it was extending in perpendicularly. The lower opening was higher compared to the rest. It was



Yemen has a very unique architecture that has been the subject of much study. This is a view from the Old City of Sana'a: Old houses with a garden in front of them.

occupied by a set of six windows arising out of the total 14 windows of the whole house. Those were located in the two neighboring vents of the house. The other neighboring venting structure carried the base structure of the house's ceiling. The pattern of the most-upper closing of the house may remind us of a closely confirmed prison room that resembled a defensive compartment of a tower structure. From the lower part stretched one teeth-structured extension, on which were built the six rooms of the house. There were right-angle structures rising right to the extending beams of the siding walls of the house. Three horned bull heads were prominent on their sides with horns: the trinity of ancient Yemen's faith, one of which was the moon goddess. They constituted the crown-image of the house which was considered the symbol figure of the "God" known in ancient Yemen. This architecture sheds light on the religiously-followed deity of southern Arabia.

Architecture has bearings on history:

It is important to note the historical date of such houses. Similar inscriptions on such houses were discovered in north Ethiopia which shows the strength of political and cultural relationship between ancient Sheba of Yemen and Eksom

dynasty of Africa. Concerning the idols, they were rock stele with height ranging between 15-30 meters, raised either in straight line or as fronts posing in bending formations.

Each house had approximately eleven windows for the ground floor. Upon the top floor stretched a level area with crown structure at its endings.


Isolated house resembling towers appeared as residential units of ancient Arabs of Yemen in order to defend themselves against the frequent tribal raids. These houses had very thick and folded walls with single entrances sufficiently protected from all sides. The upper parts were erected with hard stones, while certain parts were augmented by certain pieces of uranium metals.

Some ruins of these houses are still present. In addition to the stony material, other substances were used in architecture. While the towers, or fortresses, constituted the basics of the dwellings and were cleverly integrated within the framework of the town's defensive walls in order to protect the city during Maeen's dynasty, which had its capital Maeen (also known as Qimaw). Such structures are recorded in Maeen's inscriptions, one of which was found on a wall not far from its western gates. It particularly described the towers. The inscription mentioned the

names of the builder who masterminded the plan of building towers. They belonged to the higher groups who were known as the king's friends. They constructed six building roofs and six towers which were placed on the wall of Qimaw. These erections were meant to be gifts for their god. Moreover, there are the labels of the various sections of the construction. The inscription also provided the measurements for the area built. It also indicated the source of financing and cost of construction. These were gathered from the taxes, contributions from the King's income, nominal inputs, etc.


Another inscription was also discovered on the eastern wall of the city of Maeen. It contained data on one tower structure built by certain group of men from Habban known to be among the cronies of Maeen's king. Its funding was collected from the duties gathered by the tribal representatives and customs and excise revenues imposed on the commercial activities between the traders and foreign states like Egypt, Gazza and Ethiopia.

A third inscription found on the wall in the region of Naqb-al-Hajjar. It is said to have interesting technical information about the architecture. It elaborated on the fences and gates of the towers built out of stones and tree logs.



"Joma'a Moubarakah... with TeleYemen"


Enjoy... with the off-peak tariff for your international calls during Normal days and all the day on Fridays and National Holidays...



The off-peak tariff starts from 11:00 PM to 09:00 AM everyday.

Now you can call with the off-peak tariff on Fridays and National Holidays without limit time.

National Days: 22 May, 26 Sep, 14 Oct, 30 Nov.



TeleYemen keeps you in touch...

www.teleyemen.com.ye Customer Services Center 153

Newcastle disease in Yemen

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Despite assurances and reassurances from the Yemeni government that there are no cases of bird flu in Yemen and that everything is under control, there is a confession of other viral disease called Newcastle disease (ND).

ND virus is infective for almost all avian species, both domestic and wild. Most susceptible are domestic chickens, turkeys, pigeons and parrots. Milder disease is seen in ducks, geese, pheasant, quails, guinea fowls and canaries.

The severity of the clinical signs are influenced by the strain of virus and the age, condition, pre-existing immunity, other intercurrent disease conditions and the species of the bird. Incubation period is usually 5-6 days but may vary from 2-15 days. ND virus produces four broad clinical syndromes.

Viscerotropic velogenic ND: Characterized by sudden appearance, rapid spread, marked depression, loss of appetite, a sharp drop in egg production, increased respiration, swollen heads, blue combs, and



Swelling and haemorrhage in the reflected lower eyelid

frequently a profuse green diarrhea that leads to dehydration and collapse. Birds may die within 2 days. Those that survive the initial phase will often develop nervous signs such as twisted necks and muscle twitching. Up to 90% of birds may die.

Neurotropic velogenic ND: Severe respiratory and nervous signs predominate, including coughing and gasping, head tremors, wing and leg paralysis and twisted necks. Depression, loss of appetite and a drop in egg production also occur.

Ten to twenty percent of adults and a larger proportion of younger birds may die.

Mesogenic ND: This is a respiratory syndrome with coughing but not gasping. Birds are depressed and lose weight, and egg quality and production decrease for up to 3 weeks. Nervous signs may develop late in the course of the disease and death rates are about 10 percent.

Lentogenic ND: This is generally unnoticed as signs are mild or absent. However, mild respiratory signs and impaired appetite and a drop in egg production may be noticed. No nervous signs occur and deaths are usually negligible.

contacting with infected or diseased birds, the disease usually spreads. The virus is excreted in manure and is expired into the air. Other sources of infection are contaminated equipment, carcasses, water, food and clothing.

The virus is destroyed by direct sunlight within 30 minutes, but in cool weather can continue to survive in manure and contaminated poultry sheds for many weeks. A minimum core temperature of 80°C for one minute destroys the virus in meat products.

Dead chickens in Radfan and Ibb

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

Tens of Chickens have been found dead in many villages and provinces in Ibb and Radfan, daily (Al-Ayam) newspaper reported last Wednesday. According to the newspaper the sudden and odd perish of the poultry create fears and worries to the people of those regions. They expressed their fears of the existence of bird flu, particularly there are many poultry farms in that area, in addition the remains of the chickens that are widespread in the valleys there.

Dr.Mithaq Abdullah Al-Sada, director of epidemic monitoring office in Ibb governorate, confirmed that he had received many complaints of poultry perishing from the citizens. He referred that he visited many regions such as Mitham, Alsira and Badan and other regions. He insisted that the results of the tests, which have been taken from those regions, revealed that the chickens

died because of "Newcastle disease, and not avian flu disease".

AL-Sada called for raising the awareness at the farmers and the owners of poultry farms of the way to deal with the remains and the wastes of their farms.

The newspaper quoted from citizens in Radfan that there were dead chickens in many chickens stores of the province. 100 to 200 chickens were died according to the source. the citizens mentioned that some vehicles carried hug mount of hens entered the province. These hens were sold cheaply 150YR each.

Meanwhile, many parliamentarians are still demanding from the government answers to the mysterious cases of deaths of tens of hens in a number of provinces. The government had said that those deaths were not related to bird flu, but did not provide the actual causes behind such death.

Yemen, has about 5,000 poultry farms. The country consumes 70,000 tons of local poultry and imports another 80,000 tones annually.

Report reveals terrible scores of sufferers in Yemen

The 2004 report of the Ministry of Public Health and Population revealed that the registered number of patients suffering from malaria, diarrhea, tuberculosis, Measles, wheezing, hepatitis and AIDS reached 227,824. The report recorded the overall number of cases in all the Yemeni governorates, 38220 of which in the capital, 5455 in Sana'a Governorate and 25719 in Aden.

According to the report, over 20 billion and 123 million dollars is the value of drugs imported by the government of Yemen from around 253 Arab and world drug companies. Among these companies, 32 are Egyptian, 31 Indian and 30 German during the year. The report added that US\$ 1,242,622 is the value of the imported medical equipment.

These terrible numbers are verified by visits to public and private hospitals and

clinics, where the health facilities are crowded with patients on a regular daily bases irrespective of the lack of proper recording of cases in rural and remote areas due to the lack of health care and health services.

In addition to the official import of drugs, there is the phenomenon of drug trafficking, which the government acknowledged and warned of its risks, but it never took any serious measures to restrict it.

On the other hand, domestic drug industry experienced deterioration while drugs for improving the sexual potency filled the Yemeni markets with reasonable prices for the public.

It is remarkable, the consumption of drugs in Yemen is very high and it has become customary to see patients going out of clinics carrying prescriptions filled with new names and brands of drugs.

Hudida Marine environment at risk

YEMEN TIMES STAFF

The marine environment in Hudida is damaged badly because of spilled oil, solid waste, refuse, and the sewers, according to appealed prosecution in Hudida.

Mr. Ishaq Mohammed Salah, director of appealed prosecution, sent a memo (Yemen Times obtained a copy), in the 16th of November to Dr. Qasam Bria, Director of Hudaida

University, in which he mentioned that there are many breaches, refuse, wastes of sewers and chemical staff, in many regions such as Rasaisa, Katib, and Alarag, cause damage and contaminate the marine environment. Such damages reflect itself on the marine creatures, particularly fish which become, according to the memo, weird taste and sick.

Mr. Ishaq said to Yemen Times that he performed an investigation process himself after he had finished a fish meal with his family "the fish

taste was odd and bad" he said. "I went with a group of experts to some fishing regions for investigation and we found that fish have odd smell" he added. The fishers pointed to Rasaisa, Katib, and Alarag when they were asked about the regions where similar problem be found. "I felt the situation is really dangerous so I sent a memo to Hudida university to investigate and write a detailed report" Mr. Ishaq said

Hudaida University was requested to investigate the situation, evaluate the damages and prepare a technical

report to be sent to the involved authorities

Dr.Qasam stated to Yemen Times that he ordered the formation of a team to investigate the situation, however this investigation will take time.

Dr. Ahmed Hamadi, dean Of Marine biology Collage, said that he can not give any information before the investigative team complete its mission. However, he insisted that the red sea environment is considered "the cleanest environment"

NOVEMBER

Mr. David Mitchell - President & General Manager

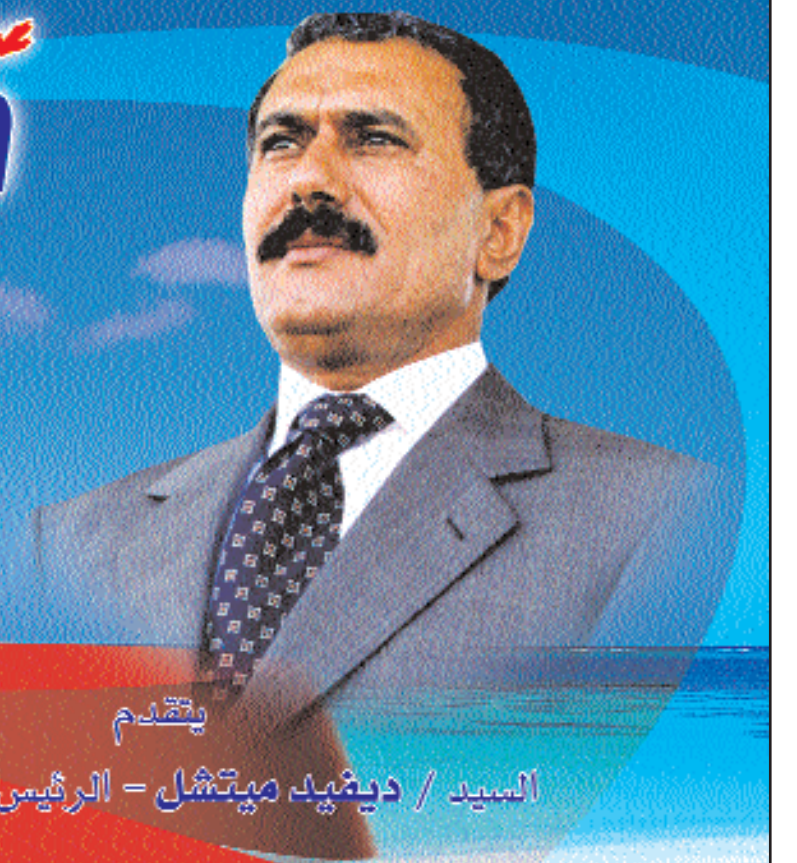
The management team and all staff and Partners of
Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr Ltd.
Block (51)

Present their heartiest congratulations to

H. E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

President of the Republic of Yemen
and the Yemeni people,

Independence Day 30th November
Many Happy Returns



يقدم
السيد / ديفيد ميتشل - الرئيس و المدير العام
و الإدارة العليا و كافة موظفي وشركاء شركة كندية نكسن بتروليم شرق
الحجر المحدودة قطاع ٥١ بأحر التهاني القلبية إلى
فخامة الأخ

علي عبد الله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية حفظة الله
وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بمناسبة

عيد الجلاء ٣٠ نوفمبر

وكل عام وأنتم بخير

Integrated Learning Access Learn Reinforce Support Validate

Sana'a Trade Center
 Algeria St. - P.O.Box: 3964
 Sana'a - Yemen
 Tel: +967 1 449 356/7/8/9
 Fax: +967 448 547
 E-mail: info.yemen@newhorizons.com
 www.newhorizons.com

Microsoft CERTIFIED Learning Solutions Partner

Inside this issue:

- Walk-In™ & Learn at New Horizons
- Microsoft Office 2003 Applications Training
- Integrated Learning Manager
- Technical Training for NH Cisco, Windows 2003, Microsoft.NET
- Wireless & Mobile Communications

New Horizons
 Computer Learning Centers
 CHOICE. LEARN. SUCCEED.™

New Horizons, The World's Largest Independent IT Training Company
 نيوهورايزن اكبر مراكز تدريب كمبيوتر وتقنية معلومات في العالم

Feel The
Power
 Recognize The
Difference

L 200

ADHBAN Trading Corporation
 Head Office Tel : 469768 Fax: 470206
 Show Room, Sana'a Tel : 203156 - 212119
 Hod. : 261841 - Aden : 248325 - Taiz : 242 337
 E.mail : adhbanye@y.net.ye

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

ADHBAN

تيل يمين
TeleYemen

Dawli Cards ... take the world with you !

International Calling Card ... without bill ... without subscription fee
TeleYemen ... Keeps You In Touch

www.teleyemen.com.ye

Customers Services Center 153

ELT Panorama

The art of reviewing a book: Some useful tips

How do we review a book? The question may seem a little intriguing. Why does one choose a topic like this to write on? Here is my reason. I have been following the columns written by Dr M N K Bose with care and interest. I envy his tenacity to be able to write in a sustained manner for close to eighty weeks. I have particularly liked his letters on teaching writing which appeared recently. Though he has discussed teaching different types of writing, he has refrained from discussing teaching writing of book reviews. This piece I thought could come as a supplement (fully aware that it would be a weak one) to his despatches.



Dr S Mohanraj
Faculty of Education
Taiz University, Taiz

I am writing this with students at the undergraduate level as my focus. Almost all the universities in Yemen have a course in Advanced Writing Skills at this level. Topics discussed on this course restrict themselves to providing practice in writing paragraphs, letters – both formal and personal, reports including research reports and summarizing. Reviewing which is an essential skill is ignored. Reviewing has a dual objective. It motivates the learners to read and at the same time hones their writing skills. Hence I consider this a very important skill.

Writing a review is very much part of the writing skills at the advanced level. All writing should necessarily be simple. The reason for this is also simple. You should not strain your reader, or make demands on him or her. In modern parlance we call this 'writing in a reader-friendly' manner. Who can dispute this? Here I am reminded of what A G Gardiner says in his essay 'On Habits'. He says, if you are speaking to someone, and if he/she asks you to repeat what you said more than three times, (in the course of a conversation and not in a sequence) it certainly indicates you are a bad speaker wanting in manners. (This is summarized from memory, and not an actual quotation.) While speaking to others, we need to observe some etiquette such as – not to speak too softly or too loudly (either of which could be a strain on the listener's ears), not to speak too rapidly (when the listener has to be more than attentive to understand whatever you have been saying), not to use too complex words and thoughts etc. Exactly similar principles can be applied to writing. When you write:

- Write clearly – so that someone can read easily;
 - Avoid a complex word and thought;
 - Avoid repetition and rigmorale; and
 - Organize your ideas properly.
- These features help a reader to understand you easily. It is best that all our students adhere to these principles in the best

possible way they can. Now let me get back to the review. A review comments on a work of art. The work of art could be a piece of writing, a painting, a dance recital or a music concert. The list can certainly be longer. What do we do when we look at a piece of art?

a. We appreciate it
The dictionary defines the word 'appreciate' as 'to recognize and enjoy good qualities of something'. This is an essential aspect of a review and a minimum courtesy the audience, spectator or a reader can give to the artist. So principle number one of a good review is APPRECIATE the work. The creator has put in a lot of effort. Recognize that effort. Also recognize the fact that not everyone can do this.

b. Look at it objectively
Objectivity is another essential feature of a review. Matthew Arnold, noted critic, and scholar of the last century observes in an essay called 'The Function of Criticism at the Present Time' as follows. A critic should "look at an object as in itself it really is." This to me is the hallmark of objectivity, and a review should not be very different. This again in some ways shows the respect we have for the creator or the artist. An artist, a creator, an author has his/her personal point of view. He/she finds a medium to express it. We as readers have the right to accept or reject it, but I am afraid we have no right to say that something should have been added or deleted from the work of art. We neither have the right or propriety to offer such suggestions. The second principle is "Be objective."

c. Highlight strengths without underplaying weaknesses
It would perhaps be appropriate to begin a review with a good summary. This gives a holistic view of the work to a reader who may not be familiar with the piece under review. I would perhaps go to the extent of saying this is obligatory. As such an introduction would facilitate understanding the review better. Having provided a summary, one should attempt to list all the strengths of the work under review (for these could obviously be more in number – though there may be exceptions) and also illustrate where necessary. Weaknesses are part of any creation. Nobody, other than God can be perfect and as mortals we are subject to our trespasses. Therefore, a reviewer necessarily needs to look at the work more empathetically and perhaps reason out why these weaknesses could have occurred rather than come down heavily on them. I wonder if any doctoral thesis has been produced in this world to date which is 100% error free!!! If the highest academic document can have

errors why not a piece of creative writing. Third principle says, be empathetic to the author and highlight strengths. Don't ignore weaknesses, but don't overplay them.

d. A reviewer is an observer – not an examiner

I would not like to elaborate on this point for I also belong to that genre of examiners. (Occupational hazard). Examiners are a breed who inherit qualities of nitpicking. Suffice it to say reviewers belong to a more noble tribe. In other words, a reviewer cannot make demands on the artist and dictate terms. A work of art on the other hand can make demands on the reviewer and can give a direction to the review. The relation here is that of a mother and a child. A child would not be a reality unless the mother exists. Principle number four 'Reviewer, do not be an examiner'.

I have tried to elaborate on four points a reviewer should bear in mind. Finally a reviewer should thank the author for having been given an opportunity to go through his/her work. Gandhiji said, "Welcome a customer in your premises. He is not an interference in your work, but he is the cause of it." How true!

Let me conclude by saying something about the types of reviews. Reviews can basically be of three types:

a. Academic Reviews which belong to the tribe of teachers, examiners or the pedagogues. These largely provide a detailed summary and a couple of comments. These are often exercises undertaken to fulfill obligations rather than written out of commitment. The types of answers you write in your examinations is a good example of such reviews.

b. Critical Reviews are largely in the form of treatises which can change the course of our thinking. *Sankarabhasyam* is one such example. Since this is not a

familiar example to you, let me give you another example. Dalton the great scientist said "Atoms are indivisible". But Rutherford who came later critically reviewed his theory and said "Atoms are divisible" This changed the history of atomic studies and our understanding of Physics and Chemistry. Similarly Skinner's theories of language learning as stated in his book *Verbal Behaviour* was critically reviewed by Chomsky and today our understanding of language learning has changed. These are the most difficult and cannot be taught in the classroom.

c. Journalistic Reviews are perhaps the most popular forms of reviews. These are published in newspapers, magazines and journals and help people to become familiar with the books published recently. In today's world the number of books published are quite a few, but the number of books we can read are hopelessly small. We can become familiar with what is happening in the publication world by reading journalistic reviews published in newspapers, journals or even on the net. This has relevance to all of us, and we need to learn this in our classrooms.

Writing a review of any type is an academic exercise. It demands certain amount of discipline. It is a useful exercise in comprehension and criticism for students interested in the art of writing. (Barras R 2003) The attempt made here is to help you, the young learners to cultivate good habits of reading and also reviewing. Nothing is said about how to teach the writing of a review here. This will soon follow.

Till then, happy reading every one.

Barras R (2203) *Writing at Work*
London, Routledge

A letter to the teachers of English: 99

Use computers in English classes

Dear Fellow teachers,

If you plan to do something physical, like build a wall or dug a ditch, then computer is not the machine, but many of your tasks are concerned with information processing and to use another grand term, symbol manipulation, which is the essence of computing.

There is another fear in the minds of the teachers who want to use computers for English language Teaching and learning; they think that one needs to know programming if one wants to use a computer for language teaching. This is unfounded, because you don't need to know how to write a programme to use a computer; in fact, most computer users today know nothing about programming at all.

What has extended the use of computers to non-programmers in recent years is the development of programmes called applications or application programmes. Applications are like the attachments you get with a vacuum cleaner. These attachments allow you to transform the original machine into tools that perform different tasks. Similarly, an application programme transforms a computer from a general-purpose machine into a specialized tool. For example, if you load a graphics application in your computer, it becomes a machine for drawing; if you load a word processing application, it becomes a machine for writing texts. Many application programmes are available to the teachers of English in the form of instructional software or courseware.

The courseware has been designed to teach particular skills as mentioned in the earlier letter. There are programmes which are readymade, which can be used as they are without any modification; programmes in which the teacher can make modifications using what is



Prof. M.N.K. Bose
mnk_bose@hotmail.com
Professor of English,
Faculty of Arts, Ibb

called authoring language, mainly for advanced learners; programmes which can be prepared by the teacher using a computer language, mainly for those teachers who are experts in computer languages.

The first type of software is good for the beginners, as it does not involve any manipulation. Once you are familiar with the courseware, you can use the second type of software and using an authoring language makes the exercises more need-based. Authoring languages allow you to produce a series of modules or frames that make up a mini course. The authoring programme will prompt you for information such as the number of frames, the text or questions for each frame, and a response for each answer given by the student. Responses might consist of text, such as 'Right!' or the presentation of a new frame. The authoring software then takes all the information you have entered and constructs a course for the student to use. This course will be modeled on the original programme the student started with with differences. The advantage of using an authoring language is that you don't have to do any programming and so produce useful materials in a short time, but the disadvantage is that you have to work within a set format. If you can, there is nothing like producing a courseware yourself. Alternatively, you can write your own courseware in collaboration with a computer specialist, if you are keen on your own materials and if you have the facilities in your institution. Start using computers for ELT. Good luck.

Yours fraternally,
Dr.M.N.K.Bose

CAMPUS VIGNETTE

Open defense of MA dissertation at University of Applied and Social Sciences, Sana'a

FOR YEMEN TIMES

The open defense of the MA dissertation prepared by Fadi Abdulhalim Ahmed Al-Rasheed was held at the University of Applied and Social Science, Sana'a, on 12 October 2005. Mr. Fadi's dissertation titled "Love and Gloom in Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights" was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, and was examined by Dr. Syed Mohammed Khurshid Anwar and Dr. Mahmoud Akhtar of The University of Science and Technology, Sana'a. Mr. Fadi, in his scholarly presentation ably defended his dissertation and gave an excellent critical analysis of Emily Bronte's novels and successfully situated Wuthering Heights in its proper perspective. He stood his ground and answered a barrage of questions both from the examiners and from the informed members of the audience, which reflected his critical acumen, depth of insight and range of familiarity

with the galaxy of 19th century novelist in general and Emily Bronte in particular. Results were announced by Dr. Ra'ad Alwaaly, Dean of Higher Studies. Mr. Fadi was warmly felicitated for being awarded a well-deserved overall 'Excellent' grade by the considered opinion of the examiners. The function which was well-attended included luminaries such as His Excellency Mr. Khalid Al-Sakh, Palestinian Ambassador in the Republic of Yemen; Mr. Saadi Al-Mahrooq, Chief Accounts Manager; Mr. Amad Qazaz, Third Secretary in Palestinian Embassy; Mr. Yusar Radwan, Manager of British Institute for Language and Computer, Sana'a, as well as Dr. Raad Alwaaly, Dean, Higher Studies.

The function ended with a warm vote of thanks to the learned examiners.



Mr. Fadi defending his dissertation.



Dr. Ra'ad announcing the results.



A section of the audience.

A note to our readers

Beginning this issue 'ELT Panorama' will appear every alternate week. ELT Panorama segment of Education Page will feature the following: Tips for Teachers, Essays/Articles, Youth Forum, Readers Forum, A letter to the Teachers of English, Campus Vignette, Poetry Corner, and WonderWord. 'Improve Your English' segment will continue to have the regular features as usual. We sincerely hope, our readers would find the modified format interesting and useful.

—Dr. Sahu

WONDERWORD by DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions – vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Alkaline | Copper | Gold | Mixture | Polish |
| Alloy | Cover | Gray | Mold | Pots |
| Appearance | Craft | Guns | Molten | Process |
| Bell | Cutlery | Hammer | Move | Products |
| Bend | Cutting | Handle | Nail | Protection |
| Bins | Detector | Heavy | Need | Railing |
| Blades | Device | Iron | Nickel | Reflective |
| Blend | Drill | Knife | Nuts | Shop |
| Brass | Duck | Lamp | Ores | Spoon |
| Bronze | Ends | Last | Ornament | Tables |
| Buttons | Engine | Lead | Oxidized | Tins |
| Cans | Factory | Lids | Paint | Tools |
| Caps | Fence | Light | Pans | Tuff |
| Cars | File | Luster | Parts | Uses |
| Cart | Firm | Machines | Pewter | Work |
| Case | Fork | Make | Pipe | Zipper |
| Cast | Forming | Mass | Plate | |
| Chrome | Frame | Material | Platinum | |
| Coat | Fuse | Melt | Plug | |
| Cobalt | Gadget | Mine | Plumbing | |

METAL ITEMS

A	T	R	E	F	L	E	C	T	I	V	E	R	E	P	P	I	Z	S	S
P	L	A	T	I	N	U	M	G	K	R	F	C	F	I	L	E	H	P	C
P	E	K	G	P	O	T	S	C	R	U	O	A	I	E	M	O	A	R	U
E	M	H	A	O	T	N	U	T	S	A	C	N	N	V	P	C	M	O	T
A	T	N	R	L	X	D	E	E	B	Y	S	K	O	E	L	M	C	T	
R	S	E	A	I	I	C	H	R	O	M	E	M	I	D	E	E	I		
A	S	B	P	S	L	N	D	Y	V	A	E	H	G	A	L	G	R	S	N
N	O	I	S	H	E	P	E	I	D	S	N	R	N	L	C	U	E	S	G
C	P	A	M	F	A	U	T	N	Z	S	S	D	I	L	T	L	N	N	E
E	M	M	R	I	D	R	E	T	W	E	P	R	L	X	R	P	I	O	K
T	E	A	N	L	N	L	C	G	E	N	D	S	I	E	D	M	G	N	T
N	M	T	L	O	B	E	T	O	D	G	P	M	A	L	R	N	T	M	
E	P	E	A	M	I	Y	O	L	L	A	D	B	R	O	N	Z	E	U	A
M	B	R	R	L	N	T	R	D	O	N	S	A	F	E	F	E	S	B	C
A	P	I	O	E	P	E	C	K	M	E	I	F	G	A	P	E	E	C	H
N	F	A	T	D	V	Y	R	E	L	T	U	C	C	Y	S	P	A	D	I
R	S	L	R	O	U	O	T	B	T	T	O	T	K	T	K	R	O	W	N
O	O	R	C	T	F	O	A	I	N	O	P	S	E	T	A	O	C	E	
M	E	S	A	C	S	T	T	N	R	R	A	S	B	L	A	D	E	S	
T	F	A	R	C	G	U	N	S	Y	S	L	P	L	U	M	B	I	N	G

© 2005 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Keepsake

Readers' Forum

Dear Dr. Sahu,
I highly appreciate your efforts, published in Yemen Times entitled "Improve your English". As an ambitious Iraqi teacher whose concern is to improve my English, I've read many issues during my stay there. I ask you for the latest issues of the paper embodying the said page, since it is impossible for me to get the said paper

here. Thanks to you
Your sincerely

Fadel Athab
al_jubory2006@yahoo.com
Iraq

Dear Mr. Athab,
Thanks for your views. The Education page is available on the internet at Yemen Times website (www.yementimes.com). Please keep following up the page as before.

Dr. Sahu



YOUTH FORUM



Embers of waiting
Farewell O my everything!!
Take care of my mind and soul.
It will be so deep, my suffering.
There will be no light at all.
My boat will be wandering aimlessly
In the ocean of my tears.
On burning embers of waiting,
I will painfully crawl.

The embers keep on burning
Till I have no flesh at all.
Come so soon, please, and bring balm
To my tortured mind and soul.
Not to let embers of waiting
Burn my remains that will fall.
By Mohammed Al-Malahi
P.O. Box 132, Riyadh, 111411
KSA

**CLASSIFIED
ADVERTISEMENTS
PAGE**



Yemen's first and most widely-read English-language newspaper

ARAB INSURANCE COMPANY Y.S.C. الشركة العربية للتأمين

Yib

Email: arabinsuranco@y.net.ye

	Mobile	Fax
Head Office - Sana'a 606810 - 15	606816	220753
Aden Branch	:220751	220753
Abyan Branch	:604030	73669453
Hodeidah Branch	:219672	71600623
Taiz Branch	:250744	73251812
Al Mukalla Branch	:309733	77916961

سوفت يمن

YEMEN SOFT

Business Solutions Experts

Sana'a: Tel - 503806 Fax - 503807
www.yemensoft.net

سمن تتوارثه الأجيال

القمرية

سمن نباتي عالي الجودة

Kamaria

SANA'A: Land of housing

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

Sana'a lies in the mid of the western mountainous chain which stretches from the far north of Yemen to the south. It is surrounded by a number of governorates: Amran to the north, Dhamar to the south, Al-Jawf and Marib to the east, AL-Hodeidah to the west and on the northwestern direction are the two governorates of Hajjah and Mahweet.

The Relief of Sana'a varies between basins, and Wadis (valleys) involving green amphitheatric mountainous terraces and fertile lands. Within its mountain chain, it is the highest mountain summit of Arabia. Sana'a is famous for producing all kind of grains, the best quality of grapes, and Yemeni coffee. Most of its population are engaged in agriculture and cattle rising.

Sana'a governorate is distinguished by its daily and weakly public markets that are held in many cities and areas. There is some thing that might be interesting in these old markets besides the interesting of sale and buying and the written agreements that had been done between the tribes called (Marakeem). These agreements deem as a control system which organize every thing to held these markets in its right time.

There are some historical and archeological sites in Sana'a province that have a wide fame.

Ghaiman:
Ghaiman is an archeological village on the southwest direction of the capital, and is situated some twenty kilometers of a distance. Its name was mentioned in many ancient Yemeni inscriptions. While its ruins that are still visible witness the civilized standard that villages had achieved before Islam. Some tombs of ancient Yemeni kings can be seen there such as the tomb of the famous Hamearat King Abo-Kareeb Assad.

In addition, there are old and huge-sized water reservoirs being constructed through engraving the mountainous rocks, thereby taking part of the internal size-structures of these mountains found in the region. In the past time, rain waters were kept by these reservoirs, and away from the heat of sunrays so as not to be evaporated.

Dhi Marmar Fort :
It lies 27 km to the northeast of Sana'a, in Shibam Sakheem, which is known nowadays as Shibam Gharas . Along with Shibam, this castle was among the important commercial centers that controlled the "traffic" of commercial caravans.

Some of the discoveries in this area resulted in the presence of ancient mummies that were found inside rocky-built burials.

The results of such discoveries stated that ancient people of Yemen practiced the art of mummification, which had been undertaken in procedures different than the one practiced by the ancient pharaohs of Egypt.



Al-Hajara Village:

Al-Hajara is one village of Haraiz zone; few kilometers to the west of Manakha. It is not far from the historical Masar fort, which forms the first line of defense for the village from the west side.

This fort is the very same fort where Ali Mohammed Al-Sulayhi

between Sana'a and the Red Sea.

The clear-cut features of AL-Hajara village that its high-rise stone houses are some eight stories high and some were estimated hundreds of years old, overlooking very steep valleys with beautiful terraces.

Kuhlan:
It is an archaeological area; lying to the northwest of Sana'a, and is 2400 kilometers high above sea level. Its history goes back to pre-Islamic times.

Bilad Al -Rous (Turkish bath centers):
As a naturally splendid resort, it's situated in Al-Hazz Wadi to the southern direction of the capital.

Arhab:
It is a famous area in Sana'a governorate, is situated 20 kilometers to the northeast direction of Sana'a. AL-Heifha is the center of the Arhab while Dayban and Baet-Maran Mountains, which are approximately 2600 meters high, consider as famous mountains in that region.

Arhab is considered as one of the greatest tribes in Yemen which had a great history in the



emerged as the founder of the Sulayhid Dynasty (1047-1138 AD.). The Ottomans stationed their guns here to protect the delivery of military supplies

HIACE COMMUTER 2006

A Trustworthy Partner of Power and Integrity

TOYOTA

AMTC
Automotive & Machinery Trading Center
Unbreakable Characteristics

P.O.Box: 284 - Sana'a - Republic of Yemen
Tel.: (967-1) 445362/3/4 Fax: (967-1) 445365
www.amtc-yemen.com
E-mail: amtc@amtc-yemen.com

Pre-Islamic age or even in the Islamic age. The zone is very rich with its archeological sites that some of it had mentioned in some engravings such as ancient Mader city, Hazm village, Matarha fort, and Beat-Obedha.

قمرية NOKIA N70

استخدمه الإنترنت والتلفزيون المحمول. إنه يجعل التحدث بالهاتف
يسهل. الفعالية تأتي مع جودة التصوير الفوتوغرافي. قد أصبح
محبباً في كل مكان. إنه لك الهاتف المثالي.

NOKIA
Connecting People

73 1133 55