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YEMEN TIMES

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Italian hostage injured as police open fire on captors

MAREB, Jan. 4 – One woman among five Italian tourists still in captivity in Beit Al-Zaidi, Abida tribe, in the eastern Yemeni province of Mareb, suffered minor injuries as police opened fire on their kidnapers. Efforts to free the hostages resulted in an exchange of threats between the government and kidnapers. According to news Wednesday morning, the kidnapers are believed to be sons of Saleh Ubad Al-Zaidi, who was killed by police two years ago in a dispute over a car without a license plate. Kidnapers demand the release of Najj Bin Saleh Al-Zaidi, son of Sheikh Saleh

Al-Zaidi, who was handed over by UAE authorities to the Yemeni government at the end of 2004, Mareb sources said. Al-Zaidi was arrested on a charge of instigating the killing of Sheikh Abdulwali Al-Qairi, head of Beit Al-Qairi sheikhs, at the end of the same year. Al-Zaidi denied the charge and demanded to be released and referred to the court but security authorities have kept him in jail without trial. Circulating rumors and news indicate that negotiations with kidnapers may culminate in securing the release of the

Italian hostages (two men and three women) by the end of the week. Speeding the hostages' release depends on government's response to the kidnapers' demand. Kidnapers announced they would be accountable for any risk to hostages' lives unless government uses force against them, as one of the three women hostages received minor injuries when security troops opened fire on the kidnapers, sources mentioned. The abduction of the five Italian tourists is the fourth kidnapping incident in two months, but the first of 2006. Kidnapers released the three women,

who refused to leave the men behind, on the first of this month. The kidnapping occurred in Sirwah, Mareb governorate, east of Sana'a, just one day after the release of a German family kidnapped in Shabwa. Tribesmen's demand for release of relatives detained by security authorities is the primary reason behind kidnapping of European tourists. At the beginning of the week, President Ali Abdullah Saleh threatened to hunt those who kidnap. He also fired senior officials in Mareb and Shabwa provinces as a step to improve security measures and prevent repeat kidnappings in the two areas.

Yemen Times Person of the Year 2005 Hiyam Mubarak

"If there is a will, there is a way. We are the will and we make the way!" according to Hiyam Mubarak, Chairperson of Al-Iradah Network for Poverty Eradication. This year, the Yemen Times Person of the Year trend was broken. This time, it is not just one person; it is rather a group of people. Although represented by their leader Mubarak, the Yemen Times felt that all Al-Iradah team members deserve reward for their amazing work during 2005. "Al-Iradah means will. We specifically chose this name because we knew what was waiting for us and we wanted to tell ourselves and the world that we have a strong will to change the situation for the

better. We are up to the challenge!" Mubarak said. The newly married Mubarak is a young woman from Al-Mua'ala, Aden, and a government employee. Along with six other members, she established the Women's Association for Poverty Reduction in Aden in 1999. The association is home for more than 20 street children saved from the street and taken care of by association members. Mubarak established Al-Iradah Network through the women's association in early 2004, leading another seven associations working on poverty.



Details on page 5

Artists and others denounce tourist kidnappings



Protestors denouncing the kidnapping of tourists.

PHOTO BY FOUAD AL-HARAZI

SANA'A Jan. 2 – Hundreds of artists and cultural elite took to capital streets denouncing the country's frequent tourist kidnappings and saying such conduct will impact Yemen's national economy and future. The demonstration began at the Cultural Center to the Cabinet where protestors were received by Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal who affirmed that the kidnapping phenomenon is exceptional and should be dealt with seriously. The government will pass a kidnapping law against those abducting tourists and foreign visitors, since their acts contravene the law and the constitution and harm Yemen's reputation, Bajammal said. He emphasized that such acts constitute grave crimes and the government should quickly react and impose penalties on kidnapers. The Prime Minister criticized delaying the draft amendment to the arms ban, which provoked curiosity from a large portion of the public who say the

ruling party should be held accountable for tourist kidnappings since it dominates Parliament and can put the ban into effect. Several protestors affirmed that foreign tourist kidnapping in Yemen is a complicated problem, negatively impacting the tourism sector in particular and the national economy in general. Losses to the economic sector are significant, in that Yemen's tourism sector is one of the most important in contributing revenue to the state's general budget. Preliminary estimates indicate Yemen's tourism sector has lost approximately 25 percent of tourism-related revenue due to tourist kidnappings. Dr. Abdulbar, head of the Yemeni Writers Union, affirmed that tourism in Yemen is not merely an economic activity; rather it reflects the cultural and civilized heritage of Yemenis. He added that the spread of such a phenomenon will harm Yemen's history and reputation.

Two kidnappings occurred last month: the German family in Shabwa province and the Italian hostages in Mareb who remain in captivity. For its part, the Yemeni Society for Tourism and Travel Agencies released a statement deploring tourist kidnappings, particularly the German Chrobog family. "Society is of the view that the crime was committed by irresponsible people whose acts and behaviors contradict human values and religious principles," it stated. Additionally, Yemenia Airways strongly denounced kidnapping European tourists over time, saying it harms Yemen's reputation and glorious history. It condemned the extraneous phenomenon as damaging the country's tourist activities, particularly as Yemenia has expended great effort in promoting tourism and investment in Yemen. Yemenia updated its fleet by purchasing new planes of different models. Due to the heavy losses and the phenomenon's impact on the national economy, Yemenia demanded concerned authorities put an end to kidnappings in the "Land of Faith and Wisdom."

Yemen at the bottom as to Millennium Goals

SANA'A, Jan. 3 – Yemen occupied the lowest stage in social statistics and indicators from the UN Economic and Social Committee for West Asia (ESCWA). The committee evaluates these countries' progress according to their achievement in meeting Millennium Development Goals for 2005. According to poverty elevation statistics through 2001, ESCWA found the percentage of those living on less than \$1 a day was 29.63 percent. Populations with no access to minimum nutritional energy were 46.1 percent. The report noted that 19 percent of children under age 5 were underweight, including children less than one year old. Committee statistics showed 60 percent of school-age children registered for basic education through 2000. The rate was 52.7 percent in 1990, with a 60.5 percent increase. The report showed basic school attendance through 2000 was 75.1 percent, an improvement over many countries listed. However, the study revealed a drop in illiteracy eradication among ages 15-24 compared to other

countries. The rate was 64.4 percent of youth; however, 35 percent of this sector remains illiterate. ESCWA equity indicators showed improvement compared to other west Asian countries. The rate of males to females in basic education was .6 percent, .04 percent in secondary education and .3 percent in higher education. The committee found no indicators concerning HIV/AIDS patients due to lack of information in Yemen and other countries. ESCWA registered a mortality rate of 24 out of 100,000 due to malaria for all age groups, whereas it was 93 out of 100,000 for children ages 0-4. The malaria spread rate was 1,523 out of 100,000; however no spread cases were reported among children ages 0-4. The mortality rate due to tuberculosis was 13 out of 100,000, while the tuberculosis infection rate was 70 out of 100,000. ESCWA indicators and reports found Yemen's development up to 2005 was the highest of the group, at 2.3 percent.

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HOOD: 38 refugees detained in Yemen

SANA'A, Jan. 3 — The National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms, known as HOOD, revealed that 38 Somalis have been detained at the Criminal Investigation Bureau and at Al-Wahdah, Al-Bilaili and Al-Nassar police stations since Dec. 17 clashes with police who broke up a sit-in in Sana'a.

In a statement issued last Tuesday, HOOD condemned the conduct of security apparatuses, which forced dozens of refugees to write pledges not to hold a sit-in at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees office in west Sana'a.

Acts of violence continued for 35 days, leading to the death of 37-year-

old refugee Ali Umar Mohamed Ali Eqbal, who left his three children with their mother in the city of Busasu, Somalia. Eight people were injured and dozens captured in the incident.

Human rights organizations accused police of Eqbal's death, after being requested by UNHCR to put an end to the sit-in staged in front of its office.

Refugees were protesting against what they called "discrimination," claiming they should enjoy their rights in compliance with international conventions.

According to the UNHCR, Yemen is the only country in the region where the government grants Somali refugees the rights to refuge and work in its territory.

Three Saudis and Yemeni citizen receive perpetuity imprisonment

SANA'A, Jan. 4 — The penal court in Baghdad issued a perpetuity imprisonment conviction against three Saudis and a Yemeni. It is because of their intention to commit terrorist activities in Iraq. A source in the court told Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Newspaper that the suspects' names were Abdulmajed Hazim, Ibrahim Abdullah and Nadir Obied. The Yemeni suspect is called Mansour Ali.

The source said that the three were caught while they were crossing the Saudi borders. They confessed that they were planning to execute terrorist actions inside Iraq. He pointed out that according to article 149 of the penal law, the planner, the executer and even those who intend to carry out actions, are equally condemned. The source

assured that the accused had enjoyed the right of having a defense lawyer, appointed by the court. The rulings will be remitted to the appeal court for final decision.

Riyadh explained that the Riyadh agreement dealt with the extradition matter. It gave Iraq the right to carry out all trials against criminals, even those who are foreign nationals or have the nationality of the participating countries. It also gave the Iraqi courts the right to report to the other countries about the criminals who committed illegal actions inside Iraq. If these are Iraqis, they will be extradited to Iraq. If they are foreigners they will be tried according to their country's law, however bilateral agreements will be considered in extradition cases.

Renewed conflict between Al-Saida and Al-Mazareek tribes

SANA'A Jan. 4 — Conflicts erupted once more between Al-Saida and Al-Mazareek tribes in Al-Jawf governorate. The conflict took place following a reconciliation period which ended two days ago. Tribesmen fired on each other using long-range missiles and machine guns. More than 30 died and many were injured on both

sides.

Many sheikhs, officials and residents of Al-Jawf governorate demand the government and official security intervene between the two tribes to end the conflict.

The tribal conflict is attributed to revenge crimes many years ago between Al-Saida and Al-Mazareek.

Yemen Commercial Bank announces new electronic services



General Manager Ayed Al-Mashni

By: Abdulalem Al-Shara'bi

SANA'A, Jan. 3 — On the occasion of the New Year, Yemen Commercial Bank announced its new electronic banking services: ATM debit cards, point of sale, telephone and SMS banking.

Chairman Sheikh Mohammed Bin Yahia Al-Rowaishan said this new era confirms Yemen Commercial Bank's leadership in the local market.

One of Yemen's first national banks, it was established February 4, 1993 by a group of key Yemeni businessmen and financial market leaders. Al-Rowaishan noted that YCB is a closed shareholding company with a 90 percent share and 10 percent for Yemen Oil Company.

"Through its network of eight branches in Sana'a and other main cities, the bank is able to provide comprehensive banking services to all market sectors," he said.

He also mentioned that YCB was the first commercial bank established after the Yemeni unity. It provides retail and corporate clients a range of banking products and services in a professional and efficient environment using advanced methods and techniques to enter international markets through its network of worldwide correspondents.



Hani Idris, Executive Consultant for Retail and Marketing

General Manager Ayed Al-Mashni said the bank aims to open five new branches in Sana'a and other main cities in 2006. He added that YCB is one of the first Yemeni banks to implement real-time online automation in its banking operations, thereby improving its customer service level, in addition to normal banking services such as deposits in Yemeni Riyals and other currencies, remittances, current and saving accounts, personal loans, Swift and other services.

Additionally, he said YCB invests in its equipment and qualifies employees in introducing unique services, which positions YCB as one of the market leaders.

Hani Idris, Executive Consultant for Retail and Marketing, believes YCB capitalizes on its strengths, as it was one of the first to issue Visa and MasterCard in Yemen, as well as Yemen's first Money Gram agent.

YCB recently launched four electronic banking services over a two-week period: ATM debit cards, point of sale, telephone and SMS banking.

Idris said YCB will launch an average of one product, program or service monthly throughout 2006. Such an aggressive plan will assure YCB's leadership in banking techniques and customer service.

Final landslide death toll announced

SANA'A, Jan. 3 — Search and rescue teams Tuesday night concluded the search for bodies buried by rubble in the landslide-affected village of Al-Dhafir, Bani Matar.

According to Saba News Net, Sana'a governor Abdul-Wahid Al-

Bukhaiti said rescue teams concluded their search for survivors and bodies in Al-Dhafir, while victims' families made sure none were left beneath rubble.

Bukhaiti said the final death toll from the landslide was 65 and eight

injured. He added that the task of rescue teams now is to reconstruct affected houses and provide shelter for the village's homeless families. In this regard, the Yemeni Cabinet agreed to reconstruct Al-Dhafir, rebuilding on a new site for those families left homeless.

Al-Dhafir was destroyed Wednesday, Dec. 28 when a mountaintop landslide hit more than 23 houses. Sixteen of the destroyed houses were inhabited at the time of the avalanche.

On the same front, Al-Shour Net reported that a large rock tumbled down a mountain in Haijat Al-Shaer village in Taiz governorate at around 2 p.m. Tuesday. The large rock fell and destroyed qat fields. No one was reported injured but many were panicked. Villagers say rockslides occur in the area due to last summer's heavy rains.



Socialist party denounces attempts to close Jarallah Omar case

SANA'A, Jan. 1 — The Socialist Party demanded a "national independent committee be formed for a comprehensive investigation in Jarallah's assassination case."

This came in a statement issued on the eve of the third remembrance of the murder of the party's General Secretary, Jarallah Omar. It demanded the independent national committee question all those names were mentioned in the official investigation minutes, as well as those suspected of direct or indirect involvement and those suspected to have facilitated or overlooked the crime.

In its statement distributed to the media, the party confirmed its refusal of authorities' and their official bodies' dealings in the case. Additionally, the party condemned efforts to close the case before concluding investigations of the remaining terrorist cell members and those mentioned in the assassin's confession. It added, "Execution of the assassin will never end the case... [The Socialist Party] will not rest until they

disclose all the mysteries of the murder."

The party "denounces the abstinence of the High Court not to consider the Appeal Court's ruling that the prosecution finish investigating all band members," to which the assassin, Sawani, belonged. It said those mentioned in investigations should also have been questioned, adding, "The prosecution and the political security should have been ordered to hand over the 94 torn papers and add them to the crime file."

Authorities executed Jarallah's murderer amid remonstrations from the Socialist Party and Jarallah's family. They considered the execution an official effort to close the case and give it a penal perspective, while it is a clear political case.

The political group following up Jarallah Omar's assassination insistently demanded authorities disclose the truth and refer the real perpetrators to justice. It also demanded the plan to liquidate political and intellectual person-



Late Jarallah Omar

alities be revealed.

Sources believe the group will use all methods, with a view to internationalizing the case, which the group believes the assassin's execution was only an excuse to close.

Famed lawyer Ahmed Al-Wadae blamed the Socialist Party for failing to internationalize Jarallah's case, if only for the sake of loyalty, while all internationalization factors were available.

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:

Yemeni prisons are full of hundreds of detainees without charges. Do you think that the government will reconsider the cases of these detainees through trial or release?
Yes
No
I don't know

Last edition's question:

After a halt down, the kidnapping series reappeared in 2005. Do you attribute this kidnappings to foreign forces or to the faulty government security dealing?

Government faulty dealing	75%
Foreign forces	15%
I don't know	10%

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

Islah Party encourages women candidates

SANA'A, Jan. 3 — The Islah Party has nominated five women out of 35 candidates in upcoming local elections.

Amal Al-Basha, head of Arab Sisters Forum, affirmed the party's nomination of five female candidates to be trained for local elections in September. "It is good news that there are five female trainees nominated by the Islah Party. We congratulate the Islah Party for this initiative," she said at the opening of the training program for local elections. She urged other parties to follow suit.

Abdu Al-Janadi, head of the Information Sector of the Supreme Committee for Elections, said in previous elections, women's participation as

candidates was not encouraging, even though there are millions of women in Yemen.

He added that everyone is looking forward to getting to know the women candidates of the Islah Party, which is the largest opposition party. He invited other parties to give women chances to nominate themselves in elections. "It is fair that women exercise their rights in nominating themselves in local and general elections," he said.

In February 2001 local elections, there were 84 female nominees and 38 won their elections. Twenty-nine belonged to the General People's Congress, six to the Yemeni Socialist Party and three were independent.

Four new oil companies explore in Yemen

SANA'A, Jan. 1 — The biggest agreement of its kind was signed on Wednesday by the Yemeni government with Korean oil companies.

The Yemeni Ministry of Oil and Minerals signed an agreement with four South Korean companies due to take part in the exploration and production of oil in Block 16 in the Yemeni eastern province of Mahrah.

The agreement stipulated that the Korean companies should spend a sum of US\$ 13 million on the exploratory operations they will implement in an area of 10 square kilometer. The Korean companies, under the agree-

ment, will dig and assess an exploratory well and survey an area of 11,000 square kilometer.

In the beginning of last September, the Yemeni Ministry of Oil and Minerals signed a similar agreement with four petroleum companies from different countries, under which those companies explore and produce oil in Block 6, Shabwa province.

Seven foreign oil companies working in the oil sector in Yemen operate in seven productive blocks, while another 20 companies are still in the explorative phase in over 20 blocks around the country.

New oil explorations for Total in Yemen

SANA'A, Jan. 2 — French petroleum company Total, operating Block 10 in Shabwa province, recently explored a new oil well with an overall production capacity of 1,900 barrels per day, according to a joint statement released by the Yemeni Ministry of Oil and Minerals and Total.

The statement confirmed the new oil explorations will help open new and numerous horizons for oil and gas-related activities in the country.

Along with U.S. and Korean companies, Total operates Yemen's natural gas project initiated in 2005.



Taj Sheba in the community

SANA'A, Jan. 1 — The Taj Sheba Hotel, Sana'a in true humane spirit started the New Year by bringing a smile on the faces of children. The General Manager of Taj Sheba, Mr. Malvinder Narang accompanied by his team personally fed children at the reform school run jointly by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

First Yemeni polling center launched



For years, Yemeni society has been awaiting a means to voice their interests

SANA'A, Dec. 31 — After a long one-and-a-half-year waiting period, the Yemen Polling Center (YPC) has received its registration certificate from the Ministry of Social Affairs. The YPC is the first non-governmental organization specializing in scientific research, polls, surveys, public opinion and questionnaires.

YPC president Hafez Al-Bukari said, "We will try to create strong awareness among people and decision makers concerning public opinion issues." Al-Bukari, who recently resigned as General Secretary of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate (YJS) in protest of the new draft press law, added, "We aim

to contribute in building a free, open and democratic society by investigating, exposing and challenging the diverse social, cultural, political and economic circumstances in our country."

The YPC officially launched its activities amid huge differences between the media and governmental and opposition research center results concerning sensitive political issues. In this regard, YPC official documents state that it objectively and professionally tackles all issues with complete efficiency and is not subjected to any external influence. The center's expertise and professionalism will provide

accurate results on crucial issues and avoid any future doubt in public opinion results. Numerous professional journalists, academics, researchers and volunteers currently administrate the center.

Planned projects of the Yemen Polling Center include:

- Conducting a wide-range poll on Yemeni electoral registration procedures
- Assessing electoral awareness among Yemenis
- Establishing the first Yemeni media electoral monitor
- Launching the first Yemeni website specializing in polling and public opinion issues

- Offering consistent polls showing Yemeni attitudes toward government performance

- Adopting a field study showing the attitude of government employees toward wages strategy

- Providing training courses on scientific methods used when conducting field research and opinion polls

- Organizing field research on obstacles facing investors in Yemen

- Preparing a wide-range study on difficulties faced by Yemeni immigrants when visiting Yemen

- Conducting an opinion poll on society's attitude toward Yemen's political parties.

UNICEF extends relief to landslide-hit village

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, Jan. 2 — As part of its response to authorities to cope effectively with distributing essential supplies, a UNICEF team, headed by country representative Ramesh Shrestha, visited Al-Dhafir village Monday.

During the visit, the UNICEF team met with the governor of Sana'a and district authorities to assess the situation and provide urgent relief to children temporarily sheltered in makeshift camps.

conjunction with non-governmental organizations.

Naseem Al-Rahman, Director of UNICEF Information Communication Programs, said aid was delivered to the Yemeni Red Crescent Association, which is responsible for distributing relief to affected villagers.

In his visit to the area, Al-Rahman presented his heartfelt condolences to displaced families of the landslide-hit village.

For his part, Shrestha emphasized the need to provide essential supplies with-



Naseem Al-Rahman, Director of UNICEF Information Communication Programs

UNICEF provided in-kind aid to displaced families in Al-Dhafir, which was hit by a landslide last week. Relief packages included 22 medium-sized containers for safe drinking water storage, 440 blankets, 220 Jerry cans, 110 kitchen kits, 110 gas cylinders and winter clothes for women and children sheltered in camps on Al-Dhafir's periphery.

Relief items were distributed by local authorities and relief committees in

out losing any time, providing urgent support to families who have yet to recover from the shocks the landslide caused the village.

He noted that women's and children's needs should be given priority attention by the government, development partners and community leaders. "Our visit is intended to create renewed attention to the plight of children and families displaced by the catastrophe," he added.

Educated women can't get married!

By: Hakim Al-Masmari
Hakim_Almasmari@hotmail.com

Over the years, Yemen's educational sector has seen a great increase in both males and females and demand is even higher. Genders finally have realized education's importance and are sacrificing time and wealth seeking light at the end of their educational journey. Unfortunately, those women wanting to continue studying at university could risk getting married, almost guaranteeing themselves a life far from the love, care and experience of marriage. According to Sana'a University sources, 75 percent of female students studying there are single. These numbers reveal the big picture of a future crisis.

In a growing phenomenon, educated women seem to have the hardest time finding a groom. In a country like Yemen, tradition puts the average age of marriage for women at around 19, which clashes with women's goals and hopes of wanting to achieve through education. "You're put in a difficult spot, trying to choose what could be best for you," said Laila Mohammed, a 19-year-old first-year university student. "It's either studying or getting married," she added.

Most women complete university at age 23, which is when most Yemeni marriage seekers stop knocking on the door. Ironically, men seem to dislike educated women. In their view, women of this high educational caliber could

cause problems for less educated men. "I can't even imagine myself marrying a woman holding a university degree. If women don't go right for her in the future, she will definitely blame me and not the country or government for her downfall," said 21-year-old Moused Saleh.

In many situations, women start university studies after high school and continue until the right person asks for their hand in marriage. They are put in a position of choosing between two important life-changing opportunities. However, most parents prefer marriage in this situation, before it's too late. "If men would accept us continuing our studies after marriage, this issue would never be brought up. This is for their interest as well," said Samara Saleh Al-Mathrahi, a 22-year-old married woman. "We are half of society and we deserve a chance to change the situation of our country for the better," she added.

More than 55 percent of university enrollees in Yemen are female. This reveals the large number of female students who will have difficulty marrying. Many women don't give marriage the importance it deserves until years later when all their friends are happily married while they are unfortunately left behind. "It's not easy living with the thought that one might never get married. I hope situations will change so that women who desire to complete their studies can, at the same time, have a good chance of getting married," said

a 28-year-old single woman with a master's degree in medicine. "In Egypt, women get married at the average age of 30. Why can't we accept this issue as they did?" she added.

Due to what they see in local universities, men are uncomfortable with their wives continuing educational studies after marriage. In some situations, women fall in love with any man offering them sweet words. According to a number of married men, most women in universities are too open with men; therefore, men lose trust in them even before thinking of marriage. "I studied at the university for four years. I don't understand some of the things women do in universities," said Ali Al-Kholani. "If only their families knew what they were up to in universities," he added.

Another man complained that married women who continue studying in universities slack off in their other responsibilities and give less attention to more important issues like family. "I gave my wife an opportunity to study after I married her. In return, she used it as an excuse for not doing her housework on a regular basis," said a husband who preferred to remain anonymous. "At home, she is always on the phone with her friends from school. Am I not her husband?" he added.

Solving such a crisis could be extraordinarily difficult. People still degrade educated women, some because of education in general and others for the gender mixing in the edu-

gational process. In a changing society like Yemen, citizens must find ways to solve this crisis before it grows. Ten years ago, striving for education was a priority and crucial to tackling illiteracy. Now a greater problem has erupted in society. Our country needs women doctors, teachers, nurses and in many other fields. At the same time, the cost of this should not be as enormous as it is, costing women their married life. Can this problem be resolved in a society like Yemen? Only time will tell.

TERMINATION

This is to advise all concerned that Mr. Maher Nasser, previously Manager of our Cargo Division was terminated effective October 13, 2005. Accordingly, he is no longer authorized to deal on our behalf and does not represent us in any way.

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Spacetel Yemen is distinguished by its varied and most distinguished services which reached leadership in markets have and more than 150 services available for the subscribers. One of its remarkable characteristics is the wide coverage that covers 80% of the Yemeni lands and its service is available in 21 governorates.

Spacetel Yemen worth to be the first choice for the GSM users in Yemen and it has the entire right to be proud as it becomes a brand name in the GSM telecommunication world in the region because of its up to date technology, high quality and its qualified staff who are trained on high levels.

Spacetel Yemen offered and still offer a lot of encouraging prizes, that worth tens millions of Yemeni Rials, for its subscribers who grant it their trust.

This giant company spare no efforts in serving its subscribers and it has a keen interest to offer them encouraging offers and prizes from time to time to prove that it is already always connected with peo-



Al-Jendari, talking happily. 28-12-2005

ple and people are always connected when ever they use Spacetel network.

Spacetel awarded a lot of valuable cash and material prizes for its honorable subscribers which consider them an integral part of its body.

For instance in 2002 it had offered a material prize which was a Nissan summary car cost YR. 3 million the winner of the car was Salsabil Al-Azazi.

In 2004 it awarded another YR. 10,000,000 prize (Bait Al Ahlam). The winner was Mr. Khalil Al-Zuraiqi.

Recently spacetel Yemen allocated another YR.10,000,000 prize for its prepaid subscribers. The winner will enter the world of the millionaires

by making one call for 10 minutes within Spacetel network. Spacetel allocates YR.10,000,000 cash prize.

Every week, Spacetel makes draw of YR.10,000,000, for 10 weeks. The ten million prize is divided into 10 prizes in order to extend the participation and to get its subscribers more chances to win.

The conditions for entering the weekly YR. 1,000,000 prize are:

- Buy or activate easy fast line and get YR. 800, when you call within Spacetel network.
- Or use any scratch card.
- Or talk for 10 minutes any day weekly.
- Or send 10 SMS any day weekly.

The 10,000,000 prize divided equally into 10 prizes , a winner each week.

The winner in the first draw of the YR. 1,000,000 prize was Mr. Hani Ahmed Ali Al-Jendari.

We made this brief interview with the first winner of the YR. 1,000,000 prize Mr. Hani Al-Jendari from Taiz governorate.

- Would you introduce yourself ?
- Hani Ahmed Ali Al-Jendari, I am single and working in a lawyer office.
- Before we contact you, did you hear about

Spacetel prize YR. 10,000,000?

- Yes I do, I know about it via the advertising boards and the newspapers.

- How long you have been a Spacetel subscriber?

- Since 2001.

- What is your opinion about Spacetel Yemen ?

- Spacetel Yemen is the best GSM Telecommunication Co. in Yemen. It has a high quality technology, big credibility and good reputation. This made people love it and prefer it too.

- How did you feel when you received the call of winning the prize?

- I was very happy and I can not describe my happiness in words.

- How will you spend the YR. 1,000,000?

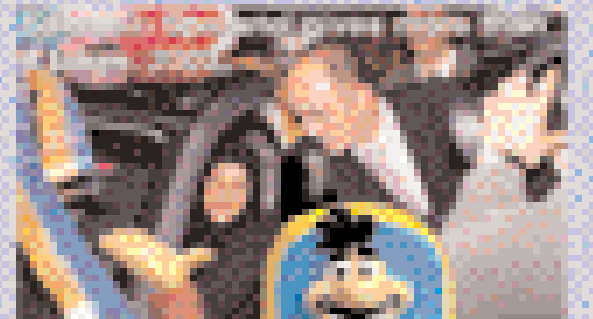
- I did not decide yet.

- A last word you would like to say?

- I thank Spacetel Yemen very much for its credibility and encouragement for its subscribers. I also thank Spacetel employees for their efforts and their kind treatment with Spacetel subscribers.



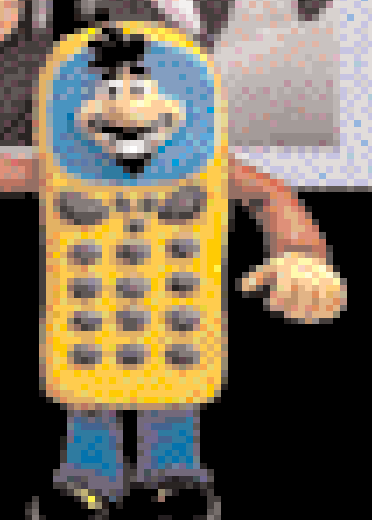
Al-Zuraiqi... Ten Million Rials 2004.

Spacetel
YEMEN

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www.spacetelyemen.com



Yemen Times Person of the Year 2005 Hiyam Mubarak, Chairperson of Al-Iradah Network for Poverty Eradication: "If there is a will, there is a way. We are the will and we make the way!"

Al-Iradah Network for Poverty Eradication was established in early 2004 as an initiative by the Women's Charity Association for Poverty Eradication (WCA) in Aden and supported by the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper program (PRSP) funded by Oxfam-GB in Yemen. Headed by Mrs. Hiyam Mubarak, the WCA is a non-governmental and non-profit organization based in Aden and founded in 1999. It aims to assist poor women by increasing their capacity to find jobs through training in sewing, embroidery and literacy classes. It also seeks to raise awareness of legal issues, reproductive health and FGM. With the support of UNICEF, the association established a center for street children and provides educational kits and uniforms to poor students.



Mrs. Hiyam Mubarak

Established in one of Aden's poorest areas, the association has direct contact with disadvantaged communities and relates to their issues first-hand. In its early stages, the association conducted regular awareness sessions and activities on poverty reduction. It also aimed to empower women through various training and income generating programs. A milestone in the association's history was transferring its work from charity to organized development work and creating Al-Iradah Network with other associations in Aden governorate.

Al-Iradah Network

Mubarak explained how the network began, "We realized there is so much to be done to alleviate poverty in the governorate and we understood that we could not do it alone. So we started networking with other civic organizations with similar mandates so as to create a more powerful impact in societies."

The WCA began gathering background information by conducting field studies and research on poverty discovering which associations were working in this field. Led by Hiyam Mubarak, the network eventually was created and named Al-Iradah, meaning "the will." Composed of seven various associations in Aden, they defined Al-Sheikh Othman, Dar Sa'ad, Khour Maksar and Al-Tawahi districts as

their target fields. These four districts are the poorest in the governorate and among the poorest in Yemen. The network then divided into two sub networks, each working in one of the two targeted areas. The network totally was based on volunteer initiatives. Sometimes members had to pay from their own pockets to get work going if funding was not secured.

Achievements

Working under the governor's approval and in coordination with local councils and civil society, the network conducted many awareness sessions for citizens in those target areas. Awareness activities included poverty, hygiene, community participation, social practices and gender equality, among many other important topics.

After becoming acquainted with problems at the grassroots level, the network then worked on qualifying its members in research, data gathering and analysis, as well as project planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation. As the leading association, WCA had a lot of experience in fund raising and communication, so it trained other members in these aspects as well. At that point, the network felt ready to begin work on productive projects and infrastructure.

Mubarak proudly noted the network's 2005 achievements. "It was the beginning of 2005 when we set our goals differently. It wasn't just about working with local communities on awareness and training. We started



Hiyam with Oxfam group among children of Koud Al-Othmani School

thinking big and we ventured into mobilizing infrastructure and service projects. Today we are proud to say that we were behind the construction of two health centers, three post offices, three schools and one electricity generator for a whole town."

The projects mentioned are as follows and may be seen in field visits:

1. Maternity health center in Al-Tawahi
2. Primary School in Al-Tawahi
3. Health center in Al-Arish
4. Expanding Al-Arish girls school
5. Al-Basateen post office
6. Eastern Dar Sa'ad post office
7. Al-Mimdarah post office
8. Koud Al-Othmani Primary School
9. Electricity generator in eastern Dar Sa'ad

Challenges

Based on the network's 2005 experiences, the hardest challenges they faced in their work were bureaucracy, limitation of time and financial resources and widespread poverty. Mubarak commented, "Although we managed to get support from government officials, sometimes it is those at the lower level who hold us back, although this is only charity work and we get zero profit from the projects. The other thing is that there is just so much poverty to fight and the situation is getting worse. We surely hope we are lighting a candle instead of cursing the darkness and we hope others join our efforts and light more candles with us."

SUCCESS STORIES

A purpose in life

Fahima Ahmed Salem is a university graduate from the University of Aden's College of Education English Department. She grew up in a large family of seven children with two illiterate parents. Her parents understood the importance of education and made sure all their children were well educated. Since her graduation, Salem has been waiting for a job and wasting her time doing all sorts of things without a clear purpose. "It was not until I heard about the poverty reduction associa-

tion and their awareness courses on something called the poverty reduction strategy that I decided to join and see what it was all about."

Fahima joined the awareness course and learned many new concepts and issues of which she was not aware. These include government's commitment to the strategy and programs implemented by local and international NGOs on poverty. She also realized that every citizen should take this responsibility and not stand still waiting for things to change or get better.

"I discovered there are extremely poor people in Yemen. I never imagined the extent of their suffering. I came to know many new things and conveyed what I learned to my family. I have decided to participate in the association as a volunteer as much as I can and build my capacities so that I am able to make change. My ambitions are high and after the awareness I have received, I now have a clear purpose in life."

"What doesn't come to you, go and get it!"

Ibtisam Mohammed Al-Yamani remained with her father, a Yemeni immigrant in Lebanon, after he divorced Ibtisam's mother, a Yemeni woman from Aden. She lived the first 20 years of her life in Beirut until 1986 when she came to Yemen at her mother's request.

"The life my mother lived in Aden was miserable. She earned a living selling boiled eggs and potato to school kids. After my mom died in 1997, I didn't know what to do with myself. I married a simple Yemeni man, but my dreams were ambitious and I decided not to surrender to my fate."

Ibtisam heard about the women's association in al-Mimdarah and learned its objective is to eradicate poverty and help poor women. So, she went to the association and participated in a number of Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper awareness sessions supported by Oxfam.

She was so intrigued by the new concepts and what was said, especially about eradicating poverty and women's empowerment. Ibtisam gained some expertise in beauty and



Post office being constructed in Dar Sa'ad

makeup in Beirut and she decided to make use of her abilities and become productive.

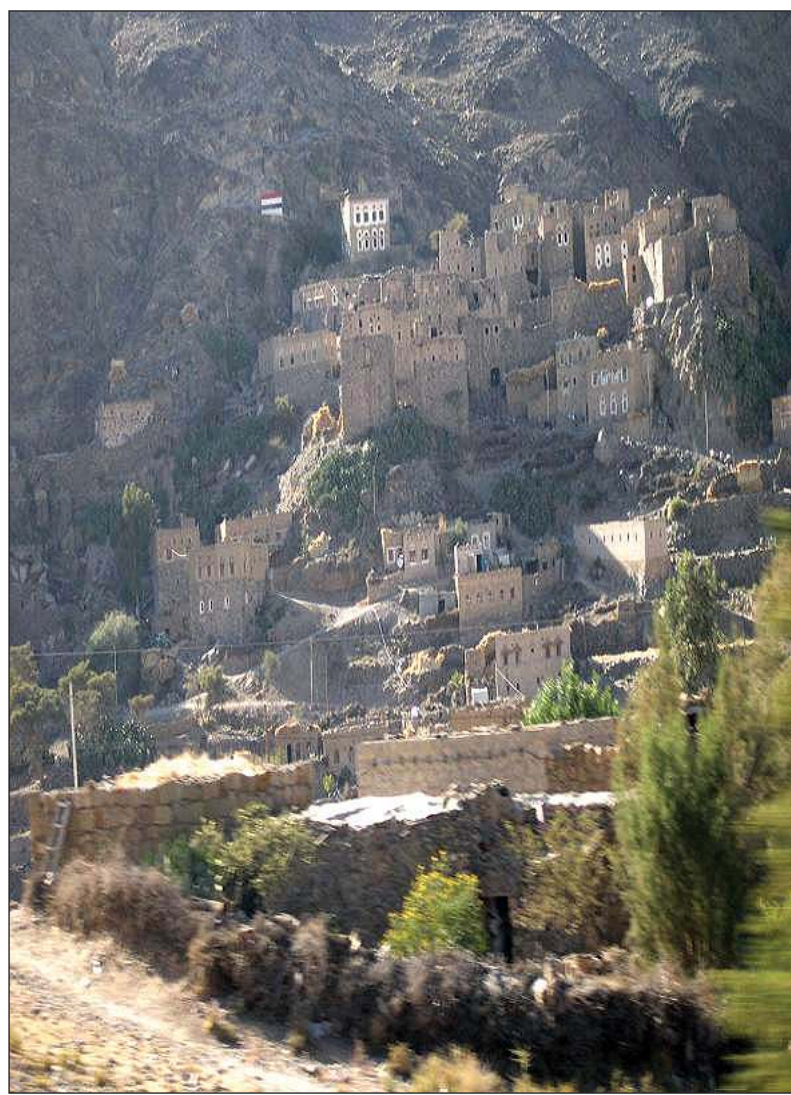
"I bought a small suitcase in which I put some simple beauty and hair dressing equipment and wrote on it, 'Mobile Beauty Parlor.' I told my friends and neighbors I could provide this service for reasonably cheap. I promoted my services wherever I went. My motto was, 'What doesn't

come to you, go and get it!' Things really worked well and for six months, I have had my own place."

Ibtisam now is an active association member and planning to provide association training courses in beauty and makeup. She keeps encouraging women to overcome their problems and acquire skills enabling them to be productive and actively participate in development.



One of the schools Al-Iradah network made reality



Aden's poor infrastructure is a great obstacle in development

Iran tells IAEA atom research resumes January 9

VIENNA (Reuters) - The International Atomic Energy Agency received a note from Iran on Tuesday saying it would resume its suspended nuclear fuel research on January 9, a Western diplomat said.

He told Reuters that IAEA Secretary-General Mohamed ElBaradei had informed the 35 countries on the U.N. watchdog agency's board about Iran's note and said he was seeking clarifications about its implications.

Mohammad Saeedi, deputy head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, had announced earlier in the day that the nuclear fuel work would resume shortly. The move was sure to anger Washington and the European Union, which fear the Islamic state wants to make atomic fuel to build bombs.

Iran's message, parts of which were quoted in ElBaradei's note to IAEA board members and read to Reuters by the diplomat, cited the Islamic republic's "full privilege and inalienable rights" in pursuing atomic energy under the IAEA's covenant and nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which Iran signed.

"... The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran has decided to resume from January 9, 2006, R&D (research and development) on the peaceful nuclear energy program which was suspended as part of its expanded voluntary and non-legally binding suspension," Iran's message said.

"The agency (IAEA) is thus requested to take necessary and timely preparation in this regard,"



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (C) waves to worshippers after Friday prayers in Tehran Dec. 23. Iran said it had informed the U.N.'s atomic watchdog in writing on Tuesday that it plans to resume nuclear fuel research in the coming days, state television reported. REUTERS

Iran's note said. "It is to be noted that the said R&D will be conducted in accordance with Iran's safeguards agreement with the IAEA."

Research on nuclear fuel may include some small-scale testing of sensitive atomic processes, including uranium enrichment, an activity Iran has said it is keen to master.

The note sent by ElBaradei to IAEA board members said the agency's secretariat was "seeking clarifications from Iran as to the implications of the note".

The news coincided with strong

hints from Iran's Foreign Ministry that Tehran planned to reject a Russian proposal to defuse Iran's stand-off with the West by enriching Iranian uranium in Russia to prevent diversions to weapons-related work.

"This (Iranian announcement) is a withdrawal from the suspension, so it's pretty serious. This is all about Natanz, since research and development is related to that," said the Western diplomat, referring to an Iranian enrichment plant mothballed by earlier agreement with the European Union.

Saudi, Egypt leaders to discuss Syria-UN standoff



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad (L) and the then Syrian Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam in a June 6, 2005 file photo. Egypt and Saudi Arabia will on Tuesday discuss Syria's standoff with the United Nations a day after U.N. officials asked to meet Syria's president over the murder of a former Lebanese premier. Last week, Khaddam said Assad had delivered "very, very harsh words" to former Lebanese premier Hariri. Hariri was killed by a truck bomb on Feb. 14. REUTERS

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (Reuters) - U.S. allies Egypt and Saudi Arabia will on Tuesday discuss Syria's standoff with the United Nations a day after U.N. officials asked to meet Syria's president over the murder of a former Lebanese premier.

Diplomats said the leaders of both countries would discuss how to press Damascus into fully cooperating with the United Nations, especially after a senior Syrian politician said President Bashar al-Assad had threatened ex-Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri months before his killing.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak would hold talks with Saudi King Abdullah in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, Saudi officials said. "Syria is on the agenda," one official said.

Middle East political heavyweights Saudi and Egypt are worried about the possible fallout of Syria's intransigence.

A U.N. resolution in October threatened further action against Syria if it did not cooperate, and this could lead to sanctions either against individuals or the country as a whole.

Other topics up for discussion will be Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and regional relations.

The U.N. probe has already implicated senior Syrian officials and their Lebanese allies in the truck bombing that killed Hariri and 22 others in Beirut on February 14.

Last week, former Syrian Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam said Assad had delivered "very, very harsh words" to Hariri before the bombing. On Monday, the U.N. commission probing the murder said it had asked to interview Assad and his Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara.

Khaddam's remarks are likely to intensify international pressure on Syria's government.

A U.N. interim report in October said Shara had given the commission "false information" by describing a meeting between Assad and Hariri as friendly, contrary to several Lebanese witnesses who said the president had threatened Hariri.

Syria has already strongly denied any role in the murder and dismissed as politically motivated the findings of the U.N. probe. Hariri's killing drew international condemnation which forced Damascus to withdraw its troops from Lebanon in April.

The United States -- which accuses Damascus of not doing enough to stop foreign fighters from crossing into Iraq and of supporting Palestinian and Lebanese militants -- has also piled pressure on Assad's government to cooperate with the United Nations.

Iraq militants in talks with Jordan over hostage: TV

DUBAI (Reuters) - Iraqi militants are negotiating with the Jordanian government about the fate of a hostage they threatened to kill unless Amman freed a failed woman suicide bomber, Al Arabiya television reported on Tuesday.

Al Arabiya said it had received a new video from the little-known group, the Falcons Brigade, in which the militants said they were holding talks with Jordan's government about embassy driver Mahmoud Saadat.

Jordanian government spokesman Nasser Joudeh confirmed extensive efforts were underway to secure Saadat's speedy release, but declined to identify the groups contacted or say whether there was any direct contact with the kidnapers.

"Contacts are on-going at all levels and there could be parallel to this some unofficial contacts at different levels, the details of which cannot be disclosed at this stage in order to ensure his safety," he told Reuters.

"The government is sparing no effort and leaving no stone unturned with all the relevant authorities in Iraq in order to ensure his release," Joudeh added.

The video was not aired by Al Arabiya, which said the militants had renewed their threat to kill Saadat and



Iraqi soldiers escort some of the 15 insurgents arrested in Al Gawiya village, north of Baghdad, Jan. 2. REUTERS

repeated their demand for Jordan to pull its diplomats out of Iraq.

Saadat was kidnapped in Baghdad late last month and Al Arabiya showed a video of him appealing to his government to quit Iraq and free Sajida al-Rishawi, who said on Jordanian television last month that she had tried to blow herself up alongside her husband in hotel attacks in Amman.

Al Arabiya had said the group set a three-day deadline for Rishawi's release.

Jordan had said it would not give in to the kidnapers' demands, but said it was sparing no effort to release Saadat.

The Amman suicide bombings in November killed more than 50 people. Al Qaeda in Iraq claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Israel orders Jewish squatters evicted from Hebron

HEBRON, West Bank (Reuters) - Scores of Jewish settlers threw eggs at Israeli soldiers and police who served them notices on Tuesday to leave Palestinian-owned buildings in a market in the heart of the West Bank city of Hebron.

Several settler families moved into shops in Hebron's main market five years ago after merchants abandoned the stalls amid Israeli-Palestinian violence. The settlers said the land belonged to Jews who fled the city during unrest in the 1920s.

But Israel's High Court declared their presence illegal, opening the way for security forces to deliver eviction notices.

"The fact that this is originally Jewish land does not give other Jews the right to squat there," said Adam Avidan of Israel's Defense Ministry.

He said eight settler families had been served with eviction notices and had until January 15 to comply.

Witnesses to the market confrontation said at least two settlers were arrested after hurling eggs at soldiers and police.



A young Israeli settler reacts during a scuffle with Israeli forces in the West Bank city of Hebron Jan. 3. REUTERS

Around 400 militant settlers live among more than 120,000 Palestinians in biblical Hebron, the site of frequent bloodshed.

Israel is under international pressure to crack down on settlers who have set up outposts without Israeli government

approval. Many settlers stake a biblical claim to land captured in the 1967 Middle East war and where Palestinians seek a state.

The international community brands all Israeli settlements on occupied land as illegal. Israel disputes this.

U.N. asks to meet Syria's Assad in Hariri case

BEIRUT (Reuters) - The U.N. commission probing the killing of Lebanese ex-Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri has asked to meet Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara, its spokeswoman said Monday.

"The commission has already sent a request to interview Syrian President Assad and Foreign Minister Shara, among others," the spokeswoman told Reuters.

She said U.N. investigators would also try to meet former Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam as soon as possible.

Khaddam, now living in Paris after resigning in June, has said in a television interview that Assad had threatened Hariri months before he was assassinated in Beirut in February 14.

Asked about the legal status of Assad and Shara in the investigation, a U.N. diplomatic source said: "At this stage, there is simply a request for an interview."

There was no comment from Syrian authorities.

In New York, John Bolton, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said Washington strongly supported the commission's investigative efforts and counted on Damascus to cooperate.

"We expect the government of Syria to comply with these requests fully and unconditionally, as the Security Council resolutions require," Bolton said in a



Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on a visit to Damascus, April 13. The U.N. commission probing the killing of Lebanese ex-Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri has asked to meet the Syrian President and his Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara, its spokeswoman said Monday. REUTERS

A U.N. interim report in October said Shara had given the commission "false information" by describing a meeting between Assad and Hariri as friendly, contrary to several Lebanese witnesses who said the president had threatened Hariri.

The inquiry has already implicated senior Syrian officials and their Lebanese allies in the killing that sparked mass anti-Syrian protests in Beirut, forcing Damascus to bow to world pressure and withdraw its troops from Lebanon in April.

Khaddam said in the Al Arabiya television interview aired on Friday: "Assad told me he had delivered some very, very harsh words to Hariri ... something like 'I

will crush anyone who tries to disobey us.'"

But he would not speculate on who had ordered the killing of Hariri, saying "we must wait" for the final findings of the U.N. inquiry.

His remarks prompted the Syrian parliament to vote unanimously Saturday to demand the government put him on trial for treason.

The ruling Baath Party Sunday expelled Khaddam, one of its longest-serving officials and a veteran aide to late President Hafez al-Assad, saying he had betrayed the party, the homeland and the Arab nation.

Global Malaise in 2006?

By: Joseph E. Stiglitz

The mighty American consumer had another banner year in 2005, helping sustain global economic growth, albeit at a slower pace than in 2004. As in recent years, he consumed at or above his income level, and the United States as a whole spent well beyond its means, borrowing from the rest of the world at a feverish pace in 2005 – more than \$2 billion a day.

A year ago, most pundits argued that this was unsustainable. It evidently was sustainable, at least for one more year. But it nonetheless remains true that whatever is unsustainable will not be sustained, which creates great risks for the US and global economy in 2006.

Two economic surprises prolonged the good times in 2005. First, while the US Federal Reserve continued hiking short-term interest rates, long-term rates did not increase in tandem, which allowed housing prices to continue rising. This was centrally important to sustaining global growth, for the performance of world's largest economy has been fueled by real estate in recent years, with individuals refinancing their mortgages and spending some of the proceeds, and with high prices leading to more construction.

But this is unlikely to continue.

Long-term interest rates almost certainly will eventually start to rise – and “eventually” increasingly looks like next year. If so, Americans will have to spend more money on debt service, leaving them with less to spend on consumption of goods and services. Moreover, real estate prices will most likely stop rising rapidly – indeed, they may even decline. As a result, refinancing of mortgages will grind to a halt, leaving no money to draw out of housing to sustain Americans' consumption binge. On both accounts, aggregate demand will decline.

Is it possible that the cash-rich corporate sector will more than make up for the slack by increasing investment? There may well be some increase in gross investment, as obsolete equipment and software are replaced. But there also is some evidence that innovation is slowing – perhaps the result of reduced investment in research in the past five years.

In any case, even if firms are cash-rich, they do not typically expand investment during periods when consumption is slowing. Uncertainties about the economy are likely to insert an element of caution into companies' investment decisions. In short, it is more likely that moderating investment will exacerbate the consumer slowdown than that an acceleration of investment will offset it.

But this is not the only reason for

bleaker prospects for America and the world in 2006. The second surprise in 2005 was that while oil prices increased far more than expected, the economic dampening effect seemed somewhat muted in most places, at least until the last part of the year. Because of higher oil prices, for example, America's spending on oil imports has increased by roughly \$50 billion a year – money that otherwise would have been spent mostly on goods made in America.

For most of 2005, Americans behaved as if didn't really believe that oil prices would remain high, at least for a while. This is less startling than it may appear: econometric studies suggest that it takes a year to two before the full effects of oil-price increases are felt. Now, with futures markets predicting that oil will be \$50 to \$60 a barrel for the next two years, demand for gas-guzzlers has evaporated, taking with it the prospects for America's auto companies, whose corporate strategies have bet on low oil prices and America's love affair with the SUV.

High oil prices are set to dampen economic performance in the rest of the world as well, although growth prospects look better than in the US. China's growth continues to astound the world; indeed, new GDP data suggest that its economy is 20% larger than previously thought. Moreover, China's surging growth will echo throughout much of Asia,



including (in somewhat muted form) in Japan.

Europe continues to be a mixed picture, with the European Central Bank almost perversely raising interest rates even as Europe's economy needs further stimulation to ensure its recovery. As if that were not bad enough, Germany's new government is promising to raise taxes. Fiscal rectitude in the right place and the right time is to be commended; but this is the wrong place and the wrong time – and Germany's recovery prospects will be dampened.

The main risk in 2006 is that America's long-brewing problems come to a head globally: investors, finally taking heed of the large structural fiscal deficit, the yawning trade gap, and the high level of household indebtedness, may pull money out of the US in a panic. Alternatively, rising interest rates and a downturn in

the real estate market could so weaken consumer demand that the economy slips into recession, squeezing exporters in other countries that depend on the US market.

In either case, the US government, hamstrung by already-wide deficits, may feel powerless to respond with countercyclical fiscal policy. With confidence in Bush's economic management almost as low as confidence in his management of the Iraq war, there is every reason to worry that should one of these crises emerge, it will not be well managed.

But it is more likely that 2006 will just be another year of malaise: China's significance within the global economy is still not large enough to offset weaknesses in the rest of the world. America, too, will manage to muddle through again – leaving even higher levels of debt for the future.

In short, 2006 will be marked by

mounting uncertainty about prospects for global economic growth, even as the distribution of the fruits of that growth remain dimly predictable. In America, at least, 2006 is likely to be another year in which stagnant real wages freeze, or even erode, the living standards of those in the middle. And, everywhere, it is likely to be another year in which the gap between the haves and the have-nots will widen.

Joseph E. Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, is Professor of Economics at Columbia University and was Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to President Clinton and Chief Economist and Senior Vice President at the World Bank.

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A German Glimmer in a Global Boom

By: Hans-Werner Sinn

In 2004, the world economy grew at a rate of 5.1%, the fastest pace in the last 28 years. While Ifo's World Economic Climate indicator, generated from quarterly surveys of 1,200 experts in 90 countries, worsened slightly during the first three quarters of 2005, it rose again in the last quarter, indicating a continuation of the boom. In 2005, growth is estimated to have been about 4.3%, and a similar rate can be expected in 2006, marking a period of sustained rapid global growth unseen since the 1970's.

But the boom is not uniform. In the United States, the number of experts giving a favorable assessment of the current situation declined; indeed, a majority believes that the economic situation will worsen during the next six months. However, in the Asian countries, including China, the optimism is unbroken. The same is true for Eastern Europe, the ex-Soviet states, and Latin America.

The big surprise is Europe, which, unlike in 2004 and the first half of 2005, now seems to be catching up with the rest of the world. Whereas growth was a miserable 1.5% in 2005 in the 15 “old” members of the European Union, Ifo expects EU-15 growth to accelerate to 2.1% in 2006.

To be sure, economic performance will vary widely among EU countries. While Italy will be the laggard, with only 1.1% growth, the Irish rocket will not lose its force, pushing real GDP up by about 4.8%. In general, the big EU countries are still performing badly, in contrast to the smaller members – hardly surprising, given that the EU is basically an institution to help the smaller countries overcome the drawback of their size by extending the agglomeration advantages that formerly were reserved to the bigger countries.

But even Germany, Europe's biggest economy, is experiencing an upswing. The Ifo climate indicator for Germany, based on monthly surveys of 7,000 firms, jumped upwards in the second half of 2005, reaching its high-

est value since the boom year 2000, with businesses' assessment of the current situation and expectations improving. After five years of stagnation, the economy is finally on the move.

The driving force is external demand, as Germany, the world's second-largest exporter, profits from the global boom. Exports increased by 6.2% in 2005 and are expected to increase by 7.4% in 2006.

However, as we saw in 2004 and 2005, exports are not enough to create substantial growth if domestic demand does not follow. The good news for Germany is that investment demand is now growing, too. While the second half of 2005 was already quite good, Ifo expects investment in equipment to grow by a healthy 6% in 2006. After many years of contraction, investment in construction also will rise slightly.

Total investment growth is expected to reach 2.9% – weak by past standards, but nonetheless a promising salve for the wounded German mood. Moreover, any investment growth is vital for Germany, which, according to the latest OECD statistics, currently suffers from the world's lowest share of net investment in national income. Even if Germany remains the world's laggard, rising investment demand as such will contribute to GDP growth, which Ifo estimates at 1.7% in 2006.

That number looks small compared to most other countries. In fact, all EU countries except Italy and the Netherlands will grow faster. But everything is relative: Germany's trend growth rate is just 1.1%, and the country has been the slowest growing EU country since 1995. Measured against a disappointing past, even Germany is currently experiencing an economic boom. Indeed, even German unemployment, which has been rising in cycles since 1970, will decline slightly in 2006, from 4.8 to 4.7 million.

The good economic data will reinforce initial favorable impressions of Angela Merkel's new government, which got off to an excellent start at the EU Summit, where Merkel helped

to broker a compromise between Britain and France on the Union's 2007-2013 budget (by adding another €2 billion to Germany's annual contribution).

In fact, the government may even have contributed a bit to the good economic data by announcing a serious effort to consolidate Germany's own public finances – a prerequisite for investor confidence. According to the government, substantial tax increases will bring the fiscal deficit below the

3%-of-GDP limit set by the Stability and Growth Pact – a target missed for five consecutive years – by 2007.

The real test for the German government is the labor market. Most observers now agree that Germany needs something like the American earned-income tax credit. In Germany, it's called “activating social aid” or “combi wages,” but the principle is the same: the state should reduce the money it pays for doing nothing and pay more for participat-

ing in the work force. That would widen the wage distribution, create jobs, and maintain the living standard of the poor.

Merkel announced in her inaugural speech in the Bundestag that her government will introduce such a system in 2006. If this is more than lip service, and if she really carries out a serious reform of the German welfare state's incentive structure, the result could be higher employment and structural economic growth. In the

long term, that would be more promising for the EU – and for the global economy – than the demand-driven performance that Germany is currently enjoying.

Hans-Werner Sinn is Professor of Economics and Public Finance, University of Munich and President of the Ifo Institute.

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Future Youth

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Born into Brothels

By: Yumna Al-Ademi

What happens when you give a camera to a child stripped out of hope from becoming anything but a prostitute, a drug addict, or a thief? What happens when you tell this child the pictures she or he creates will have meaning and essence? Born into Brothels happens.

Usually it's a book review, but a few weeks ago I was touched by a tale through photography. Far from being a fairytale, Born into Brothels is a documentary about the children of prostitutes in the Red light district of Calcutta, India. Zana Briski, travels to this part of the world where children know more than they need to, and understand that to dream of hope is illogical. Zana's mission is simple: give the children a camera each and let them explore their world from a different angle, with the hope that this different perspective would drastically change their lives. But what was

not anticipated was the brilliance these children possessed in articulating their lives through photography.

What makes this documentary unique is the creative delivery of kindness. This is not about people who pity the poor and thus shower them with money. This is about the merging of creativity and humanity, where children in need are empowered to dream and to hope in a most inspiring and wonderful way.

While the humane aspect of this documentary could interest everyone, this documentary will string the chords of those who appreciate photography and creative delivery.

To learn more about these children and their works visit :

<http://kids-with-cameras.org/born-into-brothels/film.php>

** Yumna Al-Ademi is an editor for ShababYemeni. ShababYemeni is an initiative by a group of inspired Yemeni Youth made specifically for the Yemeni Youth. SY could be contacted at shababyemeni@hotmail.com*

Only Her

By: Fuad Noman
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Oh my God!
How horrible voice choked my soul's breath!
You have gone without having permission
Why did not you wait my last vision?

I wish you would come
Forgive me my Second Mum

I couldn't believe
I would plant my second white iris
And my deep groan would forever increase
God have mercy on my new white iris
You have gone without having permission
Why did not you wait my last vision?
I wish you would come
My love would be weak
and it can't sail off or run
When you have gone
I would be gone astray
Your life was as a flower of an hour

For me and all
How higher your love was
It was the highest tower
By your cool smiles
you depicted my life's power

My sorrows can't be only in a day or a time complete
Torture in home, in soul and in street
No safe place I have to go
Only to a new agony show

Maybe for my agony my God chose
Always as I feel that splendid things I miss and lose
Yesterday's pain seems like my today's agony
When also my great soul mate passed away
Excuse me my God!
God's Almighty I do not ignore or deny
Please my God!
Let your love makes me survive
Without sorrowful life
Because She left me without saying good-bye

Central Bank of Yemen downplays Watani bankruptcy

The Central Bank of Yemen recently stated it is making every effort to collect Watani Bank debts and will pursue bank law in determining its status. CBY also mentioned it is assessing assets and obligations of Watani Bank for Trade and Investment for auditing by an international committee.

CBY's statement noted its efforts to raise Watani Bank to the level attained by other Yemeni banks that abided by CBY instructions and became highly efficient in performance, stating that the main reason Watani Bank reached its present level was its administration's lack of commitment to laws, instructions and monitoring criteria CBY set forth, as well as pledges with CBY signed by Watani Bank's board of directors.

The statement said, "The failure of a bank in the Yemeni banking sector, whose share in the banking market is very small, does not indicate a structural problem in a banking sector characterized by soundness, efficiency and ability to meet its domestic and foreign obligations."

CBY considers the Watani Bank case exceptional, affirming that banks



covering the greater share of banking sector activity are in a safe and secure position and capable of meeting their obligations.

The statement reviewed CBY efforts in recent years to lead Yemen's

banking sector to a safe and stable situation whereby banks can meet their obligations. It noted CBY successes achieved in this regard and positive developments in the banking sector in the past 10 years, since economic and



monetary reform began, by comparing the sector's gross capital and reserves at the beginning of the reform program, which amounted to only YR 3 billion and now are more than YR 40 billion.

The statement also mentioned that proportion of capital adequacy at the end of 1997 was less than 1 percent, whereas according to international criterion, this percentage must not be less than 8 percent. As a result of CBY

efforts, its application of international criteria and a gradual increase in bank capital, the banking sector's proportion at the end of 2004 was approximately 12 percent, reflecting significant development.

Ministry plans international conference to promote investment in Yemen

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation recently began intensive preparations for a June international conference promoting investment opportunities in Yemen.

Ministry undersecretary Hisham Sharaf Abdullah said in a press conference that a technical committee from the ministry and general secretariat of the GCC soon will meet in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to discuss conference arrangements and make preliminary plans. He added that the conference will convene in one of the GCC states, with the world's large companies, trading and investment firms invited to attend. Abdullah indicated the ministry also began contacting the World Bank and Sana'a representatives of donor countries and organizations to discuss conference arrangements and how to ensure its success.

He added that the conference will feature all investment opportunities in various economic sectors, comprehensive preparation to present and promote those opportunities and work to create a strong push in attracting Arab and foreign capital to



Yemen.

A Central Bank of Yemen report recently revealed the country's debt to Saudi Arabia amounted to \$272.5 million at the end of October 2005, compared to \$269.2 at the end of the

previous month, an increase of \$3.3 million. According to the CBY report, Yemen's debt to Saudi Arabia is considered the highest among non-member countries of Paris Club and Yemen's debt to the Kuwaiti Fund

comes in at second place, amounting to \$179.2 million. The report also revealed that Yemen's total debt by the end of October 2005 to countries not members of Paris Club rose to \$1.18 billion.

Islamic Relief to distribute immolations

Islamic Relief in Yemen is conducting this year's immolations project in the governorates of Hudeida, Lahj, Abyan and the capital.

Khalid Al-Muwalad, the organization's resident representative, confirmed this year's slaughtered animals will cost \$41,500 and be distributed among the poorest families, widows, orphans and disabled. He expects

3,120 families will benefit from the project implemented during Eid Al-Adha, assisting some 21,840 individuals.

He said distribution will be coordinated with charitable societies and local authorities choosing the project's target families. This project is among various projects and programs Islamic Relief conducts in Yemen.

Yemeni banks not on world banks list

According to The Banker Magazine's annual study, Yemeni banks failed to be listed among the world's 1,000 largest banks, whereas 73 Arab banks were included.

Arab banks listed were: 14 Emirati, 10 Saudi, seven Kuwaiti, seven Egyptian, five Bahraini, five Lebanese, four Moroccan, two Jordanian and two Qatari. Regarding

level of assets, Arab banks recorded an annual increase of 8.2 percent in the past 10 years.

Of the world's 1,000 largest banks, Arab banks were two percent when indicating before-tax assets and profits and three percent when indicating basic capital.

No Yemeni won a banking award in 2005, recently awarded in Bahrain at the 11th World Conference of Islamic Banks.

Reforms package to inaugurate 2006

By Mahyoub Al-Kamali

The Yemeni government intends to begin the New Year by introducing a comprehensive reforms package in an attempt to win Yemeni citizens' trust prior to presidential elections this September.

The Yemeni cabinet obliged relevant ministries to prepare executive programs so there will be immediate implementation of executive reform measures taking clear-cut practical steps at the beginning of this year. In its last meeting, the cabinet approved measures concerning political, democratic, judicial, financial,

investment and taxation processes, as well as reforming local authority and civil service systems. The measures also touch on modernizing the administration and enhancement of women's roles in public and political life.

The cabinet established a team to inspect and follow up the timetable of the executive reforms, which are to be submitted for final approval and adoption prior to implementation, as well as follow up field implementation.

Parliamentary recommendations approving the 2006 budget were not confined to financial affairs but included improving self-resources and revenues from non-inflationary

sources and supporting domestic development efforts.

A parliamentary budget committee report mentioned that the inflation rate exceeded 10 percent in 2005 due to increased public spending at a rate of 41 percent, as well as the 2006 draft budget spending increase to 74 percent of total spending. This situation will have an inflationary impact leading to increased prices for goods and services due to weakness and inflexibility of the national economy's production apparatus, as well as imbalanced supply and demand for commodities and services.

The report also anticipated a rise in foreign currency exchange rates against the falling national currency,

thereby denying government's ability to fulfill its promise to stabilize exchange rates. The report attributed this increase to the growing negative trade deficit of 11 percent alongside a six percent increase in imports. The current deficit amounts to YR 27 billion, in addition to chronic deficit due to services related to balance payments.

The budget committee warned of continued price increases if interest results in a further drop in average economic growth. It also criticized government negligence in defining monetary and developmental policy in its financial statement.

It did not touch on treasury bond policy or treatment of increased loan

interest, noting it has risen to 21 percent and how it will negatively reflect on investment. The committee's report also mentioned weakness in amounts allotted to budget essential infrastructures such as roads, electric power and water. It anticipated future aggravation of unemployment in the light of current economic growth rates characterized by weakness and retreat.

Parliamentary opposition blocs, on the other hand, criticized government's "program of economic reform," saying no development is occurring in supporting Yemeni exports and that oil is still the major commodity in that it constitutes 90 percent of exports and approximately

one-third of Gross Domestic Product. Contrary to that, the share of non-oil exports remained marginal and limited at 8 percent while exports of manufactured goods maintained a level less than 1 percent.

The government also approved a draft law to fight corruption. The law stipulates establishing the Higher National Body on fighting corruption, staving off its dangers and impact, pursuing those who are corrupt and retaining and restoring proceeds resulting from illegal transactions. The law also stipulates stabilizing the principle of transparency in economic, financial and administrative dealings, as well as evolving the principle of decency.

Mohammed Jum'ah Khan: a memorable Yemeni singer

Mohammed Jum'ah Khan is a famous Yemeni singer who could inculcate his love in the audience by means of his unforgettable songs. Although, he died along time ago, he is still living in the memory of the Yemeni people and his songs are still very appealing and enchanting. Recently, his 24th death commemoration has passed.

Khan was a giant in terms of singing. He sang for some thirty years in the pre-Revolution Hadhramout when it was a sheikhdom ruled by a sultan. His songs were broadcasted on the waves of many radios such as the BBC, Kuwait Radio, Abu Dhabi Radio etc.

Mohammed Khan was described to be like a candle and star in the history of Yemeni singing art in general and the Hadhrami in particular.

He is said to have been the first Yemeni singer to promote and record his works as his first song was recorded in 1939 on wax cylinders.

Multiple creativity:

Although he was born and lived in Hadhramout, Khan excelled, not only in Hadhrami mode of singing, but in also the Lahji, Yaf'i, and Sana'ani which he performed in a creatively wonderful manner which drew the audience's applause and appreciation.

Renown Yemeni historian Abdul-Qadir Bamatraf said that Khan furnishes the melody and words of the lyric with a touch from his soul, hence building a bridge of joyfulness with his audience.

He was reportedly born in Hadhramout in 1903. He learnt the basics of reading and writing in the local madrasa and was distinguished by his voice. He was apt for reciting verses from the Holy Quraan and poetic verses



Mohammed Jum'ah Khan

and he was among the pupils who were usually performing on public occasions.

When he was fifteen, he joined the Sultanate brass band, led by an Indian and he remained a member of it until he was 29. He got promotions while he was there as he could successfully play various types of musical instruments and excelled particularly in playing qanbous and oud. Ultimately he was appointed a leader of the band.

Forming his own band:

Mohammed Jum'ah Khan formed his own band when he retired from the Sultan band. He took up singing as a profession. His first appearance with the band was in a solo performance playing oud and tambourine. Later, his fame

grew and spread over Arabia and Africa.

He sang for different producers using verses from the poetic collections of many great Arab literary figures such as Basharah al-Khawri, Zuhair bin Abi Salma and Antarah bin Shaddad. Khan could reach the hearts of the people through his mastery over the art of signing and his identification with the versifier.

Of the testimonies made in his favor is that of late Farid al-Atrash, famous Egyptian singer, who, when listening to the audio recording of the performance of Khan with his band, praised him and could hardly believe that the band consisted of only four members.

Khan's house to be a museum:

Work is underway to transform the house of late Mohammed Jum'ah Khan, located in Al-Salam zone in the city of Mukalla, Hadhramout Province, into a museum featuring his relics, belongings and everything pertaining to his art. The house has been already purchased from the singer's heirs.

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 7

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

**Come fill the cup, and in the fire of spring
The winter garment of repentance fling:
The bird of time has but a little way
To fly-and lo! the bird is on the wing**

Destroying family roots: divorce on the rise in Yemen

By HAKIM AL-MASMARI
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Recently, Yemen has witnessed more divorce cases than usual. Marrying for wrong reasons is the root of this crisis.

Even though Yemen's divorce rate is far lower than that of other countries in the region, it has increased dramatically in the past five years. According to sources, Yemen's divorce rate has nearly doubled compared to figures from the late 1990s. Reasons for divorce vary from one person to another. "It's not the divorce that's scary, it's the outcomes of it," Ali Khalid said. "Usually children are left with no guardian to teach them what is right and wrong, thereby destroying the life of the future generation," he added.

In a national survey last year in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 55 percent of marriages occurring in 2004 ended in divorce before the end of the first year. This tragic number is after only one year. Imagining the outcomes of these marriages after five year would be horrifying and unpredictable.

In a limited local survey in Sana'a, 60 percent of divorcees admitted that the main reason behind divorce is a lack of trust on either side. Those who met their loved ones and had a low-profile relationship with them before marriage admitted that was the cause of their divorce. "If she went out freely with me before marriage and gave me beautiful promises, I can only wonder how many other men were given beautiful quotes," Ali Jarrullah said after divorcing his wife of two weeks. "I know it's not right to have such a doubt, but this is the reality. This is definitely true," he added.

Another issue which could be the cornerstone for such a catastrophic rise in divorce rates is the spread of satellite channels. The cultural damage that erupts because of these channels is unreal and results in destroying family roots from within. Satellite channels under the label of music and entertainment show more sexual body movements than music. This attracts society's men, leading them to compare their wives to the beautiful dancers and singers they watch on TV. "This is really crazy. Satellite channels have increased so much that it's disrupting our culture. How many men divorced their wives only because

they were not as beautiful as the ones on TV? Men, on the other hand, forget they are not that beautiful as well, to demand a wife with all the qualities of beauty," said Ali Saleh, a married man of 10 years. Just this week, Al-Thawra newspaper published an article about a woman who would not agree to marry her fiancé until he removed his existing satellite dish. He desperately tried convincing his future wife that it was not a big deal and would not disrupt their marriage. In the end, he was forced to remove the dish and buy a VCR instead.

Lack of patience on both sides is another factor in the increased divorces, as no time is given to understand each other in the early stages of marriage. "People are not created with the same personalities. Married couples need to understand that it takes a long time, sometimes years, for people to get used to traits shared by other people," said marriage therapist Latifa Jabri. "All problems could be resolved by the will of desire," she added.

From the woman's point of view, many women think money plays a dramatic role in divorce. In talking to numerous women, they mentioned that when men have enough money to marry

another wife, they often think of small problems which could result in divorce. "It's a game for some men. They don't understand the values of marriage. How could a man divorce his wife only



because the tea had less sugar than usual? You explain it to me," said Fatima, who did not want to mention her last name.

People must understand that life has its difficulties and that the beauty of marriage is to resolve issues in a manner that does not destroy the respect and love one has for another. In a society like Yemen, there should be no reason for

increased divorces, as most people usually are from the same background, religion and origin. If issues remain as is and are not given priority, expect the family structure in Yemen to change for the worse in coming years.

Reasons for divorce are innumerable these days, as people are divorcing for unusual reasons. In speaking with locals, the following were mentioned as primary reasons behind the sudden rise in Yemeni divorces. These reasons do not cover all aspects, but according to the sources, these are the most common:

1. Family interference from both sides, causing the couple to live the outcome of others.
2. Misunderstanding between both partners.
3. Absence of love from one or even both sides.
4. Early marriages for those not ready to handle the responsibility.
5. Poverty and inability of the husband to give the wife things desired.
6. Absence of trust between the couple.
7. Having a deep relationship before marriage, causing the husband to doubt his wife's loyalty.

8. The will to solve problems in a wise and smart manner.
9. Using the hand to solve even the simplest of problems.
10. The long and harsh tongue often used by women in anger.
11. Cultural differences between husband and wife.
12. Family interference in the married couple's life.
13. Not following Islamic teachings in many aspects of marriage.
14. Secrets between the married couple going outside the four walls of the room.

These are just some of the issues that could be causing this ongoing phenomenon. The point of this list is not to number them, but to make people aware of them and try to solve problems before they exist. Married couples must take such matters seriously. No marriage is perfect. Even our prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him) had many disagreements with his wives, but the wisdom he employed is the reason his marriages are lessons for his followers to use as an example. In his teachings, he mentions respect for one another as the key in solving not only marriage problems, but also problems of all humanity.

Respect of Children (1/3)

By: Abdulaziz Atieq
The Cultural Center for Foreigners' Call

Respecting others is the most prominent feature of Islam, a religion of balance. Parents, brothers and sisters, kinfolks and all others, Muslim or non-Muslim, have rights endowed by their Creator, who never likes oppression of one party against another. As part of this list, children, according to Islamic teachings, enjoy great respect, from the moment they are in their mothers' wombs to the last stage of childhood. In this article, we will learn how Islam respects children, discussing the child from the following aspects: before and after marriage, as a fetus, as a newborn baby and lastly, as a child.

Before marriage, according to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), it begins before the beginning. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) cautioned us and called upon us to be careful in our choice of spouses. He is reported (by Ibn Majah) to have said, "Make a good choice for (your) spouse, for blood will tell." This highlights the effect of heredity on the infant. It is therefore the right of the child to have parents who are loving and of noble and righteous character. After conception, the rights Allah has prescribed for unborn children in Islamic Law then take effect.

Islam prohibits anything that will lead to harming the fetus and takes strong measures against those who ignore the rights of this very weak creature who is guarded by his merciful and wise God. If the fetus is



exposed to harm from hunger, then the pregnant woman, even if she is healthy, can break Ramadan fasting, which is compulsory upon every healthy Muslim. If she insists on fasting after warning her, she is sinful and must repent. If someone hits a pregnant woman's belly and causes the death of a four-month-old fetus, this person must pay blood money estimated to that of a fully mature person. Once a fetus dies, people should pray for it as they do for mature persons. Instructions of physicians for the safety of a fetus become Islamically incumbent. A man who divorces his wife while she is pregnant must continue spending money on her until she delivers, as Allah says, "And if they are pregnant, then spend on them until they deliver," (At-Talaq: 6) and then finishes her babysitting period, as Allah Almighty says, "The father of the child shall bear the cost of the mother's food and clothing on a reasonable basis." (Al-Baqarah: 233)

Abortion without a good reason is a violation of the fetus's rights. This is unlike in the United States, where human, civil and moral rights are debated hourly and the rights of the unborn often are neglected and ignored. In the past 25 years since the Supreme Court decision in Roe vs. Wade, more than 35 million unborn children have been slaughtered in the industry's abortion mills. In an authentic hadith, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) told us that human life begins 120 days after conception. It is human life that is being extinguished, not some meaningless blob of tissue. The rights of the unborn in Islamic Law protect the unborn from the ignorant and misguided and those ungrateful for their Lord's bounties. Allah, Most High, describes those who kill their children, prior to or after their birth, as lost, misguided and ignorant, "Indeed lost are they who have killed their children, from folly without

knowledge and have forbidden that which Allah has provided for them, inventing a lie against Allah. They have indeed gone astray and were not guided." (Al-Ma'idah: 140) Anyone who aborts a fetus without justifiable reasons must pay reparation (blood money). Some may abort their unborn due to poverty. However, Allah, the All-Mighty, has decreed, with His prior Knowledge, the right of the infant for sustenance and He guaranteed such rights. As a result, He soothes the hearts of those who may fear poverty, "And kill not your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. Surely, the killing of them is a great sin." (Al-Isra: 31)

However, it does not stop here. Islamic Law further commands the guardian to consider the pregnant woman's condition, her affairs and mental frame of mind. Doing well to the expectant mother is mandatory, even if she has committed a crime or an offense against society. Her guardian should delay her punishment so that the unborn will not be affected by it.

The evidence used here is the order given by the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) to the guardian of the woman who committed adultery and was pregnant, to be kind with her (Ibn Majah). The story of Al-Ghamediyah is popular and well-known. It was narrated that a woman from the tribe of Ghamed came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and said, "I have committed adultery." The Prophet told her to return later. The following day, she returned to him and said, "You may want me to return, as you did with Ma'iz ibn Malik, but by Allah, I am

pregnant!" He told her, "Return after you deliver," so she left. When she had delivered, she brought the baby to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and said, "Here I am with what I have delivered." He said, "Return and breastfeed him until fitam (weaning or the end of the nursing period and beginning of eating regular food)." When the time of fitam came, she went to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) with the child, who was eating something from his hand. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) then gave the child to one of the Muslim men. He commanded a hole be made for her and

then ordered that she be stoned (Abu Dawud). It is clear from this hadith how careful and concerned Islam is about the life of the infant and the need for giving the infant his complete rights, such that he may be capable of depending on himself, even if he came into this life through illegitimate means.

The manner of a child's birth is not his sin, "And no soul shall bear the sin of another." (Fatir: 18) No matter how a child comes into the world, all of his rights, including rights for sustenance, remain valid under Islamic Law. So an unborn child's life is considered sacred under Islamic Law.

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Environment threatens children's health

By: Dr. Saleh Al-Habshi
Master of Public Health

Children today live in an environment vastly different from that of a few generations ago. New challenges include increasing industrialization and globalization, rapid urban population growth, non-sustainable consumption of natural resources and increases in the trade and use of chemicals.

While economic development and improved hygiene and health care have led to a significant decrease in childhood morbidity and mortality in many parts of the world, new modern risks to children's health must now be added to basic environmental risks such as unsafe drinking water, lack of adequate sanitation and indoor air pollution, which are closely linked with and aggravated by persistent poverty and social inequity.

Exposure to environmental risk factors during childhood may not only impact a child's health, but ill-health outcomes may appear in and persist throughout adulthood.

Unsafe and unhealthy environments are violating children's rights to health and represent a serious threat to potential unsustainable development.

Despite rising concern in the scientific community, progress has been slow in identifying and studying some environmental threats on children's health and effectiveness of interventions. Children are exposed to serious health risks from environmental hazards. Their exposure to environmental threats has been recognized as an increasing public health problem in many countries worldwide.

Children are in a dynamic state of growth and therefore, are more susceptible to environmental threats than adults. Many vital functions such as the immune system are not fully developed at birth and unsafe environments may interfere with their normal development.

Environmental risk factors often act in concert and their effects exacerbated by adverse social and economic conditions, particularly poverty. But most environmental hazards are preventable.

Preliminary estimates (from 2002) suggest that up to one-third of the global disease burden is attributed to environmental risk factors. Over 40 percent of this burden falls on children under age 5, who make up only about 10 percent of the world's population.

Inadequate drinking water and sanitation, indoor air pollution, injuries and other risk factors are the root causes of more than 4.7 million annu-



Unsafe and unhealthy environments are violating children's rights .
Unicef photo

al deaths of children under age 5 from illnesses aggravated by unhealthy environments.

Health and environment links affecting children are numerous and complex. In most cases, exposure to a particular environmental risk is associated with many different health outcomes and a range of environmental exposures may influence a particular condition. This is based on environmental risk factors contributing to global child mortality and morbidity, thereby highlighting the biggest environmental threats to children's health and illustrating potential disease prevention by associating specific risk factors with distinct settings.

A differentiated analysis (from 2003) of the global disease burden revealed that most environmental threats to children's health are associated with persistent poverty and social inequity. The two major problems are communicable diseases due to lack of safe water and sanitation and acute respiratory infections due to high levels of indoor air pollution combined with unhealthy housing. The virtual disappearance of these two leading causes of child mortality, with the transition toward an industrialized society, demonstrates the dominant influence of socioeconomic factors on the nature and magnitude of children's health problems.

However, communicable diseases do not occur exclusively in developing countries and toxic chemicals are not associated exclusively with industrialized countries. There are pockets of poverty in rich countries where certain population groups experience deprivation in their associated health problems, which are similar to those in developing countries.

Also, toxic chemicals increasingly are being used in developing countries, often with fewer controls and regulations than in industrialized countries.

There is a clear shift in the pattern of leading environmental health problems in children. This differential is not only measurable between rich and poor countries but also between population groups within a given country and within any urban agglomeration, ranging from suburban slums with substandard housing to affluent modern suburbs.

Typical modern risks include chronic respiratory illnesses, asthma, immunological disorders, neurological, neurodevelopmental and behavioral effects, as well as childhood cancers. Additionally, there are emerging risks such as environmental allergens, UV radiation, endocrine disruptors, autoimmune effects and other diseases not directly related to quality of the child's environment. Any potential health-and-environment links require further research and a search for other causative factors or combinations of factors.

Environmental risks to children tend to be greater among rural populations compared to urban populations and an unequal disease burden on rural poor may be aggravated further by lack of health care access.

However, the health status of children living in urban poverty is equally preoccupying. A child's well-being is highly dependent on both the quality and availability of water and on how well this precious resource is managed.

Around the world, both biological disease agents and chemical pollutants compromise drinking water quality. Contaminated water causes a range of diseases, which often are life-threatening.

Of waterborne diseases affecting children, the most deadly are diarrheal infections. Diarrhea causes an estimated 1.3 million child deaths annually, constituting about 15 percent of total child deaths under age 5 in developing countries.

A capital city at risk

By Amel Al-Ariqi

"I couldn't sleep last night. I couldn't breathe. How can you live in such an atmosphere?" said Ali, in Sana'a just three days before returning to his home in Aden. He described Sana'a's atmosphere as "choking and lacking oxygen."

Many living outside Sana'a and not used to cold, dry weather may share Ali's comments. However, these are normal sentiments from Sana'a residents themselves, who survive in a city situated 2,800 meters above sea level in a valley depression surrounded by high, bald mountain barriers. The capital also is Yemen's largest metropolitan area with a population of more than one million. Therefore, Sana'a is distinctive for its unique location and exclusive climate. However, one cannot enjoy such a climate when there is air pollution.

Many studies warn of increasing air pollution levels in Yemen, particularly in Sana'a. Studies in 2004 by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) confirm the reason for such

pollution is a rapidly increasing population rate, thereby increasing activities such as burning fossil fuels like gas, coal and oil to power industrial processes and motor vehicles. Among the harmful chemical compounds this burning releases into the atmosphere are carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and tiny solid particles, including lead from gasoline additives.

Pollutants also come from other sources. For instance, decomposing garbage in landfills and solid waste disposal sites emit methane gas. Ultra-fine dust particles dislodged by soil erosion when water and weather loosen layers of soil increase airborne particle levels.

The EPA/UNDP study found that Sana'a consumes 29,000 out of 50,000 oil barrels used in all of Yemen. There are more than 350,000 cars in Sana'a, so the capital's portion of poison-produced gases is very high and beyond lower international standards.

Another study by Sana'a University science professors Abdullah Ba-Eesa and Dr. Manal Okbah, confirmed the previous study, finding additional concentrations of elements like nickel, cobalt, chromium and lead. Entitled "Air Pollution

in Sana'a," the study cited other factors and circumstances leading to high metal concentration. For example, many older downtown areas have very narrow streets lined with shops, office buildings and dwellings with windows and doors opening directly onto streets with high traffic density at certain peak hours of the day.

Referring to the impact of traffic mobility on urban development, engineer Dr. Ahmed Al-Hazmi said smog from gasoline burned in motor vehicles or from burning tires and solid waste causes an ugly residue on the facade of buildings and houses. He demands instituting new policies to reverse environmental damage resulting from over consumption of fossil fuels and improper disposal of depleted oil and gas emissions "to preserve the natural beauty and archaeological legacy of the city of Sana'a."

Sana'a University Department of Earth and Environment head, Dr. Mohammed Al-Dubai, noted the health risks from air pollution. Asthma, emphysema, heart disease, various types of cancer and diseases affecting the respiratory and nervous systems are some illnesses occurring from subjection to constant air pollution.

As opposed to breastfed infants, bottle-fed infants are highly exposed to unsafe drinking water effects. Intervening in water supply, sanitation and hygiene is estimated to reduce diarrheal incidences, on average, by 25 percent and child mortality by 65 percent.

Availability of at least minimal amounts of water for drinking and other personal purposes is as important as its quality. Already, one-third of the world's population lives in countries facing moderate to high water stress, if not water scarcity, and water tables are falling in every continent. If present trends continue unchecked, it is estimated that two out of three people on earth will live in water-stressed conditions by the year 2025.

Globally, 1.1 billion people today are without access to a clean and adequate water supply. And too little water for basic needs makes it virtually impossible to maintain necessary minimum personal hygiene and sanitary conditions at home.

Lack of adequate sanitary facilities and poor hygienic practices are common throughout developing countries. The lowest levels of service coverage are in Asia and Africa where more than half the rural populations are excluded from any measurable progress in this area.

Globally, 2.4 billion people, most in developing countries, do not have access to improved sanitation facilities. Unhygienic conditions and practices at the household level create a dangerous environment with immediate health risks to children. Also, lack of sanitation facilities in schools helps transmit diseases. Waste dumps situated on almost all major city outskirts provide hazardous environmental conditions to those living nearby, more so to those living as scavengers on such wastes.

Sanitation interventions, both technical and managerial, are needed badly in all areas in houses, schools and the community at large. These

must be accompanied by necessary behavioral changes in child and adult populations, which pose a formidable hygiene education challenge to the health sector.

Air pollution is a major environment-related health threat to children and a risk factor for both acute and chronic respiratory disease. Outdoor air pollution, primarily a consequence of traffic and industrial processes, remains a serious problem in cities throughout the world, particularly in mega cities of developing countries. It is estimated that a quarter of the world's population is exposed to unhealthy concentrations of air pollutants.

In recent years, indoor air pollution has received more attention, as a pollutant released indoors is a thousand times more likely to reach the lungs than a pollutant released outdoors. Indoor air pollution is strikingly different in industrialized and developing countries and varies between urban and rural settings. While the main concern in developing countries is exposure to combustion products from biomass fuel and coal, poor indoor environments in the industrialized world are characterized by reduced ventilation, presence of biological agents such as molds and a myriad of chemicals in furnishing and construction materials.

In the past decade, major global demographic, environmental and societal changes contributed to re-emergence of vector-borne and other diseases, many of which have an important impact on children's health and development. A considerable proportion of the disease burden for four key vector-borne diseases, malaria, schistosomiasis, Japanese encephalitis and dengue hemorrhagic fever, falls on children under age 5.

Chemical use has increased dramatically due to economic development in various sectors including industry, agriculture and transport. Consequently, children are exposed to a large number of chemicals of both

natural and man-made origin. Exposure occurs through air they breathe, water they drink or bathe in, food they eat and soil they touch (or ingest as toddlers). They are exposed virtually wherever they are - at home, in school, on the playground and during transport.

Approximately 47,000 people die annually as a result of such poisoning. Many of these deaths occur in children and adolescents, are unintentional (accidental) and are preventable if chemicals are stored and handled appropriately.

Each year, accidental injuries account for more than 400,000 deaths globally, the majority in children and adolescents. Most of these occur in low- and middle-income countries. Many of those who survive these injuries suffer lifelong disabling health consequences. In the European region, three to four deaths out of 10 occurring in children between the ages of 0 and 4 are due to injury.

The key to implementing a program on Healthy Environments for Children will be creating a concerted, popular, participatory and inclusive 'movement' addressing the issue in an integrated manner, centering on children rather than individual environmental hazards.

The basic principle on which such a movement builds is that stakeholders at every level can make a difference, e.g., decision makers at international, regional, national and community levels, community leaders, teachers, NGOs, the private sector and families.

Besides the health sector, the movement must involve various other sectors including environment, energy, transport, housing, agriculture and education. Action must be based on scientific evidence to ensure major environmental determinants of adverse health outcomes in children are addressed adequately and the most appropriate interventions considered. It must be driven by strong commitment to act primarily at the local and national level.

Invitation for Bids – IFB#32/05 for the Construction of Assadah Ar Radaee 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 March 16, 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 Assadah Ar Rada'ee. 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 Assadah Al Rada'ee RR (30.8 km) in Ibb 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 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\$550,000.0
• 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, Feb12, 2006. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened physically 11:00 AM, Feb12, 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\$65,000.0 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

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The oldest football Club

Al-Tilal Club is considered the oldest in the peninsula. It was established in 1905, and it has its own achievements and advancements, which are unforgettable.

Al-Tilal Club was established in Craiter city. Yousuf Khan, Rustum Khan, Abdul-Kareem Makari Abdul-Rahman Norji and Ibrahim Khan were the first founders of the club. At that time, it was called Al-Muhamadi Federation Club.

Al-Tilal entered many tournaments and gained the cup of 1914 championship. After that, the executive committee of sports issued a resolution of establishing sports clubs. Al-Ahli Club was unified with Al-Muhamadi Federation Club, the two became known as Al-Tilal Club in 1975.

Al-Tilal achievements
-1934: gained the Championship Cup in the first official championship. One year later, it won King George V Cup. In the same year, it won the Championship Cup of Raily I and VI.

- 1950 : it won the Championship Cup
- 1957 : it won the Championship Club of the Royal Association
- 1969 : it won the 14th October Club.

- 1970 : it scored the championship title during Al-Thawra championship season .

- 1971 : it gained the championship of Nasser tournament .

- 1977-8 : it won the President's First Club



President Saleh with Altelal team that gained the championship cup

However, it did not win the championship in the 1980 season. It won the championship of the President's Fourth Cup, the Independence Cup, the Champion Cup of 1982 season.

In 1983, it won the tournament championship, the Inarah Cup in 1984, the Motamer Club in 1985, the January Martyrs Club in 1986, the Federation Club in 1990. It also won the championship of

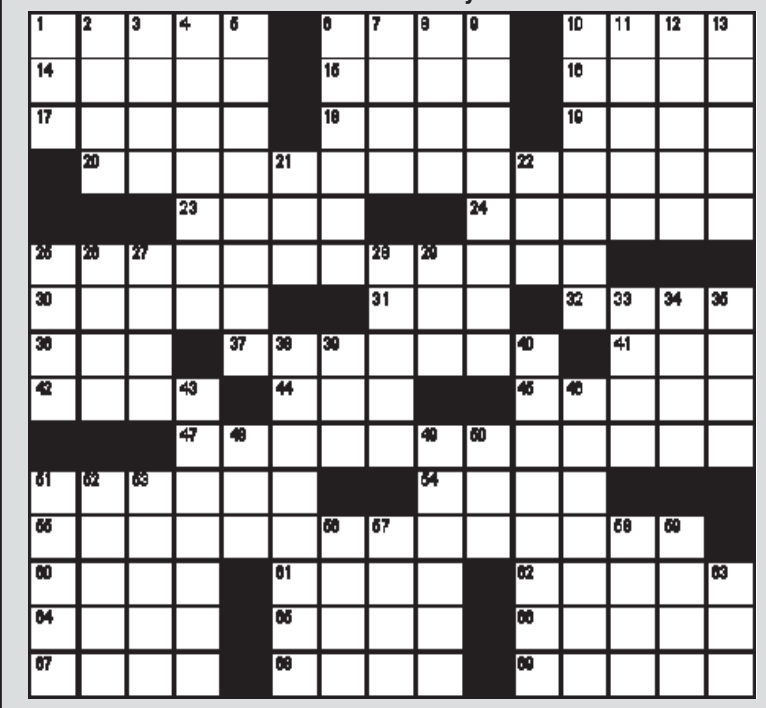
1990/1991 season, the 4th, 5th, 7th, and 9th championships of Al-Muraisi. It gained the 22 May Club in 1998, Nasim Club in 2000 and the championship of 2004/2005 tournament.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

- | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|
| ACROSS | 1964 | DOWN | Minister Hirobumi |
| 1 Playfully mischievous one | 37 Like some expensive shoes | 1 Biological cavity | 33 Dairy case spread |
| 6 Ones of a kind? | 41 John, to Ringo? | 2 Kinship group | 34 Like bald tires |
| 10 Wild, desperate guess | 42 Muralist Jose Maria | 3 "Look _____, I'm Sandra Dee" | 35 Casualty, e.g. |
| 14 Union station? | 44 Bean counter, for short | 4 "My Little Chickadee" co-star | 38 "My Little Chickadee" co-star |
| 15 Use a lot? | 45 ML pitchers that hit | 5 Candidate | 39 "O Henry, _____ thine eyes!" (Shakespeare) |
| 16 Cabbage family member | 47 Time for some to vote, minus one year? | 6 Per person | 40 Where to come in |
| 17 Big name's small part | 51 Nobel laureate Sakharov | 7 Six-pack units | 43 Destructive funnel |
| 18 1953 Pulitzer playwright William | 54 Group standard | 8 "Cogito, _____ sum" | 46 Citrus drink |
| 19 Otherwise | 55 Certain work force, minus one year? | 9 Type of key | 48 Word with spoon, well or force |
| 20 Commitment minus one year? | 60 Vesuvius relative | 10 Type of details | 49 Join up |
| 23 Of majestic proportions | 61 First in a string of popes | 11 A co-star of Sylvester | 50 Dove's murrum |
| 24 Con's pre-occupation, perhaps | 62 Dropped off | 12 Columnist Joseph and Stewart | 51 "You _____ Beautiful" |
| 25 Marilyn Monroe film minus one year? | 64 Pine nut, e.g. | 13 Designer Geoffrey | 52 Lecture souvenirs |
| 30 First letter of "census," e.g. | 65 Aykroyd and Fogelberg | 14 Mo. or Ohio, e.g. | 53 Desert features |
| 31 From point _____ point B | 66 Like a lot | 22 Pac-10 campus | 56 Ravioli filling, perhaps |
| 32 Caterwaul | 67 _____ buco (veal dish) | 25 Letters on measuring spoons | 57 Corn cake |
| 36 Middle Eastern org. founded in | 68 Editorial notation | 26 Moth's legacy | 58 Baseball's Slaughter |
| | 69 Votes in favor | 27 Get an _____ effort | 59 In desperate need of water |
| | | 28 Birth-related | 63 _____ Moines |
| | | 29 Japanese Prime | |

"ONE YEAR LESS" by J.R. Richards



New UGA board vows fresh boost to golf

DUBAI, Jan. 4 — The UAE Golf Association has vowed to pursue the sport with renewed vigour when it announced the new board which will be at the helm till 2008.

Headed by Mohammed Ali Alabbar, who has been the chairman of the apex body since its inception in 1995, the new-look board includes Tariq Baker (vice-chairman), Abdulaziz Al Hakim (secretary-general), Mohammed Al Mosharrehk (treasurer), Khalid Al Halyan, Mohammed Buamim and Sohail Faris Al Mazrui (all board members).

Bringing a wealth of administrative experience to the association — better known by its acronym UGA — are Abdulaziz Al Hakim and Al Mosharrehk (whose son Abdullah along with Khalid Yousuf featured in the historic UAE victory in the Arab Junior Championship in Syria recently).

"The game of golf has shown an amazing growth over the years," said Alabbar while lauding the

commitment and vision of the previous board.

"The UAE has earned the sobriquet of being the golfing capital of the region with a number of championship courses dotting the landscape of emirates and attracting a constant flow of tourists throughout the year," he said.

"Two European PGA Tour events — The Dubai Desert Classic and Abu Dhabi Golf Championship — have further added to the profile of the country. With golf becoming a permanent fixture, we, at the UGA, are sparing no efforts to streamline the affairs of the domestic golf circuit.

"Golf is the future of all sports here," he added. "The UGA now boasts a membership close to 6,000, the sheer number amply reflecting on the popularity of the game both among the nationals and expatriates."

The UGA Handicap Scheme Golf Days — meant for golfers who are not members of the clubs, but are enrolled with the UGA — have proved to be

the catalyst in spreading the game.

In addition to regular golf days players, subject to their standards, can attain a handicap according to Congu (Councils of National Golf Unions) and LGU (Ladies Golf Union) systems.

The Junior Development Programme, run by the UGA, is another facility that blends preparatory courses with intensive, high-level golf instructions from professional golfers. The UGA is also credited with initiating an Order of Merit for both male and female golfers. Points are awarded on the basis of their performances in select tournaments to crown the champions.

UGA Board (2005-2008): Chairman: Mohammed Ali Alabbar, Vice-chairman: Tariq Baker, Secretary-general: Abdulaziz Al Hakim, Treasurer: Mohammed Al Mosharrehk.

Board members: Khalid Al Halyan, Mohammed Buamim and Sohail Faris Al Mazrui.

Ferrari Lessons Head To The Middle East

QATAR, Dec. 31 - We've known for a while that many luxury sports cars were making their way to the Middle East and now the lucky owners are getting special driving lessons. An article in the Gulf Times covered the first "Pilota Ferrari" held in Qatar. The program, which is usually held in Italy, included Italian Ferrari instructors who showed Ferrari owners how



to improve their skills. The event was held at the Losail International Circuit

and 35 Ferrari owners brought their own cars. The program was composed of a theory lesson in the classroom and then three driving sessions. The third session involved a bit of a race. It seems likely that the private race-track and car clubs will also be on the rise in that region as the interest in high performance cars continues to rise.

Al Ain of UAE sacks its coach

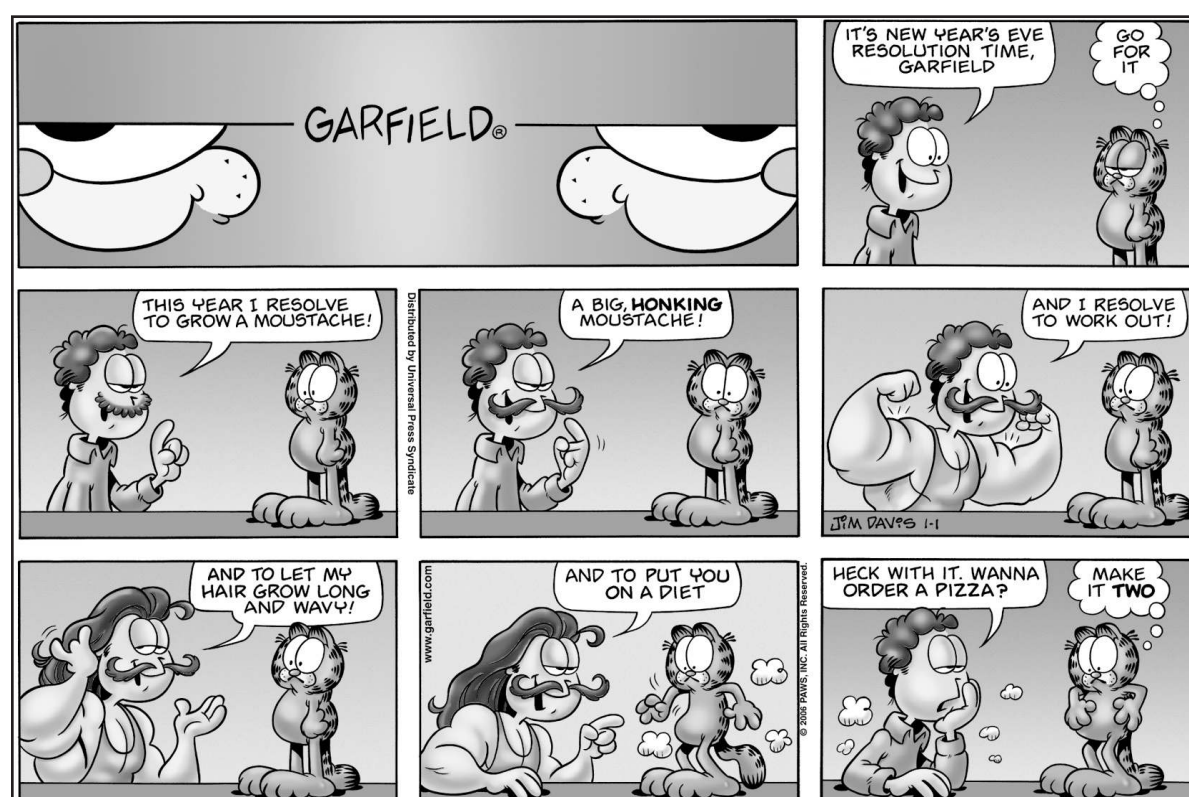
UAE, Jan. 4 — Powerhouse Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates has sacked its coach Milan Macala and named Tunisian Mohammad Al Menssy as caretaker coach, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said Tuesday. Macala, who has been under pressure for some time, got the boot following Sunday's 2-1 loss to Al Ahli,

their fourth defeat in 10 matches this season, the official website of the AFC reported.

"We are very thankful for the achievements of the club under Macala ... However the circumstances are such that this decision had to be taken," Al Ain Board member Hamad Al Ameri was quoted as saying.

During Macala's reins, the club won the President's Cup last season and also finished runners-up in the AFC Champions League apart from finishing second in the league.

Al Ain has signed Serbia and Montenegro striker Nenad Jestrovic and Brazilian midfielder Kelly, the AFC added.



5 January, 2006

سيارة للبيع

سيارة سوزوكي ليانا ٤ أبواب - ٥ ركاب - ٤ سيلندر - ١٦ صمام - موديل ٢٠٠٥ - ١٦٠٠ سي سي - ١٠٥ قوة حصانية - مواصفات خليجية - نظام فرامل ABS - مكيف - CD راديو كاسيت - شفرة الكترونية للمفتاح لمنع السرقة

للتواصل: ٧١٧٠٤٣٩١ - ٧٣٦٧٠٣٦١

هل تبحث عن وظيفة؟؟؟ هل ترغب في تأهيل نفسك لتجتاز المرحلة الجامعية؟ هل ترغب في تحسين وضعك الوظيفي؟ الآن المعهد الأمريكي للتدريب واللغات American Language And Training Institute

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وظائف شاغرة مطلوب: سكرتارية تنفيذية - مندوب علمي او مندوبية علمية - مندوب علمي او مندوبية علمية

شحن وتوصيل التسليم للشحن والتوصيل ٤٠٧٩٠٥ - ٤٤٩٣٥٠ - ٤٤٩٣٥٠

خمس سنوات في نفس المجال - يجيد استخدام الحاسب الآلي والمراسلة عبر الانترنت - يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة وطلاً

باحثون عن وظيفة صالح حسين الفهد خريج جامعة صنعاء - قسم العلاقات العامة والإعلان بالإضافة إلى دبلوم كمبيوتر وحاصل على شهادة

مستشفيات مستشفى حدة الأهلي - مستشفى البني الأماني - مستشفى الألماني الحديث

عقارات للبيع: أرضية بمساحة ٤٦٠ قصبة ششاري في منطقة الجندية

كوبون الاعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل) بيع - شراء - إيجار - استئجار - طلب وظيفة - وظائف شاغرة - غير ذلك

مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر للبيع: سيارة مرسيدس E320 موديل ١٩٩٤ كامل التصنيع

Inside a Yemeni m'ewaz workshop in Sana'a



By: Attif Awad

In a small workshop near Hjar mosque, small primitive tools resemble those in huge electric textile factories, but the difference is that these tools are manual. A worker stands in front of the tools, working with his hands in a very simple manner spinning threads.

Abdu Ali Mohamed, owner of this workshop, inherited the job from his father. He pointed to m'ewazs, which is a rectangular piece of decorated cloth worn around men's waist like a wraparound, hanging on the workshop walls, saying he gained his fame through those types. He said the variegations and speckles in his m'ewazs attract people from all over Yemen.

Distinguishing characteristics

What distinguishes Manawa m'ewazs from other Yemeni dress, especially the lower piece which

characterizes Yemenis from among all other Arabs?

The 40-year-old owner replied that there are many varieties of Yemeni dress, of which Ma'awaz is one, as well as Al-Maqtab and Al-Musanaf. "My tools can produce Al-Maqtab, however they cannot produce Al-Musanaf. Al-Musanaf requires different tools."

When asked what distinguishes the Ma'awaz from the Al-Maqtab, he said the difference is that Al-Maqtab uses a thick speckled thread and the design is vivid and brilliant. Threads should be brilliant all over the Al-Maqtab body, whereas Ma'awaz threads should be tiny, thin and smooth.

Types and clients

Mohamed said all classes, including workers and the poor, buy his m'ewazs. Some clients buy them for 3,000 riyals or less, while others ask for ones costing 10-12,000 riyals.

When asked how his m'ewazs differ from those of the others and why the price difference, he said it depends on the type of threads from which the m'ewaz is made, noting that Japanese threads are better than Pakistani or Chinese.

Mohamed laughed when asked about Yemeni threads, saying, "In the past, there were manual spinners. Yemenis used to make their m'ewazs from these threads, but these Yemeni spinners stopped now. They could not compete with the imported ones. All the Al-Maqtab and Al-Musanaf m'ewaz threads are imported."

The process

Asked if he inherited the spinners from his father, he answered, "Yes and I modified them. I changed the wooden parts to iron rods."

Each tool produces a complete m'ewaz ready for sale, Mohamed noted. Workers can switch from



loom to chains to control shapes and speckles on the m'ewaz.

If there are many shapes with complicated variegations, it could take a worker two days to complete a m'ewaz. If it is a simple one, it might take only a day. Workers are paid 1-2,000 riyals for each piece.

When asked about the number of workshops in Sana'a and throughout Yemen, Mohamed answered, "There are between 10 and 15 in Sana'a. As for all of Yemen, there are a lot of workshops!" Asked if Sana'a workshops are large or automated, he responded, "No, they are all manual like this one. Every one develops them in his own way."

Regarding whether folklore organizations interested in such artifacts provide any funding, Mohamed said, "We know nothing of these organizations. However,

there is a group of craftsmen who formed a society and built a workshop to train those wanting to learn this job. They stipulate that those they train work with them for five years."

An enduring legacy

The m'ewazs on Mohamed's workshop walls are a reminder of Yemen's legacy. Yemenis still cling to their legacy in every respect. They still observe traditional methods in architecture, death and marriage ceremonies and even agriculture. To Yemenis, the old is still modern. Yemen is unlike other civilizations, which are only now being photographed and studied, in that Yemenis still love their civilization and have never deserted it. Yemeni civilization continues on two feet, wherever one goes in Sana'a or elsewhere.

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