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Inside:



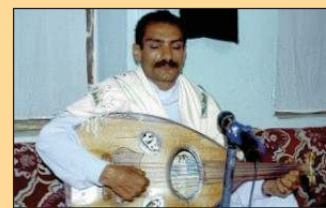
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Wooden windows disappear in Ibb



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Honey: medicine of the Qur'an for all diseases

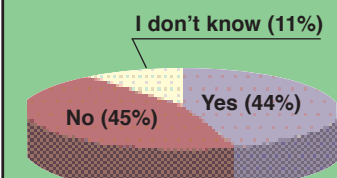


10

"I was struck by Yemeni music," London's Smith says

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:
Like other government employees, teachers complain of deteriorating living standards and skyrocketing prices. Do you think the current teachers strike will compel the government to raise their salaries?



This edition's question:

In their recent meeting, NGOs claimed that the government issued amnesty to end bloodshed in Sa'ada. Do you think the government is serious enough to apply amnesty and settle the issue?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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NGOs call for implementing Sa'ada war amnesty

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, March 19 — The civil community organization's Coalition to Support Rights and Freedoms organized a symposium Sunday entitled, "Amnesty Decision: to Where," focused on implementing the amnesty decision and releasing those imprisoned over the Sa'ada events.

The symposium witnessed multiple and differing viewpoints, detailing Sa'ada events that erupted last year between the army and Al-Houthi followers.

Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) member Mohamed Al-Maqaleh affirmed that President Saleh's amnesty is good, as it aimed to end the fighting. He said Yemen is governed by two authorities: one represented by constitutional institutions — Parliament and the president, while the other is a hidden authority whose presence indicates absence of the other authority.

This dual authority was manifested during Sa'ada fighting when the hidden authority played an active role, leading involved parties to dispense with Parliament and the government, Al-Maqaleh added.

According to Al-Maqaleh, nobody has dared talk about the Sa'ada War. Hussein Al-Dailami was arrested for staging a sit-in to end the fighting, while amnesty has not been implemented due to conflicts between authorities unable to reach consensus.

Al-Maqaleh attributed the amnesty delay to many factors, one of which is fear and silence on the part of civil community organizations and political parties. Another factor is confusion about Al-Houthi followers' goals behind the war. According to political analysts, the "Death to Israel and the U.S.!" slogan is not the reason for the fighting.

NGO spokeswoman Bilqis Al-Lahabi stressed that amnesty is an

important theme for human rights organizations to establish human rights principles and unify efforts to support rights and freedoms. She noted that NGOs and other human rights organizations had no active role in the Sa'ada fighting, which helped exacerbate the issue.

Nazih Al-Emad, a lawyer in the People's General Congress Legal Unit, ascertained that the president's amnesty is an important decision that should be backed by everyone.

Al-Nida Editor-in-Chief Sami Ghaleb noted that media's role was weak, as journalists covered the Sa'ada fighting, but only through the lens of military and security apparatuses. The media could not cover all Sa'ada events due to the area's harsh topography under government control, which enforced media silence and prevented the media from approaching battlefields. Additionally, journalists lacked professionalism and necessary material



The symposium witnessed multiple and differing viewpoints.

PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

resources to cover the fighting.

"We all know that the independent and private press lacks support and professionalism," Ghaleb added. "We never forget government oppression preventing the media from reporting

facts."

Symposium participants insisted on releasing Sa'ada detainees, including cleric Mohamed Meftah, and tossing out the death sentence against cleric Yahya Hussein Al-Dailami.

FAO urges Near East countries to settle food security issues



Some of the participants in the conference

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, March 16 — Concluding its functions in Sana'a last Thursday, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 28th Near East Regional Conference confirmed support for reforming the organization, as suggested by participating delegations.

The conference also approved a coordinating meeting in Amman, Jordan for senior Near East officials, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), to study the region's bird flu situation and

exchange information about the epidemic.

The conference called on member states to enhance concerned parties' abilities to analyze agricultural policies and trade-related issues to help Qatari teams negotiate with the World Trade Organization (WTO). It invited 150 member state representatives and 22 international, governmental and private organizations to encourage agricultural investment and ensure funding for Qatari agricultural development programs.

Continued on page 2

Teachers strike over government's false promises

Teachers and education workers began a partial strike Saturday, as the government has not raised their salaries after pledging to do so.

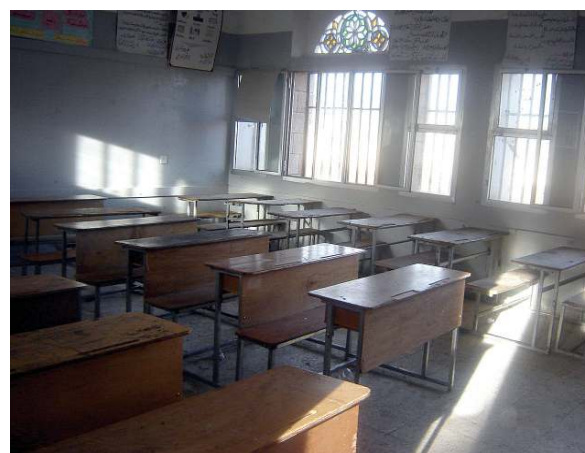
By: Saddam Al-Ashmori

SANA'A, March 19 — Yemeni teachers and education syndicates announced teachers' intention to go on a massive strike until the government meets their demands.

Both syndicates announced in a statement that teachers wore red badges until March 16 and began staging a partial strike last Saturday through today, while the massive strike will begin Tuesday. The statement stressed that teachers will not cease striking until their demands are met.

According to the statement, executive and local authorities demonstrated shaky behavior not based on credibility and justice, leading official parties to practice extortion and terrorism in an attempt to foil the strike.

The Minister of Education visited many capital schools with some local authority leaders and upon failing to persuade teachers to lift their strike, he threatened them with other action.



Schools free of teachers and students due to the strike.

The Taiz Education Office Manager barbarically assaulted Ragheb Sa'eed Abdu, a teacher at 26 September School, ripping the red badge off his shirt in front of his students.

Al-Wahdah Education Department Manager in Sana'a threatened district school teachers with dire consequences, while teachers of both genders were extorted last week.

In a statement, Yemeni teachers and education syndicates mentioned illegal practices by influential officials, saying such practices will not stop them from insisting on their legal demands. The two syndicates called on teachers to adhere to their legal demands and reject any equity with other government employees, noting that the 110 percent salary increase announced by

the Education Minister is merely a false promise.

The two syndicates called on teachers to continue their strike in school courtyards according to the announced timetable until their demands are met or the syndicates release another statement ordering them to lift the strike. Both syndicates insisted teachers not submit to any threats or illegal practices, saying any arbitrary acts will be reported to concerned parties.

Concluding their statement, the syndicates invited other syndicates, unions and organizations to express solidarity with them. They also appealed to Parliament's Rights and Freedoms Committee to play an integral role in protecting the law's status and citizens' dignity.

Yemeni Teachers Syndicate (YTS) Chief Mohamed Al-Rabahi confirmed that the protest will continue until the government meets teachers' demands and no partial solutions or compromises will be accepted. The YTS capital branch last Thursday denounced illegal practices against teachers in Sana'a and other provinces.

The YTS has reported all illegal acts by the Ministry of Education and other educational bodies against teachers nationwide, including incidents of dismissal and threats of suspending salaries of teachers wearing red badges. The report unveiled oppression of teachers of both genders and arbitrary practices by education authorities against teachers and education workers nationwide.

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Trial of newspapers on cartoon offence continues

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, March 19 – The West Capital Court held a session Saturday, March 18 to try Al-Ray Al-A'am newspaper and its Editor-in-Chief Kamal Al-Olofi, accused of republishing caricatures offending the prophet Mohammed (pbuh).

The newspaper's lawyer, Khalid Al-Anisi, demanded his client be acquitted, saying the pictures Al-Ray Al-A'am published could not pose any significant insult because they were very small and hid the features. The newspaper even defended the prophet in articles published in the same issue.

Al-Anisi submitted defense's reply to Prosecution, asserting that the accusation against his client does not fulfill criminal requirements. However, Press and Publications Prosecution rejected defense's argument. Attorney Mohamed Sahl said Prosecution cleared the crime's basis in a memorandum, adding that the publications themselves were material proof of evidence.

Twelve lawyers presented claims against the newspaper. The court continued its session to next Saturday.

The Ministry of Information cancelled the licenses of the English Yemen Observer and Al-Hurriya newspaper and their three chief editors



were detained. In its first session, Prosecution accused these three papers of insulting the prophet Mohammed (pbuh) by republishing caricatures that were published in Danish and European papers. The three newspapers remain suspended while others are being tried on other accusations.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) recently issued a detailed report on journalist assaults entitled, "The press situation in Yemen: assaults, sponsorship and dirty tricks." The report confirmed that government and state agents were involved in several recent attacks against journalists. The attacks were not investigated properly, while others were not investigated at all. However, they created a sense of fear among journalists.

The CPJ report affirmed that at least seven newspapers were closed by governmental and judicial commands in 2005. It also pointed to cloning of other newspapers, whereby the cloned

newspapers coincide with the original ones in name and design. They only differ in editorial content, which is pro-government.

The report revealed that some journalists were attacked because they disclosed corruption of some officials, narrating details of abductions such as journalist Jamal Amir, chief editor of Al-Wasat and Al-Jihafi, Al-Nahar managing editor and several other journalists.

The CPJ report confirmed that the latest threat to Yemeni journalists is the effort to approve a new press law imposing firm media restrictions. Journalists fear the law will be used to stifle criticism, especially in the period leading up to September's presidential election. At the end of its report, the CPJ called on President Saleh and Yemen's government to adopt a number of the following recommendations:

-Encourage journalists to undertake independent press coverage, including coverage that criticizes the govern-

ment.

-Guarantee that authorities will not punish journalists, either directly or indirectly, due their career activities.

-Publicly denounce violent abuses and actions aimed at terrorizing journalists.

-Denounce other crimes against the press and guarantee comprehensive and transparent investigations, whose findings are published publicly.

-Halting all government interference in journalist affairs, which undermines press activity.

The CPJ report also called for canceling Yemeni legal provisions such as the present draft press law and the penal law which abuse internationally recognized rights. The report also called for establishing independent Yemeni broadcasting means and encouraging them to provide independent news and opinions, suggesting that these could include criticizing the state.

Shoura Council committee hears draft Press Law proposals

SANA'A, March 18 — At its Tuesday meeting chaired by Shoura Council Deputy Chairman Abdullah Saleh Al-Bar, the Specialized Committee authorized by the Shoura Council to study the draft Press and Publications Law heard viewpoints and proposals by political party representatives on the draft law.

At the meeting, Al-Bar stressed the importance of the committee's meetings

with representatives from different political parties and civil community organizations. The main objective of such meetings was to approve the project and come up with reachable and unified viewpoints.

Al-Bar stressed that the Press and Publications Law must reflect national inspirations and cope with changes in different areas.

Link Association opens Al-Sabeen Hospital children's activity room



Some children in the entertainment room.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

SANA'A, March 15 — A French welfare association known as Link Association launched its activities program at Al-Sabeen Hospital in Sana'a. The welfare program aims to give sick children special care and establish a well-equipped entertainment room for them with early learning as well as entertainment facilities.

At the project's opening ceremony, Sandrine Fradet expressed her thankfulness to sponsors for their support and contributions to the humanitarian project's success. She also clarified Link's essential goals and its activities in Yemen: "The first step has been taken, with the opening of the hospital's early learning activities room. The project is the first of its kind in Yemen and is considered a big success, with children being looked after in this entertainment room."

For his part, Al-Sabeen Hospital's deputy head delivered a speech thank-

ing Link and those who contributed to opening the entertainment room.

Teleyemen commercial and marketing director Mr. Ranchon mentioned that Link signed a Dec. 17, 2005 agreement with the hospital to create a children's playroom consisting of toys, a television and other equipment to help hospitalized children enhance their knowledge and abilities while being treated at the hospital. Teleyemen not only will donate to Link, but it will provide other visual equipment to the hospital to explain to mothers how to care for their children.

Furthermore, Link aims to help poor populations, especially Yemeni children and mothers at Al-Sabeen. It began its activities in Yemen in 2001 by sending medication to Al-Sabeen. Over the past four years, it has sent more than 1,500 kilos of medicine and some equipment.

Link's recognition in Yemen is undeniable, with its work being appreciated and supported by many Yemeni institutions.

Parliamentary committee heads and reporters selected

SANA'A, March 18 — The Parliament in its Tuesday meeting approved forming its permanent committees in light of a proposal by its board and according to regulations stipulated in internal bylaws.

Consequently, the permanent committee held its first session devoted to selecting a head and a reporter for each committee, according to internal parliamentary bylaws.

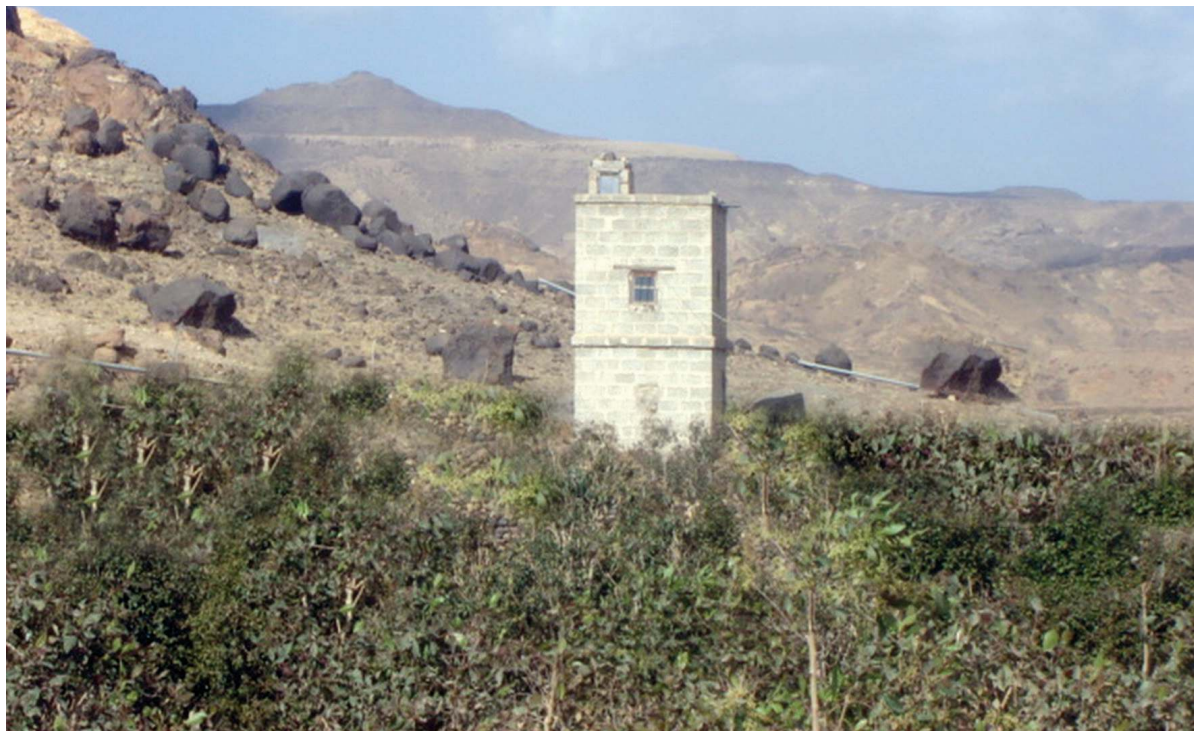
Qat plantations consume 40 percent of underground water

SANA'A, March 19 — A Ministry of Water and Environment official told 26 September weekly that the ministry has counted between 300 and 400 illegal water rigs operating without permission.

He pointed out that rig owners have pledged to abide by the numbering process to restrict the rigs' mobilization and park them in their courtyards without operating them unless they obtain licenses from the General Authority for Water Resources (GAWR), its affiliates or the Water and Sanitation Corporation.

The source told 26 September weekly, "Concerns about the increasing number of artesian wells, reaching 12,000 in Sana'a and 100,000 in other governorates, are high." He confirmed that the ministry exerts precious efforts throughout the republic to restrict artesian well drilling due to their bad consequences on underground water.

He explained that the issue requires joint efforts by official apparatuses to prevent the problem's exacerbation. He added that the issue requires sufficient budgets for the ministry and its affiliates to fulfill the growing population's needs and form



A view of Qat field.

PHOTO BY MOHAMMED AL-JABRI

committees to control underground water consumption.

The source confirmed that qat plantations consume nearly 40 percent of underground water. He

pointed out that the National Strategy for Water Maintenance has established a list of solutions in case the media does not play a good role in raising awareness about water

consumption. The strategy recommends the Water Law be amended to restrict random drilling and establish GAWR branches in various Yemeni governorates.

Preparations continue for 2006 Taiz International Book and Information Technology Fair

Preparations continue for the fourth Taiz International Book and Information Technology Fair organized by Al-Saeed establishment for Science and Culture April 26-May 10.

In a press release, establishment General Manager Faisal Saeed Farie said 75 Arab and foreign publishing houses will participate in the fair, which will contain more than 150,000

titles regarding all types of human knowledge in addition to information technology. Unlike other Yemeni book fairs, information technology will be presented intensively in this exhibition.

Distinguished for its international standard since its first round in 2003, Farie confirmed that the exhibition will continue this standard in its fourth round. However, this year's functions

also will include the presence of new publishers, among them the Arab Organization for Culture and Science, with its publications, centers and tributary organizations.

Farie pointed out that the fair's aim is to support the relationship between book and reader, based on respect for the mind and continuous provision of new and interesting materials.

In Brief

- On Sunday, the Society for Development of Women (SOUL) launched a year-long training, funded by the United States and designed to improve women's access to the Information Technology (IT) sector.

More than 100 women joined SOUL's Dr. A. Al-Derma; Samira Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Information Technology; Ali Saleh Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs and Development; Abdullah Jabari, Deputy Minister of the Technical Education and Vocational Training Ministry; U.S. Deputy Chief of

Mission Dr. Nabeel Khoury and various non-governmental organization representatives in launching the coursework, which will benefit 400 Yemenis.

The \$425,000 grant is part of the Middle East Partnership Initiative, which helps to build partnerships and improve the lives of people in the region by supporting local reform.

- Panasonic will hold an exclusive home appliances seminar for its Yemeni dealers to further strengthen its consumer electronics monopoly.

The seminar will be this Thursday,

March 23 at 9:30 a.m. at the Taj Sheba Hotel. Following tea, Panasonic delegates will address dealers, delivering speeches regarding technical and marketing advantages of Panasonic products and peculiarities of new Panasonic products.

Panasonic representatives Takashimaru Yamamoto, Abby Thomas, Shoaib Tareen and Miraz Fazal will attend the seminar, which will be conducted by Alfa General Manager. Hussein Al-Rashidi. Alfa will honor its best dealers at the event based on last year's performance.

Continued from page 1

FAO urges Near East countries to settle food security issues

The conference recommended joint efforts with international and regional finance corporations to discuss possible support for Qatari and regional activities. Such support is aimed at building capacities in areas related to multi-side trade negotiations in cooperation with FAO.

Participants expressed satisfaction at moves to reform the organization, particularly aspects related to decentralization, saying FAO has outdated programs and systems established 60 years ago. They emphasized the need to bring about a suitable balance between the main headquarters, regional offices and Qatari commissioners to enhance achievement and efficiency.

Conference recommendations also called for FAO to discuss any possible support for building regional member states' capacities to do their best in multi-side trade negotiations and regional trade agreements.

Recommendations urged helping regional countries facilitate information exchange and useful lessons of

member states in the WTO, as well as countries seeking WTO entry. Such exchange of information and experiences is expected to include Mediterranean countries, which have broader experience in areas of partnership with the EU and other countries in the region.

Participants expressed concern over the decline in regional agricultural trade performance, despite reaching regional complementary agreements. They affirmed the need to assess regional trade agreements and their interaction with trade reforms, obstacles and gained experiences.

The two-day conference discussed many persistent issues, mainly those related to current world developments and regional trade environments and their impacts on Near East food security and agricultural development. It also discussed new agricultural practices, organic agriculture, international market demands and the means of supporting institutions to alleviate poverty and facilitate reaching Millennium Development Goals. Participants also

laid more emphasis on promoting quality of the region's products and the role of forests in combating desertification.

The conference listed many issues to be discussed at the 29th conference in another two years, including discussing a strategic framework for sustainable agricultural development and food security in Near East countries. It also will discuss suitable means for confronting challenges to the region's agricultural development and coping with modern trade advancements and their influence on Near East countries' food security and sustainable agricultural development.

Among issues due for discussion at the next conference is a mechanism for ensuring Near East food security and supporting and reforming national agricultural guidance and research systems. Additionally, discussions will cover economic and social issues of animal diseases transmitted across borders, as well as other issues related to technological biology, which upholds plans for improving the region's agriculture

Six months ahead of presidential elections, peaceful transfer of power is discussed in a Women Journalists Without Constraints symposium

Is the opposition serious this time?

The ruling party's way of administration is no longer acceptable. This is what the opposition said, asserting that they are more capable of ruling the country and will challenge in elections.

By: Mustafa Rajeh

Such lively political dialogue promises Yemenis a heated presidential election campaign in six months. It took place at a symposium entitled, "Peaceful Exchange of Power," organized last week by Women Journalists Without Constraints.

"Do we need 50 years so the ruler can teach us peaceful exchange of power?" These are the words with which Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar began his comment on Yasser Al-Awadhi's speech at the symposium. A member of the ruling party's General Committee, Al-Awadhi called on all to promote peaceful conduct in daily life and social relations.

The heated symposium witnessed the presence of Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman, General Secretary of the Yemeni Socialist Party, and Mohamed Al-Yadomi, General Secretary of the Islah Party, who participated with two papers on political reform and peaceful exchange of power. Other opposition leaders also attended, as well as Yunis Haza'a from the ruling party.

The symposium followed an opposition press conference wherein it refused continuation of the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER) to administrate upcoming elections. They presented a paper containing their suggestions for



Yassin Noman:
Politics should be managed by dialogue, not by political gladiators or verbal attacks.



Mohamed Al-Yadomi:
We will not go to the polls without neutral electoral administration.



Mohamed Qahtan:
The president does not lie and the ruling party should look for a candidate.



Yasser Al-Awadhi:
We hope the overt opposition address is the same as said behind close doors.



Hameed Al-Ahmar:
The ruling party wants a guided opposition that praises it.

free and neutral elections.

The level of representation at the symposium gave it a lively spirit that was reflected in the discussions and remarks. The audience described the symposium as the most important of the past 10 years, saying it marked a turning point in the political arena. This especially was realized in the alliance of Islah and the Socialist Party, who think to introduce a joint candidate in upcoming elections.

Al-Yadomi is famous for his rare public appearances in the media and at symposiums, often leaving Islah representation to Abdulwahab Al-Alanisi and Mohamed Qahtan. This gives the impression that his appearance often indicates declaration of important party policy matters.

"On behalf of Islah, I would like to assure all that we are taking serious steps." With these words, Al-Yadomi answered several questions inside the hall and those often asked by political observers.

He confirmed that Islah will make no unilateral step outside Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) consensus, adding that the Islah candidate will be the same candidate JMP agrees upon, whether he is a Socialist, a Nasserite or Islamic. This formerly was a skeptical point among political and public groups, considering Islah's previous

nomination of President Saleh in 1999.

Al-Awadhi hinted at this particular point when he hoped opposition's overt stance in the press and other media would be the same as discussed behind closed doors. The symposium and the JMP stance wiped away all doubts, which formerly spoke of some measures being arranged under the table.

Al-Awadhi insisted Islah declare its recent dialogue with ruling party leadership. Al-Yadomi confirmed that its leadership has no enmity with the ruling party: "We are brothers who differ among themselves. We have different points of view. Even the peaceful transfer of power issue is simply a difference of agendas, not enmity."

Al-Yadomi pointed out that the difference is because the opposition, elites and political, social and popular forces no longer accept presidential and partisan GPC administration. He said the JMP can administrate the state in a better way, adding that the arbitrator between the ruling party and the opposition is the polls. He noted that such arbitration should be fair, genuine and constitutional.

Situations now differ from the 1990s, when Islah's proximity to opposition parties was weak, particularly to the Socialist Party. Al-Yadomi's paper

disclosed this switch, focusing on adopting a modern address. The party's religious monopoly no longer exists, except in the minority led by Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani. Ahmed Yahya Al-Kibsi praised Al-Yadomi's method, hoping other Islamists will follow suit, especially those only interested in classifying and calling people infidels.

Islah's attitude reached a point of difference with the president. Al-Yadomi's paper confirmed that the long presidential office term is not a good means for stability; rather, it is a means of violent use of power or cheating public opinion for a long stay in power by oppression. This inhibits the political and economic skyline and leads to conflict, which is covered under imaginary stability. Conflict and wars in such regimes often are fuelled by lobbies and corrupt mafia.

Disguised and overt violence often is used as an escapist device to get out of problems that are incurable through legal methods. The pro-regime tends to develop parallel untransparent procedures, which administer political policy with illegal political procedures. This will be the ultimate result the ruling elite will reach through its violent ruling methods, as it cannot remain in power using non-violent methods. Under a totalitarian regime, social struggle changes to authority struggle in place of peaceful transfer of power.

The ruling side tends to confirm its presence through violence, not services, as it cannot introduce services because it is busy directing battles with its opponents. In the hands of key executive administration figures, concentration of power cancels other institutions' independence, turning them into puppets controlled by the presidency.

Cultural basics of political reform Noman's address was distinguished by its cultural perspective on political reform, which has remained the basic demand in past decades. He asserted that Yemeni unity was an inclusive general reform that secured changing Yemeni people's lives. Its importance was realized in its openness for dialogue, which is fruitful when it is a peaceful dialogue about citizens' problems. He confirmed that

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The opposition leaders in the symposium

Iraq: three years on, childrens' lives even tougher

ROME, 17 March (AKI) — Under Saddam Hussein's regime, Nabil Nissan battled to help mothers and children suffering from lack of food and medicines, partly due to international sanctions. Some 800,000 children under five were chronically malnourished. Today "the situation is much harder," said Nissan, who heads the Well-Baby Programme for Catholic aid group Caritas Iraq. Speaking to Adnkronos International (AKI) during a visit to Rome, Nissan said "our worst enemies today are the overriding lack of security and worrying levels of corruption."

"We have access to many areas and people trust us as we are seen as an Iraqi organisation but the inability of people to move around is a major obstacle," said Nissan, "From 6pm local time till dawn people just stay, inside for fear of robberies or worse."

Caritas Iraq is one of the few relief groups still operating in the strife torn country. Many aid agencies and NGOs have been forced to leave as the security situation has deteriorated over the past eighteen months.

"We are seeking to nurture our



Iraqi children are most apparent victims of the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq

future - which is our young people - by seeing to their nutrition health and education needs," he said. "But their biggest need is security. Once that is achieved the rest will follow."

Whereas during the last years of Saddam's rule, "there were health centres but we lacked medicines and equipment," Nissan explained, "today people are less able to access health

care because of the daily violence and while the supplies are available growing corruption means they are often diverted away from those most in need."

The Well-Baby programme was initiated in 2000, to provide critical supplementary food to malnourished children, aged one day to eight years, women from their sixth month of pregnancy and lactating mothers.

Caritas Iraq operates 18 dedicated clinics, seven in Baghdad and 11 in other parts of the country, while the Iraqi Red Crescent operate other similar centres.

Those attending are given food packages, including items such as protein biscuits, tuna and milk powder, basic health treatment and education on hygiene and sanitary issues.

Nissan points out that some 80 percent of their users are Muslim and about 15 percent Christians, which roughly mirrors the demographic make up of Iraq itself. "They [the clinics] are also important in bringing together different Iraqi women" as an upsurge in sectarian violence between Sunni and Shiite Muslims has prompt-

ed fears of a slide into civil war.

The children climb down into the crater left by an explosion and start picking up scraps of twisted metal. "Allah is great!" they shout before the camera hones in to show what one boy is holding: torn fabric, the colour of the camouflage fatigues worn by US troops. The next scene shows the same children holding aloft a human leg, shreds of the same camouflage fabric hang from it and the foot is clad in a military-style boot. The children trample the leg and kick it around in the dust.

"Today the Americans came to these parts and the buried bomb blew up their Hummer vehicle," says a teenage boy, adding, "If Allah wants it, the mujahadeen will win."

This grisly footage, purportedly shot in the Iraqi city of Ramadi, has appeared in the form of a three-minute video on the Internet. It marks the latest attempt by Jihadist militants to exploit children for propaganda purposes.

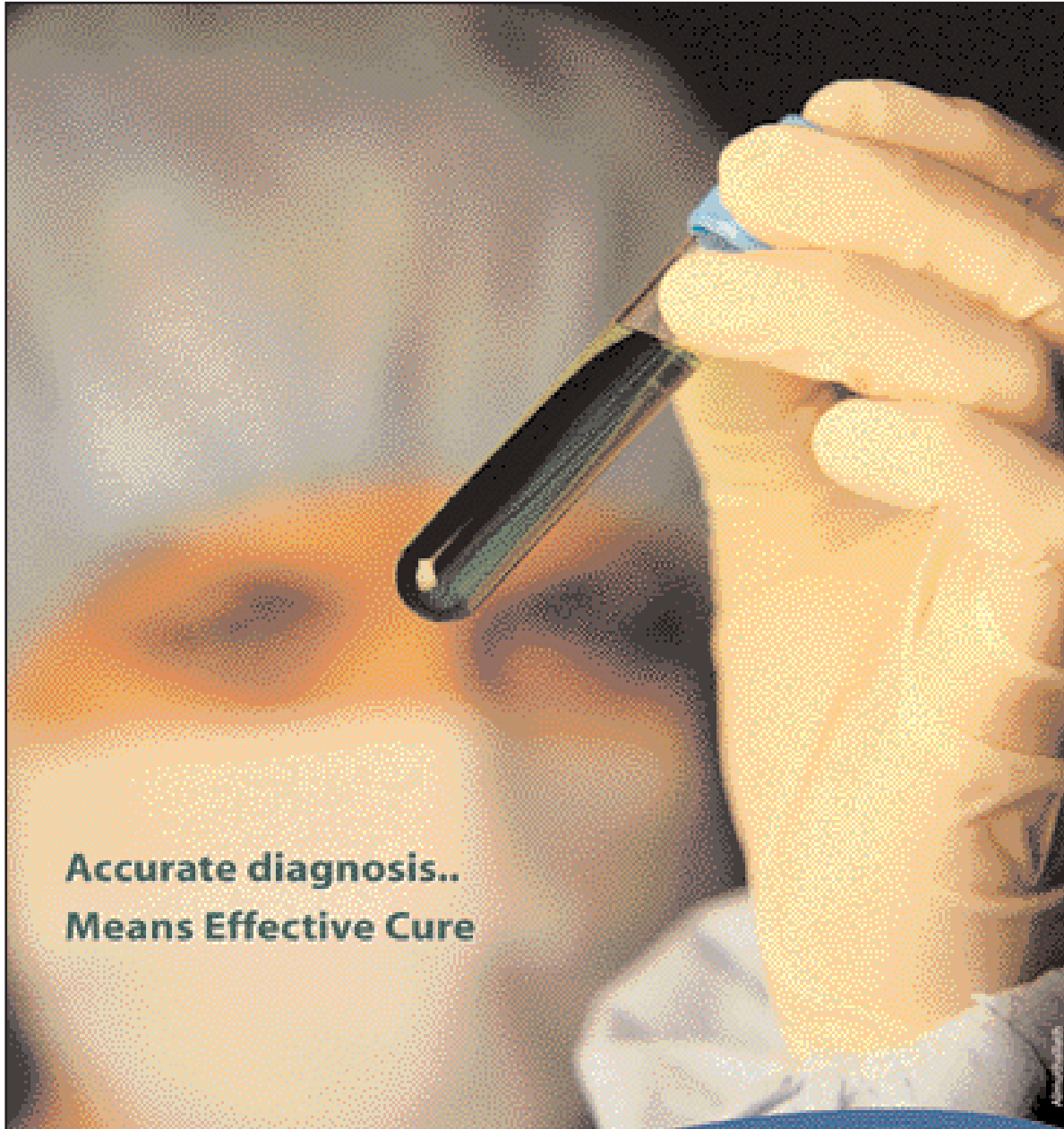
Last week Adnkronos International (AKI) obtained a copy of another video shot in Ramadi. On that occa-

sion, the action shown took place in the apparently placid setting of a school classroom.


Still, sinister references to the carnage that blights Iraq on a daily basis soon became evident. The pupils were being taught to sing Jihad songs by hooded militants who rewarded their efforts with pens, rulers and erasers. The video concluded with images of two small boys, clad in black tunics and wearing black ski masks and one holding a pistol in his tiny hand.

Unlike the professionally shot video of the schoolchildren posted on the Internet by the Ansar al-Sunna group, part of the terror galaxy of al-Qaeda linked Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the latest crudely filmed footage bears no indication on who its authors might be.

But the sudden appearance of children protagonists in the videos, indicates that the Jihadist militant groups have no intention of sparing the young from the horrors of the fighting. It also shows the extent of the militants' control in the restive al-Anbar province, were Ramadi is located.



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A prostitute reveals her story (Part 2 of 2)

This is the second part of the story of a woman called S.M.R. Here, she reveals the story of how she became a prostitute.

By: **Hakim Almasmari**
hakim_almasmari@hotmail.com

My aunt was very happy that my husband agreed to have her move in with us. It was also okay with me. This way, I could help her deal with her personal needs and keep her company instead of her living alone throughout the rest of her life. It took her just days to pack everything she had and then she finally joined our family. Life was normal at first, until suddenly everything began to change. I noticed that my aunt and husband were getting along very well. Based on our society's experience, it was somewhat of a miracle for

families of married couples to get along. My aunt began staying in the house more often and rarely was she seen leaving the house, even in the most critical situations.

Returning home from university one day, I walked into the house and shamefully saw my husband and my stepmother wrestling. They were basically the same age, with my husband in his 50s and my aunt in her late 40s.

I was surprised and angry at first, but then I calmly told my aunt to act her age, not like a small child. She replied, "Oh daughter, what do you mean? You are both my children. I love both of you with much respect." I was ashamed and apologized to her and then I forgot it ever happened.

Two weeks later, when I returned home from school, the house was very quiet. Minutes later, my husband walked into the house with my aunt beside him. They said they had gone out for breakfast, but I felt a little suspicious, as it was already noon. They asked why I was home so early. I explained that I felt dizzy and couldn't study properly, so I decided to come home.

The next day, my life was virtually ripped apart. It was late afternoon when I decided to visit my best friend's house and give her some cake I had just made. We talked for about 20 minutes and then told her I had to return home.

Upon reaching our house, I tried opening the door but it was locked firm-

ly. I was surprised it was locked, as I was sure I had left it open. I took the spare key from under our doormat and opened the door. I walked inside and everything seemed suspicious.

I went upstairs to my bedroom, but the door was locked. I tried opening it without making any noise and I succeeded. I opened it and found the unexpected. I couldn't believe my eyes. I saw my husband having sex with my aunt.

All my dreams were destroyed. I asked myself, "How could this happen to me? What wrong did I ever do to them?" I was a good person who never wanted harm to anyone. Was it because I was too innocent or was I too selfish? I cried and screamed, but to no one. Life lost its meaning completely.

I wish I never had opened that door, for it was the reason my heart closed to all people. Never again will I love. Never again will I trust. Never again will I live a life full of glorious memories.

I immediately ran away, not knowing where to go. My father had died just months earlier, while my mother had passed away years ago. My father did not have a good relationship with his relatives, so they rarely met each other. The streets were crowded and people were smiling and laughing with each other. I asked myself, "What now? Who can I trust? How are you going to live the rest of your life?" All of these questions remained unanswered in my mind.

Midnight drew near and I was sitting on a curb in a small side street near the Hasaba zone of Sana'a. Three women suddenly approached me kindly and asked me what I was doing out alone so late. I couldn't help myself, so I told

them what happened.

They invited me to their house and I happily agreed, as I had no other place to go. It was late at night when I reached the house, so I slept as soon as I arrived. I was treated nicely and I felt more relaxed and calm. I stayed there three days. Every day I met different girls my age living in the same house in different times of the day. I had no idea why they were all living under one roof. Every one of them treated me like the sister they never had. Unfortunately, things quickly changed.

The old woman in charge of the house approached me and asked me to pay for the time I had spent there. I tried explaining to her that I had no money, no job and not even a family to support me. She said, "Well, we all work here. If you want a job, we'll give you one immediately." I immediately said I would accept any job given to me. Little did I know I was on my way to losing my honor and dignity.

As the evening passed and I was sitting alone in my room, the old woman approached me with two men beside her. I tried covering myself from them, but they came near, ripped off my clothes and raped me. After finishing, they threw me a bundle of money and said, "Go and pay off your rent."

I couldn't move, eat or sleep for three days. I considered committing suicide to end such a horrifying life. I was living in a house with more than 30 prostitutes. All of the girls living in the house continuously came to me, trying to calm me down after what had happened. Each narrated her own story and hardships experienced in her life and I began to calm down.

Just hours later, many of them began encouraging me to try prostitution, saying it was their only way to live. At the beginning, I completely refused. They began inviting their boyfriends to the house, having me slowly meet them, then shake their hands and then it progressed to different degrees from there. I convinced myself to begin prostitution for only a week, get enough money to move out and start a new life.

The rest of the girls were exceptionally happy that I fell into their trap. They called customers right away, as if there already was a line. Eventually, I was sleeping with three men every day. As time passed, I gradually started using drugs. Wine replaced the Coke I always used to drink. I became addicted to drugs as well. I spent all my money on drugs and clothes. In order to buy them, I had to have sex as often as possible.

This situation continued for more than six months. Then one day, the unexpected again happened. One of my customers who wanted to have sex with me was a classmate who knew me from university. He immediately recognized me and was shocked at the way I had changed tremendously in only a year.

Not believing his eyes, he said, "I have been committing these unlawful actions for a long time, so I have my reasons. But you have always been one of a kind, very special in many ways. We all adore you and respected you for the honest and respectful person you always were."

I couldn't bear the hardship of listening to him, so I ran away and began crying excessively. My tears were like rain-fall from my eyes. His words ran repeatedly through my mind. I decided it was

time to repent to God and return to the person I always was. The life I had experienced caused me to lose everything I ever possessed – my family, friends and even myself.

So, I just walked out of the room where I was in bed with my old classmate. I had to talk to someone and then I saw you. Please help me," S.M.R. completed narrating her story.

I couldn't believe what was said. Could this story be true or was it made up? How could everything happen so suddenly? Even if it wasn't true, why would she talk to me and tell me her tragic story?

I offered to help her find a small apartment and a job. She rented an apartment and decided to continue her university studies, hoping for a bright career to make her forget the past.

She said, "I repented to God and made a strong oath that I will not return to that destructive life again. I have changed my life for the better, but I continuously ask myself every night, 'How many families have I broken up and caused tremendous problems for? For how many husbands was I the cause of them going astray?' I have repented to God and I pray that God deals mercifully with me."

S.M.R. wanted her story told to warn innocent young girls of the dangerous doors that stand in their way. "Remember that God is the most merciful, but at the same time, his wrath and punishment is great and unbearable," she concluded.

S.M.R. has repented and always will regret her past sins. Her only wish is that God will deal with her in his mercy and forgive her hefty sins.

Wooden windows disappear in Ibb

Everyone's dream is to have a house, but having a house in Ibb signifies your success and distinction and that Allah has blessed you. It is a persistent dream everyone must achieve and if it is achieved, you will be satisfied to live and pay closer attention to others' needs.

By: **Nashwan Dammaj**
naschuan2000@yahoo.com

Having a house in Ibb necessitates that its windows be made of aluminum, particularly those that are yellow-colored, according to public taste and fashion. As a villager, you will be doomed if you think to have wooden windows on your house, as anyone may observe while touring the city.

The wide spread of aluminum windows has been a remarkable phenomenon in Yemen since the second half of the 1980s. But this phenomenon is a special trend in Ibb for two reasons.

First, aluminum windows have become the norm and public taste in every house. The second reason is associated with the quality of the glass used, its color and thickness.

Houses with wooden windows are rare in Ibb. If you see one, this means it was built in olden times. Some old houses have aluminum windows, which some consider a further beauty to the houses' beautiful image. Carpenters in Ibb city are rare. They pay little or no attention to wooden windows, concerning themselves mainly with making doors and room accessories.

Some people attribute the aluminium window habit to the city's climate and clay, as wooden windows cannot resist

natural factors and therefore are exposed to fissures by sunrays and erosion due to the scourge of termite "white ants." Additionally, windows made of wood absorb water during rainy seasons. Homeowners believe these factors damage windows in a short time period, which leads many to prefer aluminum windows to wooden ones, as they are more durable and cheaper.

But there are still those who think wooden windows in old houses resist natural factors despite the passage of hundreds of years. They see ignoring wooden windows as a matter of public taste unassociated with climate or clay. According to engineer Mute'e Dammaj, the idea that cheaper price is the primary reason behind preferring aluminum windows does not fit the style of construction.

Carpenter Kamal Meftah says, "Despite the fact that I am a carpenter, my house has aluminum windows because they add to the beauty of the home's construction." He always advises friends and acquaintances against using wooden windows, particularly those living in the city. Meftah points out that most of his carpentry work is confined to door making, while demand for wooden windows rises only among those living in surrounding villages.

Al-Tawfiq Aluminium workshop employees Amro Ubeid and Manaf Al-Qadhi say clients prefer aluminum windows because they are cheaper and their appearance is better. White and yellow aluminum windows are favored much more by clients. Widespread in "the green city," thick glass is used most widely in aluminum workshops, as it fits all types and colors of aluminum. Though it is expensive, it is safer.

Daytime in Ibb fades some hours before its usual end and the sun is not a sign for the day's beginning. This is what you usually perceive through aluminum windows. Ibb locals do not favor decorator curtains since they prevent light; therefore, thick glass has its function.

Dr. Abdullah Al-Salahi, Psychology Department head at Ibb University Faculty of Education, is of the view that the spread of thick glass, which constitutes 85 percent of total glass in aluminum windows, is broadly attributed to social factors. Society members, particularly those from the countryside, bear in mind that home constitutes family-related privacy, so they tend not to show what's inside. They are of the view that windows function as outlets to show privacy; therefore, thick glass is the best type to conceal their privacy. Having aluminum windows with thick glass has become an important social

habit. According to Al-Salahi, it is difficult to say that selecting aluminum windows with thick glass is related to psychological aspects.

Architect Dherar Al-Tawil holds the view that locals pay more attention to quality of house design and construc-

tion. Consequently, windows play a vital role in house construction due to their special taste in the eye of the beholder. A contractor is responsible for selecting construction material without any objection by the homeowner, according to Al-Tawil.

Dammaj is of the opinion that most Ibb homeowners came from the countryside and moved from their original places during the past 20 years. Some of them have businesses in Yemen, while others are expatriates in the U.S. and Gulf countries.



A view of aluminum windows in Ibb city.

PHOTO BY NASHWAN DAMMAJ



In Ibb city, people prefer aluminum windows to wooden windows.

PHOTO BY NASHWAN DAMMAJ


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Words of Wisdom



Gentlemen, Yemen does not need more money! It needs a system. Yemen needs accountable officials, and it needs people with some decency in the way they work. If the IMP, World Bank and other organizations pump loans into Yemen, where will it go? More importantly, how will it be paid?

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

OUR
OPINIONYemen's
ray of light

It is amazing how a simple ray of light can overcome shadows of darkness. I realized this when more than 50 teenagers visiting the Yemen Times on an educational tour recently bombarded me with intelligent questions and comments. The youth were students at the AMIDEAST center in Sana'a. As part of their educational program, a visit was arranged for the young boys and girls to get exposure to print media and the Yemen Times was chosen to host this tour.

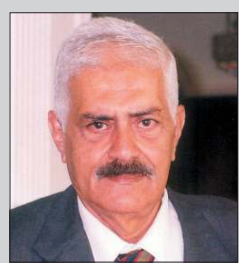
We held discussions totally in English and their fluency and language comprehension was admirable. Yet it was their frank, almost blunt, remarks and questions that were most worth praising. The teens were aware of many issues and displayed a good grasp of life. They asked serious questions about politics, women's issues, freedom of press and expression – and even challenged Yemen Times policies.

Life in Yemen is not easy. In fact, life anywhere is not easy. However, what makes it more difficult in Yemen is that the country is going through a turbulent transition phase. The country as a whole faces many challenges, beginning with infrastructure and ending with governance. Yemeni youth face future uncertainty in addition to carrying the burden of the past. Unfortunately, the mistakes of this and previous generations will have to be borne by the coming generations. I feel sad when I think of the legacy we are passing on to our children and grandchildren. It's not enough that Yemen as a country is indebted to international donors to the third generation to come, but we also are consuming our oil, gas, mineral and other natural resources in an abusive way. The plans of today's leadership seem to lack vision and responsibility toward future generations. The mess Yemen's government has in its hands today is an accumulation of decades of bad management and I wouldn't blame the current government if all it could do is ad-hoc troubleshooting.

Despite the sinking ship, it seems there are some small hands building a lifeboat and those are our educated inquisitive youth. Not all Yemeni youth are given the opportunity for good education and adequate exposure. Yet, it seems that those who are, such as the students who visited the Yemen Times, will be the ray of light for this country. It takes only a few free-spirited youth to get the wheels running. I pray that the fire in the hearts of those special young people will never fade.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

Iran the Gulf player (1-2)



By: Prof. Abdulaziz
Al-Tarb

Iran with its nuclear program is presently representing the big apprehension for the United States and the West because it has entered the direct circle of challenge to an extent that its nuclear dossier has been sent to the UN Security council.

As a matter of fact, the real concern hunting all springs from the ideas dominating the philosophy of governance in Iran. It makes Israel believe that it is targeted in the first place by the Iranian nuclear program. This is especially so as Tehran has in recent years achieved noticeable successes at both political and strategic levels. The United States and its allies invasion of Iraq and consequently occupying its land and toppling the regime there, represented a great service for Iran that suffered long from the rule of former president Saddam Hussein who entered a war with it that exhausted the two sides over eight years. The second service Iran has acquired has been strengthening of the Shiites' positions in due to their population weight. That has resulted in a tangible Iranian presence in southern Iraq, in addition to its effect on the political decision there. Washington has added a third service to the Persian state when it had toppled the Sunni regime of Taliban in Kabul. Therefore, we believe that Iran is in a position giving it the opportunity to be able to stand as adversary against the west and Israel. Iran also realizes that the United States will find it difficult to open a new front in Iran after its involvement in Iraq. Also, Tehran put a wager on sentiments of general rejection of the American policy in the Middle East and rather in other parts of the world. As we tackle this subject we will approach it through the following points.

First, the domestic developments in Iran in the recent years deserve to be directly observed and to be honestly

defined. A few years ago I visited Iran and was astonished by the difference between what I had seen and what is said about it. I found myself before a modern, holding together state where there are non-stop dialogues. The woman there takes part in the political life at all levels. It possesses cinema industry, the second in Asia after India.

In addition, it had a family planning program that is the most successful in the Islamic world. All that means that Iran is not the state of the "mullahs" who only engaged in immaterial things.

Second, the situations in East Gulf region seem to be unstable. Pakistan for instance, under the rule of Musharraf, tries to change towards the Turkish example or the like in dealing with issues of political Islam I addition to the changes that took place in the political arena and governance in the Gulf States. These all are pressurizing factors push Iran to hard-headedness, particularly under presidency of a hardliner man the type of Mahmoud Ahmedi Najad. The dangers threatening Syria, the first Arab ally to Iran, add another factor to Iran's factors for heading towards confrontation with the west, without consideration of or paying attention to possible consequences.

Third, Iran carries a heavy political heritage. It refuses Israel for ideological reasons but it does not show enthusiasm towards the Arabs for historical reasons. It is sufficient to remember now its strict stance concerning the naming of the gulf as Persian instead of Arabian and its insistence on that as well as its willingness for escalation in this regard. Its occupation of the three Emirates' islands enhances what we have mentioned that Iran is a pragmatic state behaving with strong cleverness and awareness. It goes ahead towards its great goal to be the essential and major power in west Asia and the major player in the Gulf.

Fourth, Israel is the main planner of the American policy in the Middle East and it looks at Iran with much concern. That concern is not the product of recent years but rather associated with the Israeli American understanding regarding Islamic fundamentalism and the concept of religious jihad (sacred war) and what uncalculated stands and terrorist operations that may result from it. The French president Jacques Chirac's statement has added a new dimension to confrontation when he gave the impression of the possibility of his country's using of the nuclear weapons if it reckoned that there would be some party to use it for threatening the French territories. So, it seems that the majority of members of the nuclear club share the United States its concern towards the Iranian nuclear activity.

Fifth, I am of the opinion of those who believe that power conquers bravery and that the technological advancement and economic superiority may sweep nations that are most capable of steadfastness or most adamant. Therefore, the excessive confidence Iran is showing now tolls he alarm bell. It reminds me of hat we have known of some regimes that engaged in uncalculated confrontations and the results had been tragic. If we supposed that Iran possesses chemical weapons or long-range missiles, the situation remains as it is. The reason is that we have been used that the west and its allies, including Federative Russia, would be aligned when the decisive moment of confrontation comes with any party of the developing world. The escalation we observe on part of Iran at the moment does not necessarily express of real power as much as an expression of principles and values that are not widespread merchandise at the contemporary age.

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb is an economist and a professor in Political Science and an expert in administrative development. He is the head of a number of professional associations, such as the Arab Group for Investment and Development

The psychology of ailments
and Arab leaders' cure

The Arab leader has remained for centuries finding no treatment for his ailments other than unlawfully seizing his neighbor's territory or interfering in his affairs. This is especially true if his neighbor is smaller, weaker and less populated.

Similarly, the leader of the small state could pay indefinitely from his own wealth to intrigue against his neighbor exceeding him in area, power and population. This is still the prescription that leaders of small and large Arab states see no better remedy than. Yet they rely on such remedy to cure their sickness, deterioration and aggravation of their people's problems, though such remedy was the real reason for their illness.

The disease's symptom remained the Arab leadership's methodology. Ironically, the treatment continued to be the disease. Iraq's Ba'ath Party policy used the same treatment method to

invade neighboring little brother Kuwait, thinking invasion was the political solution to their people's economic problem. Unfortunately, it turned out to be the fatal virus that brought about their end. Nevertheless, the smaller neighbor is not free of blame in invoking plots and intrigues to cure its ailment too.

The methodology of ailments treatment continues to be the self same one in nearly all Arab countries. It is a vicious cycle they cannot get rid of, despite disasters their nations suffer at the hands of such wicked methods. Let us take a look at our contemporary history to consider our leaders' prescriptions.

Syria and Lebanon drank the same leaders' medication. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain and Yemen have the same virus of border conflicts and thus, did not



By: Atif Awad

escape these ailments. Egypt and Sudan also have been into this sickness and cure. Libya went to the extent that Libyan agents bought Egyptian food commodities and threw them into the Nile to create food crises. Egyptians retaliated by invading Libyan borders. Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and

Polisario (a Sahrawi movement working for Western Sahara independence) all are still entangled in the Sahara conflict.

It is the Arab nations who are the losers, being forced to drink from this cursed medicine prescribed by their leaders. And they will continue to be violated nations as long as their leaders do not stop thinking of invading, annexing and intriguing against each other.

Atif Awad is an Egyptian journalist and short story writer residing in Yemen.

Letters to the Editor

Error noticed

Noticed an error in translation of verse 13 Surat Al-Hujurat in Harun Yahya's article entitled, "The exemplary justice of the Prophet" published in Yemen Times issue No. 926.

The translation as written in the article text: "Mankind! We created you from a male and female, and made you

into peoples and tribes so that you might come to know each other. The noblest among you in Allah's sight is that one of you who best performs his duty."

The exact translation of the verse is: "Oh Mankind! We created you from a male and female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you might come to know

each other. The noblest among you in Allah's sight is the most God fearing of you."

Awadh Mubarak Salim
Mukalla, Hadramout

A Note of Appreciation
to Hassan Al-Haifi

I don't know whether or not you're aware of this, but you and people like you keep

me going. I guess we are the "voices in the wilderness". I'm not just saying this to be nice. I'm so outraged by the injustices I see around me every day and sometimes I want to just escape it all and read novels or something purely entertaining. I can't, however. That is why it is so much help to hear from you. I

appreciate your kind words so much.

Jennifer Loewenstein
amadea311@earthlink.net

Congratulations to YT

Cup the bold and good work being done by the Yemen Times.

Wishing you and all the Yemen Times staff many more awards. It is a pleasure reading your newspaper whenever I visit Yemen.

Coincidentally, I came across one more distinguished Saqqaf, a very senior correspondent of The Hindu, India's leading newspaper. Any old links I think would be of interest.

Mohammed Sheriff
m-sheriff-nnb@
nkg.noritsu.co.jp

Award congratulations

I was so pleased to read in issue no. 927 dated March 9-12, 2006 about the award

dedicated to your late father, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who won the Middle East Publishing Conference Lifetime Achievement Award accepted by son Walid Al-Saqqaf.

Kindly accept my sincere congratulations to you and convey my best wishes to the Yemen Times staff. I hope this award surely will give them an impetus and further inspiration to achieve better progress in their endeavors

"to struggle to expose the truth no matter the consequences."

A long time ago, I read that you (Mr. Al-Saqqaf) completed a journalism course in the U.S. Please let me know what you are doing at the moment. I visited Sana'a last July, but it was very short. I may visit Sana'a again this August and if so, I will call you.

A. Kadir Ali
geic@qatar.net.qa

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Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr



As-Sahwa
weekly, 16 Mar
2006.

Main headlines

- GPC failed, JMP able to run the country better
- JMP condemns the arrest of Saadat, calling Arab regimes to deter aggression
- Chairman of the legal office of Islah: Elections Supreme Commission in dilemma
- Politicians: Yemen reality worse than mentioned in the US State Department report
- Repeated attacks on the hose of MP Basura
- Students Union declares sit-in I protest to Sana'a University security regulation
- American professor warns of danger of situations in Yemen
- American authorities refuse to grant Al-Ansi visa to follow up Al-Mouyad and Zaid case

Writer Zaid al-Shami says in an article we are heading for upcoming local and presidential elections and it is natural that the authority differs with the opposition and both criticize each other. Opposition chances of criticism maybe wider than those of the authority but that should not push the latter to overstep the red lines that harm security and higher interests of the country and social peace.

In all previous elections propaganda of the authority were launched against parties, leaderships and personalities, accusing them of terror and treason and that caused harm to Yemen's reputation and its interests. That put Yemen in the circle of accusation and instability and entailed the escape of the national capital in addition to abstention of others from investment in the country.

Today the election propaganda began relying on the same style away from truth and without observing the social peace. Regrettably, that was not confined to the ruling party's media but extended to the official media that are supposed to be independent.



Al-Wahdani
weekly, organ of
the Nasserite
Unionist
Organization, 14
Mar 2006.

Main headlines

- Yemeni teachers began their strike with putting red badges
- International committee alls the authority to stop its campaigns against journalists
- In the symposium on peaceful transfer of power, Islah secretary-general al-Yadoumi: Nothing is cooked behind scenes with the ruling party
- Prisoners of Political Security in Taiz exposed to torture

Writer Ahmed Saeed says in his article during the past years of the unity age, the country has paid unbelievable price due

to receding progress and development of democracy because of the siege imposed on it after passing and amending laws restricting the democratic development and curbing expansion of freedoms.

It seems that the JMP is ready to bear a share of the burden dictated by duties of effecting progress of the country. That has appeared in its recently announced vision for securing free and upright elections and before that its project for the comprehensive political and national reform. Unfortunately, the tendencies for delivering the homeland from backwardness and corruption are faced by campaigns of skepticism in ability of the opposition to offer solutions and treatments, the latest of which is what has been excited on the issue of changing the elections supreme commission. More than once the authority propagates that the opposition uses much argument concerning the elections commission and ties to create a political crisis with the ruling party because the opposition does not have a presidential nominee agreed upon by all parties of the JMP.

The authority endeavors to push the opposition to disclose its cards. The JMP has realized that goal and that is why it has announced clearly that the question of announcing the name of a candidate for the presidency is too early. It wants first to have the electoral arena be cleared and to have reforms in the present electoral system. In addition, the alliance of the opposition is not connected only with the elections but also with a peaceful struggling program.



Al-Wasat weekly,
15 Mar 2006.

Main headlines

- Deputy of the American ambassador visits the 1st army division, discusses with its commander the issue of terror and weapons trafficking
- Actual changes in some parliamentary committees, Al-Burakani considers them as democratic outcome
- Former commander of an Afghan camp: 1994 booties gone from mujahid and al-Zindani tried to rally Bin Laden
- Announced her nomination for presidential elections, al-Qaili accuses the parties of stagnation
- The penal court acquits Karama Khamis, continues trial of al-Ahdal and Zarqawi cell
- Exchanged accusations between the lawyers bar and its branches

The newspaper's editor in chiefs sys in his article we may sometimes criticize the opposition to wake up and may praise it in order to be the one expressing expectations of those exhausted under the burden of corruption. Nevertheless, we do not consider ourselves as in estrangement with it or even with the General People's Congress, as a political party existing in the arena.

Our main issue is corruption wherever it is and we are against it, whether it was inside the authority or in the opposition, despite of our realization of the authority's full responsibility for corruption.

Leaders of the opposition want their opposition to be accomplished at secure circumstances without any one of them to pay its price and the authority prefers such an opposition. The situations no longer bear more overlooking and wagering on fate interference for putting solutions for the chronic problems. I consider what Mr. al-Yadoumi, secretary-general of the Islah party has said in the symposium on the peaceful transfer of power as an expression of concern because of the bad and dangerous the situations have reached and a step forward when he announced that the opposition as an alternative able to run the country better than those who are presently managing it.

The opposition has to depart the its position as only advising opposition and explaining of the mistakes to a wider role making it announce it is the alternative for the governance and as al-Yadoumi said in the symposium the people are the arbiter.



Al-Mithaq weekly,
organ of t
General People's
Congress (GPC),
12 Mar 2006.

Main headlines

- New oil investments
- The parliament completes formation of permanent committees, prospects of change
- Large-scale denunciation of the JMP stance towards the youth graduates
- FAO regional conference holds meetings in Sana'a
- Mechanism approved for selecting participants in the voters registration operation
- Challenges facing the nation and reform of the Arab League before Khartoum Summit

Writer Hassan Ahmed al-Lawzi discusses in his article the reality of political pluralism and the opposition. He says the accomplishment of the Yemeni unity was a civilized important transfer in the course of the Yemeni revolution. The unity was founded fortified with democracy, commitment to political pluralism and principle of peaceful transfer of power. We can confirm that since that date our people have been in possession of the reins of their unified national will and possessed all constituents of free and independent existence. The elapsed fifteen years have witnessed the entering into the genuine practice of democracy and pluralist political competition by resorting to balloting boxes. Many political parties and organizations have managed therefore to establish for themselves clear entities on the map of life within interactions of the society's movement.

The clearest yardstick to deter estimates can be obtained by reading results of the general elections in their previous rounds; the legislative elections and those of local councils. The brothers grouped in

the Joint Meeting parties and the other parties should have pondered lessons and indications of those election rounds with the aim of benefiting from them in estimating their status and capability and for reconsidering their experiment and rectifying their conditions practices. That will benefit them to be capable of improving the practice of their role and improve he results that they aspire for in the future.

On the other hand, the press law also is not subjected to desire of this party or that in order to be in harmony with democracy and freedom of expression. The one that possesses the right of confirming that is the legislative power. The editorial maintains that there is no harm to submit the draft of the press law to objective discussion to enrich its articles. Nevertheless the two issues are not the main problems on which all activities of opposition are based.



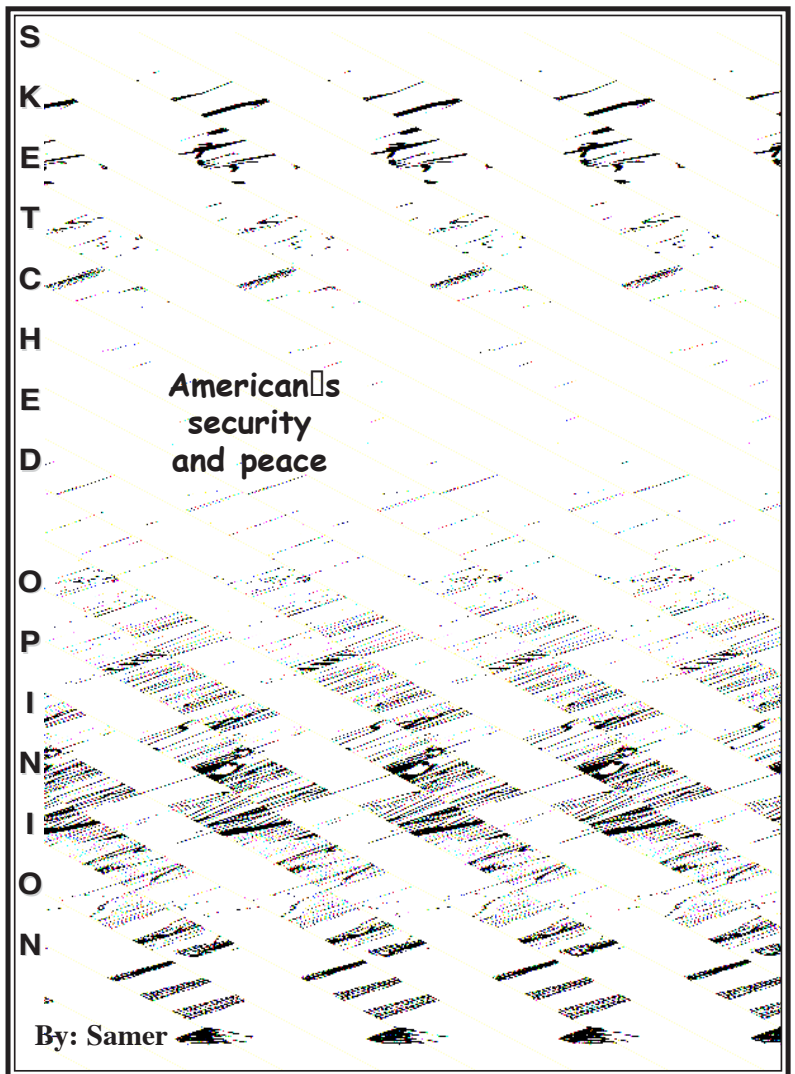
26 September
weekly, organ of
Yemen Armed
Forces, 16 Mar
2006.

Main headlines

- Public services and developmental projects to be financed by China
- Minister of oil and minerals: group of wide-scale reforms in oil sector, establishment of national companies for exploration and production
- Delegation from Hamas visits Sana'a
- Saudi and Gulf investors offer to establish a bank in Sana'a
- In a recent report by the World Bank: Improvement in government measures and stabilization of security encourage investment
- Parliamentarians request the parliament to shoulder its responsibility versus insults to which members of armed forces and security were exposed to

On the Yemeni opposition the newspaper editorial says the unreasonable exaggeration and giving things meanings away from their content and paying attention to issues far from a real national demand of interest to Yemen and its sons, became three days the core of the political address of the parties grouped in the Joint Meeting Parties. They focus on marginal issues that do not serve the homeland and do not touch the citizen's concerns. The editorial mentions that leaderships of those parties mistakenly think they practice politics in accordance with requirements of the present historical period in experienced by the homeland and the world.

The editorial accuses the opposition parties of fighting imaginary battles one time against the elections supreme commission and in another against the press law. The editorial says those parties do not realize that the change they demand in those two issues represents an enmity to democracy and against whatever is constitutional and establishments elected by the people. The elections supreme commission, says the editorial, is basically established by the legislative power and the parliament alone has the right to change it. Also, the uprightness of elections operation will not be achieved by mere change of persons but rather by the controls and procedures defined by the constitution, the law and presence of local and international observers in committees overseeing the elections.



SILVER LINING

By: Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi
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Yemeni journalists and extremism trap

The information Ministry impatiently ordered the closures of three newspapers and the arrest of some journalists on charges of reproducing the cartoons defaming Prophet Mohammed. It even tarnished the image of the journalists and their newspapers, mobilizing the public opinion anger against them.

Now the newspapers (Yemen Observer, al-Hurriyah and al-Rai al-Aam) are closed and the journalists are standing trial. The danger does not lie here in the prosecution of our colleagues including Mohammed al-Asadi. Rather, it stems from the bad image created by the mosque preachers and the state-run media which just disseminated the news about the case, influencing the people who now believe our colleagues have abused Prophet Mohammed and consequently deserve death. Their lives and future are at stake.

Unfortunately, some clerics were able to influence most of the lawyers, pushing them to stand against the journalists. They have even been attracted by the amount of money the influential cleric Abdulmajeed al-Zindani collected to cover the cost of the prosecution of the journalists. Motivated by their respect to their profession and their belief the journalists have done nothing wrong, the advocates Mohammed Allawo and Khaled al-Anisi went against the stream and decided to defend al-Asadi and his fellow journalists. Despite the risk that they might face and loss of their reputation, the two lawyers decided to go ahead and even convince some of the clerics who were against the journalists. They could persuade these clerics that there is misunderstanding that has to be sorted out.

This is fine. But, it is difficult to go and explain the implications of the case to everybody. It is the mosque preachers and the state-run media that can do this and explain that there has been misunderstanding. The official media could at least bring the issue for debate and give the journalists a chance to address the people and defend themselves. It could also have brought clerics of different opinions to discuss the issue so that the people are not misled by just one opinion. It

just started the fire and did nothing to turn it off. This really justifies our call to call off the state monopoly of broadcast media. Had there been free radios and TVs, it would have been possible for the journalists to tell the people their real story and what they meant by reproducing the caricatures.

Even if the court verdict comes in favor of our colleagues, other clerics will not keep mute. Sheikh al-Zindani openly said he would respect the court verdict. However, he confirmed that the court judge and his verdict will be questioned by clerics. This means that the journalists will continue to battle with clerics whose opinions and views are a fatwa or a religious edict for many people. There are a lot of fanatic people who take such things for granted and are blindly ready to kill without even questioning the reason. We do still remember the assassination of the late democrat politician Jarallah Omar. The assassin, Ali Jarallah, was a fanatic person who just read in a newspaper article saying that Omar demanded that death penalty should be abolished. He passed his own fatwa and went to assassinate one of the vocal voices of democracy and liberalization in the modern history of Yemen. Who will guarantee that the same will not take place against one of our colleagues?

Khaled al-Anisi has been right when said that the intent of the government was to put both the journalists and the clerics into a real fight. The clerics will look at the journalists as infidels and the journalists will consider the clerics extremist. The outcome is that when we come to the debate of the draft press laws by the parliament, there will be an already mobilized angered opinion against the journalists. Then, all will demand a more restrictive law that will put the journalists under the grip of repression.

I know it is not in the interest of our government or any other Arab governments that the number of freedom and democracy leaders grows. Therefore, the government will not hesitate to even use the trick of religious extremism to defame the journalists if the technique of repression and beating will be of negative consequences. We all know that more fanaticism and extremism means less democracy and freedom fighters.

African Muslims in the Islamic world

By: Ali Bahati Juma

Nigeria has been convulsed by religious violence triggered by the cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad published in a Danish newspaper months ago. The violence began in the northern Nigerian city of Maiduguri during a protest by Muslims against the cartoons, with the Christian Association of Nigeria reporting at least 50 Christians killed. Reprisals were swift, and at least 50 Muslims were killed in three days of violence in the southeastern (predominantly Christian) cities of Onitsha and Enugu.

The Nigerian protests against the cartoons (so far the most violent in Africa) raise the question: what is the role and position of African Muslims (or more accurately, sub-Saharan African Muslims) in the "Islamic World"? When people in the rest of the world use the term "Islamic World" do they include in it sub-Saharan African Muslims, or do they have in mind only the Muslims of the Middle East and Asia?

Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa do not share many characteristics with Muslims in other parts of the world, especially those of the Arab world. Sub-Saharan African Muslims are less assertive, and they face considerably more difficulties in their attempts to articulate their rights and establish their presence in their

respective states and regions.

Part of the difficulty arises from the perpetual African dilemma of identity. Africa has been described as a continent having a triple heritage, and the African Muslim, too, has a split personality. He must decide whether he is a Muslim first, then a member of his tribe, say, Hausa, and then of his nation, say, Nigeria. Even though Muslim practice is strong in Africa, there is widespread incorporation of traditional African rituals in ceremonies like weddings and funerals. For example, among the Luhya in Western Kenya, it is not uncommon for Muslims to slaughter animals during funerals, even though, strictly speaking, there is no such provision in Islam.

Muslims in many sub-Saharan African states are also minorities. They do not form a formidable presence, as in Nigeria, where some Muslim-majority states in the north have even implemented Sharia Law, making them more or less Islamic states. Nevertheless, the Federal Republic of Nigeria is a secular state, as are almost all sub-Saharan African states.

The colonial legacy also helps account for the relatively docile nature of Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa. The colonial powers' arbitrary demarcation of borders lumped together in one state diverse ethnic groups which may have been historical antagonists. Colonial political economy also concentrated

"development" in resource-rich areas, while neglecting resource-poor regions and their populations, which in many cases were Muslim.

Thus we see a relatively poor Hausa-Muslim majority population in northern Nigeria and a relatively rich Ibo-Christian majority population in oil-rich southeastern Nigeria; a relatively rich Christian majority population in central Kenya and a relatively poor Muslim majority population on the coast and in the northeastern provinces; and so on. As political power tends to polarize around economic power, sub-Saharan African Muslims have been under-represented in these mostly centralized political systems.

Moreover, Muslims in these mostly patron-client states have been forced to identify more with atomistic/parochial ethnic nationalism in order to enjoy the "fruits of independence" and thus acquire whatever political representation they have. This has led to a related problem in countries bordering the Indian Ocean: disunity between coastal, more Arabized Muslims and the non-Arabized Muslims of the interior. It is no exaggeration to argue that the more Arabized African Muslims along the Kenyan and Tanzanian coasts (including the island of Zanzibar) consider themselves "more Muslim" than the less Arabized Muslims inland.

Muslim political participation in sub-

Saharan Africa has thus been extremely limited. Political Islam is an almost unknown phenomenon in this region (the Islamic Party of Kenya was never registered, for example), and Muslim organizations have mostly focused on welfare and rights.

However, Muslims in sub-Saharan Africa, like most Muslims around the world, exhibit an "us versus them" mentality. When Muslims form a minority, they have tended to co-exist peacefully with other religions, but where their populations are substantial (as in Nigeria), they tend to assert themselves. Whatever ethnic and other divisions are at stake, the "us versus them" sentiment has played a large role in fomenting religious conflict in Nigeria.

Nevertheless, Nigeria (and perhaps Zanzibar) remains an exception in Islamic assertiveness in sub-Saharan Africa, which is why the idea of an active "Islamic World" includes only a relatively limited segment of sub-Saharan African Muslims. Whether they like it or not, the majority of sub-Saharan African Muslims are represented by states that are mostly secular, Christian, or dominated by other religions.

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Honey: medicine of the Qur'an for all diseases (Part 1)

By: Dr. Qazi Shaikh Borhany
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Demand for honey today is higher than in ancient times. All sacred scriptures have discussed its merit. Chinese, Greek and Roman accounts also provide us innumerable benefits of honey. Ancient Egyptians used honey as a preservative. When King Edward I of England died in 1307 and later was exhumed in 1774, his hands and face were well-preserved, attributable to the fact that they had been coated with a thin layer of wax and honey.

Indian sacred scriptures compiled around 1500 B.C. also contain references of honey. Hindus believed that eating honey would enable them to maintain good health. According to Hindu faith, Krishna has been depicted as a bee.

There were 20,000 hives in the Attica region of ancient Greece to which people traveled great distances to benefit from the honey, believing it would improve their health and help them recover from illness.

Welsh and Celtic folklore has abundant references to the sweet substance. At one point in their history, the Welsh paid their taxes with honey.

A remarkable thick liquid, honey has occupied a prominent place in traditional medicine throughout world history. Ancient Egyptians, Assyrians, Chinese, Greeks and Romans used honey to treat wounds and intestinal diseases.

Honey frequently is mentioned in the works of poets and writers, especially by Oriental and classical writers. To them, honey represented all things sweet and pleasing to the taste, mind and heart.

Like bees, honey was a symbol of spirituality as well as poetic inspiration. It was looked upon as supernatural nourishment – the food of the saints, carried by bees even to the divine throne. Honey is mentioned widely throughout the Bible, as quoted below:

• “Then their father Israel said to them, ‘If it must be, then do this: Put some of the best products of the land in your bags and take them down to the man as a gift - a little balm and a

The information in this article is provided to supplement the care provided by your physician. It is neither intended nor implied to be a substitute for medical advice.



Honey has occupied a prominent place in traditional medicine throughout world history.

PHOTO BY MAJIDI AL-SAQQA

little honey, some spices and myrrh, some pistachio nuts and almonds.” (Genesis 43:11)

• “I Am the Rabb (Lord) of your father, the Rabb of Ibrahim (Abraham), the Rabb of Ishaq (Isaac) and the Rabb of Yaqub (Jacob).” At this, Musa (Moses) hid his face, because he was afraid to look at the Rabb. The Rabb said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.” (Exodus 3:6-8) Milk and honey were dietary staples for the semi-nomadic Israelites of biblical times, so Palestine indeed would be a promising home, abounding in goats and swarming with bees.

• Suleiman (Solomon) says, “My son! Eat honey for it is good.” (Proverbs 24:13)

For many reasons, honey was one of the most popular foods among Old and New Testament peoples. It became a symbol of abundance and divine blessing; therefore, tidings were given as “a land of milk and honey,” as the promised goal to Bani Israel.

Tradition says that when Kind

David made his triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the Ark, he brought honey cakes with him as a treat. “And he distributed to all gatherings of Israel, both men and women, to everyone a ring-shaped cake of bread, a date cake and a raisin cake.” (2 Samuel 6:19)

In every part of the global village are towns, mountains, lakes and rivers associated with honey, which was associated with everything holy, agreeable and beneficial. It is nearly impossible to trace the origin of customs and traditions. Only rarely was honey use omitted during birth rites. Among Babylonians, Iranians, Egyptians and Hebrews, honey and milk were the first foods to touch a newborn's lips.

In Hindu birth ceremonies, after a male infant is born and the umbilical cord severed, the father touches the son's lips with honey from a golden vessel and applied with a golden spoon while giving the child its name.

The Qur'an and Hadith refer to honey as a healer of disease. The Qur'an says, “Bees were inspired through inborn advice by the Rabb, instructing: ‘Make hives in mountains, in trees and in that which they (humans) build. Then eat of all the fruits and follow the ways of your Rabb submissively. There comes out from within (their bodies) a drink of various hues (honey), in it is healing (effect) for humans. Verily in this is a

sign for the people who consider it.” (Surat 16, Ayaat Nos. 68-69).

A Hadith says, “Honey is a remedy for every physical illness and the Qur'an is a remedy for all mental illness; therefore, I recommend to you both as remedies, the Qur'an and honey.”

Another Hadith reported that a man approached Rasulallah (pbuh) and requested medicine for his brother who was suffering a stomach disorder. Rasulallah (pbuh) advised, “Let him drink honey.” He approached again and Rasulallah (pbuh) responded the same. The man returned again, saying, “I have done that.” Rasulallah (pbuh) then declared in crystal clear terms, “Allah has said the truth, but your brother's stomach has told a lie. Let him drink honey.” He drank it and was cured.

Honey's miraculous properties were discussed in the Qur'an and the Hadith some 1,400 years ago. Amongst Indian Subcontinent Muslims, the most respected family member puts ghutti, prepared with honey, into an infant's mouth as its first food and holds honey over its head to ward off evil spirits.

When the Egyptian Pharaoh ordered all male Hebrew children drowned in the Nile, Jewish mothers were forced to give birth to their children in fields. Musa's mother (AS) concealed the future divine guide for three months. It would not be surprising if he also was

raised on honey, which might account for his wisdom, eloquence and farsighted powers. Rasulallah (pbuh) used to eat honey early in the morning, at noon and during the afternoon when his stomach was empty.

Honey has played an important role in birth, wedding and funeral ceremonies of most ancient nations and many primitive races to this day. The significance of the word honeymoon is very interesting, as according to ancient custom, the bride and groom eat and drink honey during the first four weeks of their married life. Islam describes Jannat (Paradise) as a promised place where the faithful will enjoy canals of milk and honey surrounded by Hurries (virgins).

Al-Shaikh Al-Raees, Abi Ali Sina (Avicenna), has provided many medicinal formulas in his work that include honey and beeswax among the ingredients. Regarding honey, he advises that it:

- Helps a runny nose
- Cheers you up
- Makes you feel fit
- Facilitates food digestion
- Gets rid of gas
- Improves appetite
- Nearly a provision to retain youth
- Improves memory and sharpens

wits

- Loosens the tongue
- Has beneficial effects upon deep and infected ulcers

- When taken for a cold, the patient should stay in bed or at least at home, as honey causes one to sweat a great deal.

- Linden honey is a particularly good diaphoretic

- Has been used since time immemorial for lung diseases

- Considered effective when mixed with rose petals and taken before noon in early stages of Tuberculosis

- Rids a wound of its stench
- Prevents one from going blind when spread on the eyeball

- Heals mouth sores
- Causes urination
- Eases bowels

- Soothes coughs
- Heals poisonous bites and bites from mad dogs

- Has a good effect on deep wounds
- Is a remedy for the lungs and inner joints

- In chronic coughing cases, honey and hazelnuts facilitate expectoration

- Several spoons a day act as an internal disinfectant
- Those who use their voices should take two teaspoons in warm milk to soothe their throats

Honey benefits as discussed by experts

Countless travelers have found that honey works when nothing else does to end the distress of traveler's

diarrhea.

- It has power to improve mood and stimulate the part of the brain responsible for learning.

- It has the ability to attract and absorb moisture, making it remarkably soothing for minor burns and helps prevent scarring.

- Memory of those with senile dementia greatly improves after consuming glucose, a form of sugar found in honey.

- It helps kidneys and intestines function better.

- Recent studies have proven that athletes who took honey before and after competing recovered more quickly than those who did not.

- When taken with rose oil, honey cures animal bites and opium effects.

- For ulcers, honey should be dissolved in warm, boiled water and taken 90 minutes to two hours before meals or three hours afterward – preferably two hours before breakfast or midday meal and three hours after the evening meal. When taken just before meals, honey stimulates gastric juice secretion.

- Those with nervous conditions or suffering exhaustion are recommended to drink a glass of water in which honey and juice from half a lemon have been dissolved or eat two tablespoons of honey before going to bed.

- Lemon juice and honey is a good remedy in cases of hypertension, insomnia and nervous conditions. Dissolve a spoonful of honey in a glass of water and add juice from half a lemon for a pleasant and nutritious beverage.

- A teaspoon of honey before bed is recommended for babies cutting teeth, as it reduces the amount of phosphorus in the blood, thus easing pain.

- Two tablespoons of honey prevent bed-wetting, as it causes dehydration and reduces the amount of calcium in the blood.

- Taken regularly instead of supper, two tablespoons of honey help insomnia cases.

- It is advisable to give patients a teaspoon of honey two or three times a day, but the total dose should not exceed 30 to 40 grams daily.

- Applied to someone infected with lice, honey will kill both the lice and the eggs.

- Honey provides an important part of energy the body needs for blood formation, as it helps in cleansing, regulating and facilitating blood circulation. It also functions as a protection against capillary problems and arteriosclerosis.

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Environment, poverty and sustainability

By: Abdulkadir M. Al-Ariki

It is very important that government decisions result from an effective process in which all aspects relevant to each or all sector policies and plans have been examined well in an integrated and comprehensive manner. Hence, in light of the National Poverty Strategy and relevant sector policy, each sector is responsible for integrating environmental concerns into its own activities so it will contribute effectively to poverty reduction and sustainability of relevant programs, plans and projects and their incorporation throughout the project cycle.

Accordingly, to achieve sustainability targets, one of the main and most effective means is to adopt and implement outcomes of the Environmental Impact Assessment/ Environmental Management Plan (EIA/EMP).

The idea behind the EIA mainly consists of first making a list of a proposed project's expected environmental impacts before making a decision so it can contribute effectively to project sustainability.



Poor people in Yemen who can not get water supply.

(SOURCE PHOTO: FAO)

For example, in the water sector, to which public health is linked closely (both sub-sectors agricultural & water supply and sanitation programs),

proper incorporation of environmental concerns like the EMP resulting from EIA, will lead the irrigation and water utilities program respectively, to reduce poverty and enhance public health conditions and conduct the project in a sustainable manner. That is, making services work for poor people, in line with the advice of the World Development Report 2004, which emphasizes that broad improvement in human welfare will not occur unless the poor receive wider access to affordable, better quality services in health, education, water, sanitation and electricity. Without such improvements in services in a sustainable manner, freedom from illness and freedom from illiteracy will remain elusive to many.

Various large international organizations also use this method. One is the World Bank, which describes EIA's goal as being “to improve decision making and ensure that project options under

consideration are environmentally sound and sustainable.” However, knowing that EIA studies are carried out, thereby expending much money, effort and energy, the issue of implementing and practically following up incorporating this goal into projects should be given priority.

When is EIA used?

Recently in many countries, including Yemen (mainly in water and road projects), EIA is compulsory by law for large projects such as constructing railway lines, roads, housing areas, installations, power stations, water and incineration plants. A process called “screening” is required to determine whether an EIA is required.

The essence of EIA is to obtain correct information and guarantee a good decision making process needed by decision makers to arrive at a balanced judgment leading to sustainability and poverty alleviation or at least its progressive reduction. This information is set out in an environmental impact assessment (EIS).

Poverty and sustainability of water supply

Enforcing practical implementation

of water supply and sanitation projects in a systematic sustainable manner, by both government and donors, surely will render them more feasible and sustainable technically, financially, socio-economically and institutionally. Particularly, that EMP content resulting from EIA outcomes consists of mitigation measures; monitoring and auditing plans; and strengthening and building capacities of relevant responsible institutions and agencies.

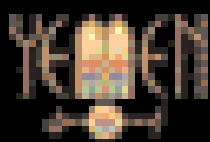
In 1997, Yemen's Ministry of Water and Environment adopted a water sub-sector adaptable loan program for urban centers aimed at sustaining the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Project (UWSSP). It also adopted a water strategy and investment program (2005-2009) in 2003, stressing sustainable water sector management in Yemen and giving priority to domestic use by both urban and rural citizens. Additionally, it targets reducing poverty by encouraging and enhancing efficient water supply usage, as well as reaching an equitable level in allocating and distributing available water resources by enforcing and reviving the enhanced traditional partnership of water management in

an integrated and comprehensive manner.

Accordingly, EIA/EMP implementation through systematic follow-up of the water sub-sector is to obtain a relevant preferable option that provides correct information to decision makers to make balanced and right decisions leading to water resources sustainability.

Practical EMPs are set out in a public document in the form of an EIS or EMP; hence, the practice of translating EIS/EMP recommendations into legal conditions (as per current UWSSP project main purposes, giving lessons to future relevant projects) and obligations; that is, translating mitigation measures into practical implementable planning conditions and obligations.

Research affirmed that lack of matching between practices of those producing EIS/EMPs and planning authorities' expectations led to inefficiency and possibly emasculation of EIAs through failure to implement mitigation measures. Hence, project unsustainability will continue leading to poverty, unemployment and public health deterioration.



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Hodeidah's Al-Hilal leads Premier League teams

SANA'A, March 18 — The Premier League's ninth round ended Thursday and Friday at various stadiums around the republic with Hodeidah's Al-Hilal in the lead. Sha'ab Hadramout beat Al-Hilal, which is the latter's first defeat since the Premier League began.

Ninth round competitions began Thursday with five matches. Taiz's Al-Saqr and Al-Yarmouk from Sana'a came to a 0-0 draw at Al-Shuhada Stadium in Taiz. Aden's Al-Tilal won 2-0 over Ibb's Al-Sha'ab.

Hodeidah's Shabab Al-Jeel lost 0-1 at home to Shabwa's Al-Tadhamon while Ahli Sana'a beat Hassan 2-0 in the capital city.

In Ibb, Ta'awen Ba'adan drubbed 22 May from Sana'a 3-0, while in Taiz,

Premier League team rankings and their points

Team	Rank	Points
Al-Hilal	1	13
Tadhamon Shabwa	2	12
Al-Saqr	3	12
Al-Yarmouk	4	11
22 May	5	10
Ta'awen Ba'adan	6	10
Ahli Sana'a	7	9
Shabab Al-Jeel	8	8
Hassan	9	9
Sha'ab Ibb	10	9
Al-Rashid	11	9
Al-Tilal	12	9
Sha'ab Hadramout	13	8
Al-Shu'lah	14	7

hometown team Al-Rashid tied 1-1 with Aden's Al-Shu'lah.

Injured Deisler to miss World Cup

BERLIN, Germany — Germany midfielder Sebastian Deisler will miss the World Cup because of a knee injury, the German Football Association have confirmed.

An arthroscopy performed in the United States showed that the 26-year-old Bayern Munich star needs surgery on his knee and will be out of action for six months.

Deisler has had four operations on his right knee, one of which meant he missed the 2002 World Cup.

He sustained the latest injury in a clash with England midfielder Owen Hargreaves during training on Tuesday.

The operation will be performed by American knee specialist Richard Steadman at his clinic in Vail, Colorado.

Deisler should be back in Germany in about a week.

One of few truly creative players Germany possess and a great crosser of



Deisler's absence will be a major blow to Germany's World Cup hopes

the ball, Deisler is an automatic choice for Germany when fully fit and his injury is a blow to national coach

General assembly to choose football board

SANA'A, March 19 — Football association elections will be held Monday, March 20, wherein the general assembly is expected to choose 11 members for the General Football Association's directory board.

Elections will witness heated competition by sports personalities who nominated themselves to obtain the general assembly's trust. However, there are rumors of prior coordination between several different lists. Yet others insisted on entering the elections based on their sport history and others' respect.

The elections are expected to end the Yemeni football crisis which extended beyond its borders. There will be supervision, which will give the elections an Asian and international legacy. It also will add to the democratic environment in Yemen, especially after canceling the legal entity of the former General Football Association.

Juergen Klinsmann's World Cup hopes.

Deisler was hailed as a unique talent when he was a teenager but his promising career has been hobbled by injury.

He was also sidelined for five months during the 2003-2004 season while being treated for depression.

His doctor said at the time that pressure to live up to expectations and the fight against injuries, as well as private problems, had taken their toll.

Source: www.cnn.com

FIFA name World Cup 2010 hosts

FIFA have named the ten stadiums that will play host the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa.

Nine cities will be used for world football's biggest event in four years' time, with Johannesburg being the only city to use two upgraded stadiums in Soccer City and Ellis Park.

Four new grounds will be built for the event - Greenpoint Stadium (Cape Town), Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium (Port Elizabeth), King's Park Stadium (Durban) and Mbombela Stadium (Nelspruit).

The four other grounds to have a stadium upgrade include Royal Bafokeng Stadium (Rustenburg), Free State Stadium (Bloemfontein), Loftus Versfeld Stadium (Pretoria), Peter Mokaba Stadium (Polokwane).

Fifa's executive committee approved the ten venues this week, with the early announcement allowing the host cities to learn from their counterparts in Germany, with the 2006 World Cup just around the corner.

"The announcement of the host cities in South Africa is the first concrete step taken in the delivery of the 2010 Fifa World Cup," said local organising committee CEO Danny Jordaan.

"The cities' co-operation and enthusiasm is unparalleled and signals the determination of the host cities to be wonderful hosts and deliver world-class infrastructure with African sensation."

Source: www.skysports.com

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“I was struck by Yemeni music,” London’s Smith says

Paul Hughes Smith of London came to Yemen last week to arrange an Islamic world music festival.

By: Shaker Mohammed

Smith works for the Cultural Cooperation, an organization that puts on a biannual festival in London, bringing groups from all over the world. Each festival has a theme based around a country or an idea. For example, the organization held two sacred music festivals. It organized another two festivals around diasporas, in which people spread from one country to another and two cultures interact resulting in a totally vibrant new music.

“It used to be every year when we focused on one country at a time,” Smith said, “but now that we have these themed festivals, it’s not practical. Resources are limited and practically all the concerts are free. We don’t have any commercial sponsorship either.”

The festival has become very popular under the general title, “World Music.” It tries to bring in musicians and groups without commercial production and whose recordings or CDs generally are unavailable in the UK.

This year’s festival is on Muslim world music. “We have had a long connection with musicians from the Muslim world, arranging festivals for Turkey, Morocco and Pakistan, as well as Sofi music in 1998. Another reason is that there is a tendency and need to try to engage people on a social and cultural basis in England. Even the Islamic galleries in London have been refurbished and we are opening them this year,” Smith added.

Attention to the Muslim world also has prompted creation of a Foreign Office post regarding engaging the Islamic world. The post is held by former British Ambassador to Yemen, Francis Guy.

Focusing on Islamic world music, the

festival is not necessarily about religious songs. “When we say from the Islamic world, I mean a lot of musicians have a very specific connection with religious music. But it’s really inspired by Islam. A lot of Sana’ani music is about love, so some might say this is not Islamic, but it’s still within Islamic culture. However, I think it’s legitimate. There also will be many wedding songs praising God.”

The 62-year-old Smith is helping a Zanzibar-based musician produce future Hadrami music recordings. Last year, he arranged for two Hadramout groups to participate in different Zanzibar festivals, like the International Festival.

Smith’s arrangements included talking to the Ministry of Culture about supporting the London festival and coming here and recording something from Hadramout and Lahj, two very under-represented areas. It would be a commercial CD, as it generally would be available in shops to let people know about this wonderful music.

Smith first visited Yemen well over 20 years ago, mentioning the reason for his coming: “The reason inspired many other British people to come here as well. In 1974, there was a festival on Islam throughout Britain, but mainly in London. There was a street that was a replica of a Sana’a street souk. It was brilliant. It was created by a lady who wrote a book on qat in Yemen. She brought everything, even the spices and the music. One virtually could smell Sana’a.”

“I didn’t know anything about Yemen. I went to that exhibition and I said, ‘I have to go to this country. It’s amazing.’ I knew two people, one of whom was coming for a job with UNESCO to teach television industry staff. He told me how to get here, as there was no tourism at all then.”

Smith and his wife did a four-week tour to Sa’ada, Hodeidah, Bayt Al-Faqih, Zabid, Taiz, Ibb, Jibla, Hajarrah and many other places. “We had a wonderful time,” he recalled.

Another visit was prompted by his study of Arabic: “I had heard there were language schools here, so I came to language school in 2001.” He was lucky, coming in February and March, before the



Paul Hughes-Smith

A lot of Sana’ani music is about love, so some might say this is not Islamic, but it’s still within Islamic culture.

September 11 events obliged many students to cancel their courses and return home.

He came to Yemen and with the help of the British Council, he got in touch with renowned Yemeni musician, Dr. Nizar Ghanem, “who helped me enormously. He became a good friend.” Smith also made acquaintances from Mukalla and Sayun.

Smith says the festival is very complicated to arrange, considering many group arrangements, the right material, visa problems, group members’ names, timely arrivals, etc. He’s thankful for telecommunications like e-mail which have facilitated many cross-cultural relations.

Britain’s Yemeni community is substantial and dates back a long time. Once in London, Yemeni musicians perform at concerts for the London-based Yemeni community. Last time, Ahmed Al-Ahmadi performed in Cardiff, Liverpool and Sheffield. “Yemenis always come to the concerts and are very supportive,” Smith added.

He says there are no resident Yemeni singers in London, but they are found in other cities where the Yemeni community is larger. He noted that a Palestinian woman working for the BBC produced a three-part series for BBC Radio on the Kurdish, Afghan and Yemeni communities.

Regrettably, Smith said they will not cover other cities: “It’s just that we’re dealing with communities in London at the moment. Maybe we will have a nationwide outreach in the future.”

Smith knows many Yemeni singers

like Fuad Al-Kibsi and icons of Yemeni song like Ali Al-Ansi and Ayyoub Tarish, who are the “aristocracy of Yemeni music.” He also knows many names among the younger generation like Rasheed Al-Harazi, Yousef Al-Badaji and Ahmed Al-Hubaishi.

Asked whether local Yemeni singers are known in Britain, Smith answered, “Yemeni singers are totally unknown in Britain. I think people know a little of Ahmed Fathi, maybe because he is known in the general Arab community. However, his CDs are not generally available.

“There are some Sana’ani music recordings and there is a very fine CD recorded in Ghanem’s house that was made several years ago. It’s the best introduction of Yemeni music to the Western audience, as it has music from various parts of the country. It’s nicely balanced and very beautifully recorded.”

To popularize Yemeni music in the UK and in the West generally, Smith suggests this can be done by real singers going there in person: “There is nothing like the real thing. People want to see. CDs are OK, but they’re not enough. They are a memory of something. For something that’s unfamiliar, it’s much more effective to actually see the real thing.

“Of course, I would like to do a proper festival of Yemeni music and culture in London or something that would travel from London to Cardiff to Liverpool to Sheffield. That would be a wonderful thing to do, but it requires good support from here.”

The Cultural Cooperation chose to celebrate music because it is “a universal language.” As a means of cross-cultural enhancement, Smith describes literature as “more problematic, as it requires very meticulous translation. The visual arts also are problematic. Obviously, the strong aspect of Yemeni visual art is architecture. You can have pictures, but it’s not better than the buildings. However, you cannot transport real buildings to Britain. So the best thing is music because everybody understands music: the rhythm, melodies, instruments, expression.”

However, Smith has one reservation regarding Sana’ani music: “It is heavily reliant on poetry. The instruments are to serve the words; I think everybody would agree with that. So we have to be careful that this element is kept balanced because the Western audience cannot understand the words. Sana’ani songs are quite long, thus making them inaccessible for the Western audience on this side. That’s why I’ve been trying to find singers who are aware of this particular problem. We’ll see to it that songs last between six to nine minutes. Anything longer than that might be boring.”

There also will be a variety of rhythms, different combinations, pipe

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 21

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

**Lo! some we loved, the loveliest and the best
That time and fate of all their vintage prest,
Have drunk their cup a round or two before,
And one by one crept silently to rest.**

(mizmar) performances and Yemeni dancing like bara’ to make the atmosphere further vital.

This year’s festival runs from June 28 until July 16 and involves three weekends of open-air concerts: one in the Botanical Gardens, one in Regent’s Park next to London’s Central Mosque and

It’s an opportunity for groups who’ve not been to London to show people their music and see Britain a little bit.

Some activities may be simultaneous, so performers will be very busy.

“It’s an opportunity for groups who’ve not been to London to show people their music and see Britain a little bit. Performers also can talk to each other and play music with each other and will not be kept away from the public,” Smith added. “It’s a chance to introduce musicians to people who otherwise would’ve not ever heard their music. But by no means is it a commercial operation.”

He identifies another festival advantage: “It’s not only music that will get boosted. The festival also will make people curious about where the musicians come from, which will help Yemeni tourism and its people.”

Approximately eight Yemeni musicians will participate in the festival, but no decision has been made yet regarding who will participate. “I will take all my photographs and recordings back to Britain. The organization’s artistic director makes the decision and it depends on a variety of factors.”

Smith does not hide his wonderful experience with Yemeni music. “I’m here because I love it and I sometimes have to remember my past enthusiasm. I like all the music from the Muslim world, but I think I’m particularly struck

by Yemeni music, right from the first time I heard it.

“I’m interested in oud playing and the style because it’s very different than the classical maqamat that came out of Iraq. I have oud recordings by Al-Kawkabani brothers dating back to the 1970s. That was a favorite record of mine. I found it

in some specialist shop in London and it was recorded by an American. They still are very interesting.”

Smith expects the festival, when it comes off, will help bring more understanding about Yemen to people in Britain. “I hope it will raise Yemen’s profile in Britain and encourage people to come here. Generally, it will give people enjoyment. Most importantly, the festival will be an endeavor to give people hope and wipe out some of the imperfections in relations between the West and the Islamic world.”

In addition to music, the Cultural Cooperation has an education program in state schools involving talks and an associated art exhibition as well. The year-round education program sends educators to work with children around a particular theme, such as dealing with a particular religion like Islam, Hinduism, etc.

During the music festival, groups coming from the various countries perform for the children. The program takes place in principle London museums like the British Museum.

According to Smith, the festivals require a lot of organization and funding; therefore, they are held biannually. The Cultural Cooperation is funded by various foundations and some sort of governmental support. However, Smith himself is a volunteer. “I do this job out of love for music.”

Artist David Bond: “I don’t invent, I find”

By: Yemen Times Staff

A gallery showing entitled, “Yemen in the eyes of a British artist,” was organized last Wednesday at the Henri



One of the paintings displayed at the gallery.

De Monfried Center (French Cultural Center) featuring the paintings of visiting British artist David Bond.

This being his first visit to Yemen, Bond spent a week in Aden and a few days in Sana’a, arriving at the end of February. “I had quite an intense experience here in Yemen. I

have done all my works out in the streets in both Sana’a and Aden,” he said.

“I suppose I am particularly interested in Aden because of its historical connection to Great Britain and because of the variety of architectural styles. I have been most welcome in Sana’a and Aden,” he added.

Bond painted his works in areas such as Hadda zone in Sana’a and Al-Tuwahi and Crater in Aden where he said people were “very encouraging and curious. I was always surrounded by helpful passersby,” many of whom could speak English and tell him about the different layers of the city’s history.

He noted a contrast between Aden and Sana’a, the two Yemeni cities he

visited: “Aden is marked by the presence of many different styles of architecture: Indian, British, and of course, Yemeni. In the Old City of Sana’a, I discovered the traditional Yemeni architecture, which is stimulating for me.”

He expressed wonder that “although old, the Old City of Sana’a is still very much a living city of work and daily life.”

He described his art as “travel narrative, travel notes, observation of the terrain,” trying to bring together images and the written word.

Having studied Arabic at Oxford University, Bond also studied at Tunis Faculty of Literature, publishing a few books there about the city’s architectural heritage.

Besides Tunisia and Yemen, Bond has visited other Arab countries, spending some time in Algeria, studying Arabic at Al-Ain University in the United Arab Emirates and visiting Cairo for two months.

He admires Yemeni artists whose paintings most often depict the architecture, attributing it perhaps to the significance of Sana’a as a protected UNESCO world heritage center. “I think local artists are conscious of this and are trying to encourage people to look at it in a new and unfamiliar way,” Bond added.



David Bond

His opinion of art is that it should help us view our surroundings as though we are seeing them for the first time, letting us be “surprised by things that surround us. I think the representations of the city of Sana’a and also Hadramout do let people look at their environment in a new and refreshing way.”

Going about capturing scenes, Bond takes time and does not rush straight to depiction. “I let the world reveal itself to me. I try to be patient and let things come. Let the world reveal itself to you.” Quoting Picasso, he said, “I don’t invent. I find.”

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Announcement deadline: March 25th, 2006

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