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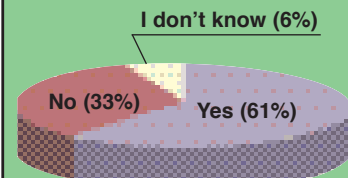


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Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Many analysts think the president's current visit to China is a reflection of cooler relations with the west, particularly the U.S. Do you agree with this?



This edition's question:

After several years' detention in Guantánamo Bay, the U.S. recently handed over several terror suspects to Yemen. Do you think the suspects will receive kind treatment here?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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

Saleh encourages Chinese businessmen to invest in Yemen

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, April 9 — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh left China after a six-day visit, during which he encouraged Chinese businessmen to invest in Yemen, assuring that his government is ready to grant free lands to investors with capital exceeding \$10 million. With his Chinese counterpart, Hu Jintao, Saleh discussed close ties, cooperation and economic and trade partnership between the two countries.

Both leaders discussed regional and international developments, particularly those in the Middle East, including situations in Palestine, Iraq and Somalia, terrorism fighting efforts and means for activating the United Nations' role. Discussion laid more emphasis on enhancing dialogue between civilizations and cultures to improve world peace and understanding between nations.

Praising China's ties with Yemen, Jintao said, "Trade cooperation

between our two countries began in the sixth century through trade of silk products and by the advent of the 15th century, a Chinese trotter from the Royal Clan reached Aden five times in his navy. After the People's Republic of China was established, Yemen was among the first countries to establish relations with the new state. For approximately half a century, Yemeni-Chinese relations resisted international changes and developed.

"Over the past few years, trade exchange between our countries has increased at different levels, whether in areas of economic cooperation or in energy, yielding fruitful results. Both countries have close relations in political, military and cultural areas and often are present in international conferences," the Chinese leader added.

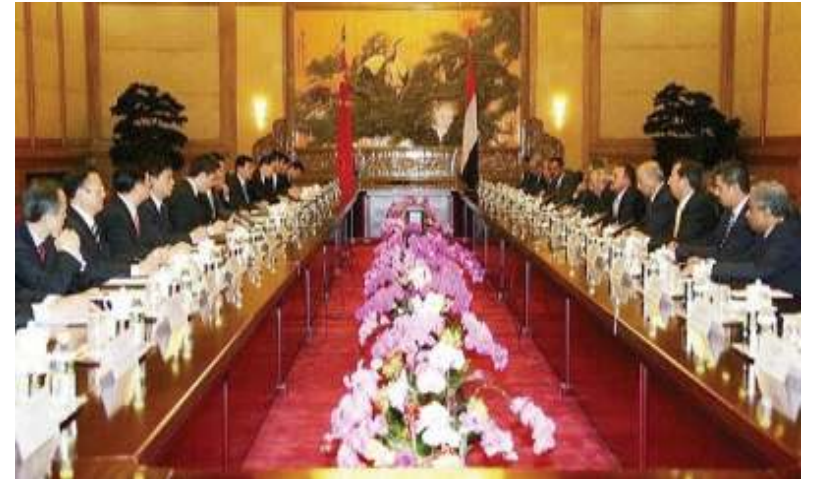
He pointed out that his government exempted Yemeni exports to China from customs tariffs, supported trade exchange between the two friendly countries and consolidated cooperation

in oil and energy exploration. He mentioned that concerned parties in his government agreed with Yemen to fund many projects.

Saleh stated, "We highly value China's stance with Yemen's revolution and unity. We are satisfied with the growing relations between Yemen and China, particularly in trade areas, as the trade balance between both countries exceeded \$3.4 billion."

Saleh called on rich nations to help those suffering vulnerable economies to overcome poverty issues and development challenges.

"Poverty is a big problem, since it causes the spread of extremism and terrorism. Combating poverty serves terrorism fighting efforts and enhances security and peace efforts worldwide. By eradicating unemployment among youths, citizens will live in peace," Saleh added. He confirmed Yemen's commitment to join the international community in fighting terrorism and boosting the spirit of moderation.



Board of discussion: Chinese businessmen are encouraged to invest in Yemen.

Saleh declared his nation's support for Chinese unity and hailed Chinese investments in Yemen, whether in oil and minerals or industry. He assured that such investments will be supported and facilitated, pointing out that

establishing Chinese industries in Yemen will be a focal point for improving industries in the Arabian Peninsula, the Horn of Africa and the Middle East.

Continued on page 2

172 Al-Qaeda suspects to be tried

SANA'A, April 8 — Public prosecution is about to complete interrogating large numbers of suspects believed to be involved in terrorist activities or belonging to Saudi dissident Osama Bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network, an official weekly newspaper reported.

Defense Ministry mouthpiece September 26 reported that security agencies recently referred the files of 172 terror suspects and Al-Qaeda members to Public Prosecution for further interrogation and trial. Some were arrested on suspicion of plotting armed attacks against domestic and foreign targets in Yemen, it said, quoting a security source.

He said the suspects were rounded up in recent months on charges of forming armed gangs to carry out terrorist attacks in several parts of the country, jeopardizing Yemen's higher interests in addition to planning attacks against foreign interests. Many also were arrested on suspicion of belonging to Al-Qaeda.

The report said Prosecution was about to wrap up interrogations and the suspects would go on trial "in the coming days," but it did not specify a date.

The Counterterrorism Court has convicted numerous suspected mili-

itants after witnessing a series of attacks in recent years, most notably the 2000 bombing by Al-Qaeda militants of the USS destroyer Cole in the southern port of Aden, which killed 17 U.S. sailors. A 2002 attack against French oil tanker Limburg killed one Bulgarian crew member and wounded 12 others.

Yemen, which is cooperating with the U.S.-led War on Terror, cracked down on suspected Al-Qaeda militants in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the U.S., convicting several presumed extremists, including a number in connection with the USS Cole and Limburg attacks.

However, the escape of 23 prisoners, including 13 convicted Al-Qaeda members who tunneled their way out of prison in February, caused the Yemeni government to step up its security crackdown. The fugitives include the leaders said to be behind the USS Cole and Limburg bombings, as well as a Yemeni-American wanted by the U.S.

Six jail breakers since have surrendered or been rearrested, according to Yemeni security officials, who claim that the sixth to surrender is Hizam Saleh Mojali, sentenced to death for his participation in the Limburg attack.

Yemeni press: numerous troubles, continuous strife

Day after day, Yemen's press faces grave conditions. Last week, a number of journalists experienced several different accidents, in addition to their alarm over a future fabricated crisis against their syndicate.

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

SANA'A, April 9 — Journalist Abdulfatah Al-Hakimi remains in intensive care in an Aden hospital, his health deteriorating after his car was sprayed with an unknown gas. He became asphyxiated when he got into the vehicle

and inhaled the gas, which affected his respiratory system. Thereafter, he suffered severe exhaustion and a drop in blood sugar. He was rushed to intensive care at an Aden hospital.

Press sources confirmed that eyewitnesses saw several unknown individuals spray a gas through the journalist's car

window and run away when some children came near.

Al-Hakimi is the former deputy chairperson of Aden's October 14 establishment for journalism, press and publication. He was discharged by republican decree due to his writings about Sa'ada's events more than a year ago. Al-Hakimi is famous for his daring criticism of the government and its departments.

In a separate incident, journalist Abdulsalam Jabir, secretary of Socialist Party mouthpiece Al-Thori newspaper, also was involved in a serious car acci-

dent last Saturday, April 8, on the road between Dhamar and Ma'abar as he headed to visit his family.

According to Al-Ishiraki Net, the accident occurred when the Peugeot commuter car in which Jabir was traveling collided with a Cressida. Both drivers died and passengers were badly injured. Jabir received a badly fractured pelvis and bruises to his head, in addition to fractures on various parts of his body. He was taken to Sana'a Military Hospital.

Continued on page 2

U.S. releases three Yemeni detainees, Yemen to receive dozens of Guantánamo prisoners

By: Amel Ariqi

SANA'A, April 8 — After being held for more than two years, the Washington Post reported that three Yemeni nationals have been released without charge by U.S. authorities.

In previous statements and a report released in London Wednesday, April 5, Amnesty International cited the three detainees' cases as a window on what it believes is part of a covert CIA system designed to hide prisoners. Amnesty

officials told the Post that they could not accurately identify where the prisoners had been held, but their accounts indicated they had been held in facilities in Afghanistan, Djibouti and Eastern Europe.

Mohammed Bashmilah, 38, and Salah Ali Qaru, 29 — both living in Indonesia when they were arrested in 2003 — were released last week after a Yemeni judge convicted them of forging personal travel documents and sentenced them to time served in U.S. facilities. Both men

claimed they were tortured in a Jordanian prison before being transferred into U.S. custody.

Mohammed Al-Assad, 43, was arrested in December 2003 in his longtime home of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and ended up in what Amnesty officials believe was a CIA "black site" prison. He was released March 14 from a Yemeni prison.

Continued on page 2



Several Yemenis are still held at Guantánamo prison.

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The spread of qat among women

By: Arwa Al-Anesi

For a long time, Yemeni men from certain social classes commonly have chewed qat. Nowadays, qat chewing has spread its wings and is spreading rapidly among all societal groups, including women. As compared to men, women chewing qat is considered a new phenomenon. Lately, the numbers of women chewing qat have increased dramatically and are increasing daily.

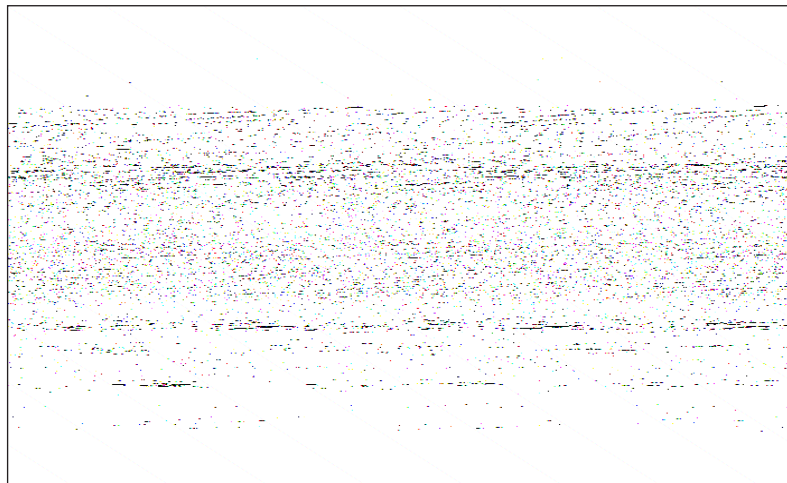
In the past, during their leisure time, women drank coffee in their gatherings and sessions, and this is still common among elderly women around the country.

"Tafrota," the Arabic word for traditional women's sessions, mostly took place without qat chewing. Their gatherings always were related to occasions like weddings, births or death of a relative or friend. Additionally, only married women attended such sessions. Single young women only were allowed to go to wedding celebrations, as society did not accept their attendance at other occasions.

But lately, young ladies have begun to



Very often males buy Qat for women.



break these customs by freely attending all social occasions. Gradually, and with the changing of everyday life, they began holding their own sessions to chew qat and smoke "sheeshah" as well.

In their qat sessions, ladies discuss new fashions, singers and beauty and when they finish, they begin gossiping while watching video clips on television. Sessions usually continue for four to six hours on average, usually starting late in the afternoon and continuing until the later part of the night. In some instances, they continue until midnight. "My friends and I usually start our sessions around 5 or 6 p.m. and we continue until midnight or even later, especially if we don't have work the next day," said 24-year-old Amira Omar, a frequent qat chewer originally from Hodeidah.

According to a study done 25 years ago, only five percent of Yemeni women chewed qat on a regular basis, whereas the result of a new study conducted at Sana'a University found that 56 percent of educated Yemeni women chew qat.

At the beginning of its spread among women, qat sessions were limited to a few wealthy families in main cities and it was not allowed for a young woman to chew qat, particularly if she was unmarried.

Unfortunately, it is now out in the open and families are

shocked at how quickly it has spread. "I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw my daughter's friends chewing qat and smoking sheeshah. I don't know how their families let them do that without shame," Sumaya Hamoud, a 48-year-old mother of two daughters, said.

"I still remember when I was their age how shameful it was for a young lady to chew or even to stay with women while they were chewing qat. What makes me sad is that the number of those whom we consider highly educated ladies increasingly are becoming chewers day after day," she added.

Ironically, such young ladies consider qat and sheeshah a kind of prestige, viewing other ladies who don't chew as old-fashioned. Ironically, most qat chewing women are highly educated, but when sitting with them in such sessions, nonsense issues usually are discussed.

Nearly all women qat chewers have the same look and behave the same way. For example, in weddings, their actions in some cases are worse than men. They view themselves as being above others and feel prestigious in society only because of the qat they chew and sheeshah they smoke.

"I feel disgusted when I see my old friends behaving arrogantly. They always try to make me feel that they are more stylish than me because of the qat they chew and sheeshah they smoke," said 24-year-old computer science graduate Samira Al-Arki, who opposes qat.

Obviously, women spend a lot of money when they chew qat, as they like to show off among their friends. Some women work and spend most of their

salaries buying qat, especially if they don't have to spend part of their salaries to help their families.

Moreover, some husbands and parents buy qat for their wives and daughters and in large quantities so they can give to their friends. "I always buy qat for my wife. I encourage her to chew, especially if she's going to chew qat with me," said taxi driver Zaid Al-Malah, who prefers chewing with his wife.

Women who grew up in homes where chewing qat was a normal procedure find it easier to chew qat. However, many parents who chew qat don't accept the habit from their daughters. "I chew qat, but this generation's ladies are chewing worse than us. I will never let my daughters chew qat because I don't want them to be affected by those ladies and their bad personalities," 45-year-old qat chewing mother Fatima Mohammed said.

A majority of women claim they started the habit after they married. Asma Mohammed, 25, from Sana'a, was raised in a family that forbids chewing qat and viewed it as destructive. After she got married, her husband encouraged her to chew qat every day and she accepted. "I'm embarrassed to let my brothers see me while I'm chewing qat. I know how much they hate qat and I have to respect their point of view, even though I chew," she said.

Women who chew qat don't seem to view what they are doing as wrong, claiming they are just wasting their time in a decent way. They believe such sessions are better than walking around the streets all afternoon and into the late night hours. They complain that there are no decent sport clubs for women or nice entertainment venues like parks or recreational areas. Women qat chewers complain that others should try it before judging them for their actions or give them alternatives.

Over the years, numerous research has revealed qat's harmful effects and the dangers it causes. For example, studies show that chewing qat undoubtedly causes insomnia and weight loss and it may also cause mouth cancer. Doctors said it's even more dangerous for pregnant and breastfeeding women and their child, if she chews qat or stays beside those who are smoking.

Unfortunately, today's women repeat

what men say about qat when they try to convince themselves and others that they are doing the right thing and that there are no other alternatives. In fact, women have many other alternative activities to pass their spare time that are not a health hazard and are more fun, such as social volunteer work, helping the poor or other entertaining programs. They could use the time and money they spend on chew-

ing qat by operating small business activities that they can run and benefit from. They also could use their time by holding such sessions to discuss their culture, science or religion.

Local analysts fear Yemen's future outcome and how it will turn out if both parents are busy chewing qat, leaving Yemeni children to waste more time on the streets.

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Yemen Fisheries MCS project, Ministry of Fish Wealth. Djibouti Street, Sana'a Po.Box 12145, Republic of Yemen. Tel :- (01) 444156 Fax :- (01) 444157 PLT Mobile:- 711453300, PIU Director Mobile:- 733200207, Email: degmfwy@v.net.ye The deadline for submission of tenders is before close business 10 May 2006.

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Yemen: early marriage a challenge to development

Samira was married to a Yemeni cousin at age 15 and had her first child the following year. "It's normal to marry at age 12 in my village," she said, "and you can't choose the man you're going to live with."

Samira suffered from complications during the birth of her first child. She bled for 10 days after the birth. During the 16 days she spent in the hospital, she could not walk or hold her baby.

Now 28 years old, she continues to suffer from deep-vein thrombosis, caused by the loss of blood during her first childbirth. She continues to have pains in her legs and often goes to the hospital.

Her medical problems, due to giving birth at an early age, and the fact that she is now separated from her second husband, have prevented her from maintaining employment in the capital, Sana'a.

Developmental Challenge

Early marriage is "one of the biggest development challenges in Yemen," said Naseem Ur Rehman, chief information officer for UNICEF in Sana'a. "This is because no groups have yet outgrown the practice."

Available data suggests early marriage is a deeply entrenched cultural tradition in this conservative Muslim and extremely impoverished country.

According to Yemen's most recent Demographic, Maternal and Child Health Survey (DMCHS), conducted in 1997, 48 per cent of women between the ages of 20 and 24 had been married before the age of 18. Fourteen per cent, meanwhile, had been married before 15. While 57 per cent of girls in the poorest 20 percent of the population are married before 18, even in the richest quintile



In Yemen, it is common to see girls like this get married at an early age.

more than 35 per cent were married early.

Ur Rehman stressed that marriage usually ends a girl's educational prospects, which has wide implications for development in a country with one of the largest education gaps in the world. "A mother who isn't educated and free is imprisoned," he says, "and is trapped in the cycle of reproduction."

Health consequences

The consequences of early marriage are far-reaching, say experts. Yemen has one of the world's highest child mortality rates. UNICEF's 2006 State of the World's Children report ranks Yemen 43

of 192 countries in its under-five mortality rankings.

According to the DMCHS, the largest factor contributing to high infant mortality is that children are often born to mothers under 20 years of age, and are therefore 25 per cent more likely to die before their fifth birthday.

A 2005 UNICEF report on early marriage attributed the dangers of early pregnancy to the fact that women's bodies are still developing until age 20. In early pregnancy, the mother's body competes with the child's for needed nutrients, ultimately depriving the both.

Further, when a girl gives birth before her body has fully developed, she often has difficulty passing the child, increasing the likelihood of miscarriage or other maternal complications, such as haemorrhaging or obstetric fistula (a debilitating condition where a mother's digestive organs are damaged during child birth).

Maternity-related deaths represent the largest cause of death for women of childbearing age, accounting for 42 per cent of all deaths of women between the ages of 15 and 49.

Early marriage is also associated with high birth rates, according to the DMCHS. Along with diminishing oil and water reserves, population growth is one of the three most significant developmental challenges facing Yemen, as Jeffrey Sachs, the architect of the UN Millennium Development Goals, told IRIN last year. UNICEF lists Yemen as having the fourth fastest growing popu-

lation in the world.

Poverty and tradition fuels early marriages

Amani Salem, executive manager of the Shima Network, an independent network of NGOs focused on violence against women, counts poverty, tradition and lack of education as the primary causes of early marriage in Yemen.

In a 2004 study, sponsored by Oxfam UK, Shima cited poverty as the most important reason for early marriage according to women, while "moral concerns" were most important to men.

Traditionally, in Yemeni society, the girl will live with the husband's family after marriage. Her role is then generally limited to domestic responsibilities, while the husband earns money for the extended family.

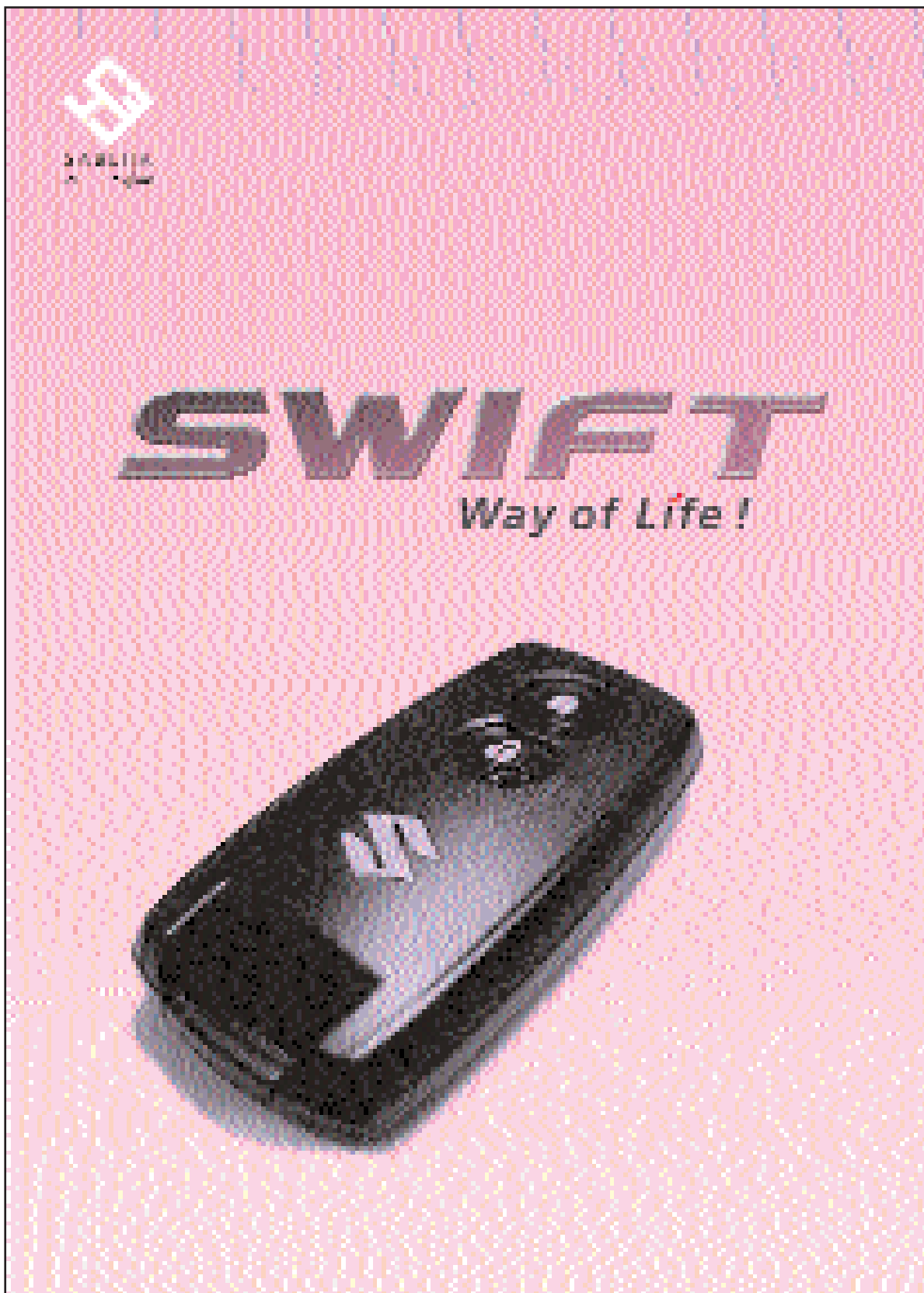
"Girls are seen as consumers and boys as providers," says Salem. Families place much more value on the education of boys, therefore, while girls - as long as they remain unmarried - are viewed as economic burdens. Thus, "people want to get rid of their daughters", Salem says.

The Shima study also revealed a high value placed on the virginity and moral virtue of girls throughout all segments of Yemeni society. According to researchers, this places pressure on families to marry their girls earlier so as to reduce the possibility of premarital sex.

Currently, the Shima Network is the most active group working to combat the practice of early marriage.

Supported by Oxfam, a campaign of public education and advocacy is currently underway to change attitudes towards the role of girls in society and the development process, and to educate families on the health consequences of early pregnancy.

Source: IRIN



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As Muslims mark Prophet's Birthday

Prophet Mohammed epitomized tolerance and Justice

Today, Monday 12 of Rabe' Awal, 1427 AH, 10 April, 2005, coincides with the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh). In many functions were organized in different cities such as Say'oon and Sana'a in praise of the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh).

This year's celebration comes in the aftermaths of the Prophet cartoon crisis triggered by Danish newspaper Jylland Posten.

It is still a debatable issue whether to mark this day. However, the mainstream Muslims think that the day should be commemorated by offering charities and performing optional good works. It is also a great opportunity to seize the opportunity to educate ourselves and others about the great benefactor, the Messenger of Mercy and express love for him by following his footsteps.

Celebrating the great life of the Prophet (pbuh) will go a long way in uniting Muslims on the singular event that all of them will be proud of. So there is indeed a great benefit in these times when Muslims are in need of a unifying event in their history. There is nothing more significant for us and humanity than the coming of the mercy

closer to them than all others, and humbled themselves towards him. In one verse, Allah states:

The Prophet is closer to the believers than their own selves, and his wives are their mothers... (Surat al-Ahzab: 6)

The Prophet (pbuh)'s human love, kind thought and compassion, which turned those around him to true religion and warmed their hearts to faith, is that superior morality which all Muslims should seek to reproduce.

The exemplary justice of the Prophet (pbuh):

In the Qur'an, Allah commands believers to "Be upholders of justice, bearing witness for Allah alone, even against yourselves or your parents and relatives. Whether they are rich or poor, Allah is well able to look after them. Do not follow your own desires and deviate from the truth..." (Surat an-Nisa': 135). With the rules he imposed on Muslims, his just and tolerant attitude towards those of other religions, languages, races and tribes, and his way of not discriminating between rich and poor, but treating everybody equally, Allah's Messenger (pbuh) is a great example to all of mankind.

Allah says this to His Prophet (pbuh) in one verse:

They are people who listen to lies and consume ill-gotten gains. If they come to you, you can either judge between them or turn away from them. If you turn away from them, they cannot harm you in any way. But if you do judge, judge between them justly. Allah loves the just. (Surat al-Ma'ida: 42)

The Prophet (pbuh) abided by Allah's commands, even with such difficult people, and never made any concessions in his implementation of justice. He became an example for all times with the words, "My Lord has commanded justice..." (Surat al-A'raf: 29).

A number of incidents testify to the Prophet (pbuh)'s justice. He lived in a place where people of different religions, languages, races and tribes all co-existed. It was very difficult for those societies to live together in peace and security, and to check those who sought to spread dissension. One group could grow aggressive towards and even attack another over the slightest word or action. Yet, the justice of the Prophet (pbuh) was a source of peace and security for those other communities, just as much as it was for Muslims. During the time of the Prophet (pbuh), Christians, Jews and pagans were all treated equally. The Prophet (pbuh) abided by the verse "There is no compulsion where the religion is concerned..." (Surat al-Baqara: 256), explaining the true religion to everyone, but leaving them free to make up their own minds.

In another verse, Allah revealed to the Prophet (pbuh) the kind of justice and conciliation he needed to

adopt towards those of other religions:

So call and go straight as you have been ordered to. Do not follow their whims and desires but say, "I believe in a Book sent down by Allah and I am ordered to be just between you. Allah is our Lord and your Lord. We have our actions and you have your actions. There is no debate between us and you. Allah will gather us all together. He is our final destination." (Surat ash-Shura: 15)

This noble attitude of the Prophet (pbuh), being in total harmony with the morality of the Qur'an, should be taken as an example of how members of different religions today should be treated.

The Prophet (pbuh)'s justice brought about understanding between people of different races. In many of his addresses, even in his final sermon, the Prophet (pbuh) stated that superiority lay not in race but in godliness as Allah states in the verse:

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. Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware. (Surat al-Hujurat: 13)

Two hadiths report the Prophet (pbuh) as saying:

"You are sons of Adam, and Adam came from dust. Let the people cease to boast about their ancestors."

"These genealogies of yours are not a reason to revile anyone. You are all children of Adam. No one has any superiority over another except in his religion and taqwa (godliness)."

During his final sermon, the Prophet (pbuh) called on Muslims in these terms:

"There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab and for a non-Arab over an Arab; nor for white over the black nor for the black over the white except in piety. Verily the noblest among you is he who is the most pious."

The agreement made with the Christians of Najran in the south of the Arabian Peninsula was another fine example of the justice of the Prophet (pbuh). One of the articles in the agreement reads:

"The lives of the people of Najran and its surrounding area, their religion, their land, property, cattle and those of them who are present or absent, their messengers and their places of worship are under the protection of Allah and guardianship of His Prophet."

The Compact of Medina, signed by the Muslim immigrants from Mecca, the indigenous Muslims of Medina and the Jews of Medina is another important example of justice. As a result of this constitution, which established justice between communities with differing beliefs and ensured the protection of their various interests, long years of enmity were brought to an end. One of the most outstanding features of the treaty is the freedom of belief it established. The

relevant article reads:

Haci Nazif Bey. A verse from the Qur'an: "... [Allah commands you] When you judge between people, to judge with justice. (Surat an-Nisa': 58)

"The Jews of Banu 'Afw are one nation with the Muslims; the Jews have their religion and the Muslims have theirs..."

Article 16 of the treaty reads: "The Jew who follows us is surely entitled to our support and the same equal rights as any one of us. He shall not be wronged nor his enemy be assisted." The Prophet (pbuh)'s companions remained true to that article in the treaty, even after his death, and even practiced it with regard to Berbers, Buddhists, Brahmins and people of other beliefs.

One of the main reasons why the golden age of Islam was one of peace and security was the Prophet (pbuh)'s just attitude, itself a reflection of Qur'anic morality.

The justice of the Prophet (pbuh) also awoke feelings of confidence in non-Muslims, and many, including polytheists, asked to be taken under his protection. Allah revealed the following request from the polytheists in the Qur'an, and also told the Prophet (pbuh) of the attitude he should adopt towards such people:

If any of the idolators ask you for protection, give them protection until they have heard the words of Allah. Then convey them to a place where they are safe. That is because they are a people who do not know. How could any of the idolators possibly have a treaty with Allah and with His Messenger, except for those you made a treaty with at the Masjid al-Haram? As long as they are straight with you, be straight with them. Allah loves those who do their duty. (Surat at-Tawba: 6-7)

In our day, the only solution to the fighting and conflict going on all over the world is to adopt the morality of the Qur'an, and, like the Prophet (pbuh), never to depart from the path of justice, making no distinction between different religions, languages, or races.

I have put my trust in Allah, my Lord and your Lord. There is no creature He does not hold by the forelock. My Lord is on a Straight Path. (Surah Hud: 56)

Your Lord is the Ever-Forgiving, the Possessor of Mercy. If He had taken them to task for what they have earned, He would have hastened their punishment. Instead, they have a promised appointment and they will not find any refuge from it. (Surat al-Kahf: 58)

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Excerpts taken from: www.theprophetmuhammad.org

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam ²⁴

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

Oh, come with old Khayyam,
and leave the wise
To talk; one thing is certain,
that life flies;
One thing is certain, and the
rest is lies;
The flower that once has
blown forever dies.

Yemeni rural songs reflect socioeconomic changes over time

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

Yemen's countryside is the first cradle where Yemeni popular songs were born and it will remain the fountain from which these songs' luscious melodies spring, as long as people continue to feel and express their feelings lyrically.

Yemeni men and women instinctively pine for the past, especially if it contains events worthy of remembrance and nostalgia.

Many middle-aged Yemeni women particularly continue remembering wistfully the 1980s "golden era," which witnessed more prosperity and economic welfare nationally while simultaneously being a time of much emotional suffering. Especially throughout the '80s, it was commonplace for Yemeni women to suffer psychologically due to their husbands' or breadwinners' immigration to countries like the Gulf states. Such a situation provided a suitable atmosphere for pop songs and lyrics to thrive. Women often voiced their sentiments in a folkloric air, pleading for their spouses to return.

From the early 1990s onward, disillusioned by an economically unpleasant reality, women were victimized and paid the price for their husbands' and relatives' repatriation during the Gulf crisis. Women began singing another type of songs calling for immigration, as they experienced tough material and psychological conditions. Suppressed, their inner torture fermented in the form of pop tunes and lyrics versified in simple slangy words.

Sighing, they would sing to relieve themselves and lessen the hardships they faced. A woman would sing different songs, all of which explicitly requested husbands to re-immigrate or do anything to make money and meet their life requirements. The following is a line from a popular song prompting the husband to go away, work hard and bring money back: "I want pennies, even if you work with ghosts. I will bring firewood, water and knead dough."

This is a straightforward request to the man to provide money. Also in this line, the woman indicates the fact that she also bears part of the brunt, for she is the one who brings water and firewood and kneads dough. These chores are her contribution to bettering their family's living standards. During the prosperous immigration days, women had water and firewood brought by pickup to their doorstep.

She then insinuates, hinting to the man about the immigration option through another lyric: "I pray to God that He may blind the one who would seize you. May a boulder blast his bowels."

The singer prays to God that nobody in the neighboring country will seize her husband, who would be an illegal immigrant. Not only that, she also prays to God to inflict torture on the unknown policeman who would seize and expel her husband, thereby depriving her and her children of livelihood and sustenance.

Although she urges him to immigrate, the woman pays attention to her husband's health and shows him that she wants him to take care of himself during his expatriation: "I would like you to come back well and not to work locally in a miserable state."

She implicitly tells him to take great care of himself because he is still important to her. She wants to see him healthy and sound as in the previous immigration days. Her words suggest that everything will be OK with her and their family. Although she understands the risk of immigration, she tries to boost his manliness by stressing the fact that he is the family's supporter. She also tries to convince him that remaining in the homeland will be of no avail as it can hardly meet their life requirements.

Another class of women are those who got married after the Gulf War to men with no external immigration experience. Having been comfortable with their families supported by "sponsored" fathers, they realized the gap between their father's home and their husband's home. Therefore, song lyrics became ironic like: "I thank God for being married to an abjectly poor man who has finished my hens."

She thanks God for her inconvenience due to her marriage to this man, causing her to leave her father's comfortable household and depriving her of an equally affluent life. She adds the epithet "abject" to underscore her dissatisfaction and her suffering. Her exaggeration reaches a climax when she claims that her husband has sold all of her chickens to cover their domestic expenses.

Another line of the same lyric stigmatizes local immigration and says that traveling abroad for work is much better and rewarding.

Rural Yemeni women will continue to utter simple and expressive tunes and lyrics as they go about their daily chores, giving themselves some sort of relief and catharsis. Their hearts are full of emotion as they bear the brunt of their husbands' idling, joblessness and low income. Political and economic changes have modified the face of their art, coloring it with remarkable tones of struggle, toil and above all, responsibility.

The art and habits of Yemeni women will survive time and modern changes and their poetic nature will continue to permeate the texture of rural life, giving it a permanently unique look and flavor.

Yemeni playwrights and actors honored, new festival unveiled

By: Yemen Times Staff

A mass honoring for some 60 Yemeni theatrical writers, actors and actresses took place Friday evening, April 9, at the Sana'a-based Cultural Center with Minister of Culture Khalid Al-Rowaishan presenting awards to actors and actresses from various parts of Yemen.

The celebration included both deceased and living Yemeni theater pioneers like Ahmed Al-Zurqah, Ra'oofah Hassan, Zahrah Talib, Hamoud Al-Amrani, Farid Al-Dhahiri and others.

The evening's festivities kicked off with television shows of famous old Yemeni plays. Ali Sa'eed Yafi'ee delivered a speech on behalf of the honorees wherein he set forth the theatrical community's wishes to construct a theater house and a



The Yemeni theater emerged over a hundred years in Aden

cultural center for the city of Aden, as well as increase actors' wages.

Al-Rowaishan announced that his ministry is studying a plan to organize a new theatrical festival in addition to "Aden Theatrical Nights Festival" and "Sana'a Theatrical Nights Festival," both of which were announced recently.

The new festival is to be named the "Bakathir Theatrical Festival" after Ali Ahmed Bakathir, the late Yemeni playwright and thinker who was born and lived in Hadramout and moved among Yemen's various provinces, as well as several Arab countries, before eventually residing in Cairo.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, the festival will be devoted to boosting senior and young theatrical talent, as well as concentrate on performing Bakathir's plays. Al-Rowaishan added that the festival will be organized during the next few days.

Poisons alleged in Hodeidah's distributed water

Water purification stations have become noticeable in many Yemeni cities. However, many citizens in Hodeidah have accused such stations of selling poisons instead of pure water to every home.

By: Abdulwahab Al-Sofi
abdulwahab_alsofi@yahoo.com

Doctors advise starting the day by drinking two glasses of water and then drinking at least six to eight more throughout the day because water is vital for the body to function properly. Water also helps clean the body, so one should bathe daily. However, when water is blended with chemicals, citizens begin wondering about the safety of using such water. "Sometimes this purified water tastes weird!" a student in the Faculty of Sea Science's environment department at Hodeidah University, said when describing the taste of water he drinks daily.

Another student expressed his

feeling, saying, "Nobody knows exactly when we will have clean, pure and healthy water in our area. We're used to the bad taste of water, as some of these stations sell water with added random chemical substances. We have no alternative but to use it."

He blamed the majority of water purification station owners who he said do not comply with the main standard measurements. "Alternative installment of tanks and apparatus in many water purification stations likely are hardly unexecuted."

A teacher working at Al-Saeed School said, "We constantly hear many complaints from our neighbors and other friends that this type of water contains tiny things mixed with sand, plus its repeated strange taste." She insisted that since water is the

main source of life, those working in water purification stations should be subjected to permanent oversight by concerned responsible parties.

English inspector Hassan Baghawi said those working in water purification stations often are not completely clean, hygienic or healthy. "They wash their clothes and sleep in the same station in which they work," he noted.

Some students and teachers are resigned to using such water for the time being, as it is the sole choice. "There is no other choice but to use this water, as it is the only water for drinking," they said. "We may be deprived of any clean water in Yemen's next era," they added regretfully.

Another teacher noted that pure, healthy water has no taste, color or smell "but this water has a bad taste because of added chemicals."

Fikri Al-Domaini, a laboratory manager in Hodeidah University's, the Faculty of Sea Science, which is an official and authentic laboratory for the Health Office in Hodeidah, regularly takes samples from water purification stations. He stressed that the main reason water tastes weird or contains parasites is due to station owners not complying with chlorine or Ph percentages. He also blamed grocery owners who often expose tanks to sunlight, which activates bacteria. "Tanks filled with water from these stations should not be exposed to sunlight."

Al-Domaini pointed out that discovering parasites varies from one station to another. Moreover, filters used in such stations expire after six months, whereas they often are used for purification for more than a year, he explained.

He expressed his anxiety, confirming that he often finds fecal bacteria in some stations' samples. "These types of bacteria cause many dangerous diseases to human



Equipments in bad state in one of the purification station in Hodeidah.

beings," he added.

Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Ariqi, a dentist, said that imbalanced combination of chemicals like Ph, which are added during purification, leads to tooth decay. Besides, excessive chlorine added to water also leads to change in tooth color.

Other medical studies revealed an increase in the number of those suffering diseases like cancer and kidney failure, which may be caused by air and water blended with chemical materials.

Station owner Nasser Hussein explained the three stages of water

purification. First, impurities are allowed to settle down by storing the water in tanks. Next, it is filtered through sand. Finally, chlorine and other materials are added to kill bacteria. Hussein asserted that some station owners do play with the materials measurements during purification. "They must comply with standard criteria, as this is honest. We should bear this responsibility on our shoulders and act accordingly," he added.

A statistical study by Faculty of Sea Science students proved that a majority of water purification

stations do not adhere to standard chemical specifications. According to the study, some stations either added only chlorine to water or randomly added chemicals. Moreover, barrels such stations used to store water were dirty and even rusty.

Hodeidah residents may know that the water they use is not completely pure or healthy, but they are sure that authorities must take immediate steps to save the city from disease and epidemics spread via water that has been poisoned in purification stations.



The photo shows an experiment of water analysis which was carried out to measure the chemical components in the water. In the left, a sample of water which was treated in a purification station being tested. In the right, the same water after the experiment; full of sand, salt and parasites.

World Health Day 2006: spotlight on health workforce crisis

World Health Report, published in 7th April by WHO, outlines need for more investment in health workforce to improve working conditions, revitalize training institutions and anticipate future challenges.

A serious shortage of health workers in 57 countries is impairing provision of essential, life-saving interventions such as childhood immunization, safe pregnancy and delivery services for mothers, and access to treatment for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. This shortage, combined with a lack of training and knowledge, is also a major obstacle for health systems as they attempt to respond effectively to chronic diseases, avian influenza and other health challenges, according to The World Health Report 2006 - Working together for health, published today by the World Health Organization (WHO).

More than four million additional doctors, nurses, midwives, managers and public health workers are urgently needed to fill the gap in these 57 countries, 36 of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, says the Report, which is highlighted by events in many cities around the world to mark World Health Day. Every country needs to improve the way it plans for, educates and employs the doctors, nurses and support staff who make up the health workforce and provide them with better working conditions, it concludes.

"The global population is growing, but the number of health workers is stagnating or even falling in many of the places where they are needed most," said WHO Director-General Dr. LEE Jong-wook. "Across the developing world, health workers face economic hardship, deteriorating infrastructure and social unrest. In many countries, the HIV/AIDS

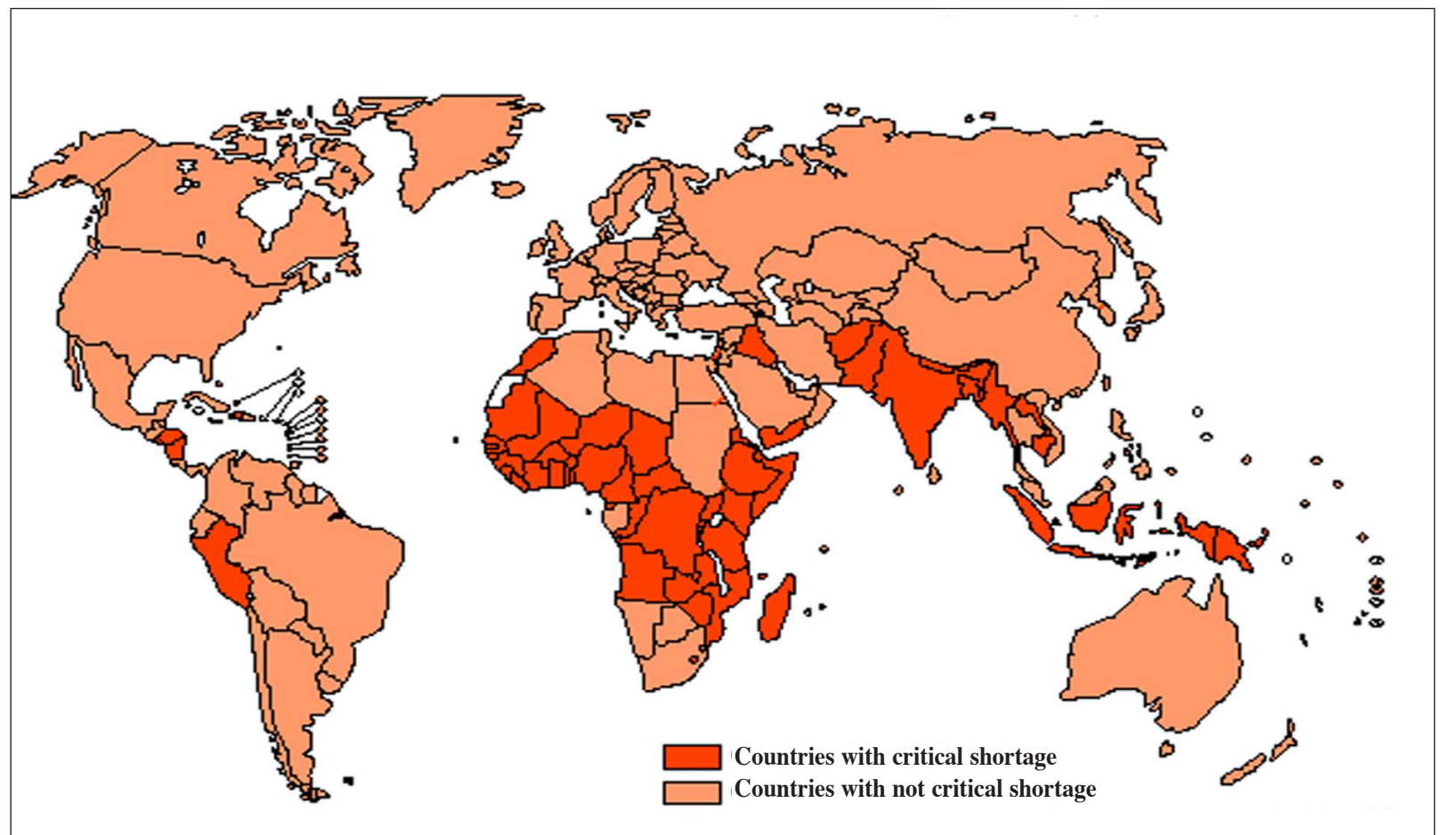
epidemic has also destroyed the health and lives of health workers."

The World Health Report sets out a 10-year plan to address the crisis. It calls for national leadership to urgently formulate and implement country strategies for the health workforce. These need to be backed by international donor assistance.

Infectious diseases and complications of pregnancy and delivery cause at least 10 million deaths each year. Better access to health workers could prevent many of those deaths. There is clear evidence that as the ratio of health workers to population increases, so in turn does infant, child and maternal survival.

"Not enough health workers are being trained or recruited where they are most needed, and increasing numbers are joining a brain drain of qualified professionals who are migrating to better-paid jobs in richer countries, whether those countries are near neighbours or wealthy industrialized nations. Such countries are likely to attract even more foreign staff because of their ageing populations, who will need more long-term, chronic care," said WHO Assistant Director-General Dr. Timothy Evans.

To tackle this crisis, more direct investment in the training and support of health workers is needed now. Initial costs will be for the training of more health workers. As they graduate and enter the workforce, funds will be needed to pay their salaries. Health budgets will have to increase by at least US\$10 per person per year in the 57 countries with severe shortages to educate and pay the salaries of the four million health



Countries with a critical shortage of health service providers (doctor, nurses and midwives).

SOURCE WHO

workers needed to fill the gap. To meet that target within 20 years is an ambitious but reasonable goal, the Report concludes.

Financing this gap will require significant, dedicated and predictable funding from national sources, as well as from international development partners. The Report recommends that of all new donor funds for health, 50% should be dedicated to strengthening health systems, of which 50% should be dedicated specifically to training, retaining and sustaining the health workforce.

At least 1.3 billion people worldwide lack access to the most basic healthcare, often because there

is no health worker. The shortage is global, but the burden is greatest in countries overwhelmed by poverty and disease where these health workers are needed most. Shortages are most severe in sub-Saharan Africa, which has 11% of the world's population and 24% of the global burden of disease but only 3% of the world's health workers.

The Report calls for prompt and innovative initiatives to improve efficiency. For example, HIV/AIDS, TB and other priority disease programmes have implemented ways for health workers with limited formal training to successfully carry out specific health tasks. These experiences should be drawn upon to

develop national health workforce strategies.

The World Health Report recommends that in order to achieve the goal of getting "the right workers with the right skills in the right place doing the right things," countries should develop plans that include the following:

- Acting now for workforce productivity: better working conditions for health workers, improved safety, better access to treatment and care;
- Anticipating what lies ahead: a well-developed plan to train the health workforce of the future;
- Acquiring critical capacity: workforce planning; development of

leadership and management; standard setting, accreditation and licensing as drivers for quality improvement.

Beyond the national strategies the report urges global cooperation:

- Joint investment in research and information systems;
- Agreements on ethical recruitment of and working conditions for migrant health workers and international planning on the health workforce for humanitarian emergencies or global health threats such as an influenza pandemic;
- Commitment from donor countries to assist crisis countries with their efforts to improve and support the health workforce.

Source: www.who.net



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كريم البشرة المغذي من هيمالايا هيربال يتغلغل في أعماق البشرة ليضفي عليها رطوبة رائعة بفضل الميكنات الطبيعية، فيضفي عليها نعومة هائلة، ويحافظ على لونها ونضارتها طوال اليوم. وهو كريم خفيف خال من الدهون، يحتوي على الأوفيرا المغذية والمرطبة بينما يقوم الكرز الشتوي بحماية البشرة.

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Vacancy Announcement:

DFID invites International consultants to apply for the following position with its project to support the integrated justice sector reforms.

Post Title: Programme Manager

Location: Sana'a, Yemen

Responsibility:

The Programme Manager will be based in Sana'a. Specifically, s/he will:

- Oversee the implementation of integrated justice projects, including by directly managing some of the projects and constantly liaising with all the stakeholders;
- Monitor progress, learn lessons and make recommendations for programme improvement
- Play a key role in the coordination of donor activity in this area, particularly with regards to any potential future multi-donor trust fund;
- Provide a secretariat function for the donor/government meetings on integrated justice reforms;
- Provide strategic advice to the Government of Yemen regarding policing and justice sector reform;
- Gain a sophisticated understanding of the drivers of change in the areas of policing and justice in Yemen, documenting and applying these insights;
- Develop a network of contacts with an interest in policing and justice in Yemen; and
- Manage any support staff

Qualification:

At the very least the Programme Manager will require:

- University degree in social studies or any related field
- Ability to work under demanding circumstances;
- Timeliness and reliability of delivery;
- Political awareness and sensitivity;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and cultural awareness;
- At least 5 years experience of project management, preferably in a developing country;
- Institutional development and change management expertise;
- Willingness to learn about new subject areas as required;
- Expertise in the areas of policing and/or justice;
- Working knowledge of Arabic, or the potential to learn the language quickly;
- Prior knowledge of Yemen an asset.

Interested candidates may send their CVs to dfid@yemen.net.ye by 16 April 2006.

Sheraton Sana'a & Gold Mohur Aden Champions Week 2006 Celebration

The SHERATON Sana'a and Sheraton Gold Mohur Aden Hotels joined group in celebrating the annual CHAMPIONS WEEK 2006. The feast started from 1st to 6th of April, 2006 and was chaired by Mr. Tony Goubran, General Manager with 15 hot and determined team members.

Cordial welcome was offered by each esteemed company not even the management as well as the employees. Upon visiting the company we can feel that they resembling the idea and with us it is an honored that they granted each appointment even to the top of their hectic schedule. Still there are many companies' will be visited due to limited time.

Sales call objective objectives is essentially to strengthen the relationship of the clients for 2005-

2006. Based on the sales call visit we introduced and acquainted our clients with the Seven Starwood Brands globally which they can have they stay in any part of the world with more varieties and luxury hotel choice. In line with summer days, Sheraton Hot Teams has put up an idea of promoting our Wireless/High Speed Internet connection as well as the room rate promotion with our SWEET SLEEPER BED concept. Clued up with our Health and Recreation Center and our F&B Activities.

It is a gigantic success with the help of the companies we visited for just a week. Again, it is our great honor and joy to the embassies, companies and travel agents for sharing us their ample time.



Mr. Toni Goubran, General Manager of Sheraton Sana'a (as shown in the middle of the picture) leads the Champion's Week 2006 with Miss. Mai Nazzal, Deputy Director of Sales.

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Fitch raises Arab Bank rating to "A-"

Fitch: "Arab Bank capital increase makes it the largest banking group by equity in the Arab world"

Shoman says upgrade reflects confidence in Arab Bank

AMMAN, March 26 — Fitch Ratings upgraded Arab Bank's long-term rating from (BBB+) to (A-).

The London based international rating agency also affirmed Arab Bank's other ratings at (F2) for short-term and (B) for individual.

Fitch said the upgrade "reflects improved growth potential for the bank following a substantial rights issue in January 2006, and in the context of favourable economic conditions across most of the bank's core Middle East markets."

"Although Arab Bank has adopted a more dynamic growth strategy, its management has confirmed it will maintain its hitherto conservative attitude towards risk management and balance sheet liquidity" it added. The Fitch announcement stressed that this approach has helped the bank to weather difficult operating conditions in the past, as has the diversified nature of its activities.

Arab Bank Chairman and CEO Abdel Hamid Shoman described the upgrade as the "crowning of years of hard work and dedication."

Shoman said raising Arab Bank's rating "reflects confidence in the positioning and performance of Arab Bank, as well as in what Arab Bank stands for." He added that "the effective implementation of the Bank's business strategy by its various lines of business has contributed to this and other successes."

"Expanding our product range and the quality of service are key pillars to this strategy" Shoman concluded. Fitch stressed that Arab Bank's rights issue added US\$ 1,525 million to its capital, representing a 63% increase on end-2005 equity. Martin Oldham, a Director in Fitch's Financial Institutions Group said "the larger capital base strengthens Arab Bank's competitive position and makes it better placed to exploit opportunities."

"The capital increase", Fitch said, "makes Arab Bank Group the largest banking group by equity in the Arab world." Arab Bank financial results for 2005 have shown a strong improvement in its returns, driven by higher revenues and declining credit provisions.

This year, Arab Bank will start bringing its European branches under the control of a newly incorporated entity in London. The restructuring will enhance operational efficiency and boost the Bank's earning power. Fitch said this will also improve regulatory oversight by putting the European branches under the supervision of the UK's Financial Services Authority.

Arab Bank

Arab Bank Group is based in Amman, Jordan. It is the first private sector financial institution in the Arab world and the largest Arab banking institution by equity.

Arab Bank was established in Jerusalem in 1930 by the late Abdul Hameed Shoman, whose vision was to create a financial institution dedicated to the development of Arab economies.

The Group has a global network of 400 branches and subsidiaries in 28 countries and 5 continents, and enjoys a prominent position in key markets and financial centers in Europe, Asia-Pacific, and the United States.

Arab Bank Group provides a wide variety of financial services to individuals, corporations, government agencies, and other international financial institutions. Its services include corporate, retail, private, investment banking and wealth management.

In 2005, the Group continued its sustainable performance, with a net profit of \$503.2 million (after taxes and provisions) representing a rise of almost 54% over 2004. Today, Arab Bank Group enjoys a shareholder equity base of US\$ 5.4 billion.





JOB VACANCY

The Embassy of the United States of America announces the opening of a position within the Consular Section.

“ACS Caseworker”

Whether working in a specialized area of American Citizen Services (example: passport and citizenship, judicial, federal benefits, welfare and whereabouts, births and deaths, adoptions, marriages, etc.) or in mixed operations, the demands are similar. At the Full Performance Level, the jobholder receives case assignments from a variety of walk in, telephone, fax or other sources. The issues are varied and require a detailed and comprehensive subject matter knowledge that has been acquired through several years of experience in the consular sub-function. Once issues are recognized, the jobholder will apply a set of relatively complicated guidelines, such as US law, consular regulations (FAM) and established policies.

Required Qualifications

Education:

A University degree, or the jobholder may submit 2 years of Consular or 4 years of Embassy experience in lieu of the required degree.

Prior Work Experience:

The position requires a minimum of two years, but typically three years, of progressively responsible office experience involving the application of complex regulatory material relating to Consular ACS functions and sub-functions.

Language Proficiency:

The jobholder should know Arabic at Level IV and English at Level IV.

Other Skills: Basic keyboard / data entry, basic numerical, and standard IT software. The jobholder must use and understand software applications and systems used in Consular and ACS.

Intellectual Skills: The jobholder is expected to read, understand and apply complex regulatory material including FAM, US regulations regarding citizenship, marriages, births and deaths abroad; internal operating procedures of the post Consular section/sub-section, external host-country legal and social policies and procedures, as well as a good understanding of US immigration and visa laws and regulations that relate to the ACS sub-function assigned. The information environment at this level is characterized by the jobholder's range of casework being more sensitive and the decisions and courses of action rendered immediately affecting a client's personal well being and or safety and security.

Knowledge:

The Organization: The jobholder must have an in-depth understanding of subject matter of all or most American Citizenship Services functions and sub-functions and how they relate to post's Consular programs and the Consular Section's client base. The jobholder is expected to give subject matter advice to others regarding the policies and procedures of the Mission, as well as USG policies and procedures that relate to the assigned ACS function or sub-function.

Grade/Salary: *Ordinarily Resident: FSN-07 (Trainee) \$ 8,395 (Starting Salary) per annum; Or
*Ordinarily Resident: FSN-8 at Full Performance Level \$9,461 per annum

How to apply: All interested nationals should complete OF-612 or submit a current C.V. and contact the Embassy Human Resources Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa. Tel: 755-2000, Fax: 303-182 no later than the April 23, 2006.

***NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN YEMEN AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.**



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- Between 26 to 30 years of age
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- University graduate
- Possessing a good command of Arabic and be fluent in English
- Having minimum three years experience in FMCG, sales and marketing
- Willing to travel across the Middle East region

Your location:

- You will be located in Yemen covering the Yemeni Market.

If your candidature meets the above requirements, please send your CV in confidence to the following address:

Nestlé Middle East
Ref: CCSDE Opportunity
P. O. Box 16388
Sana'a –Republic of Yemen
Fax No. 00967 1 220385
nestle-yemen@y.net.ye

VACANCY

HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT Project Accountant

I. General Functional Areas of the Project Accountant

Under the supervision of the project's Financial Management Officer, the accountant will be in charge of recording of all financial transactions, keeping the supporting documents, preparing the financial reports of the project as required by the government regulations and the IDA credit, preparing annual and interim project's financial statements to reflect the financial positions of the project for auditing purposes.

The Project Accountant's basic functions will be as follows:

1. Collect and file all supporting documentation on all financial transactions of the project under the Higher Education Project (HEP) management.
2. Record on a daily basis all financial transactions after ensuring that they have been properly authorized and in accordance with the budget and the HEP procedures of internal control.
3. Prepare bank reconciliation between the bank's account and the Special Account (SA) withdrawals, on a monthly basis, to reflect the monthly receipts and disbursements from the SA.
4. Prepare quarterly project financial statements under the HEP direct management, and liaise with the procurement officer, to include procurement quarterly results and the project's physical progress of activities as measured by the project's indicators. Based on the above, prepare the Project Financial Management Report (FMR) to be submitted to the SC and then to the Bank.
5. Prepare the credit withdrawal applications with supporting

documentation and submit it to the HEP Manager for approval and then submission to IDA for replenishment of funds as needed.

6. Assist the external auditors in performing their annual audit of the project by providing necessary documentation, written procedures, and annual financial statements.
7. Any other tasks as required by the project Financial Management Officer.

II. Qualifications

- o A minimum of five years of private sector accounting experience preferably with an auditing of accounting firm.
- o A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in accounting or auditing.
- o A good knowledge and use of the generally accepted principles.
- o The ability to operate accounting software, keep updated accounting records and books of accounts, and generate project's financial statements and other reports as needed by the project management.
- o Proficiency in both Arabic and English

All applications along with a detailed resume should be submitted by April 12, 2006 to the following address:

Higher Education Development Project
P.O. Box 15643
Sana'a
Email: Info@hepyemen.org

VACANCY

HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT Financial Management Officer

I. General Functional Areas of the Project Financial Officer

The Project Financial Management Officer will work within the Financial Affairs department and under his supervision will head the financial management function for the IDA credit and supervise the work of the accountants assigned to work on the credit's accounts. He/she will ensure that a proper financial management system is in place, with appropriate internal control and records and books of accounts; that these are reliable, timely, and in accordance with the generally acceptable accounting principles and government regulations; and that other reports as needed are maintained and prepared on a timely basis, communicated to the appropriate users and properly filed at the CMT.

The Project Financial Management Officer's basic functions will be as follows:

1. The installation and supervision of all accounting records of the credit.
2. The preparation and interpretation of the financial statements and reports of the credit.
3. Insurance and review of the internal control system in the Financial Department for the credit. He/she will regularly review the internal control system to ensure those appropriate mechanisms, procedures and systems in place.
4. The initiation, preparation and insurance of standard practices related to all accounting matters and procedures and the coordination of systems throughout the project, including clerical and office methods, records, reports and procedures.
5. The compilation of all project activities and the credit's operating costs.
6. The preparation and interpretation of all statistical records and reports of the credit.
7. The preparation of the budget of the project and consolidation of that of the total project in conjunction with the Head of the Financial Affairs Department, and other concerned parties, and government counterparts, reflecting an annual plan covering all activities of the project for review by the Vice Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
8. The maintenance of adequate records of authorized appropriations and the determination that all sums expended pursuant thereto are properly accounted for.
9. The ascertainment currently that financial transactions covered by minutes of the Steering Committee are properly executed and recorded.
10. The maintenance of adequate records of all procurement and consultants' contracts.
11. The verification of payments to Consultants and Other suppliers.
12. Ensure that all disbursements are properly authorized and recorded with all supporting documents.
13. Manage the cash balances to ensure the efficient use of funds.

II. Qualifications

- o A minimum of seven years of private sector financial management experience preferably with a donor-funded project or a recognized accounting firm.
- o A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in financial management, accounting or auditing, with an understanding of procurement.
- o The ability to translate planned activities into concrete budgets and establish standard unit costs and report on and analyze them for the purpose of recommending improvements in operations.
- o Proficiency in both Arabic and English is a must.
- o The ability to supervise accounting and other functions and report financial information usable to the various stakeholders, government, Bank and auditors.
- o The ability to supervise accounting works and motivates other to achieve positive actions and results.
- o Familiarity with computers, accounting and other software applications.

All application letters along with a detailed resume should be submitted by APRIL 12, 2006 to the following address:

Higher Education Development Project
P.O. Box 15643
Sana'a
Email: Info@hepyemen.org

VACANCY

HIGHER EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROJECT HEDP ASSISTANT MANAGER

The HEDP Assistant Manager will closely work with the HEDP Manager to organize and manage the coordination functions in the implementation of the World Bank Programme for Higher Education Development. Where the HEDP Manager will have the overall responsibility for the work of the unit, he will concentrate on the external relations with donors, ministries, institutions and contractors, the HEDP Assistant Manager will closely follow-up the arrangements of the HEDP Manager through the division of tasks within the HEDP unit. As such, the HEDP Assistant Manager will have the Quality Control over the Procurement, Financial, Monitoring & Evaluation Officers as well as the Secretariat.

Duties and responsibilities

- The HEDP Assistant Manager will assist the HEDP Manager in:
- Internal Organization and Management of the Higher Education Development unit;
 - Organization and Management of Follow-up of World Bank Identification Missions, preparation and follow-up of World Bank Formulation Missions;
 - Organization of the Assessment of Terms of Reference of HEDP projects
 - Organization and follow up of the HEDP Evaluation Tenders;
 - Preparation and follow-up of the Contract negotiations with the selected Contractors of the HEDP projects;
 - Assisting in the organization and facilitation of the work of contracted Consultants during the Inception period;
 - Organization and follow-up of meetings and workshops;

- Producing semi-annually integrated reports on project implementation;
- Quality control over the Contract's implementation progress according to the Terms of Reference and Work plan;
- Assisting in resolving problems raised during the contract implementation;
- Quality control over the Financial, M&E and Procurement Report system of the HEDP unit to the World Bank Office.
- Ensuring timely provision of documents to the World Bank and other stakeholders.

The Assistant HEP Manager has the following profile:

- Background in Management (Bachelor's level at minimum)
- Experience in management functions of a minimum of five (5) years;
- Project Management experience of a minimum of ten (10) years;
- Fluency in English and Arabic languages;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Proactive approach;
- Experience in procurement and contract management is preferred.

Interested persons may send their applications to the following address: Info@hepyemen.org

Deadline for Applications: 12 April 2006

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Public Notice

I, Ian Timothy Snelgrove, bachelor, of Haddah, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen intend to marry Selamawit Melaku Amenu, spinster, of Haddah, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen at British Embassy, Sana'a on 4th May 2006. Any person knowing of any lawful impediment to the marriage should without delay notify:

British Embassy, Sana'a
129 Abu Al-Hasan Al-Hamadani Street
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To participate contact: 71200540

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Street weddings: enjoyment mixed with fear

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi

Speaking about weddings in Yemen is varied and diverse. As wedding ceremonies differ from one area to another, each area has its own traditions; however, the greatest differences are often found in cities.

Economic anxiety and citizens' incomes recently had their impacts, even affecting the way wedding ceremonies are held. Holding wedding parties in cities is more expensive than in villages. In cities, hiring halls to receive men and another for women is added to the cost of paying the dowry. This has caused city residents, especially in Sana'a, to avoid holding wedding ceremonies in halls. Expensive men's ceremonies particularly are avoided.



A huge wedding tent blocking one of the streets in Sana'a.

Instead of wedding halls, streets became the alternative for wedding ceremonies. Wedding enjoyment and happiness is not an appropriate excuse for those holding ceremonies in the street due to their economic situation.

The inconvenience of holding wedding ceremonies in the street varies from annoyance to blocking side streets for passing cars. A loudspeaker in the living area - placed next to the ceremony tent, which often is set up in the middle of the street - is another source of nuisance. Wedding guests are received inside this tent where they chew qat, listen to songs and enjoy watching distinctive traditional dances.

Most bridegrooms who hold their wedding ceremonies in the street complain of confusion and indiscipline they suffer. They receive both those they know and others they don't, as many intruders and unemployed come to the ceremony tent without being invited. They often do not know the bridegroom nor does he know them. The bridegroom loses focus and cannot sit with his guests and enjoy talking with them, as he obsesses that an accident may happen. Residents near wedding site often complain about the loudspeaker sounds and the fact that others cannot reach their homes by car.

There are many accounts and much talk of holding wedding ceremonies in the street and although all admit it is a negative phenomenon, the fact remains that citizens resort to it due to the expense of holding them in halls.

Each one holding a ceremony in the street and those opposing it have their justifications. While economics control their behavior, their enjoyment remains incomplete.



Despite the economic situation, Yemenis are still holding lively weddings.

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