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Marriage, children, divorce and motherhood



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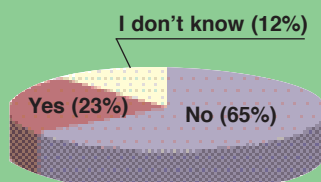
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Are we ready for nature's next anger?

Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

Do you think the Yemeni government could be serious to put an end to the people's suffering from chronic electricity problems?



This edition's question:

The US Administration announced a military action against Iran over its nuclear program. Do you think this will happen in the days to come?

Yes
No
I don't know

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Opposition threatens to resort to public protest

The government and the opposition could not find a middle ground for their differences on many issues. On top of those issues comes the opposition's demand for reforming the Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum (SCER) as well as other political reforms. The government thinks that they are not necessary now and rejected them. However, the opposition escalated pressure by coordinating efforts throughout Yemen.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April 15 — The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), held the first meeting of their governorates' representatives at the Socialist Party (YSP) headquarters on Thursday, April 13. In the opening session ceremony, a number of opposition leaders emphasized the meeting represents a unification of efforts. They also assured that this meeting came as an imperative action following a series of events that urged to further closer relations. However, the meetings scheduled to take place in governorates will show the growing awareness of these forces, in the political arena.

The leadership of the JMP asserted that the main aim of the meeting was to discuss matters concerning many issues, especially those related to the elections, and insistence on the per-

formance of free impartial elections. Yet they seek a field activation of the JMP agenda, together with implementation of the political reform program that the opposition had submitted last month. Mr. Mohamed Qahtan, the spokesman for the JMP, said the meeting is being held in difficult circumstances experienced by the Yemeni people, because of the corruptive and wrong practices of the authorities. Moreover, Mr. Qahtan accused the SCER of refusing the opposition's demands for securing free elections procedures, adding that the refusal reveals a dictatorial practice of power. The SCER's rejection unmasks the cover behind which it is hiding in order to attract donors' care. He also accused the authority of corruption, oppression and confiscation liberties, granted by the constitution, topped by the right to live and peaceful expression. He added



Opposition leaders insist on free and impartial elections.

ARCHIVE PHOTO

that it is the duty of the JMP parties in the next period to hold public political debates to promote the opposition's reform demands. Mr. Qahtan assured that it is likely that the opposition will resort to taking to the streets, for protests and sits-in to express their right to demanding reformation of the

present failures, among them the defects in the SCER. He pointed out to the efforts exerted to reform the election list through legal methods. A project of the assignments and duties of the opposition parties' program for the next period was revealed in the meeting. It focused on political demands that the

opposition presented for executing political and national reforms. However, carrying out these reform programs requires a number of political activities including many functions that will promote awareness about contents of the opposition parties' programs.

Continued on page 2

Court adds two more to terror list



Some terror suspects behind the bar during a court hearing.

ARCHIVE PHOTO

By: Adel Al-Khawlani

SANA'A, April 16 — The State Security Specialized Penal Court (SSSPC) added two men Saturday to the list of the 17 terror suspects charged with forming an armed band planning attacks against U.S. interests in the country.

At the trial of the 17 suspects, the prosecution said the two suspects Jalal Al-Kadas, 41, and Aqil Al-Kuhali, 38, had "facilitated the entry of the two accused Saudi nationals Ahmad Ali Yasin and Sarmad Al-Shammari from Syria to Yemen."

The SSSPC adjourned case of the 17 suspects for two weeks, after it added two new suspects to the list giving the number 19, to enable suspect No. 19 and his defense-advocate to view the case

file and respond to the prosecution.

During its Saturday's hearing chaired by judge Mohamed Al-Ba'adani, the SSSPC demanded the prosecution to discuss appeals of suspects Ammar Fadhel and Jamal Fadhel as the two were alleged to have possessed computers, a camera, recorder and mobile phone, which were not mentioned in previous reports. The court asked the prosecution to present the original documents revealing identities of four Saudi citizens.

The prosecution accused Al-Kuhali of involvement in forming an armed band plotting attacks against senior government officials and U.S. citizens in Yemen.

During the session, the prosecutor confirmed the suspects went to the Passports Authority to get a visa for the Saudi citizen Mohamed Falah Al-Qahtani to enter Yemen. He added the suspects trickily machinated the visa-related procedures to have it carry the name of Khaled Yasin Al-Shammari, an Iraqi national.

The prosecution stated that suspect No. 6 Ammar Fadhel, nicknamed as Abu Asem Taleb, ordered suspect No. 18 Al-Kadas to bring visas for Yasin and Al-Shammari and demanded Al-Kuhali to guarantee the two persons' entry into Yemen as he is a trader.

Continued on page 2

Three killed in mosque attack

AMRAN, April 14 — At least three people were killed and nine injured in armed clashes between security forces and group of rebels inside a mosque in Amran governorate - about 40 km northwest the capital Sana'a, officials said Saturday.

The 26 September Newspaper site quoted local sources as saying the rebels who are supporters of Muslim cleric Hussein Al-Houthi, tried last Friday to attack a preacher of a Mosque in Harf Sofian, Amran governorate. According to informed sources, they tried to prevent the Egyptian

preacher from delivering the Friday sermon.

"Because of the continuous practices of these radicals, local authorities found it necessary for some policemen to be present outside the Mosque in order to prevent arm-carriers from going into the Mosque" source said. At Friday prayer, those elements initiated firing from their guns forcing policemen to fire likewise, sources stated pointing out that "the firing exchange resulted in one of the policemen being killed and five injured. Two of the rebels were also killed, four injured

and two arrested."

The government had accused Al-Hawthi, who was killed in a battle with troops in September 2004, and his supporters of wanting to install an illegal armed group and inciting anti-American sentiment. Al-Hawthi followers answered that authorities wanted to silence his criticism of corruption.

The government blamed Houthi's father, Sheikh Badr El-Deen, for a new round of clashes which erupted in 2005. Later, the elder Houthi agreed to stop fighting.

In March, Yemen freed more than 600 of the rebels as part of an amnesty that aimed to put an end to two years of clashes that have killed several hundred soldiers and rebels. Worth noting that in the past few years, many mosques in different regions in Yemen have been subjected to armed attacks. Mostly the attackers had no political motive. The Observers and decision-makers were concerned that the high number of light arms in the country has started to have severe effects on security even in holy places in the country.

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OMEGA

Yemeni-Gulf team to prepare for investment in Yemen

By: Ismail Alghabiri

SANA'A, April 16 – The secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council GCC, Abdurrahman Bin Hamad Al-Atia, arrived at Sana'a Saturday on a short visit to Yemen. Al-Atia will hold talks with the Yemeni officials on promoting cooperation between Yemen and the Gulf countries.

The GCC secretary-general will also discuss preparations for convening the conference on exploring of investment opportunities expected in the second part of this month. Gulf companies and businesspersons will participate in the conference for attraction and promotion of investment in Yemen.

The prospects that Yemen will join new other Gulf institutions, such as Gulf measurement authority, Gulf industrial organization and others, will be discussed too. This will execute what the joint meeting of the Gulf Foreign ministers with Dr. Abubakr Al-Qirbi in Riyadh.

The meeting had approved forming a

technical committee of the Gulf finance ministries and the Yemeni Ministry of planning and international cooperation. It was to prepare studies, which determine the Yemeni investment needs, and convert them into specific plans and programs according to an investment program covering 2006 - 20015. The requirements of financing this plan will be presented to the international donor's conference, which is scheduled to convene in Sana'a next November.

The Gulf foreign ministers and the Yemeni Foreign minister will approve the plan before presenting it to the international conference. It is worth mentioning that the joint meeting had asked the GCC Secretary-General to coordinate with Yemeni bodies the necessary preparations for international donor's conference, under GCC sponsorship.

The working plan for Yemeni investment needs will be presented to the conference in order to provide the needed investments.

Ibb prepares to host Fourth Tourist Festival

By: Nashwan Dammaj

IBB, April 16 – As part of its annual festivals, Ibb province has been making arrangements for nearly 45 days to host the Fourth Tourist Festival scheduled for this June.

Ibb Governorate officials held many meetings and deliberations with the Ministry of Tourism via which a 6-person committee was jointly formed to prepare for the festival. Meanwhile, Ibb local council will be responsible for rehabilitating Ibb and Jebela cities to host this year's tourist festival.

Deputy Ibb Governor and Local Council Secretary General Amin Al-Warafi said: "through hosting tourist festivals, Ibb looks forward toward being Yemen's tourist capital as the city is rich with numerous historic and ancient sights in many districts coupled with its nice climate and unique natural views."

Representative of Ibb Governorate in the festival, Najib Al-Awaj, expressed hope the coming tourist festival will have a special taste and distinctive



The nice climate and unique natural views of Ibb make it one of the most beautiful cities in Yemen.

color as many Yemeni provinces will exhibit various cultural arts.

Al-Awaj pointed out they coordinated with different cultural institutions, including the Culture Ministry and Yemeni Writers Union, to partake in the event. He added they made coordination with the private sector to partic-

ipate in the event and sponsor individual and group activities in different cultural areas. According to Al-Awaj, several private institutions and companies said they are ready to sponsor such activities.

He invited all Yemeni governors to interact with the festival through stag-

ing activities usually practiced in their governorates, expecting the parties concerned to invite Arab holidaymakers to take part in the event, particularly as it will be held in the summer.

Al-Awaj added numerous ancient and historic attractions including Queen Arwa Museum in Jebela are to be rehabilitated, calling on locals to interact with the event to make it a success.

General Manager of Ibb Tourist Office and member of the festival preparatory committee, Dr. Nabil Juzailan stated the early preparation for the event and forming a preparatory committee from the concerned parties distinguishes this festival from previous ones.

The festival preparatory committee includes prominent personalities from the Tourism Ministry, Tourist Promotion Board and Ibb Governorate, who are interested in increasing awareness about tourism nationwide, Juzailan said. A map for the festival activities is set and the Old City of Ibb and Jebela are selected to host the festival activities.

Two Yemeni banks merged

SANA'A, April 13 – The government approved the merger of the Cooperative Agricultural Credit Bank (CACB) and the Housing Credit Bank (HCB), in one bank, which will be called the Development Bank for Agriculture and Housing (DBAH). Economic experts had praised the decision, claiming that it will contribute to support productive sectors. The new bank is intending to finance small and medium projects in these sec-

tors such as fish industry and agriculture. According to experts, this will have positive impacts on investment in Yemen.

The merger of the two banks came after government's call for taking the steps necessary to face the international competition expected when Yemen joins the World Trade Organization.

The Yemeni cabinet had approved merging of government and mixed sector banks in one bank, with a capital of 50

million dollars, in a step that fulfills supporting the Yemeni economy. The step will meet the development efforts to refresh banking situations and serve developing the middle class.

Four banks were specified for restructuring, and two of them had so far merged. It is worth mentioning that the Central Bank had asked all the banks to increase their capital in order to be qualified and competent.

Yemen exhibition in Denmark

GUDHIEM, 15 April – An exhibition on Yemen has just opened at Gudhjem Museum in Denmark. The exhibition describes the Yemen, mountains, deserts, agriculture, fisheries, architecture and people, along with dresses, textiles, household utensils and art-handicrafts.

The Yemen exhibition, which opened on the first of April, has been very well received by the Danish public. Yemen is known in Denmark, but mainly from the Danish traveller and scholar Carsten Niebuhr who visited Yemen in 1762-1763. The exhibition comprises a series of excellent large photographs, taken by the Danish anthropologist Nils Munch-Petersen. Many of the photographs show the Jabal Bura'a and some areas in the Tihama.

Dr. Nils Munch-Petersen first visited Yemen in 1979 and later travelled in North Yemen during 1981. In the years 2002-2003 he was team leader of the



Part of the exhibition.

project for preservation of the unique forest on Jibal Bura'a sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment.

"Yemen is a unique country, with some of the most exquisite architecture in the world," says Nils Munch-Petersen. "Wonderful markets and

colours everywhere. Especially the traditional hand woven textiles from Yemen have been described by the Danish press as exquisite and unique."

The Yemen exhibition will travel to other Danish cities during this and the following year.

Al-Rayi Al-Aam paper trial postponed

SANA'A, April 16 – During its Saturday's session, the West Capital Court approved referring appeals by Al-Rayi Al-Aam newspaper's defense team to the prosecution to complete investigating the case.

Al-Rayi Al-Aam's defense team claimed that lawyers suing actions against private newspapers instigate killing, inflame feelings of Muslims and

collect money through illegal means. These lawyers have been accused of receiving money in dollar from foreign countries.

During the session, the court decided to eliminate all the suits and appeals having no relevance to the case. It heard the Press and Publication Prosecution's response to the appeal filed by Al-Rayi Al-Aam defense team. The prosecution

insisted the legal evidence is provided in testimony against Al-Rayi Al-Aam paper that republished the Prophet cartoons.

The defense team of newspapers, represented by Allaw's Advocacy Office, insisted the suits filed against their clients (the newspapers that republished prophet cartoons) are not true, saying the case only concerns the Press and Publications Prosecution.

Continued from page 1

Opposition threatens to resort to public protest

They are to mobilize public opinion that backs the opposition programs. They are also to maintain efforts in order to expose electoral violations. The project also contained encouragement of voluntary observation of the registration process, and coordination of efforts to defend the citizens' rights and liberties.

The opposition parties had last month presented a program for political reforms and setting right of the elections' course. However, the government ignored it. Moreover, the SCER refused the parties' participation in the formation of their committees, which check voters' lists. The SCER replaced the parties' representatives by job seekers' lists of the Civil service. The opposition believes that the SCER has become a committee affiliate of the ruling party, rather than an impartial body. The opposition demands that the leadership and members of the committee should be changed to guarantee just and free elections.

Opposition believes that the JMP reforms project is a result of a long earnest dialogue among its parties. It came out as a joint vision to save the country from the verge of collapse, as reform became a national option for the Yemeni people. They denounced, in this respect, the irresponsible and hysterical behavior of the authorities and the ruling party in dealing with the reforms program. However, they insisted on passing it over to the public for discussion and explanation for the community, civil society organizations, and political parties. All concerned parties should be involved in order to enrich this program with their ideas to create national reform out of it.

The participants in the meeting praised the responsible tackling of the declared vision of the JMP when they discussed the preparation for free fair elections. It had reflected the public's hope for more developed presidential and local elections, reflecting public hope for improving their living standards.

The meeting decided to send an urgent message about violations and their consequential threats. They highlighted their legal consequences that will undermine the next elections authenticity. They addressed the message to the President because he is responsible for implementation of the constitution and the law.

The Participants held the ruling party and the SECR responsible for the illegal results of the next elections and the results that will follow.

The participants called for exposition of the flaws and violations to the public, national and international observers and civil society organizations. It is to arouse a public rejection of the counterfeit that is arranged prior to the elections. It is also to create awareness of the violations in the voters' lists, after they were put into the hands of an illegal administration. The participants asked the Supreme Judicial Council to refute those legal and constitutional violations and demonstrate them to the people, civil societies, and democracy and election supportive bodies, in addition to organizations interested in election observation. They are to be enlightened with the abuse practiced against law and constitution.

The participants denounced the efforts for amending the constitution, including the recent one that the government had indecently tabled to the parliament. It ignored and excluded the political parties, civil society organizations and the people who are mainly concerned with the constitution. They spoke of the serious trends to annex the elected legislative bodies to the executive authorities. The participants confirmed the importance of cooperation of different forces to expose these undemocratic amendments and to enforce respect of the democratic principles and prevent their being violated. This should be through available peaceful procedures.

The participants also denounced the arbitrary suppressive measures taken against teachers who were practicing their

legal rights. They hailed the teachers' struggle for their rights and called on authorities to live to their commitments and to be just to them. They also called for stopping oppressive procedures against them.

They also denounced violations to which journalists were subjected, hailing the journalists' struggle and resistance to undermining their syndicate unity.

The participants have denounced the recent developments that targeted social security and stability. It was the official media's campaign, which instigated hatred against leaders and parties of the JMP. The meeting denounced the detonation in the Socialist Party's premises. It held authorities responsible for the safety of the leaders and buildings of the opposition.

Court adds two more to terror list

The prosecution quoted suspect No. 6 as saying Al-Kuhali filled in the guarantee forms and managed to get the visas for Yasin and Al-Shammari to enter Yemen. Al-Kuhali left answers to courts' interrogations to his defense-advocate, who in turn urged the court to look into the case file and photocopy the indictment and evidence for him to respond to the prosecution questions.

Suspects Ammar Fadhel and Jamal Fadhel asked the court to return their three computers, video camera, recorder and mobile phone, seized by the Political Security, claiming these devices were never indicated in the report.

Five Saudi citizens are part of the band, which is accused of acting on orders of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al Qaeda's leader in Iraq.

In February, prosecutors said the band had planned to carry out attacks to avenge for the CIA's killing of a top al Qaeda activist with a drone in the Yemeni eastern city of Mareb in 2002.

Yemen has cracked down on al Qaeda-linked militants following attacks at home.

Experts insist on fighting corruption

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, April 15 – At a special workshop last Wednesday, experts insisted on fighting corruption, enhancing means of monitoring to eliminate corrupt individuals and establishing the principle of integrity and good governance to protect public funds.

The three-day workshop recommended establishing a complete and effective system to fight corruption and setting up a mechanism for this issue in compliance with relevant international agreements.

The workshop recommended the presidency office, the Attorney General's office, the Ministry of Labor and the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) apply the law concerned with fulfilling financial obligations and amend the Ministers Law in cooperation with the German Organization for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

The workshop emphasized the need to qualify officials of specialized authorities in judicial, administrative, financial and legal fields to protect public funds. It demanded referring reports on corruption to judicial parties and completing construction

of public fund courts and prosecutions.

Experts and specialists from various concerned bodies, as well as parliamentary experts, discussed many work papers at the workshop. They discussed issues related to legal and judicial protection of public funds, roles of concerned courts and COCA in protecting public funds, as well as leadership's role in fighting corruption.

Workshop participants called for developing concerned courts and prosecutions and building monitoring authorities' capacities to protect public funds.

12 medical establishments shut down for violating standards

SANA'A, April 15 – On Saturday, Sana'a governorate's Public Health and Population Office closed 12 medical establishments, including clinics and pharmacies, for violating health standards and specifications.

Dr. Khalid Al-Muntaser, General Manager of the Public Health and Population Office, confirmed that his office shut down five clinics, five drug stores and two injection clinics, seizing and confiscating fake and smuggled

drug quantities. He added that health campaigns in nine districts reported closing more than 50 private health establishments.

"There are thousands of smuggled drugs that come to Yemeni markets via border outlets and traffickers who pursue work without any monitoring," said one individual interested in public health issues, "9,000 fake parcels of drugs were discovered in capital hotels."

He added that the Criminal

Investigation Bureau arrested many vendors selling drugs on capital streets and began investigating them to discover the parties behind such violations, as they provide them drugs to sell on the streets.

Many workshops and symposiums have discussed the issue, revealing that concerned government bodies do not take preventive measures against those violating health standards and specifications.

Dr. Al-Najar: The private sector's role is to support the government negotiator working to protect private sector interests

Yemen is one of the countries that have been trying for many years to join the World Trade Organization (WTO). Yemen's government has thought seriously about joining the international organization since introducing its 1995 economic and administrative reforms program. Since then, the government has been coordinating its efforts in this regard.

To shed light on how far Yemen's efforts have reached in this regard, learn about steps taken so far and what remains for Yemen to achieve its goal, Dr. Hamoud Ali Al-Najar, chief of the WTO's Communication and Coordination Office at the Ministry of Industry and Trade was interviewed by Mohammed Khidr and Yasser Al-Mayasi.

Please give a brief account of steps already taken in efforts to join the WTO.

Coordinating steps for Yemen to join the WTO began rather early, specifically when Yemen's government began the economic reforms process in 1995. In February 1998, the Yemeni Cabinet decreed forming a government committee grouping representatives from the Ministries of then Supplies and Trade, Planning, Industry and Finance, in addition to a Central Bank of Yemen representative. The committee was assigned to study requirements to join the WTO and determine practical steps for the accession objective.

Accordingly, a Communication and Coordination Office was created with the WTO. In the same year, the government presented its program to Parliament, for the first time incorporating WTO accession into it. That was followed by a decision issued by the prime minister to form a national committee to prepare and negotiate with the WTO.

In 1999, Yemen requested observer member status in the WTO and was accepted. A year later, Yemen applied for full membership, with its application unanimously accepted at the organization's April 2000 General Council meeting. In July 2000, the WTO set up a working party to consider procedures and steps Yemen must follow to be granted full membership status.

The WTO's first demand was that Yemen prepare a memorandum on its commercial policies, a request Yemen completed and presented to the organization's secretariat in November 2002. The WTO's accession section studied the memorandum's contents concerning Yemen's accord with required conditions and then accepted it.

Thus, some WTO member states began to put forth questions and queries, most of which were from the United States, the European Union, Canada and Australia. Such questions numbered 167.

Yemen answered all of them, returning them to the organization in 2004, which prepared the stage for beginning the first steps to negotiate WTO accession.

Why were the replies to questions so late and were they accepted?

Answering 167 scientific questions is not an easy task. As much as possible, we tried to make our replies successful and useful in order to take the right steps toward accession. The answers were presented, thereby meeting preliminary conditions to hold a meeting between the WTO working team and Yemen's negotiator.

The first batch of answers was accepted; therefore, we requested the first meeting November 2004 to inaugurate multi-lateral negotiations for Yemen's accession. Our first replies were accepted at that meeting and the Yemeni delegation received a fresh group of questions from WTO members, in addition to requirements Yemen must provide.

This did not mean that it failed to answer the previous questions. Issues and queries usually arise based on answers given in a quest for accurate and more detailed replies as an advanced step in the course of negotiating accession. In addition to such explanations were demands to prepare goods and services supply, as well as a plan for legislative amendment of trade laws, including intellectual property laws. All of that was completed last October in a working party meeting.

There also was a second working team meeting to review the first goods and services offers, in addition to presenting several other documents and replies to the new explanations. This resulted in the so-called factual summary revised by the negotiating national committee before holding the meeting. After the meeting late last year, a number of WTO member states came up with several new questions, which were more accurate, analytical and detailed. That meant we had reached a very advanced stage in negotiations because there were issues the members thought needed additions.

The national committee recently met to approve replies to the third batch of questions, which we will return to the WTO secretary in coming days. Additionally, we already sent the replies



Dr. Hamoud Ali Al-Najar is a graduate of American Universities, specialized in economic studies. During his career, he worked as a professor at the College of Trade and Economics, Economics Department. Currently, he is chief of the WTO's Communication and Coordination Office

other requirements that should be finalized, must be made before the middle of 2006.

Do you have a clear-cut strategic vision for negotiation leading to WTO accession?

We do have a strategy. Through negotiation, Yemen seeks to achieve accession terms compatible with its trade, financial and development needs. This means that WTO member states wishing to negotiate with Yemen must take into consideration that we are one of the least developed states and aim to protect Yemen's long-term economic and trade interests. Our strategy stems from Yemen's circumstances and needs. To realize hoped for and targeted results requires the joining of all efforts, including those of the private sector.

Yemen still is among the world's least developed countries and in need of surmounting many barriers, especially pertaining to production and export capabilities.

to a number of experts for technical revision. So far, this is what has been done in this regard.

What is needed is to finish up discussions concerning the goods and services offers and if we receive government agreement to negotiate, we will be prepared to hold bilateral negotiations, particularly with the U.S. and the EU, as they are major parties in the organization. Negotiations with the WTO are carried out in parallel tracks. They are multi-lateral, collective and bilateral negotiations.

We have begun negotiating concerning the goods and services offers and market access for them. Other issues related to botanical health, trade impediments and customs evaluation will be discussed within collective negotiations. Answers to the new group of questions on the foreign trade system, in addition to various

Yemen's economy does not differ much from many of the least developed member states, as some of them possess rather less capability and potential than our economy.

Are Yemen's negotiations with the WTO different in nature from those of other nations?

We can confirm that negotiations for WTO accession are very complicated and toilsome because they involve more than compatibility with the organization's numerous agreements. Yemen still is in need of compatibility with many of them, in addition to bilateral negotiations regarding access to goods markets, especially fixing customs duties ceilings at certain levels. After WTO accession, those ceilings are not allowed to be exceeded except through negotiation, which may lead to offering suitable compensation. Moreover, bilateral negotiations on services are related to liberalization and opening service sectors important to WTO members.

Yemen still is among the world's least developed countries and in need of

surmounting many barriers, especially pertaining to production and export capabilities. Therefore, we hope that WTO member states, particularly the big ones, will understand Yemen's economic circumstances and its development needs.

Is it possible during negotiations to take advantage of preferential dealing and exceptions regarding developing countries?

I would like to affirm that Yemen's position as a developing country will be taken into consideration. WTO members have realized the difficulties facing the least developed states, including Yemen. The WTO issued a decision containing a number of guidelines and recommendations, calling on member states to consider least developed nations' circumstances and needs during negotiations.

Consequently, Yemen's negotiator will seek to benefit from those instructions and exceptions and opportunities from which we can benefit. For instance, the WTO's latest decision stipulates permitting the least developed nations to enter advanced countries' markets without customs tariffs being imposed, a right which must be taken advantage of correctly.

Since there are many unavailable circumstances, why does Yemen want to join the WTO?

This is a frequently asked question. We think WTO accession is an indisputable result of economic policies pursued since initiating 1995's financial and administrative reforms based on belief in market strength and competition. Yemen has followed successful liberal policies and canceled the imposed licensing system which impeded competition.

Under the licensing system, a merchant was unable to import certain goods unless he obtained a license from the former Ministry of Supplies and Trade. The system was considered a detriment to competition in both internal and external trade. Moreover, the policy of replacing imported goods with domestic products did not succeed and did not achieve any purpose – not only in Yemen, but in all countries that tried it – and all proved to be a failure.

Thus, the entire world is heading toward the multi-lateral commercial system and many countries have benefited from it, especially Southeast Asian countries. As a country, Yemen is situated in an important strategic position and cannot live isolated from a world currently governed by a multi-lateral commercial order under the umbrella of the WTO. This system is governed by more than 20 agreements and dominates approximately 97 percent of international trade exchange. Does Yemen want to be away from the world? We in Yemen are open to the commercial system and to all forms of regional cooperation.

Can Yemen's economy meet WTO conditions regarding competition abilities with other countries?

I would emphasize that joining the WTO has become an important and inevitable question. Yemen and other nations cannot remain outside this entity that is supervising world trade. Therefore, it is necessary to incorporate into it and work in accordance with its internationally agreed upon rules.

Yemen's economy does not differ much from many of the least developed member states, as some of them possess rather less capability and potential than our economy. For this reason, Yemen will manage to incorporate into the world economy. I would like to stress that under the world system, competition with the outside is easier



Dr Hamoud Ali Al-Najar (R), talking to Yemen Times reporter Mohammed Khidr.

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than competition without it. It is true that our agricultural and industrial base is not at a standard qualifying it to compete, but let's begin working and endeavor to solve our problems.

What measures must Yemen take to develop domestic industry?

WTO accession dictates that Yemen must possess a program to develop local industry and products so that they will be acceptable at the world level when entering competition. The Ministry of Industry and Trade has an

Where do you place the private sector on the map of negotiating with the WTO and have you taken its fears into account?

Negotiations to join the WTO are carried out by the government and consequently the private sector's role is to support the government negotiator working to protect private sector interests. The private sector is not excluded; rather, the government endeavors to engage it more effectively. Openness to the world does not mean not encouraging the private sector. On the contrary, I think openness encourages the private sector and opens the door to competition with the foreign private sector. The local private sector will not be successful unless a competitor brings technology to the local economy. For instance, some local private sector businessmen invest in many other countries, so why do we in Yemen not give priority to qualifying our local sector to invest in the country rather than the foreigner? This goal is completely in accord with steps we are taking to join the WTO.

Yemen a certificate, according to which many foreign investors will come to invest in Yemen. The first question a foreign investor will ask is whether Yemen is a WTO member. Thus, WTO accession will create a climate whose rules are in accord with most world countries' rules.

Openness to the world does not mean not encouraging the private sector. On the contrary, I think openness encourages the private sector and opens the door to competition with the foreign private sector.

ambitious program to develop industries by building a number of industrial zones. In this regard, we plan to build three industrial zones. These projects encourage and support the private sector so that it will be able to contribute with high-quality industry and products capable of competing with other member countries' industries. The private sector is the major axis for developing the industrial sector.

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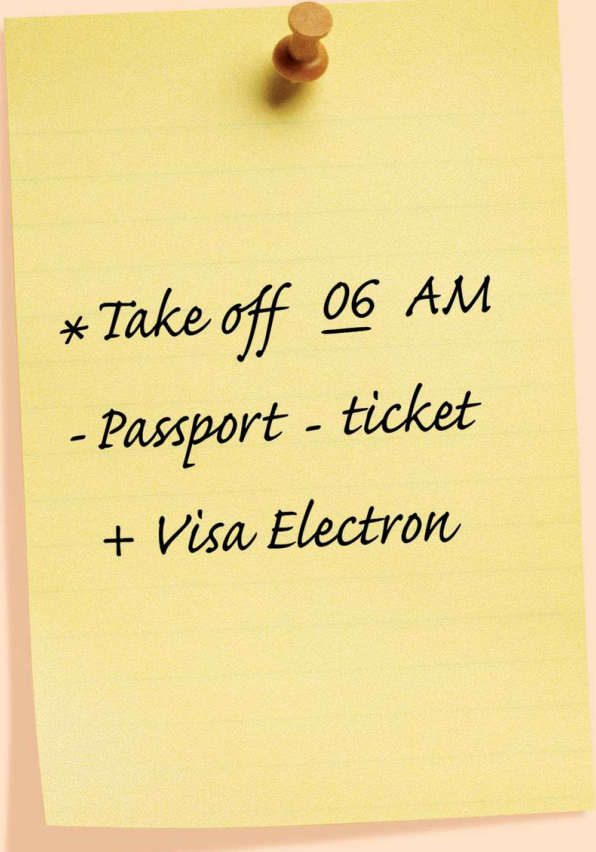
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"The Cat" that killed a human

Below is a true story of how insulting words led a man called "The Cat" to commit murder. The incident occurred last month in Taiz governorate's Al-Musalla neighborhood. The story is narrated according to official case documents, of which the Yemen Times obtained a copy.

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri
binjabr@gmail.com

"Jalal: the evil, talkative cat," was the phrase that irritated Jalal Thabet Mahmoud Al-Shawafi and the story that ended the life of a young man named Mohammed Al-Masani. At one place and

one time, the story began with uttering such a phrase, writing it on a wall, and ended with killing an innocent young man.

Al-Masani, 20, was a secondary school student in his final year and his family members were looking forward to celebrating his graduation. But no one knew that March 28 would be the final day of both his study and his life.

That day, he returned from school as usual and had lunch with his family. His father, Abdulwareth Al-Masani, 40, decided to take a little nap that afternoon. Outside the house, something different was happening.

Al-Shawafi, 30, and his boss were chewing qat in the computer center when Mohammed Al-Shaibani came to them at 1:30 p.m. "Boys are writing your name on the wall of the Qur'an School. They are writing 'Jalal: the evil, talkative cat,'" Al-Shaibani informed Al-Shawafi. He did not wait but arose from his comfortable seat, leaving behind his boss and the comfortable qat session. He and Al-Shaibani headed for the neighborhood's Qur'an School to see who was involved in writing the insulting phrase.

Armed with his Russian pistol, Al-Shawafi arrived and, like a knight that

never before had been defeated, stood before the wall reading the phrase written in bold black paint, "Jalal: the evil, talkative cat." "Who wrote this?" he asked three boys sitting nearby.

"The one who wrote it was Mohammed Al-Masani and the one who instructed him was Omer Faisal," replied a boy named Haithem. Still facing the wall with an angry expression dominating his face, Al-Shawafi took out his pistol and fired a shot at the wall, seemingly to defend his insulted feelings.

In order to verify the whole story, Al-Shawafi turned toward Al-Masani's house, which was near the school. In no time, he knocked at the door and Al-Masani's three sons - Mohammed, Majd and Mohammed - came out to see who was there. "Who instructed you to write my name on the wall?" Al-Shawafi

asked, pointing at Mohammed.

"It was Omer Faisal," Mohammed answered. "Well, let's go to the neighborhood chief to complain against this Faisal," Al-Shawafi remarked. They all headed for the chief, while Mohammed's mother remained at the door of the house.

As they began walking, a boy named Mohammed Nageeb was standing in a nearby alley. From there, he shouted at Al-Shawafi, "Hey you, Jalal the Cat, what are you doing here?" This time, Al-Shawafi became more irritated, so he again took out his pistol and fired a shot in a direction he "did not recognize." Alas, he shot Mohammed who was beside him. He shot at his heart and the bullet penetrated through his back. Mohammed fell to the ground, uttering his final words, "Rescue me."



Mohammed Al-Masani who was killed by Al-Shawafi.

Al-Shawafi claimed that he killed Mohammed unknowingly. "I was so angry and fired a shot into a direction I did not know. Mohammed was beside me at that moment. I saw him fall to the ground. To my surprise, I heard him say, 'Rescue me.' I turned to him and said, 'What's wrong with you?' I then noticed blood on his back and he uttered no more words," he recounted.

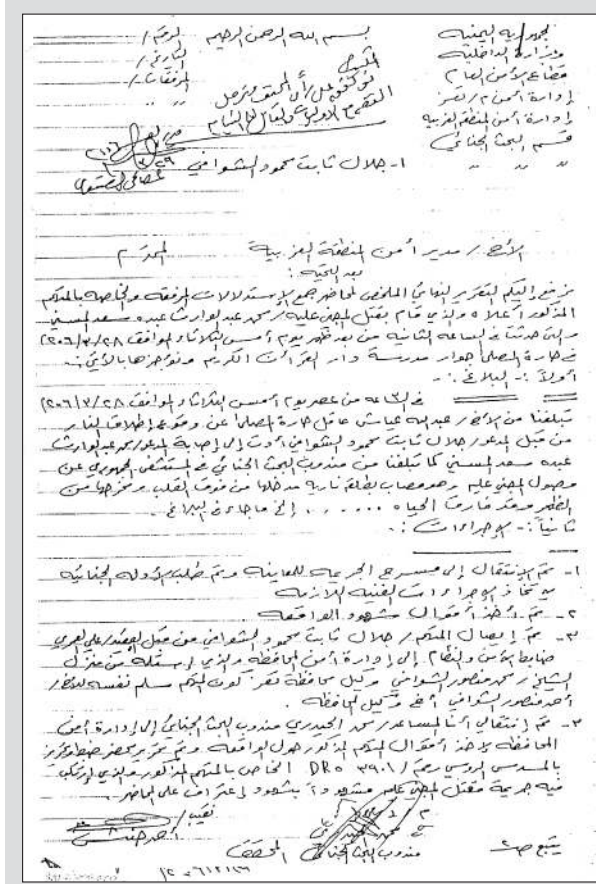
It was 2 p.m. when the tragic incident occurred. The whole place was rendered silent as Mohammed lay utterly still. In his panic, Al-Shawafi ran away. Mohammed's mother witnessed the incident and saw her lovely son fall to the ground, a scene she never witnessed before. Unable to believe her eyes, she burst into tears, loudly cried and immediately

rushed to her sleeping husband. With tears pouring from her eyes, she told him, "Jalal the Cat has killed our son!" The panicked father jumped out of bed and went out, only to see some people carrying his dead son toward the hospital. Those who witnessed the incident informed him, "Jalal Al-Shawafi killed your son."

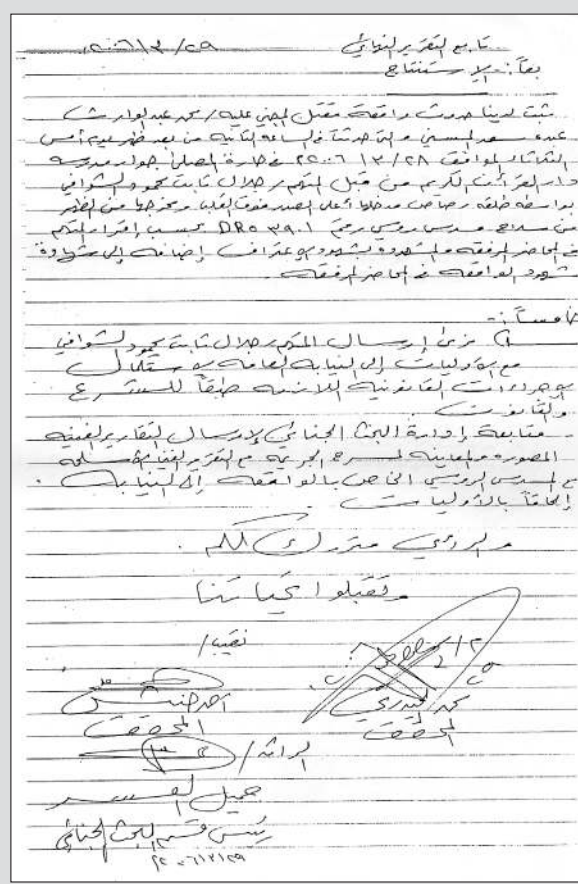
Finding no way to pursue the killer, Al-Masani went to the hospital to have a final look at his son. Meanwhile, Al-Shawafi surrendered himself to Taiz governorate's deputy, remaining there until police came and took him.

During investigations, Al-Shawafi maintained that he killed Mohammed but not intentionally, while Al-Masani insisted that it was on purpose. But the two agreed that "there were no differences between Mohammed and the killer." Also during investigations, Nageeb, Al-Shaibani, Baheej Aref and Wael Al-Hajj all testified that Al-Shawafi killed Mohammed. Al-Shawafi is now at General Prosecution.

Born in Taiz, Al-Shawafi received his basic education but did not continue. He is divorced, lives in Al-Musalla neighborhood and works in a computer store. That is the story of Mohammed who, like many others, fell victim to the phenomenon of arms bearing, which is common among people throughout Yemen, including main cities.



Some of the official documents showing the details of the crime.



Marriage, children, divorce and motherhood

There are some women to whom marriage does not appear lustrous. Growing difficulties within marriage, messiness of divorces and the consequent challenges are deterrents to hopeful feelings about marriage. In our societies where women, in general, do not seek procreation outside marriage, the desire to have a child pushes a few of them towards the institution of marriage. Some are pushed into it to gain social or family approval. Being a single woman out of choice is not really encouraged by our kith and kin. It is considered a family shame, and it is sniggered upon by the neighbourhood and condemned by the learned leaders. In the socialist Yemen, there was some tolerance of single women. But nowadays, against the background of culture, tradition, religious revivalism and increasing socio-political instability, the trend towards marriage as a socio-religious obligation is gaining ground. At the same time, the wish to have a stereotypical life of a woman confined to the kitchen and reproduction is declining.



By: Nisha

Expectations of some women from their spouse are undergoing change. But it is not only some women who have different expectations from their husbands. Some men too have begun expecting their wives to help meet the costs of consumer and leisure time compulsions, and bear the financial burden of children while at the same time the wish to have a devoted wife committed to sweep and swab, cook and clean, care and nurture, and give birth year after year remains intact.

The idea of freedom of choice within marriage does not exist for the majority of women. It does not exist when a young girl is expected to say yes to a marriage proposal or marriage because she knows she has nowhere to go or she feels like a burden on her family. It does not exist at the time of marriage when fathers sign the marriage contract in place of their daughters and it does not exist when it comes to deciding the number of children and spacing between children a married

woman would like to have. The freedom of choice does not exist for unemployed women who do not have a well off or supportive parental family. It is said that men these days have greater readiness to take on some of the household work. But the freedom of choice does not exist for women who cannot work outside the home or realize their potentials because men's contribution in the household chores has hardly increased and childcare institutions remain non-existent.

Marriage and family are considered to provide the best possible environment for bringing up children. But these institutions have hardly undergone any transformation with regard to its attitudes towards the ways of bringing up and treating children. There is hardly any eagerness to do justice to a child's needs, especially girls' needs. Children have no escape from abusive, authoritarian, and violent behaviour of their parents, particularly fathers. Reason? Since marriage and family are sanctimonious and fathers head these sanctimonious institutions, they are always thought to act in the interest of their children; no thought is spared to the fact that not all marriages, families and fathers' behaviour is conducive to the children's interests. Women might be developing a better understanding of longer periods of breast-feeding to develop greater immunity from diseases in their children but their capacity to protect children from abusive fathers remains in a state of doldrums. There are discussions about 'active fatherhood' or fathers taking active role in caring and nurturing their infants and children. The idea of men coming forward to share joys and pains of looking after infant and children is indeed laudable. But how many fathers are willing to give up qat and spend time with their children, look after them, and help them grow up?

A decision regarding marriage should take into account the risk factors in case it does not work out. More number of men nowadays know about

bonding emotionally with their children but in divorce settlements their reactionary biologicistic bonding ideologies propel them to treat the children as assets that they must continue to own. Since our societies are patriarchal and patrilineal, it is easier for them to claim the right to their own flesh and blood over women's emotional bonding and desire to care for their children. Divorces usually degenerate into a power-struggle over custody of the child - it often becomes a battle of bloodhood and continuity of father's lineage versus motherhood and a mother seeking her own security in the old age through her children. In the course of this, if the child is out of infancy and is of the age when intensive care is not required, biological fatherhood takes precedence over a mothers emotional and social security claims. In other words, in a marriage on brinks, motherhood is treated as nothing more than a nursing job with a glorified tag of motherhood. Motherhood is considered important to care for and to bring up children to the age when they can take care of their personal health and hygiene needs. Once children reach this age, mothers can be thrown out of the job.

Married women engaged in paid work have to struggle with the unpaid household chores and care and nurturing responsibilities. Even when fathers are a little more involved in their families, their role is more of a companion of children in doing fun activities. Changing nappies, caring for the babies, staying awake in the night to care for children whenever needed, sweeping and swabbing, washing and cleaning, cooking and so on are the kind of chores husbands would not engage in. Women in paid work have less time for themselves, for recreation and to participate in public activities.

And if all these are not enough, men hold a trump card. If women are not satisfied with mere talks of a marriage being a partnership and responsibilities being shared equally, and having the

opportunity to do paid work, their husbands can show them the red traffic signal any time. Husbands in Yemen have the law with them to control their wives mobility. Women must take permission from their husbands to go out of the home and to travel alone. If they dare defy any orders or expect fewer responsibilities at home, their husbands can order them to stay at home. Women might achieve laurels with their determination and ability to cope with unjust share of work and expecta-

tions yet within marriage they remain hostage to the husband's commands. If marriage as an institution has to do justice to both spouses, it requires overhauling of responsibilities and attitudes and not just compromises and sacrifices by women.

Nisha is an Indian activist working in development and gender. She is a campaign and advocacy expert and has published many research papers around the world.

Enlightenment Field Activities of Population Education Project (YEM/02/PO5)

With the support of UNFPA, the Population Education Project (PEP) has carried out two enlightenment activities at Al-Sawdah district in Amran governorate during the period from 4-6 April, 2006. The first training activity was conducted for district education office, teachers, health and activities supervisions. 53 participants have attended the training activity. The second activity was conducted for 45 leadership students (males and females) from six secondary schools in the district.

PEP has also carried out a three days enlightenment activity at Al-Selw district in Taiz governorate for district education office, school administrations, teachers and health and activities supervisions during the period from 11 to 13 April, 2006.

60 participants have attended the training activity. The following topics were approached in those activities:

- Population education issues.
- Reproductive health and family planning.
- STDS and HIV/AIDS.
- Islamic religion attitude towards family planning and the legislation that regulate it.
- Social raising in the Yemeni family and its relation with gender issues.
- The role of school towards population and environment problems.
- The human rights of AIDS patients.
- The basic skills needed to teach and learn population issues.

The enlightenment activities aimed at:

- Raising awareness of education leaders, school administration and teachers towards the different mentioned issues.
- Enhancing students to carry out peer education in schools and participate in awareness raising activities within their communities.

Population Education Project Coordinator
Dr. Welaya Abdo Qaid



Al-Qalees Church in its worst ever condition

Fire and the sage crying bitterly over its remains each Sunday night no longer appear. Yet, sounds still are heard from the church. Strange voices may be souls of saints or maybe the roar of gold lions inside.

By: Fouad Al-Rabadi

In the eastern part of Old Sana'a lies this church. Legend has it that Jesus Christ passed the spot where he prayed and ordered a church built there, saying he would return to pray in it. Locals circulate this legend, which also claims that Christ wanted it to be like Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

The church was named "Al-Qalees" and its structure rose five meters high. It is reported to have been an excellent model of Aksum architecture, a style adopted in constructing ancient Abyssinian (ancient Ethiopian) church-

es.

History books say that Abrahah bin Al-Sabbah directed it built in 537 A.D., some 12 years after the start of the Abyssinian invasion of Yemen. Justin I, ruler of Constantinople, urged Al-Sabbah to build it quickly, supporting him with an assemblage of Greek builders and architects, as well as exquisite materials such as marble and mosaics.

Al-Qalees Church or Ghuraqat Al-Qalees, as it is called today, has not attracted the attention of Arab poets, writers and intellectuals as the majority of Islamic landmarks did. Certainly, this can be attributed to their feeling that it symbolizes the intrusion of Abyssinian cultural, religious and military existence.

This is supported by historical narration that Al-Sabbah built the church to take revenge on Jews, bring Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula under Christianity and denigrate the Kaaba.

Contrary to the negative stance of Arabs and Yemenis, Abyssinian, Byzantine and European historians wrote elaborately about it but could not prevent its destruction or damage it sustained.

Undoubtedly, the church now experiences its worst condition in history. It has been turned from a magnificent church with mosaic-covered walls to a waste dump



The remains of the church from outside: a walled pit in an Old Sana'a neighborhood.

infested with vermin and reptiles.

The fire that used to blaze every Sunday night with an old man next to it crying bitterly over its remains has stopped appearing. Instead, children set fire to car tires inside it and throw garbage into it.

The old man used to invoke God's wrath on whoever pillaged any part of the church.

It remained protected by virtue of that old man's curse until the time of Al-Abbas Al-Saffah, an Abbasid ruler who sent his maternal uncle Al-Rabi' bin Ziad Al-Harithi to Yemen on a mission to destroy the church. The squad came and did the task, bringing back loads of riches to the Abbasid caliph.

The legendary old man has stopped appearing, but strange sounds still can be heard from the vault at the bottom of the eastern side of the wall. These sounds may be the sounds of saints' souls or lions' roars.

It is said that the church's altar was set on four lions made of gilded ivory. The doors were gilded too, set with precious stones, and in the center of each painting was a gold cross with different colored flowers around them. It evoked a sense of majesty and awe at the time.

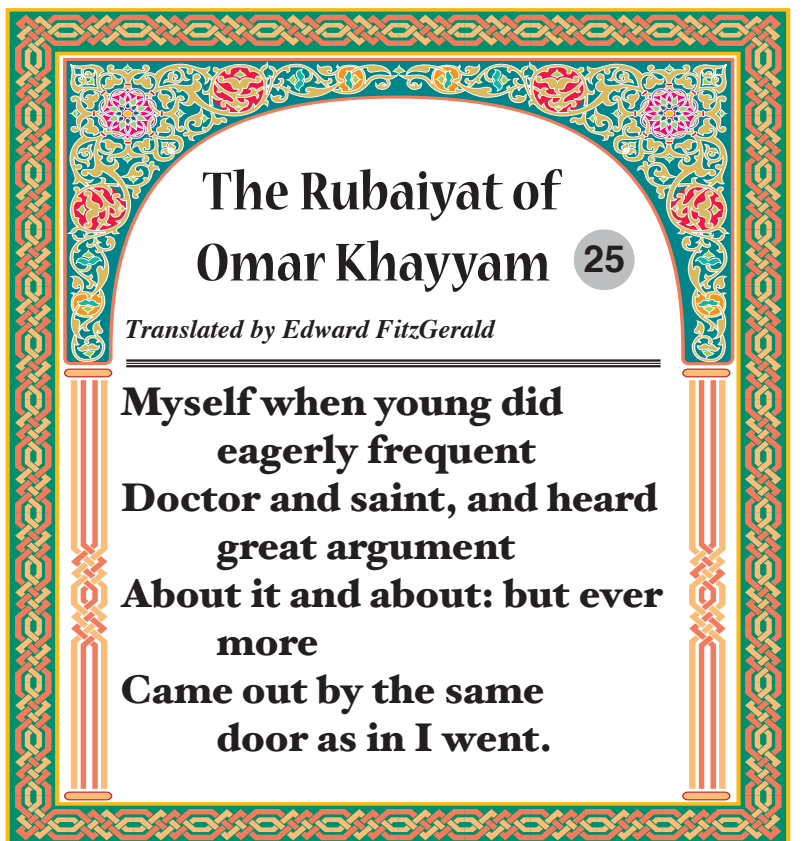
Today, the church's condition is diametrically opposed. Mere entry seems

Highlights

- Entry is difficult – just an iron plate set up by children to slide into the church.
- Although it represents a unique historical and tourist landmark, many regard it as a reminder of Abyssinian military and religious existence in Yemen.



The church from inside: Shrubs have grown at the drain-wet bottom and the iron plate used by children to slip into the pit can be seen



The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 25

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

Myself when young did eagerly frequent
Doctor and saint, and heard
great argument
About it and about: but ever
more
Came out by the same
door as in I went.

Joglaresa conjures up Andalusian songs

By: Yemen Times Staff

One might imagine being at the court of one of the prosperous Muslim states in Andalusia, which was an outstanding melting pot of cultures. It was amazing to listen to a host of songs from those bygone ages and more amazingly, to hear them sung by a British band lisping luscious Arabic words.

Also featuring old English, French, Spanish and Italian songs, the concert took place at the Sana'a-based Cultural Center Tuesday, April 11 in collaboration with the British Council. A previous concert by the band Joglaresa took place in Aden city April 8, 2005. Both functions were attended by large audiences.

They sang such famous muwashahah as those written by Ibn Al-Khatib, who was born in Loja in 1313. A famous line reads: "May abundant rain pour over you, O time of loving union in Al-Andalus."

As Europe struggled to emerge from its Dark Ages, the Arabian Empire was enjoying a golden age. Its westernmost territory, Al-Andalus (now Spain) was in a state of affluence. There was great flourishing of philosophy, mathematics, science, architecture, decoration,

craftsmanship, the arts, fashion, attention to diet and hygiene, etiquette, diplomacy, international communications and free trade.

Poetry and music also experienced development and experimentation. Muwashahah and zajal (a strophic verse-form song with refrain) were a crucial innovation of that time, written in classical Arabic and in an Andalusian dialect of Arabic. European writers from Spain, France and Italy adopted these poetic idioms. The zajal, in particular, shares many aspects of musical structures with songs like the Spanish cantiga.

In performing these songs, Joglaresa depended on writings of the time to identify the instruments that were in use. They resorted to writings of Arab scholars like Tunisia's Al-Tifashi.

The band consists of five members: Jennie Cassidy, Hugh Webb, Stuart Hall, Paul Clarvis and Belinda Sykes. They play traditional string and percussion instruments such as the lute (oud), vielle, violin, guitar, harp and frame-drum.

Joglaresa are leaders in their repertoire's improvisational and cross-cultural fields. They are critically acclaimed in the UK for their infectious enthusiasm, expression and passion, combined with peerless skill, musicianship and scholarly research.

One prize only

2005 Al-Saeed Foundation Prize announced

By: Yemen Times Staff

Many pundits believe this year's Al-Saeed Foundation prize awarding revealed a gloomy picture of the reality of Yemen's scientific and scholastic research, as well as literary creativity, as only one of six prizes was awarded and this one was in a non-scientific field.

Al-Saeed Foundation prizes for 2005 were announced at a press conference Thursday, April 13. Prizes were intended in six fields: economic science, human and social sciences, Islamic science, environmental and agricultural sciences, medical science and literary creation.

At the beginning of the conference, board of trustees member Dr. Yousef Abdullah said the foundation is trying to boost science interest and shed light on researchers' achievements. Its objective is to propel society forward to reach a satisfactory scientific level through competition, he added.

For his part, Faisal Saeed Fare', secretary-general of the prize, stated that the prize aims to lead cultural activities into an atmosphere not, as it stands now, marked by spontaneity and randomness. He stressed that the "act of knowing is an investment in the future and must be among national priorities." Since launching nine years ago, the prize has aimed to stabilize the idea of



The panel of the conference: (left to right) Faisal Fare', Mohamed Motahar, Yusuf Abdullah, Tariq Sinan and Mohammed Al-Qadasi.

innovative competition in creative scientific and literary processes by morally and financially rewarding quality research.

The prize has witnessed continual improvements. Beginning this year, each prize has been set at YR 1.5 million instead of YR 1 million. Next year's round will cover eight fields instead of six, adding two new fields: engineering and technology, and archeology and architecture. Moreover, the human and social sciences prize will accommodate education science.

This year's prize candidates involved 22 researchers: 32 percent applied in economic science, 27 percent in human and social sciences, 18 percent in Islamic science, nine percent in environmental and agricultural sciences, nine percent in literary creation and five percent in medical science. Forty-one percent were Ph.D. holders, 27 percent held a bachelor's and 18 percent a master's. The rest fell into the category of other.

Fare' also mentioned that last week, visitors to Al-Saeed Library in Taiz city,

260 km. south of Sana'a, hit the quarter of a million mark over five years. Also, subscribers to the foundation's web site reached 100,000, averaging 1,000 daily.

This year, a number of public personalities contributing to Yemen's literary and scientific process will be recognized with honorary plaques based on largely objective criteria.

Fare' pointed out that a "primary problem" facing local researchers is inadequate research resources, which leads to feeble participation in research activities. He said that libraries found in Yemeni universities are not enough and called for establishing a modern national library to revitalize research activity.

The 2005 prize covered six fields but was withheld in five because all or part of the stipulated criteria were "unsatisfied." The sole 2005 winner was Ali Mohammed Al-Faran who submitted research entitled, "Impact of Endowments and Charities on Social Solidarity."

Among the attendees were Deputy Minister of Higher Education Dr. Mohamed Motahar, University of Science and Technology Rector Dr. Tariq Sinan and

Mohammed Abdul-Bari Al-Qadasi, secretary-general of the National UNESCO Committee.

The prize is named after the late charitable businessman Hayel Saeed An'am. Ali Ahmed Saeed is board of trustees chairman, while his deputy is Ahmed Hayel Saeed.

Dominique Borts of Mosaica: Yemen is fragrant with history

By: Yemen Times Staff

On its debut visit to Yemen, French band Mosaica performed at the Henri de Monfried Center Wednesday evening, April 12. The band consists of six musicians playing different types of music from South France, Andalusia, Morocco, Albania, etc.

As its name suggests, the band presents diverse music from different parts of the world. "We have made a cocktail of these types of music and created a new mode," a Moroccan band member said.

The band makes use of different musical instruments such as violin, darbooka, qannun, bendir, dof, oud, tar, flute and vielda played by Bouchoib Ezzerki, Dominique Borts, Bona Akoto, Hammouch Samir, Rovsset Florent and Glacet Bastien. Borts established Mosaica in 2001.

He expressed extreme happiness to be in Yemen. "The concert organizer in France told us there would be a concert in Yemen two months later. Since then, we have been dreaming about Yemen,"

he said.

He added that the band's music calls for communication between civilizations and bringing the world's different cultures closer. "We introduce our music to many people and try to explore and cull from their indigenous music."

Borts said Mosaica will take some Yemeni music and incorporate it into its collection. Some will be added as pure music and others with sung lyrics. For this purpose, the band is coordinating with Yemeni singers Abdul-Latif and Sharaf Al-Qaidi.

Borts and the band have been listening to melodious Yemeni music. On their flight from Paris to Sana'a, they listened to various Yemeni songs. "They all like it. It's close to Moroccan music and south Spain," said Borts, who "got contained in it."

He advises Yemeni officials to take care of Yemeni heritage including music, architecture and culture. "Yemen gives off the aroma of history. Such a priceless heritage is the property of humanity as a whole. It is the accumulation of centuries," he concluded.

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ترطيب طوال اليوم

كريم البشرة المغذي من هيمالايا هيربال

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

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إعتذار

بناء على حكم محكمة نيابة إستئناف شمال الأمانة، يتقدم الأخ/ عمران محمد شريف والأخ/ عبده مقبل صبري بالإعتذار للمحكوم له محمد علي الأشطل عما نشره في صحيفة اليمن تايمز من مقال تضمن سباً وإهانة للمذكور. وهذا إعتذار للمذكور تنفيذاً لحكم محكمة جنوب غرب الأمانة الصادر بتاريخ ٢٠٠٦/٢/١٤م في القضية رقم ٢٠٠٣/٥٠م غ. ج - نيابة الصحافة والمطبوعات.

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره
نتقدم بخالص التعازي والمواساة
للأخ/ **مختار علي سعيد الفقيه**
بوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى والده
علي سعيد الفقيه
سائلين المولى القدير أن يتغمده بواسع الرحمة والغفران، ويسكنه فسيح جناته ويلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان... إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون
المعزون:
عماد السقاف - ياسر الجراي - عبد القادر الشرعي
وكافة موظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز ومجلة الأسرة والتنمية
وشركة ماس للإنتاج الفني والإعلاني.

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره
نتقدم بأحر التعازي وأصدق المواساة
للوالد الشيخ/ **أحمد حمود مانع دماج**
ولللأخوة/ **محمد علي حمود مانع دماج**
عادل علي حمود مانع دماج
لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى
الحاج/ علي حمود مانع دماج
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وعظيم غفرانه وأن يلهم أهلها وذويه الصبر والسلوان
(إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون))
الأسيفون:
د/همدان زيد مطيع دماج
مطيع زيد مطيع دماج
نشوان محسن علي دماج

Words of Wisdom



The Republic of Yemen cannot afford to develop on the basis of the traditional snail-pace growth rate. We need a strong force and zeal to address such grave issues as excessively high population growth rates, rapid depletion of water resources, corruption and mismanagement, etc.

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



OUR OPINION

English: a language facing technological challenge

Me speak English, you no English?

"v r going 2 da movies. r u in? bring ur gr8 camera."

With the advancement of communication technology, people invent new methods for communication every day. For example, SMS has become a favorite medium for exchanging short messages, often in newly invented English like the message above.

A British Council report last year revealed that non-native English speakers now outnumber native speakers 3 to 1. Not only does that make English the most global language, it also gives wide space for inventing new variances in the language. A few years ago, the question was whether to use American English or British English in education or formal communication. Today, there is African English, Arabic English, Indian English, Spanish English, etc. The original language has merged with the identity of the people thereby giving birth to distorted forms of the Queen's English, so to speak.

One can debate at length whether this is a good or a bad development. I remember a joke about the difference between British and American English. A British man and an American were waiting for the lift/elevator to arrive. The American asked if the elevator was working and the British man replied:

- "You mean the lift."
- "No, I mean the elevator."
- "You mean the lift."
- "We invented the machine, man."
- "Yes, but we invented the language!"

I presume our British man would have a greater problem to deal with now. Can the language withhold its original script against the tide of millions of non-native speakers?

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief

What about the Palestinian tragedy in Iraq?

Since the first days of Iraq's occupation, Palestinian brothers in Baghdad have suffered. They are subjected to different types of pressure, which recently reached its climax. They became targeted for murder, after being evacuated from houses they lived in for a long time. News agencies began reporting accounts of 'journeys to the unknown' about their fleeing caravans.

On this occasion, I remember a conversation with a Palestinian intellectual who visited Sana'a shortly after Iraq's occupation. In a qat session with some intellectuals, poets and university professors, including Iraqi and other Arab lecturers in Yemeni universities, I asked him about his expectations for the Iraqi situation. My inquiry was about what will become of the country, what direction it will go in and what will be left of it for the Arabs.

I was surprised at his prompt answer that the attitude toward Palestinians will be the yardstick that will reveal the new Iraq's destination, as it will disclose a positive or negative Iraqi attitude about national issues. If the new situation treat-

ed Palestinians in a nice manner, the occupation and its associates could not deviate Iraq from the national and Islamic course and it would remain part of their nation. However, if the opposite happened, then it would be an expression of the worst situation in the history of a great country.

There were many contributions on the issue, with one participant mentioning news infiltrated by news agencies and those coming from Iraq. It spoke of Mossad agents within U.S. and British armies, saying they are playing the part of intelligence. They wondered what direct or indirect harm would befall Palestinians in Iraq at these hands. Our intellectual friend answered that Mossad agents are a reality in Iraq, yet they can do nothing to Palestinians if their Iraqi brothers stand by their side and defend them. However, it will be a disaster if Iraqis change their attitude.

Three years after the conversation with this Palestinian friend, consecutive



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

events have revealed the worst. Sky news agencies' reports began speaking of the tragic suffering of Palestinians. Some began fleeing across borders because of relatives' oppression, their crossing caravans containing the elderly, women and children. They remain in the desert wilderness because unoccupied brotherly countries neighboring Iraq so far are denying them access. It is as if their temporary hosting will straiten the land; however, it will only give them time to find a way out of their plight. Some may say that Iraqis themselves, in their ethnic and national constituents, are suffering the occupation's aftermath. This is true, but at least they are living among their clans and relatives, whereas Palestinians' special case makes their situation exceptional.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies.

Is the masses age back?

Arab commentators have described the overwhelming uprising that lately took to the streets in protest to the caricatures offending the Prophet Mohammed in Danish newspapers, and their re-publication in European press as return of the public's holding of the reins of their affairs. It means that the public has decided not to wait for the rulers' action in defense of peoples' dignity. This impression expressed by the commentators was enhanced by organization of campaigns for boycotting Danish products and very quickly scored great success.

As a matter of fact those results are not bad in themselves. Resorting to demonstration characterizes the democratic mechanism in demanding, and political struggle and boycotting as a weapon, is used by the United States of America against states that it considers as its adversaries. Boycotting is sometimes implemented for simpler reasons and slogans such as protection of the consumer against price rise or protection of domestic products against foreign competition. However, to try in such a speed to describe what has happened as a return to the age of the masses, has a considerable amount of exaggeration. The rising that swept Islamic countries and the street and even some non-Islamic cities, has in reality a specified goal, expressing the noble anger against intentional impingement on ideologies and sanctities, demanding the offender for offering apology. It is difficult to deem that rising, in this regard, as return of the masses of the people to the status of determining their destiny, and the destiny

of their homelands. The immediateness of the action and the objective that characterized that rise, despite of attempts for investment it politically, it revealed that the matter is related to sweeping and legitimate wrath and an expression of a painful wound needs to heal by the removal of its causes. The anger under the burden of the wound is the factor that united demonstrators and religious preachers from Cairo to Sana'a, to Amman and Gaza, to Istanbul, Jakarta and Islamabad. It was observed that in many cases there were religious and social organizations, rather than political or unionist or parliamentary, that called for those demonstrations and that gave them a religious characteristic, unifying demonstrators. The demonstrators have not gathered behind other interests in remote countries having different political and social priorities. To give them political dimensions and messages, seems to be either fabricated and beyond the natural context of the situation or just immediate opinions.

It is too early to say that the age of masses is back. However, it must be pointed out that it is necessary for the Arab governments and parliaments to give attention to issues of the nation and find practical solutions for them away from adversaries and friends, and the imperative distinguishing concerning the situations the societies are experiencing. These situations are embodied by deteriorated security situations, increase of unemployment and search for suitable jobs for university and institutes gradu-

ates, manipulation of prices, disappearance and smuggling of medicines as well as doctoring elections or in good preparation for them. The governments have to continuously observe the public needs and issues. Fifty years before during the first masses risings, there was not a culture interested in what was going on in the colonized countries despite that the general educational and cultural level was not as it is nowadays, and there were no media and communication

instruments worth to mention. Also, there were no popular parties and forums agitating instincts and expanding, as much as they could, the circle of adversaries and enmity, as is the case of today. The masses were acting and moving without the help of satellite channels, and they were dreaming of a better future. Now they have lost both and therefore they may think of going back to demanding for their rights, even if moved through organizing the public within correct frames, for defending legitimate goals by peaceful means and realization identical to the aims of comprehensive construction by respect of human rights and peaceful transfer of power.

Shall we seriously read what is happening, or do we want chaos?

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



By: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Tarb

Letter to the Editor

Nuclear Iran
Are you happy at Iran's nuclear processing intention? Will you consider it safe with a ranting lunatic in the region? What if those weapons fall in the hands of terrorist and they blackmail the government of the region? I believe you have buried your head in the sand for not seeing the potential dangers ahead. In your region you have too many deranged lunatics willing to disrupt world peace. I trust the Middle East will take their blinkers off and see the dangers ahead. You will ONLY have one chance.
serinoj@ukonline.co.uk

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict
Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi's essay on the West and its share of responsibility for the current dilemma in Western and Islamic relations is both clear and thoughtful. He is quite right that the key, at least for a beginning in a positive new chapter of Islamic world relationships with other non-Islamic nations, lies in the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. However, no resolution is possible unless Palestinians agree to stop killing Israelis. Most of the hardships Palestinians endure are a result of Israel's attempts to defend itself against murder and assassi-

nation. All governments are bound to protect their people, or they serve no useful purpose. The constant demonizing of Jews by Muslims is met with the demonizing of Islam, and not merely by Jews. The cartoons published originally in Denmark were a needless provocation, but once published, religious leaders fanned the flames of hatred with false embellishments to the controversy. If Islam were serious about getting along with the West and about profiting from the good in the West, then it must censure people who distort Islam for their own political ends. Such people include Osama bin Laden who is very careful not to

send his sons out to die for "the cause." And it should be noted that there is nothing the West can do to placate al Qaeda. What Osama bin Laden wants is control of the Saudi Arabian peninsula. The West cannot give that to anyone. All the rest of al Qaeda's creed is simply camouflage for its true intent, which is to supplant tyranny with its own brand of tyranny. The biggest thing the Islamic world can learn from the West is that freeing the human spirit can reap great leaps forward in people's lives. The golden age of Islam was probably the highest in civilization humanity has achieved, and it was a civilization which encouraged

borrowing from other cultures through individual thought and study, which built on those borrowings. The Golden Age produced startling discoveries in all fields, and it took the West centuries to catch up with the Arab world of 1,000 years ago. While the Arab world is fuming at the West and repressing its own people's intellects and aspirations, the West is trying to free itself from its dependence on Middle Eastern oil. If it succeeds, the Arab world will again become an arid and increasingly trivial backwater. Wake up.
Matthew Sailhardy
sailhardy@yahoo.com



COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The US Israel and AIPAC Axis of Evil

How much evil has come out of this ugly axis that has taken over the global scene and how much blood has been shed as a direct cause or indirect consequence of its evil intents and actions? It is really time to call a spade a spade and what we are seeing daily on the television screen speaks louder than a thousand words. The fact is that thanks to the prodding of the international Zionist establishment, the United States has turned into the champion of evil deeds. Look at Iraq. Everyday scores of bodies are laid to rest, most of them the bodies of innocent ordinary men, women and children who have been denied the right to live in peace and to enjoy stability because America's vision of the world have been fogged to blindness by a Zionist menace that has been bringing havoc to this region for over sixty years. To many people this situation is really unforgivable and unbearable. Even the most noteworthy of experts on the political and social spheres have attested to the fact that America is really veering off course, when it succumbs to the dictates of the demonic Zionist lobby that controls every opinion outlet in the United States and all the key positions that engineer policy and map out strategies. As for the "thousands of tactical errors" that Dr. Condoleezza Rice, US Secretary of State, finally comes to admit have been their only "faults" so far, these are clearly the workings of a devious notion that "power and strength make right in this world", which is an inherent fundamental principle of Zionist doctrine.

Last week the United States again shows its unbreakable loyalty to its Zionist mentors at AIPAC (the American Israel Public Affairs Committee) by insisting that it will veto any United Nations Resolution that dares to even hint that Israel is overtly aggressive in dealing with the Palestinians. Here we are seeing Israel literally strangling the Palestinians, preventing their badly needed provisions and supplies from entering the Palestinian domains, withholding their badly needed money and daily killing and wounding tens of Palestinians, mostly innocent, men women and children without cause or justification and Uncle Bolton refuses to be "biased" and vote for a decision that calls for an end to this horrific injustice that is unleashed against the Palestinians. Yes, Israel is intending to clean out the rest of what remains of Palestine to make sure that it has full domination of the whole Holy Land and by slowly humiliating and destroying any semblance of decent life the Palestinians could ever hope for in their own turf, yet Uncle Bolton wishes to make the world understand that Uncle Sam has no qualms about the death of scores of people in a day, because it is doing the same unabashedly in Iraq. Thus the use of the veto power Washington has continues to serve the evil Zionist cause without hesitation by the Bush Administration and all that the Meashiemer-Walt study says about the Israeli Lobby is thrown out the window. We really have a big problem to contend with in our minds when we see the Walrus face of Bolton blurring out his uncompromising loyalty to the Zionist lobby, to which he has proven faithfulness and submission ever since he walked into the corridors of the United Nations. Nothing else should be expected from one of the engineers of the American demise that Iraq has come to be, especially as this demise was well planned for in Israel before it was entered into the computer games of Washington power enthusiasts, who believe that evil justified by power is acceptable. Yes, John Bolton should not be expected to hide his Zionist leanings and has come to allow himself the privilege of declaring his intentions before even having discussed them with Dr. Rice. After all he has cleared these intentions with AIPAC and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith. After having read the M-W study, one cannot help but see the Bush Administration make the facts on the ground so compatible with the report's findings and that anyone who has the least doubts on the findings of the report will find little difficulty in concluding that Mearsheimer and Walt were absolutely right: the American Israel Lobby is in fact the real source of all US foreign policy, especially when it comes to the Middle East. As such, it is not surprising to see that US foreign policy is leading the world into a dark and dismal future as Israeli chauvinistic policy has led this region into a dark and dismal present and an even more dangerously unpredictable future.

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.

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Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr

Al-Mithaq weekly, organ of General People's Conference (GPC), 10 Apr 2006.

Main headlines

- The GPC has not closed its doors to dialogue, JMP parties insist on aborting it
- Yemeni-Saudi coordination council to be held in Hudeidah 22 May
- Al-Awadhi: The JMP wants a dialogue inside closed-door rooms
- Committee on enhancement of decentralization approves a plan for running and operation of authority institutions

Dr Mohammed Al-Nahari queries in an article if the massacres against the Iraqis every day are going to have a stance towards them! The Arab League was supposed to discuss this subject in the summit in Khartoum, but the statement regarding it was disappointing. Moreover, the question is not just an Iraqi one as it looks. The occupation is no doubt has a role in it. May times we have said that foreign soldiers disguise in Arabian clothes had been discovered more than once having with them in their cars explosives to plant them in places inflaming seditions such as mosques of the Shites and the Sunnis. There tens of Iraqis killed everyday and what is not broadcast by the media could be worse. Is there a premeditated intention to uproot this people who are the leaders of the flourishing civilization throughout ages?

The Iraqis are more capable than others of understanding the conspiracy and accordingly, by adoption of sectarianism and racism to be reference at the present time, they would help destroy their country.

The occupation did not succeed in its lies. It has promised the people of Iraq with expectations reaching romanticism, such as a democracy for which they would be envied by all countries of the region. The occupation may be planning to leave the Iraqis fight each other in this horrible way. Throughout history, occupation has not brought good to people and only catastrophes result from it.

The brethren's help is now more urgent than any time before and those brethren have to know that the people of Iraq, if left to be destroyed in this manner.

Ass-Sahwa weekly, 13 Apr 2006.

Main headlines

- JMP denounces threats against Dr Yassin
- Parliament Speaker Sheikh al-

- Alahmar back home in a few days
- Deputy Chairman of elections supreme commission al-Akwaa: Formation of electoral committee was not done in a legal form
- New corruption scandal, The government hires electric power station with more than its price
- In protest against the new rules, Sana'a University students hang on red badges
- Parliament approves allowing motorcycles used inside the capital
- Lawyer Allaw: Constitutional amendments aimed at inactivating the parliament, democracy scene miserable
- vengeance acts, clashes and different incidents claim lives of more than 25 Yemeni citizens

Columnist Zaid al-Shami says in an article our nation had squandered potentials and energies in disputes and that had led to weaken its and therefore it has become imperative for its leaders to bridge gaps and solve the problems. That would enable facing challenges with the spirit and efforts of one team. That does not deny the multi opinions and ideas.

Yemen experiment of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) in Yemen has received admiration from many from inside and outside. However the idea is still difficult to be comprehended by some observers who see partnership and coordination among trends that seemed until recent past very difficult to meet because those trends had engaged in conflicts that left deep scars in their relations.

We find those observers arouse many queries about such partnership and feel unhappy about any meeting grouping energies and uniting efforts, as if dissonance is the rule and not the meeting. Many times we may read articles in some newspapers expressing astonishment about meeting of the YSP with the Islah, the Nasserite and the Baath parties with Al-Haq party and Union of the People's Forces. They consider that as disharmony. Nevertheless the experiment of the JMP has passed through a period of time that surmounted difficulties and challenges. We cannot deny that the past remained for sometime influencing the present but the trust got consolidated day by day putting in mind the interest of the people in general and that would help encircling corruption and injustice and more than that its does good for the ruling party.

Attariq weekly, 11 Apr 2006.

Main headlines

- A school headmaster in Hudeida forges Saudi identity cards
- Drugs smuggler killed in Mahra

- Interpol pursues an Indian citizen bearing Yemeni passport
- Dr Hamza demands carrying out the president's order for paying his dues

Writer Nadira Abdulquodous says she was shocked while listening to a girl child appealing for providing job opportunities for children who are under the legal age. The writer was attending a celebration on the Arab orphan day and protection of child rights held in Aden on April 8. The occasion was attended by the governor, senior officials from the ministry of social affairs and labor and some civil society organizations.

She says at the time the state and its three powers realize there are international laws that prohibited child labor and issued international agreements and conventions on child rights, calling for providing education opportunities, medication, means of entertainment, security and dignified living for children and preventing child labor, we find a clear contradiction of all that.

How could it be acceptable to establish a society meant for caring and protecting rights of working children? Some would say we have thousands of working children. This is a bitter truth bit does that mean we have to surrender to the situation? It is permissible to deepen this wound by trampling on the children innocence? The strange thing is that all have responded to the child's call with applause, even representatives of the society for fighting child labor.

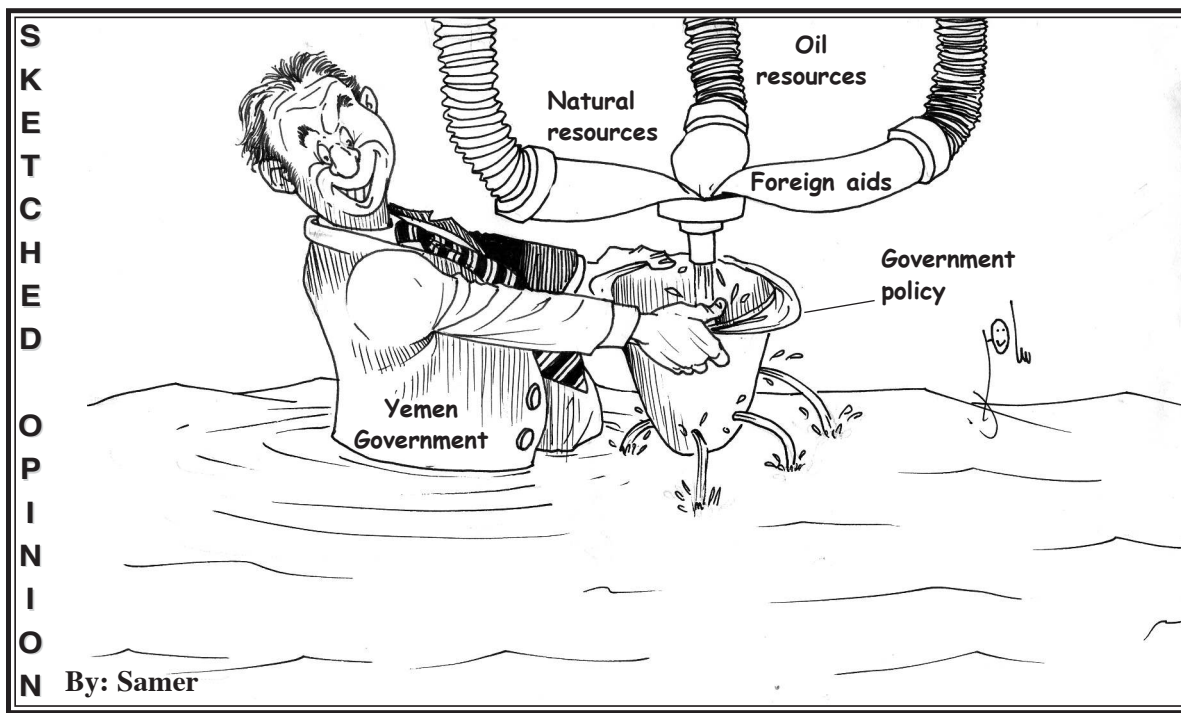
Al-Wahdawi weekly. Organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization, 11 Apr 2006.

Main headlines

- Assistant Secretary-General of the Nasserite: The new constitutional amendments target what remains of the democratic margin
- The Nasserite condemns threatening the life of the YSP secretary-general
- Six persons died in a big fire in the capital
- Al-Jahashin sheikh arrests a political security officer, locks him in his private prison
- Sana'a university students put on the red badge in protest to police measures

Writer Ahmed Saeed says in an article that the dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition reaching a deadlock is surely a matter having its impact on the upcoming political stage.

It is not important who has withdrawn from the negotiating table. The important thing is there must not be abolishment of the language of understanding among the partners of the political action and a locking of a passage we have all to cross towards or national issues. The circumstances we are experiencing dictate on all to wait



for solutions from the reasonable persons, accord from experiment and initiative from responsibility and recognition from the credibility.

The political system in the country is going through a losing battle between the side that offers the initiative and the one that refuses without alternatives leading to just solutions appreciated by all and agreed by all and thus keeps the country away from any crises. The dialogue is the only way for settling the problems and removing the blocks that impede all from reaching the upcoming presidential and local elections. It is not reasonable that the ruling party enters the elections in isolation of the opposition especially that would entails legitimacy of the coming head of the state. In such a case the coming regime will be short of legitimacy and there would consequently be an estrangement with the democratic equation: authority and opposition.

army to rank as the second in the world. Iran's declaration of joining the nuclear club also came after conclusion of a non-aggression agreement with the neighboring countries and a day before arrival in Tehran of the director of the IAEA Mohammed al-Baradie. Beside all that the Iranian announcement came amidst conflicting international stand regarding its nuclear file.

By this announcement Iran has closed all possibilities of military targeting and extended with Washington bridges of communication based on two pillars: Iraq and its crises and Iran's expected role in negotiations with

Washington in future of Iraq and the form of its map and its government. These dramatic developments would make Iran closer to Washington, not the opposite. The question is panicking for the Arabs who find themselves between the Iranian hammer and the American anvil and the Zionist spear. The fact is that the Arabs will not be able to stand up after the Iranian announcement that will be followed by American understanding. The nuclear balance between Iran and Israel does not serve the Arabs who will find themselves between the Persian chauvinism and the Zionists racism.

SILVER LINING

By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi
mhalqadhi@hotmail.com

Why the West "conditional" support?!

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has been very critical to what he has called "conditional" support of the Western countries. During his last visit to China, the man praised the Chinese who give support without exercising any sort of pressure or setting out conditions. He also said the Chinese did not like to interfere into the internal affairs of countries. When he arrived in Pakistan, he repeated the same complaint. Upon arrival to Sana'a airport and in his talk to the media, Saleh said that he would not accept "dictations and conditional support". Previously, he told the Youth Conference that if Yemen had been a rich oil country, the international community would keep a closed eye to human rights and reform questions.

The man is really angry and furious. This is why he has been criticizing the so-called "conditional support and dictations" of the West. However, the president has not told us about the nature of the pressure his regime has been receiving from the West donor community. Is this pressure related to the attempts of these countries to break Yemen's sovereignty and interfere in internal affairs? Or does it have to do with the reform package program and the failure of the regime to achieve a visible progress? As Yemeni citizens, we have the right to know why the West is setting conditions for its support to us. If the donors are just blackmailing the regime, we need to know why and how. But if the donors are pressurizing the regime to speed up reform, this is not "dictation" but concerns over the future of the country.

I know the Eastern countries might not mind about democracy and human rights issues as this is not part of their heritage or agenda and some of them are not democratic at all. Therefore, such countries can never set conditions on Yemen to democratize in order to get its support or are curious to know where their support goes.

The Western democratic countries should not just pour their money to regimes that do not respect human rights and go. They should be careful that their money, which is coming from the tax payers, does not go to repressive governments that use such support for self enrichment or abuse human rights and freedoms. The donors do not support regimes but people and therefore, they should put conditions for how it is channeled and well-used.

The improvement of human rights, press freedom and democracy record

and the ability of our regimes to hold on to it, will, certainly, attract more respect and support from the international community to us.

The World Bank cut its support to Yemen by 34% last year because of lack of transparency and failure to meet minimum standards of fiscal transparency and efficiency and a lack of improvement to the national investment environment. Again, the US decided to exclude Yemen from the Millennium Challenges Fund support due to the inability to meet the standards set for that.

It is, therefore, the backsliding drive of reform, the increasing momentum of corruption and lack of transparency that is our major headache, pushing the donors to set conditions for their support.

When the president was in Hong Kong last week, he said, while looking at very beautiful scenery of the city, that it reminded him of Mualla in Aden. He stressed Aden has the potential of becoming another Hong Kong after some years but without figuring out how. Everybody acknowledges the strategic position of Aden and the potential of its port. Aden Free Zone came to being some years ago. But, the most important question we have to ask is: what has been done since then to make Aden attract foreign investments? It is corruption that has shattered the dreams of having the Aden port restore its important role it played during the British colonization. The city was left for every Tom, Dick and Harry to plunder for important sites have been taken over by big influential guys.

I know Aden port is our future and can be Yemen's main source of income if the regime is serious enough and works to create a secure environment for both local and international investors. Unless the regime is able to attract more foreign investments in to the country, mainly to Aden, our future is at stake, considering the run out of oil. That is, it is significant investments that will make us in no need to the West "conditional" donation, as the regime alleges.

Al-Asalai : Keep it up

We have started to hear good news about the stiff measures taken by the minister of finance Saif al-Asalai against the corrupt crooks in his ministry. The man so far deserves our support and we hope he will keep the momentum and that the big crooks at the power center do not frustrate the man.

The Danish cartoons: no double standards

In this reaction to Imran Khan's article, "Europe's Double Standards," in which he comes to his conclusion about double standards based on several wrong assumptions, I will point out the wrong assumptions about Holocaust denial. Then I will point out that Muslims failed to clarify what was the problem with the Prophet Mohammed cartoons, which ended up being an attack on European beliefs.

First, I will clear up something about the Holocaust. In some European countries, denying the Holocaust is a crime, while in others it is not. In most countries, it is not forbidden and Denmark is one of them. Accusing the Danes of double standards makes no sense in this regard.

This does not mean that you can freely say that there was no Holocaust. In most all European countries, you would break anti-discrimination laws because such laws also forbid making false accusations about ethnic or religious groups.

Holocaust denial usually includes false accusations against Jews, like claiming they made up the story. False accusations are even worse in this case because such accusations were the reason to begin systematic

extermination of the Jews. These same laws also forbid saying things like, "All Muslims are rapists," or "All Muslims should be expelled from Europe." Holocaust denial is about lies, racism and calling for hatred.

The other issue is on what grounds the 12 cartoons should be banned. Muslims say it was an insult to their religion, but more to the point, they have different reasons:

1. *In Islam, it is forbidden to depict human beings in general, but especially the Prophet Mohammed.* This is not forbidden in Europe. To a lot of Europeans, the cartoon debate with its threats feels like an attempt to force Muslim rules upon Europe.

2. *The cartoons are blasphemous.* I have seen the cartoons. I and many Europeans do not see anything blasphemous about them. In some of them, it is completely impossible to see anything blasphemous about them because they do not show the prophet at all. I never have encountered an explanation as to why the cartoons are blasphemous. In most European countries, you must give an argument



By: Jan van Prooijen

in a trial because shouting "Blasphemy!" is not enough to convict somebody.

3. *The cartoons are an insult to Muslims.* Are they? Some of them attack terrorism. Is an insult to terrorists an insult to Muslims? This argument itself seems an insult to Muslims and is made by Muslims.

These cartoons were published much earlier and printed in Egypt's Al-Farq newspaper. At that time, no Muslim made a fuss about them. However, months later, some political leaders called for revenge. Even stranger is the fact that some extra cartoons were added to them, but those cartoons need no explanation about their insulting character. Not one Muslim bothered about them or their creators. They were traced back to a group of Danish Muslims who went to the Middle East to ask for the cartoon protests. Not one fellow Muslim requested an apology for their publication, which weakens the argument against the cartoons much further. The worst cartoon was published by a Muslim and that was all

right! For me, that is outright unbelievable.

There are some free speech restrictions in Europe, the most important of which are about racist and discriminating lies and false accusations, while others concern blasphemy. If you want to convict someone, you go to court. But Muslim leaders wanted something else - no court, no argument - just conviction. Europe just had to believe the complaining Muslims that the cartoons were wrong. Some Muslims were very quick to connect the case with the known false accusation of the Holocaust lie. They did not care that much about the prophet - they rose up for the right to be a racist liar.

Muslims asked for a conviction, but they forgot to give the argument and they linked the case to older false accusations and threats to kill. What judge would convict on those grounds?

There has been a public debate in Europe about whether it was decent to publish the cartoons and if they are blasphemous or not. But Muslim rage did not allow much discussion.

Jan van Prooijen is a writer from the Netherlands working in the field of Information and computer security.

Advertisement

Preparing to issue Tourist Transportation Permissions

The Ministry of Tourism announce that it is necessary for cars owner working in tourists transportation in the Republic of Yemen to prepare complementary insurance for their cars at accredited insurance company in the Republic as soon as possible. The deadline is April 30,2006.

In this respect, it is not allowed for any car working after the deadline period to work without complementary insurance as cars maintenance centers recognized by the Ministry.

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**Request For Expression Of Interest For Consulting Services
For Upgrading the Road Management System of The Road Maintenance
Fund of Yemen**

Republic of Yemen
Second Rural Access Project
CONSULTING SERVICES
Credit No 4121-YEM.
Project ID NO. P08531

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has received a credit (No 4121-YEM) from the International Development Association (IDA) for the upgrading of rural roads, the provision of technical assistance, training, and studies, and the carrying out of road maintenance under performance-based contracts under the Second Rural Access Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the Credit to the consulting services for the **Upgrading of the Road Management System of the RMF of Yemen.**

The services would mainly include the following tasks: a) assessment of road management needs in Yemen, b) specification of road management software, c) assistance in purchase and installation of software, d) specification of road condition surveys, e) assistance in conducting and supervising surveys, f) assistance in operating the road management system and preparing road condition reports and expenditure plans, g) formal and on-the-job training, and h) assistance in establishing the organization and procedures for sustained road management in Yemen.

The Ministry of Public work and Highways (MPWH), represented by the Road Maintenance Fund (RMF) now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above services.

Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience under similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consultants may associate with other consultants to enhance their qualifications.

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 9:00 to 14 hours, Sat-Wed .

Expressions of interest must be delivered in three hard copies as well as in electronic form to the address below by: **2:00 PM, May. 20, 2006.**

Ministry of Public Works and Highways (MPWH)
Road Maintenance Fund (RMF)
Atten.: The Chairman of the Road Maintenance Fund



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Our client is one of the leading food production companies in Saudi Arabia. Continued growth in its operations has lead to this position offering good potential for a high caliber proactive professional within a dynamic and challenging business environment.

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- Supervise the maintenance of all master data
- Supervise and manage to identify inherent financial and operational business risks and put forward for discussion ways and means of formulating adequate controls

The requirements:

- Yemeni national
- Commerce graduate with an internationally recognized accounting qualification (CPA, ACCA or CMA)
- Preferably not more than 35 year of age with at least 5 years post qualification relevant work experience
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Required documentation includes:

1. Two recent color passport photographs
2. Copy of ID, and passport, if available
3. Copy of supporting documents for educational and experience background
4. List of references that can be contacted

KPMG will contact all candidates informing them of the outcome of the evaluation of their applications.

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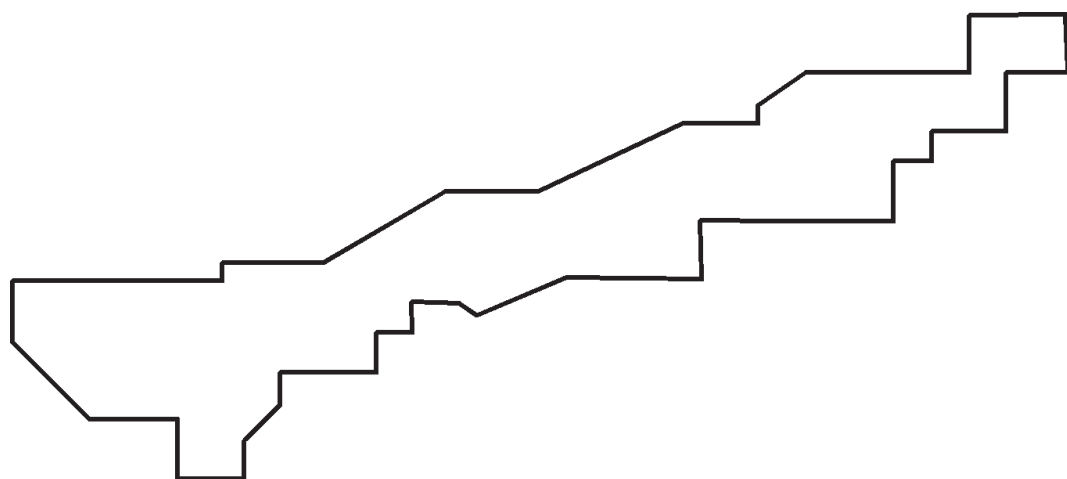
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Invitation for bids

Hadhramout University of Science and Technology on behave of the local authority, Wadi Hadhramout, Hadhramout Governorate would like to invite sealed bids from eligible companies for the following:

1. An up to date Satellite Imagery for land use for the determined part of Wadi Hadhramout, Hadhramout Governorate, Republic of Yemen with a total area about (1334.5 km2). Determined area includes four major cities. Coordinates of determined area and cities as indicated in the following:

a- THE AREA NEEDS SATELLITE IMAGERY according to the following coordinates



E	N	Coor., No	E	N	Coor., No
15 45 22	48 27 59	20	16 08 45	49 13 35	1
15 48 59	48 27 59	21	16 08 45	49 07 58	2
15 48 59	48 33 20	22	16 05 36	49 07 58	3
15 51 10	48 33 20	23	16 05 36	48 58 22	4
15 51 10	48 35 28	24	16 03 50	48 55 40	5
15 52 48	48 35 28	25	16 02 50	48 55 38	6
15 52 48	48 38 10	26	16 02 50	48 51 10	7
15 5208	48 38 50	27	15 58 45	48 42 42	8
15 54 10	48 44 00	28	15 58 42	48 37 05	9
15 54 10	48 52 17	29	15 54 55	48 30 05	10
15 5725	48 52 17	30	15 54 55	48 24 15	11
15 57 25	49 03 27	31	15 53 50	48 24 15	12
16 00 37	49 03 27	32	15 53 50	48 12 05	13
16 00 35	49 05 35	33	15 50 27	48 12 05	14
16 02 15	49 05 34	34	15 46 15	48 16 40	15
16 02 15	49 10 09	35	15 46 15	48 21 47	16
16 05 35	49 10 09	36	15 43 03	48 21 47	17
16 05 36	49 13 35	37	15 43 03	48 25 37	18
		1	15 45 12	48 25 37	19

b- The work should include following requirements and operations:

- Satellite Imagery in resolution of 60.0cm (or more accuracy).
- Orthorectified Images of the same area.
- Three soft copies (digital copies) of the images before and after orthorectifying.
- Four hard copies of the orthorectified images three to a scale of 1:2500 and the fourth to a scale of 1:25,000.
- Digital terrain model.
- Digital data.
- Permanent marks

2. Digital mapping for land use plans, for all areas determined before, Following requirements should be included:

- a- Three soft copies (digital copies dwg format) of linear drawing maps with closed polygons of lots and with layers ready for GIS use.
- b- Four hard copies of maps three to a scale of 1:2500 and the fourth to a scale of 1:25,000.
- C- Contour lines should not be more than 60.0cm.
- d- All names of settlements —cities and villages should be plotted.

3. Owner has rights to add any more areas in Hadhramout Valley according to same contract conditions or better.

4. Owner has rights to exclude any terms of requirements stated above.

5. Owner has rights to accept or reject any offer without stating reasons.

6. Specify further new technology you might have other than above.

7. Optional, State cost and period in case of:

- a- Generate maps of all exist types of infrastructure.
- b- Plotting uses of buildings (public buildings...schools- mosques...).

8. Please send us the quotation associated with each requirement and the terms of payment and periods of executing the work. Sealed offers should be submitted latest by Saturday 13/05/2006 at 10 AM to the following address:

Hadhramout University of Science & Technology .
Republic of Yemen .

Fowah, AL-Mukalla.
Tel. +967-5-360866, Mob. 00967711680550
Fax. +967-5-360864
Email: hadhramout_univ@y.net.ye

9. The Bids will be opened at 11:00 AM Saturday 13/05/2006 on the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives at the address above.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information if necessary.

Yemeni Fish Company general manager: excellent management will ensure Yemeni fisheries' long life

The fishing industry is a major source of employment for Yemen's poor, especially those inhabiting coastal areas. Workers in this sector provide for 1.7 million citizens, that is, 8.6 percent of Yemen's population.

In the following interview, John Williams, General Manager of the Yemeni Fish Company, talks about fishing Yemeni coasts, problems facing the industry, reasons behind the ambiguous and huge migration of tuna and unpredictable behavior by some fishermen that affects fish stocks.

Interviewed by: Saeed Al-Batafi

Please give some basic facts about Yemeni Fish Company.

The company began operating in late 2003 and work commenced on a new site in Dhabbah, 25 km. east of Al-Mukalla city. The company moved into its new facilities after a May 22, 2005 grand opening by President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Encompassing more than 500,000 square meters, the complex contains a purpose-built factory, boatyard, training center, administration buildings and accommodation for local and expatriate staff. The whole site faces a harbor to accommodate vessels up to 4.5 meters draft.

The factory is among the most modern in the Middle East. Built to EU and U.S. FDA standards, it receives supplies from local and visiting vessels and from its own fleet of inshore boats. Local fishermen supply the majority of the catch and fresh fish is exported daily to Europe. The factory's capacity is 30 tons of raw material per day.

The main species from October to May is yellowfin tuna and the artisanal fleet brings in fish caught by hand line. Charter flights from Riyan International Airport, only five km. from Dhabbah, take some of the product while other fish goes on scheduled flights from Sana'a.

In summer months during the Southwest Monsoon, the principal catch is cuttlefish, with large quantities landed by local boats. Additionally, the company's own fleet brings in catches of demersal fish, snapper, grouper and shark, a large percentage of which is exported to Europe.

Yemeni Fish Company management is predominantly local with a small number of expatriates. There is a strong training ethos, as it is important that the company's future lies in the hands of Yemeni managers.

Yemeni Fish Company's future depends upon exporting high quality fish and eventually fish products. As much of the added value from the seafood as possible is completed in Yemen and it is an objective of managers to train the local workforce to undertake this work.

What are the most pressing problems facing the company and how do you cope with them?

The most urgent problem facing the company is shortage of good quality fish. This is explained partially by the poor fishing season, but it is causing major difficulties for all export companies. Many new processing companies have set up in business in recent years and this has put further pressure on the fishery. Another problem is finding sufficient air freight space out of the country.

How do you assess the investment atmosphere in Hadramout?

Hadramout region is a good place to invest. A large pool of labor is available and the economic climate is right for investment. New roads offering better communication with the rest of Yemen and infrastructure improvements are all positive signs of progress. It is hoped that the many changes that have made Mukalla in particular an attractive and lively city will encourage the return of many skilled locals who now live in other parts of the country or abroad.

According to the Ministry of Fish Office in Hadramout, the 2005-2006 tuna fish season is Yemen's worst ever. What are the reasons and how does the tuna shortage affect your business?

According to all local information, this tuna season is among the worst on record. Pelagic fish (living in the water column rather than on the bottom) are highly migratory and move huge distances as water temperature and salinity change. They are also dependent upon their feed stocks like sardine and mackerel.

Fishing also impacts fish behavior and



Who is John Williams?

- A Master Mariner by profession
- 25 years in the fishing industry as an owner and manager
- General manager of a large fishing company in the United Kingdom before coming to Yemen
- Worked in the Middle East, Africa and South America

while tuna is a more robust species than many, and therefore less likely to be damaged by overfishing, it is always of great concern when too many juvenile fish are taken. Simple hand line methods used in Yemen are good for conservation, but too many boats and too many small fish inevitably will impact the fishery. Demersal stocks (fish living on the bottom) are much more likely to be affected by fishing, so it is imperative that these stocks are managed properly to allow for breeding and replacement of year classes.

All regional companies and indeed local consumers have been affected by the tuna shortage. Prices are high and this lowers the incentive for fishermen to produce high-quality product that the export market requires. Companies like ours rely on lower volumes of high-quality fish and that has been very difficult this season.

What is your marketing strategy and who are your customers?

Our business was set up to export chilled fish. Free tariff entry into the EU allows us an advantage over some other exporting countries. However, we compete with large volumes of very good quality fish from many parts of the world. Our strategy of selling only the best quality inevitably means low volumes, as much

of the fish landed in Yemen is unsuitable for export. Our principal customers are European distributors serving supermarkets and food service industries.

Yemen's fish industry is important business. Many fishermen made a killing in the course of a few years. Is this true about Yemeni Fish Company?

Fishing is an important business and if managed properly, it will remain so for many years. The unpredictable nature of pelagic fisheries will always make it a high-risk business and there always will be bad years to counter the good ones. As in all business, managing risk is a key to success.

It is said that the attitude and behavior of fishermen, whether in Yemen or the UK, are exactly the same. Is this correct?

Fishermen are independent-minded and this applies equally to those working in this fascinating industry around the world. Daily work, often in risky conditions, and the need to satisfy fluctuating markets makes long-term planning difficult for individual fishermen. It is no coincidence that the most successful fishing nations have strong and effective leaders in government and within their own industry.

How do you take advantage of cheap labor in Yemen?

Labor costs in Yemen are significantly less than in Europe or the U.S.; however, productivity is a better indicator and there is some way to go before we achieve levels to compete with other similar countries.

In terms of quality, what are the main types of fish on Yemen's coast and what makes tuna a valuable commodity?

Tuna, cuttlefish, shark, grouper and snapper are the principal export fish. It is fair to say that much of the fish landed in Indian Ocean ports is of poor quality, badly handled on board and without the use of ice. Properly handled, tuna can fetch very high prices in Japan and Europe but the quantity we see here is very small.

How do you compare Yemeni fish prices with other fish producing countries?



The need to satisfy fluctuating markets makes long-term planning difficult for individual fishermen.

tries?

Good quality fish will achieve the same prices as any other country producing the same product. This is rare for tuna and Yemeni fish is the cheapest available. Demersal fish, which are easier to look after, compete well on export markets.

Citizens are experiencing inflated fish prices, which is attributed to great demand by fishing companies. What are your comments?

Local market fish prices respond to supply and demand. A poor fishing season and more buyers have caused this year's

high prices. On the positive side, factories now are employing more workers and that has to be a good thing.

Overfishing, bad management and pollution are the main dangers to the fish stock. To what extent are these threats present in Yemen?

The threat to Yemeni fisheries is ever present and only excellent management will ensure their long life and value to the country. We can do nothing about nature and the decision of fish to live elsewhere, but we can control the fishing effort, the quality of the product and to some extent, pollution.

Are we ready for nature's next anger?

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

Forty mountainous areas, most located in the west and mid-regions of Yemen, risk collapse due to natural erosion, according to geological researcher Salah Ahmed. However, rockslides and collapses are not the only natural disasters threatening citizens' lives.

Last year, the Seismograph Center recorded 2,485 seismic events: 943 on land and 1,342 in Aden Bay and Red Sea territorial waters. Compared to previous years, center General Manager Jamal Shulan said Yemen witnessed extensive seismic activity during 2005 in regions such as Sana'a, Hajja, Al-Mahwit, Al-Beidha, Yafa and Sa'ada. Although such earthquakes did not cause any loss of life, citizens remain afraid, never forgetting damage caused by the 1980s earthquake that hit Dhamar, killing thousands and leaving another thousand homeless.

Current natural disasters

Yemen recently has experienced floods and rockslides causing extensive damage to villages and towns, killing residents and causing others to be missing or homeless.

Yemen's government and citizens are threatened annually by damage incurred by floods due to heavy summer rains. The rains stop, however, the accrued damages remain.

In June 1996, heavy rains and floods struck several Yemeni regions extensively damaging villages and towns. Authorities confirmed that 324 died, 108 were missing, 20,000 were left homeless and another 10,000 were affected. Infrastructure including roads, irrigation canals, water pumps, community power stations and water bankments were damaged severely

and a large amount of agricultural soil was washed away. Economic losses were estimated at \$1.2 billion.

Nowadays, many Yemeni regions still suffer heavy rain. The media continue reporting the stories and numbers of flood victims in governorates such as Dhamar, Hodeidah, Ibb, Sana'a and Taiz.

Rockslides are another natural disaster that has become a nightmare to citizens, particularly those residing in mountainous villages. The worst incident occurred Dec. 28, 2005 at 9 p.m. when a huge rock collapsed onto Al-Dhafeer village, 42 km. west of Sana'a, killing 65 mostly women and children and crushing approximately 16 houses.

Are we ready for the next disaster?

A Civil Defense report obtained by the Yemen Times reveals that Yemen not only is exposed to earthquakes, floods and rockslides, but also drought, epidemics and locust infestation. This raises a question about the ability to fight or at least reduce the damages of such disasters. The report attempts to answer this question by reviewing government measures and efforts to deal with certain disasters in the past. The report also defined the task of the civil defense body, which is responsible to deal with states of emergency by saving lives and providing affected citizens with water, food and shelter.

However, the report revealed the fact that Yemen still requires a lot to be able to deal with nature's anger. According to the report, many obstacles and difficulties prevent this institution's development, such as shortage of staff equipment, tools and instruction, lack of information and databases and a small budget.

Numbers and victims

Abdulkhaliq Al-Ghaberi, Director



Al-Dhafeer rockslide killed more than 65 people and destroyed 16 houses.

Floods threaten Al-Kaden citizens

By: Mazen Al-Saqaf

Serdoud Valley, located approximately 80 km. from Hodeidah city, experienced flooding due to heavy rains last week. The valley's water level rose to three meters, damaging not only the valley but also nearby regions, particularly Al-Kaden region on the valley's edge.

Farmer Abdu Salem confirmed regional damage, saying floods swept away many cars trying to pass through the valley, as it is the only way to the other side. He added that all car passengers were rescued.

Additionally, teacher Abdulqader Al-Hajweri reported that floods swept away a van carrying two camels, adding that no one survived.

University student Mohammed Bader said flooding crushed part of a bridge not completely built. The bridge was supposed to connect the valley's two banks. According to witnesses, broken wood from the bridge spread throughout the valley. Builder Wajdi Al-Hamadi confirmed that floods smashed the car of the entrepreneur in charge of building the bridge.

Agricultural engineer Hisham Ali Nasher confirmed the dangers and threats that occurred due to the floods. He said the region is exposed to flooding three or four times yearly. According to Nasher, the constant flooding has destroyed many agricultural lands and carved many large holes in the land. He called on involved authorities to save the region's citizens from such flood threats.



Floods damaged many cars in Serdoud Valley.

General of the Environmental Emergency department, talked about the importance of observing and checking regions that have been exposed to natural disasters, for example to ensure that there are no chemical or radiation leaks from factories which may cause another disaster.

There also is a high possibility of widespread post-disaster disease outbreaks, as damage to water supply lines, sewage lines and hospital facilities, as well as lack of housing, may lead to conditions that contribute to the spread of contagious diseases like influenza and other viral infections. In some instances,

lack of food supplies, clean water and heating can create serious health problems as well.

Al-Ghaberi also stressed the importance of raising public awareness about how to deal with bearable disasters, confessing that Yemen is one of the poorest countries regarding reducing disaster damages.

According to Al-Ghaberi, natural disasters cannot be prevented, but the damage they cause can be reduced greatly with communication strategies, proper structural design, emergency preparedness planning and raising public awareness.

Available victim numbers do not reflect each one's real tragic story, nor do they reflect the horrible experience each suffered. However, such numbers give clear evidence of the need for all efforts to reduce the damages from nature's anger.

MIDDLE EAST TRADING CO.



SHARK Energy Drink - METCO Celebrated 5th Year of continuous success



Mr. Muneer Ahmed Hayel



Mr. Opath Butarkas

METCO, the sole Agent of **SHARK** Energy Drink, organized a celebration on 29th March 2006, Wednesday at Al-Saeed Foundation of Science and Culture Hall, Taiz to celebrate 5th consecutive year of Success of its prestigious product "**SHARK**" Energy Drink and to congratulate and appreciate its dealers and valued customers for their continuous patronage.

The event took place in presence of Mr. Muneer Ahmed Hayel, DGM of Trading & Service companies of Hayel Saeed Anam Group, Mr. Wael Abdulla Abdo Saeed, General Manager, M/s. Middle East Trading Co. (METCO) and Mr. Opath Butarkas, Business Development Manager of M/s Osotspa International Co. Ltd., the manufacturer of **SHARK** Energy Drink, from Thailand.

Mr. Muneer Ahmed Hayel and Mr. Wael Abdulla Abdo Saeed addressed the gathering of "**SHARK**" dealers, who had come from different provinces of Republic of Yemen, in addition to Metco Management team and staff. During their speeches, they briefed about the progress of **Shark** business in Yemen market right from its insertion. **Shark** Energy Drink has gained a major market share in the Energy Drink Sector and emerged No.1 position in Yemen Market, within a short span of time. Such a remarkable achievement has been made possible with the whole-hearted support and co-operation of our dealers- all the speakers enunciated.

Mr. Opath Butarkas presented a Plaque to Mr. Muneer Ahmed Hayel & Mr. Wael Abdulla Abdo Saeed on behalf of M/s. Osotspa International Co. Ltd. in appreciation of the excellent performance of METCO in distribution and marketing of "**SHARK**" for the year 2005.

Before concluding the event, Mr. Muneer Ahmed Hayel, Mr. Wael Abdulla Abdo Saeed, Mr. Labeed Mohammed Abdo Salem, DGM and Mr. Mohamed Gawad Aghbary, Division Manager of METCO expressed their gratitude and distributed rewards to the dealers who contributed significantly to this great achievement.



Mr. Wael Abdulla Abdo Saeed



SHARK-THE REAL POWER

Ahli Sana'a ties Al-Rashid 1-1, Al-Saqr maintains top place

Concluding the Premier League's thirteenth round, Ahli Sana'a tied their hosts Al-Rashid in Taiz 1-1 last Friday afternoon, raising its points to 19 to occupy the second place in the tourney while the host team raised its points to 13 to rank tenth.

In Hodeida, Shabab Al-Jeel drew guests and titleholder Al-Telal from Aden 1-1. The guests scored in minute 40 of the first half through striker Qais Mohamed Saleh while Ethiopian professional player Younas answered for Shabab Al-Jeel in minute 45 of the same half. Al-Telal increased its points to 13 to rank eleventh while the hosts added their eighth point.

In the Capital, Al-Yarmouk defeated their guests Al-Tadhamun 2-0 to jump up to the fourth place with 18 points while visiting team retarded to the seventh place with 15 points.

At Baradam Stadium in Mukalla, Sha'ab Hadramout won 1-0 over Sha'ab Ibb, increasing its points to 16 to stand sixth while visitors remained in their fifth place with the same number of points.

Ta'awen Ba'adan tied Hussan from Abyan 0-0 at home adding its 11th point to come 12th in tourney while

Hassan occupied the ninth place with 14 points.

The thirteenth round competitions that kicked off on Thursday revealed that Al-Saqr from Taiz maintained top place with 24 points in the tourney after beating guests 22 May from the Capital 2-1. The visiting team remained in its eighth place with 14 points.

Hilal Al-Hodeida defeated Al-Shualah from Aden 1-0 in the home match, advancing to the third place with 19 points while the visitors remained in the last but one place with 9 points.

Ethiopian professional player for Al-Saqr and paste season scorer Younandous still leads scorers with 8 goals followed by his countryman Younas playing for Shab Al-Jeel with 7 goals. Ahli striker Adel Al-Salemi stands third in the list of scorers with 5 goals.

Only two rounds remain to conclude the away matches between teams during management of the Yemeni Football Federation's Temporary Committee that imposed penalties on teams who boycotted the tourney in the first and second rounds.

The new Yemeni Football

Place	Team	Results of matches				Goals			Points
		Plays	Win	Draw	Loss	For	Against	Diff.	
1	Al-Saqr	11	7	3	1	20	6	14	24
2	Hilal Al-Hodeida	11	5	4	2	15	9	6	19
3	Ahli Sana'a	11	5	4	2	18	13	5	19
4	Al-Yarmouk	11	5	3	3	16	13	3	18
5	Sha'ab Ibb	11	4	4	3	17	14	3	16
6	Sha'ab Hadramout	11	4	4	3	11	12	-2	16
7	Tadhamun Shabwah	11	5	0	6	14	18	-4	15
8	22 May	11	4	2	5	13	14	-1	14
9	Hassan	11	3	5	3	10	11	-1	14
10	Al-Rashid	11	3	4	4	9	11	-2	13
11	Al-Telal	11	4	1	6	11	15	-4	13
12	Ta'awen Ba'adan	11	3	2	6	17	23	-6	11
13	Al-Shu'ala	11	1	6	4	9	15	-6	9
14	Shabab Al-Jeel	11	2	2	7	11	16	-5	8

Order of teams with their goals and points

Federation lifted the sanctions against teams and restaged encounters of the first and second rounds amid objection by Al-Saqr and Al-Telal who insist to forward the issue to the Asian Football Federation and the Federation and

International Football Federation (FIFA). Both teams say they unfairly lost 6 points in the first and second rounds as some teas boycotted the tourney, coupled with the YFF's Temporary Committee's consequent procedures.

Yemeni track and field team wins second place

The Yemeni track and field team won the second place in the 8km race held last Thursday in Bahrain while the host team won the first place and Oman finished third.

Bahrain's track and field team was honored on Thursday after it finished first in the youth race, as well as in the ladies race. But in the 12-km men race, Bahrain finished second.

UAE to take on Thailand, China and Australia

By: Yasir Abbasher

Abu Dhabi: The UAE soccer team will compete against China, Australia and Thailand in the finals of the Asian Youth Championship in India from October 29.

The draw of the championship was conducted yesterday and was attended by Obaid Mubarak, the secretary of the UAE Football Association (FA) national teams' committee, and Mutrif Al Shamsi, the manager of the UAE team.

Group B, which features the UAE, is one of the most difficult groups in the championship.

It will be the first official appearance for Australia in an AFC (Asian Football

Confederation) championship. The UAE will start their campaign against Thailand on October 30. They meet China on November 1 and Australia on November 3. All matches will be held in Kolkata. Hosts India will compete in Group A, together with South Korea, Kyrgyzstan and Jordan.

Group C comprises Japan, Iran, Tajikistan and North Korea, while Group D features Iraq, Malaysia, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia.

The two top teams from each group will enter the quarterfinals after a round-robin league. The four semifinalists will play in the 2007 Fifa Youth World Cup in Canada.

Source: www.gulfnews.com

Manchester United 0, Sunderland 0

By: Paul Gilder

Firefighters were called to Old Trafford on Wednesday morning to deal with a small fire. Last night, it was the turn of Sunderland's survival prospects to go up in smoke.

Relegated from the top flight for the second time in four seasons, confirmation of the club's fate came as no surprise. Hope on Wearside was extinguished months ago.

That it was rekindled for 90 unbelievable minutes last night was a considerable shock, as a side on course to break their own record for Premiership incompetence ended



Manchester United's top-flight title challenge with their finest display of a calamitous campaign.

The point no-one expected the Black Cats to collect was not sufficient to postpone the club's relegation. Kevin Ball's side went down fighting, but this was a case of too little too late. If the Weariders had performed with this drive and determination, with this resolve and ambition from day one, the season might have had a different conclusion.

Source: www.newcastle.co.uk

Spanish Conchita Martinez announces her retirement

Martinez deprived Martina Navratilova from winning a 10th Wimbledon singles title when she beat the American in the 1994 final.

Valencia (ArabSport) - Spanish Tennis star, Conchita Martinez, and the only Spanish woman to win the Wimbledon singles title, announced her retirement on Saturday in a Press Conference held in Valencia.

The tennis player who will turn 34 on Sunday, deprived tennis legend Martina Navratilova from winning her 10th Wimbledon singles title when she beat the American in the 1994 final.

Martinez also managed to reach to two other grand slam finals in her career but unfortunately lost to Martina Hingis in the Australian Open in 1998 and to Mary Pierce at Roland Garros

in 2000.

The player assured that it was not an easy decision for her however she feels proud of everything she achieved.

Martinez won 33 singles titles after turning professional in 1988, her last victory coming in 2005 when she won at Pattaya City in Thailand.

She achieved a career-high two in

the world rankings in October 1995 after reaching the semi-finals of all four grand slams.

She won five Fed Cup titles with Spain and took part in four Olympic Games, winning silver in the doubles events at Barcelona in 1992 and Athens in 2004, and a bronze at Atlanta in 1996.

Source: www.arabsport.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites Yemeni Nationals to apply for the following position with its project "Decentralization and Local Development Support Program (DLDSP)"

Post Title: Public Expenditure Management/Finance Associate

(PEMF) SC-6

Duration: Initial 12 months

Responsibilities

- Contribute in the development and improvement of all DLDSP manuals on public expenditure management and in particular with budgeting, management of project implementation and financial reporting procedures.
- Develop an annual work plan and ensure it responds to the field operations of the whole Mobile Team and to also meet the requirements of the DLDSP.
- Work closely with the other Mobile Team members and the District Facilitation Teams (DFTs) to strengthen the capacity of the local authority in the area of budgeting, supervision of project implementation, revenue development and collection procedures, financial reporting and accounting with a focus on the relevant departments of the district diwan.
- Provide support to the DFTs as they carry out on-the-job capacity building activities in public expenditure management.
- Contribute to the facilitation of training of trainers as well as direct training in districts in all DLDSP produced manuals for district local authorities.
- Develop and maintain strong lines of communication with the local finance and control sector of Ministry of Local Administration (MOLA).
- Perform any other duties as required.

Qualification

- A university degree in financial management or any other related discipline.
- Minimum five years experience in the field of the implementation of local development and finances, local government reforms as well as capacity development and experience in local level public expenditure management processes would be of significant value
- He/she will have strong communication and training skills as well as analytical and writing abilities.
- Fluency in English and Arabic with proven communication and training skills.
- Ready to spend a large percentage of his/her time in the field and between districts in various governorates.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates. UNDP is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448841/E-mail: (registry.ve@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Sunday, 23 April 2006



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- A magazine about the blessed life of the Prophet Muhammed (P.B.U.H) in English.

Special Events:

The performances are going to be give both in Arabic and English for the very first time in Yemen.

Venue:

The Police Club (Dubbat Al-Shurta), Kuliat al-Shurta Street, Sana'a

Time:

Thursday , the 20th of April, 2006 at 9:30 a.m

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Students help in beautification campaign

America-Mideast Educational and Training Services Institute (AMIDEAST) has arranged on April 8th a beautification campaign for its students in a public park in Sana'a.

ACCESS Yemen students, who receive one-year scholarships from the U.S. State Department for English language study at AMIDEAST, participated in a beautification campaign at Sabaeen Park Thursday, April 6. They were assisted by 25 high school exchange nominees from the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program, as well as supported by AMIDEAST team leaders, teachers and staff, along with employees from the mayor's office.

As part of their community service efforts for Yemen, 250 ACCESS students collected more than 250 bags of trash in the park, as well as broken

glass and rusted metal, which pose hazards to park-goers, particularly children.

Students also weeded portions of the park and planted flowers provided by the mayor's office to assist the park's beautification. "I learned about plants and how to keep them beautiful," ACCESS student Amal said, "I also learned about cooperation in work. I had a lot of fun and I did something for my country. I know it's very small, but in the future, I'm going to do a lot for my country."

Following the hard work, Deputy Mayor Abdullah Sunbel spoke to the students about how to maintain hygiene and ensure pollution-free lives. He noted that good personal habits naturally will help the physical environment. The mayor's office also arranged an educational comic play presented by two stand-up comedians who received many laughs from the



Students working hard to clean Sabaeen Park in Sana'a.

audience and much acclaim.

The beautification campaign followed a successful clean-up in Aden last month, March 23, in which 200 ACCESS students cleaned Aden Marsh, an environmental site internationally important as a bird fly-over stop. The Aden Marsh activity was facilitated by the Ministry of Water and Environment and the governor's office.

According to AMIDEAST Yemen Country Director Sabrina Faber, "Through the ACCESS Micro-Scholarship program, we not only seek to give teenagers an important skill for their futures, but also help them realize that they can do a lot with the skills they have right now. Young people can be involved in their communities and they can make a difference in Yemen's environment, for example."

"Noticeably, after the presentations arranged by the mayor's office, all of the students returned to the park to

make further contributions. We feel that the Sabaeen Park community service activity, as well as the Aden Marsh community service project, were days for Yemen and Yemenis. We also hope and believe that the ACCESS and YES students and other youth groups will continue their contributions to Yemen," Faber added.

Primarily funded by the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, ACCESS Micro-Scholarships provide secondary school-aged students throughout the Middle East and North Africa with English language training for academic and future career opportunities. The scholarship also provides ACCESS grantees the opportunity to participate in cultural activities and community service projects. This year's ACCESS program in Yemen includes 450 Yemeni teenagers at AMIDEAST's Aden and Sana'a centers.



This is the result of their efforts.

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