

# YEMEN TIMES TIMES



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# **Inside:**



**Ambassador Mario Boffo** 

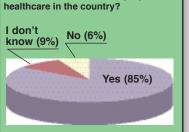


Students vs. Yemeni electrical outages



Syrian traveler: Yemen is a living museum

### Readers' Voice **Last edition's question:** Presently there is much talk about the reappearance of many diseases that have not been seen for a long time in Yemen. Does the return of these



### This edition's question:

Do you think the United States will respond positively to the pressures of international public opinion and close the Guantánamo Bay detention camp and its other secret prisons across the world? No. · I don't know

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## Waella tribes accuse government of yielding territory

By: Yemen Times Staff

SA'ADA, June 18 - Yemeni Waella tribes in Sa'ada accused Yemen's government of relinquishing more Yemeni territories not included in a border treaty signed with Saudi Arabia.

In a statement di~stributed Saturday, a copy of which the Yemen Times received, the tribes said the German firm entrusted with fixing border markings violated the agreement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. Instead of fixing the markings on Thaar Mountain, known to be the main dividing area between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, the German company placed them eight kilometers inside Yemeni territory.

The tribes' statement also claimed that Saudi Arabia has seized Yemeni areas of Sillah, Qafrat Sillah and Hibash, as well as other Waella tribal territories.

The statement mentioned that the tribes are awaiting President Ali Abdullah Saleh's fulfillment of his promise to keep all possession of Waella tribal territories and properties unchanged, even if such lands fall with-



Waella (in red) is located in northern Yemen, northeast of Sa'ada.

in the new international border between the two countries

Concluding their statement, the tribes emphasized that they do not recognize the border treaty, affirming, "The Waella do not recognize the treaty, nor does it concern them," adding that they strongly refuse the principle of compensation and dividing the land or the

They warned all concerned parties in Yemen and Saudi Arabia against bargaining or playing down the tribes' seriousness and their insistence on demanding their rights to lands inherited from their forefathers, as well as their determination to retrieve their territories. however long it takes or whatever sacri-

Continued on page 2

## Yemeni NGO releases report on human rights and democracy

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 18 — Yemeni Human Rights Observatory (YHRO), a non-governmental organization, held a news conference last Thursday where it announced the first annual report on human rights and democracy in Yemen

YHRO Chairman Dr. Mohamed Al-Mekhlafi said the report concentrated on rights, freedoms and violations and abus-

and value?

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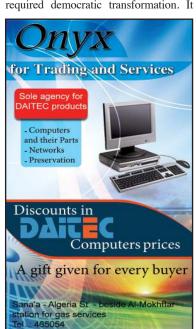
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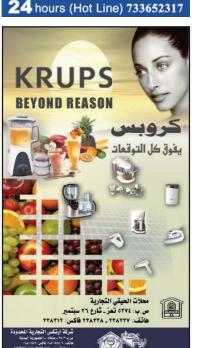
es against them, as well as contained detailed information about human rights

weak structure, wars, tribal revenge and kidnappings. coupled with corruption, constitute a primary barrier to Yemen's democratic transformation.

and aspects of democracy in Yemen. Al-Mekhlafi confirmed that the state's

The report indicated that Yemeni legislation is suffering a crisis hindering both human rights protection and required democratic transformation. It









argued that most laws put into effect impact constitutional clauses by restricting freedoms, particularly the Demonstration Law, which denies citizens the right to stage peaceful protests.

According to the report, the Constitution is experiencing a crisis represented by concentrating authorities in executive bodies; however, it ensures political plurality. The report mentioned that 2005 witnessed nationwide abuses of freedoms due to weak enforcement of Yemeni laws, wars, conflicts and revenge, coupled with the state's weak

Another important point the report highlighted is that Yemen suffers violence, deprivation, discrimination and

man abuses, while Yemen's government hasn't shown good will to improve children's situations.

The report emphasized that the current electoral system neither can enhance the democratic experience nor will it support peaceful transfer of power. Additionally, the system excludes women and is controlled by a single party.

The seven-chapter report discussed basic rights of self-expression, obtaining information, peaceful demonstration and securing government jobs and freedoms. It also explained social, economic and cultural rights, as well as rights of children, women and refugees, in addition to press freedoms.

Several chapters of the report focused and necessary steps for democratic



## Yemeni Gitmo detainee's body emptied prior to repatriation Al-Salimi's Gitmo suicide denied

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

SANA'A, June 18 - Ali Abdullah Al-Salimi denied that his son Salah Addin, who U.S. authorities at the Guantánamo Bay detention center in Cuba declared dead by suicide, committed such an act, saying, "I don't believe the story that my son committed suicide. He couldn't do so because he was Muslim and true Muslims don't commit suicide, as this is prohibited in Islam. My son was strongly devoted to his faith and reliHOOD might consult international experts to investigate into this matter.

Ghanem asserted that the difficult situation Guantánamo detainees experience would kill them before they'd resort to committing suicide, which Islam prohibits. He also called upon all tolerant and peace-loving nations to act to close Guantánamo and other U.S.

Lawyer and former Member of Parliament Mohammed Nagi Alaw said his organization, HOOD, is attempting an international probe into the case and



Mr. Al-Silimi (second from right) at the press conference.

Instead, the father asserted that U.S. soldiers killed his son and said he won't bury him until his body is checked legitimately by an international committee. He also sent a cable of condolence to the friendly American people for "the death of their consciences" as he said. He called upon them to reconsider and not make Arab and Islamic people hate and detest them, emphasizing that they should reconsider the situation at Guantánamo and other U.S. detainments.

In a press conference last Sunday, Yemeni Parliament members and lawyers denied the U.S. story regarding Salah Addin's suicide, demanding a fact-finding committee to disclose the truth and requesting Yemen's government to move for releasing other Yemeni Guantánamo detainees.

Najeeb Ghanem, former Minister of Health and head of Parliament's Health and Population Committee, declared that Salah Addin's body was emptied of all that could provide information about his death, including his blood vessels, bowels, brain, heart and liver, which he alleged U.S. specialists intentionally removed.

He further noted that the U.S.-issued death certificate states Al-Salimi was dead as he hung himself stressing that

other cases to pressure the U.S. Administration to close Guantánamo and other such detainments. He also pointed out that a large number of Yemenis are in various detainments both inside and outside the U.S., including Abdulrahim Al-Nashri, Ramzi bin Al-Shaibah and Yasser Shaqiq.

Additionally, Alaw expressed sorrow that U.S. authorities emptied Salah Addin's bowels to hide the truth behind his suicide, pointing out that U.S. authorities removed members of the Yemeni government, lawyers for Yemeni Gitmo detainees as well as

Alaw further noted that the Guantánamo detainment center provides clear evidence of a human rights setback, as well as generating hate and animosity toward the U.S. He added, "We don't defend anyone for his misdoings, but we defend them in the face of illegal and wrong procedures against

Pointing out that Gitmo detainees were captured in various locations across the world, Alaw called upon Yemeni, Arab and Islamic governments to take the case seriously in a manner matching the seriousness of foreign organizations.

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## Yemen pushes for pro-Palestinian media campaign

SANA'A, June 18 — Yemeni Minister of Information Hassan Ahmad Al-Lawzi emphasized the need for the Arab media to play an effective role in supporting the Palestinian's cause and in highlighting their sufferings under Israeli occupation.

Al-Lawzi stated that Arab media should report facts about the Israeli siege of Palestine and the occupier's harsh practices against innocent people in the Arab land.

During Thursday's symposium on role of media in lifting the Israeli siege on the Palestinian people, the Information Minister indicated that the Yemeni government and people have a firm stance against the siege and any crimes committed against the Palestinian

He said that Yemen's media policy is part of a broader Arab media policy as it pays close attention to the Palestinian cause. The Council of Arab Ministers' approved the formation of a media campaign against dangers to religious freedoms in Palestine caused by the Israeli occupation, said Al-Lawzi.

Other decisions supported the Palestinian Intifada and its resistance to



Hassan Al-Lawzi, Minister of Information.

the Israeli occupation regime, including the expansion of Jewish-only settlements throughout Palestine. The Council supported all media activities in Palestine as well as the provision of facilities to militants, said Al-Lawzi.

Fayez Abduljawad, Palestinian Deputy Ambassador to Yemen, praised the stand taken by the Yemeni government and people backing the Palestinian cause, as well as the Palestinian legal struggle to restore their usurped rights and property.

Mohamed Seyam, an official at Hamas' office, and Abu Rajab, Representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). affirmed that the siege will not hinder the Palestinian people from resistance and living in dignity. Both men insisted that the Palestinian people will continue to demand their rights.

## Yemeni arms transfers to Somalia "groundless," says official

By Amel Alariqi

SANA'A, June 18 — On Saturday, an official source said that Yemen has not sent any kind of weapons to Somalia. The source, who wished to remain anonymous, denied the validity of reports circulating on a few Somalia websites about arms shipments as "groundless."

The source pointed out that Yemen has been in constant contact with both factions- the interim Somali government based in Baidoa, and with the leaders of Somalia's Islamic Courts Union, which currently controls Mogadishu—to persuade them to negotiate.

"The Islamic Courts Union has informed our country that it is willing to come to Sana'a to carry out direct talks with Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed and the interim Somali government to stop the bloodshed and restore calm and stability," said the

Some Somali websites posted stories this week reporting that Yemen sent "military suppl[ies], including sophisticated tanks and sorts of heavy and light bullets, to the airport of Baidoa."

This is not the first time that Yemen has been accused of providing Somalia factions with weapons. In October 2005, Yemen, Ethiopia, and Eritrea were accused of smuggling weapons to Somalia. Contrary to its current response, Sana'a then said that it had sold weapons to what was considered the recognized Somali government. Yemen denied the smuggling of any weapons to Somalia on the basis that the transaction was legal sale between two sovereign states. Sana'a admitted to sending 5,000 pieces of light arms to the interim government.

Official Yemeni sources, who wish to remain unnamed, confirmed that Yemen did not attend the urgent meeting that was held in New York on Thursday. He provided no explanation.

Aljzeera.net previously reported that Yemen received an invitation from the U.S. to participate in the meetings of a group of countries called the "Somali Contact Group." The meeting

was organized by U.S. only days after Somalia's long-running civil war took a new turn with Mogadishu's capture by a militant Muslim faction: the Islamic Courts Union. The newly victorious group has accused the U.S. of backing its battlefield rivals.

Though the Islamic Courts Union has disavowed any links to terrorism, Bush administration officials allege that Al-Qaida operates in areas under its control in Somalia. The U.S. has said that the Islamic Courts Union harbors suspects involved in the 1998 truck bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam.

The central government in Somalia dissolved amid factional warfare in 1991. In January 2006, President Saleh brokered a deal between Ahmed and the Speaker of Parliament Sharif Hassan Sheikh Adan that enabled the splintered national assembly to hold its first session in Baidoa, located 240km southwest of Mogadishu. The interim government had been powerless to control fighting around the country, including in the capital.

## Muslim hardship under spotlight

Many Muslims in England face bleak employment prospects and endure poor standards of housing, a British government-backed study has found.

LONDON, June 15 — The report revealed Muslims were more likely than any other faith group to be jobless and living in poor conditions.

It said 14% of Muslims aged over 25 were unemployed, compared with the national unemployment rate of 4%.

researchers University Birmingham, Derby, Oxford and Warwick also found Muslims had

poorer levels of education. The study, commissioned to review the prospects of faith communities in England, also said Muslims were more vulnerable to long-term illness.

And one in three lived in the most deprived areas of England. 'Multiple deprivation'

"Taking the Muslim population as a whole, they face some of the most acute conditions of multiple deprivation," the report said.

John Prescott's former department, the Office of the Deputy Prime

Minister (ODPM), commissioned the academics to review data on the Hindu, Sikh and Muslim communities.

As well as highlighting the disadvantages suffered, the report found members of these communities were likely to remain concentrated in the same areas.

This was because families wanted to stay close together and many prefer to live near to their places of worship.

Researchers reviewed a variety of data, including information from the 2001 national census.

The government will use the study in its work to encourage equal opportunities for members of all religious communities, a spokeswoman said.

### **Conference on Local Councils begins**

SANA'A, June 17 — The fourth conference of Local Councils began Saturday at the May 22 Hall. Themed "Developing Decentralized Systems to Enhance the Participation of Society in Development," the conference plans to draw ministers, governors, secretary generals, specialized committees heads of districts, and heads of local councils to its proceed-

Participants, during three days of activities, plan to go over an evaluative review of the local governance systems through the report submitted the Minister of Local Administration, Sadek Ameen Abu Ras. Further, they will discuss methods of developing and enhancing local governance by overcoming difficulties through the legislative process.

The conference comes in the wake of the success of the last local elections, where all political parties took part. During those elections, harmony existed between heads of administrative units and secretary generals in districts and governorates.

Observers expect that the conference will produce useful results that will set a practical vision for a development plan on local governance. Notably, the conference has invited a large number of participants who will make adjustments to the local governance law.

Additionally, the conference will discuss broadening public participation and will make adjustments granting local councils further authority in administering local affairs. The councils will have more authority over offering tenders, supervising the implementation of local projects, preparing budgets, and making development plans.

New legislative and organizational frameworks will be considered at the conference with the aim of providing the best structures for local councils to work within. Other topics that are planned to be reviewed are the status of construction for local council buildings, capacity-building for local council personnel, and how to support the nomination of more female candidates in the upcoming elections.

## President Saleh sued by HOOD

National Organization for Defending Rights and Freedoms sued for compensation in a lawsuit against President Saleh over the detention of a Yemeni citizen for six years in a political security prison for unclear personal reasons.

The human rights organization urged the judiciary to oblige President Saleh to pay 100 million (YR) in compensation to Ahmad Ali Bin Muaili for what he lost during his allegedly unlawful detention.

In a statement on its website, HOOD said that it pursued legal action against President Saleh in the South Capital Court Saturday through Allaw's Advocacy Foundation after security authorities refused to implement the prosecution's decisions concerning the release of Bin Muaili. The statement said that the suit complies with Article No. 51 of the Yemeni Constitution that stipulates that every citizen has the right to resort to the judiciary to protect his or her legal rights and property.

HOOD explained that it began following the case in 1998 immediately after security authorities arrested Bin Muaili without any order from the relevant government bodies.

"The victim...landed in jail for an entire year, then released and detained once again in the Passport Authority's jail. He remained jailed for four months over the charge of being a non-Yemeni," the HOOD statement reads. "On May 6, 2001...political security arrested Bin Muaili for the third time and threw him in jail for a week prior to transferring him to the Central Security's

Attempting to make the relevant authorities compensate the victim, **HOOD** indicated that President Saleh has failed to perform his duties in conformity with the Constitution, as he has not protected Bin Muaili's dignity and freedom.

Bin Muaili established a radio in Iraqi territory criticizing the Saudi government. After relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia warmed, Bin Muaili was subjected to imprisonment and oppression by Yemeni officials deferent to Saudi interests, legal sources said.

## Yemen issues protests to Kuwait over insults

SANA'A, June 18 — Yemen officially protested to Kuwait over what it called "frequent insults" toward Yemeni political leaders by prominent Kuwaiti dignitaries, the government media reported Saturday.

In a meeting with Kuwaiti Ambassador Abdurrahman Al-Utaibi, Dr. Abu-Bakr Al-Qirbi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, informed him of Yemen's discomfort over the frequent insults to the Yemeni government and people, the Yemeni news agency Saba said.

The Saba news agency provided no details about the nature of the insults or the people involved. The Yemeni government has voiced its anger in

recent years over public criticism of distinguished ties between Yemen President Saleh by Kuwaiti journalists and opposition members of parliament.

What enraged the Yemeni government this time around was that the Kuwaiti MP Muslim Al-Barrak criticized his government for being lenient toward the countries that backed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, including Yemen. According to official sources, Al-

Utaibi informed the Yemeni government that Al-Barrak does not represent the Kuwaiti leadership and the government cannot take any procedures against him.

"Such insults aim at damaging the

and Kuwait," the agency quoted Al-Qirbi as saying at the meeting with the Kuwaiti diplomat.

Al-Qirbi requested that the Kuwaiti government "confront any act that could harm the interests of the two countries" and "take legal actions ...to avoid any escalation that is intended to cause damage to the brotherly relationship," between the two countries.

Yemen has yet to restore its once warm ties with Kuwait that were damaged by Yemen's opposition to international, non-Arab, military action against Iraq after it invaded the oil-rich gulf state in 1990.

## **Comedian** released from jail

SANA'A, June 17 — Mohammed Al-Athraie, a popular artist and comedian, was released from a political security detention center late Friday. Al-Athraie was arrested last Tuesday by political security members while returning from a Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) festival in Sana'a.

According to the NewsYemen website, Al-Athraie was accused of mimicking President Saleh in his comedy routine. He denied the accusation. Al-Athraie said he was not subjected to any kind of torture while in detention, though he was locked in a dark cell and not told where he was. He expects to be arrested

In a statement issued last Thursday, tens of artists and journalists condemned the arrest of Al-Athraie "who was kidnapped by an armed group [of men] and thrown [in]to the political security prison." Sources wishing to remain unnamed attributed the release of Al-Athraie to a threat by the JMP to boycott the latest dialogue with the ruling General People's Congress if he was not released.



Al-Athraie

### Continued from page 1

### Waella tribes accuse government of yielding territory

The Yemen Times contacted the technical borders office affiliated with the president's office to verify the truthfulness of the tribes' claims. An official refusing to identify himself said that what the tribal statement mentioned wasn't responsible information and that his office would conduct an investigation and send its reply later.

The official wondered why the Waella tribes hadn't mentioned these issues at the time of border demarcation; rather, choosing this time to declare their refusal of it, especially after the demarcation process has been completed and the two countries have exchanged docu-

Sheikh Mohammed Bin Shagie, chieftain of the Waella tribal sheikhs, who died in a mysterious accident was one of the strongest opponents of border demarcation with Saudi Arabia across Waella lands. The German firm couldn't cross Waella territory while he was alive.

### Al-Salimi's Gitmo suicide denied

Furthermore, Alaw said HOOD has contacted other organizations to help reveal the truth behind the incident due to Yemeni hospitals' insufficiency to medically check the body, pointing out that Al-Karama Organization from Qatar is ready to cooperate with HOOD.

Alaw said Yemen's government is ready to conduct a local investigation into the case; however, HOOD wants it to be a beginning to an international one. He also said that the Yemeni government should not have received Al-Salimi's body without his medical report as notified by the Yemeni Embassy in Washington.

Member of Parliament Sakher Al-Wajeeh declared, "The detainees in the U.S. were killed long ago, from the time they were detained at Guantánamo away from international law and divine legislation," pointing out that he also doesn't believe the suicide claim because the suicide was committed with the same mechanism while the

detainees were separated from each

HOOD previously called on Yemeni scholars, political parties and civil society organizations to take a stand and a practical attitude toward alleged crimes the U.S. government committed regarding the death of three detainees, one of them was a Yemeni national. HOOD also called on Abulmajeed Al-Zindani, the Joint Meeting Parties, the ruling party and its government, which is supposed to be responsible for defending Yemeni citizens inside and outside the country, to take decisive steps.

In a statement on its web site, HOOD also condemned Arab and Yemeni silence regarding the deaths of three at Guantánamo at the hands of U.S. soldiers. Additionally, the organization denounced the submissive silence of Yemen's government, political party authorities and cultured and educated citizens at continued U.S. crimes against Yemeni detainees in Guantánamo, considered today to be a sign violating human rights.

Moreover, HOOD called on all institutions led by Yemeni religious scholars and party chairmen to conduct a symbolic funeral for Salah Addin Al-Salimi. It also stressed that Yemeni religious scholars should call for making prayer over his soul and those of his two Saudi companions. Similarly, HOOD called on Saudi religious scholars to do the

Finally, HOOD requested the Yemeni government play its role regarding its citizens and not participate in burying the body until an investigation of the incident is conducted. It also called upon human rights activists and civil society organizations in Yemen and the Arab world to make the burial ceremonies of these individuals an international protest against human rights violations by the U.S. Administration in the name of the War on Terrorism, ultimately leading to closing such detainment centers and punishing the perpe-

### **Ambassador Mario Boffo to the Yemen Times:**

## "We are very happy that Yemen has chosen the democratic way"

Interviewed by: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

ario Boffo has been Italian Yemen and Djibouti since October 2005. Before he came to Yemen, Boffo worked as chief of the Protocol Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs between 2002 and 2005. He represented Italy at the NATO office in Brussels between 1994 and 1998. During his diplomatic career he worked at the Italian embassies in various countries such as the Democratic Repulic of the Congo, Spain, and Canada.

Boffo started his career at the diplomatic institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he worked for one year in 1978. Boffo was born in Naples on 9 June 1953. He is married and has two children.

YT: Earlier this month, Italy celebrated the 60th anniversary of the its National Day, what is important about this event? We noticed that it was not a holiday originally, and we learned that some political parties oppose the celebration of this day and call for a federation system, could you tell us about that?

The second of June 1946 was the day when Italy went through a big referen-

dum to choose between a monar-We have to preserve the chy and a republiculture and individual can state, and Italy chose the republic. identities of the If there is anything European countries to say about this within the EU, and this celebration it is that we are proud. We is in fact richness for are proud of the achievements our country. After the destruction of the

Second World War, we reconstructed the country, and we contributed to the construction of many international institutions such as the United Nations, the NATO and the European Union.

Europe."



H. E. Mario Boffo

Perhaps 50 years ago it was decided to mark this day as a holiday, before that it was a civil celebration but people went to work. But regardless of the differences: military parade or not, holiday or not, nobody in Italy is against the celebration of the Italian national

YT: Would celebrating this national day be seen as contradicting to the advancement towards a more united **Europe? Shouldn't the concentration** now be EU's days instead of individual national days?

I think that any Italian agrees with the celebration with some differences

between the political parties as to the details like I explained to you earlier. Our celebration of the national day is very important to maintain our national identity. The world is going towards big aggregations; some of

these entities are

already states like the United States, China, and India...etc. Europe is a reality but it is not yet states neither a very integrated unity. We have integration in many aspects, in economy and trade,

cy and so on. This is the target and of course there are some difficulties, sometimes this process is fast like the creation of the euro, sometimes it is slow but we are heading there.

YT: Italy wants to play the role of mediator between Europe and Africa. Will this affect Italian interests in the Middle East?

Italy is spontaneously very close to Middle East and to African countries, because the history and the location of Italy as a Mediterranean country have made it close to Europe but in the same time close to the Middle East and to Northern Africa and from that to Southern Africa. In our foreign policies

"We are very proud to

have Yemen as partners

in this Dialogue

Assistance for

Democracy (DAD),

which is an initiative by

the G8 and a part of the

dialogue between the G8

and the Middle East."

the achievements

of our country."

we always try to a bridge between different while we participate in the construction Europe being one of the European countries as we are one of founders, we don't forget that we are also a Mediterranean

country with historical and practical as well as current relations with the African and Arab countries. One of the reasons we are close to Yemen is that we are at the south part of Europe, which is an important location, and Yemen is a very important part of the Middle East.

Our interest in Africa would not affect our relations with the Middle East, "We are proud of

because Italy is a great country and we are present in every corner of the world. We do not play part only in regional politics but we

have a say in the international politics. If we pay attention to Africa for example that does not mean we neglect the

1926. At that time Italy was a regional power and headed for settling closer relations with Yemen as a friendly country as well as a political partner. Our desire was to create a political frame in order to valorise relations that were in place even before the independence of Yemen, on the basis of shared interests in the area.

Eighty years later, Italy is still present in the region and looks at Yemen as a friendly country and as a partner, both for the bilateral relation and for the political dialogue on the main international issues. In this anniversary we are not confining ourselves to celebrations: we are working together even more intensively. This has been leading us to achieve outstanding outcomes in the

> fields of security, environment conservation. medical cooperation, institutional building support and cultural cooperation.

Italy and Yemen have identity springing both from their ancient civilizations, whose influence is still well routed in their respective cultures. Among others,

this is the basic reason of the long lasting friendship between our peoples. Italy had relations with Yemen also at the time of Roman Empire and, in the past century, well before 1926. In 1926 our countries had the historic opportunity to establish a normal diplomatic relationship. Italy was absolutely the first country to sign with Yemen an international treaty

and in so doing, to start a relationship, which is still vital with excellent results.

Many of these successes have been made possible by the joint

cooperation of the Italian and Yemeni members of the Yemeni-Italian Friendship Association, to whom I would like to renew the expression of my gratitude.

### YT: What are the Italian programmes in Yemen and with special reflection on development projects especially outside Sana'a

This year we are specially implementing some security projects with Yemen: the construction of a Vessel Traffic ic way because Management System (VTS) for coastal security. This project is funded by Italy with 20 million euros. This is besides the execution of the bilateral agreement for Fighting International Crime and Terrorism and the cooperation between Ministries of Interior and the Coastal Guards.

We have also given further motivations to the Socotra project (Italy funds it with more than half of the budget). The aim of this project is to preserve that very special environment, while promoting a sustainable development. We are still very active in the medical cooperation, with strategic interventions: restoration of health centers in five governatorates and activation of a "Blood bank" for managing this very important medical structure. In the field of culture and cultural heritage we follow with our traditional projects (excavations in Baraqish and Tamna) but we are also developing our cooperation with a number of intervention aiming at contributing still more substance and consistency to the Italian presence in Yemen in this sector.

We have not yet precise tourism programs. Anyway, Italian tourism here is a strong reality, we think it will continue with no concerns about the security of Yemen. We trust Yemeni Government with its strengthened measures undertaken to prevent possible kidnaps.

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visit of the Italian Minister of International Trade, Mrs. Emma Bonino. We will study all possible forms of bilateral cooperation and interventions to increase Italian economic actions in Yemen. This visit shall be the starting point of a more global action, targeting the growth of the bilateral trade and above all of the Italian investments here.

### YT: What about the twining between Tuscany and Sana'a?

We are also working on a number of cooperation initiatives, managed by regions or other non-state actors (for example, we work in close contact with the Italian - Yemeni Friendship Association). In this framework, we

will also work to implement the twinning agreement between Sana'a Tuscany.

YT: What is Italy's view on democracy Yemen?

We are very happy because Yemen has chosen the democratthis is a value per say and it is good

for the economic development and security. There is a link between democracy, security and economy that one cannot break. You will see that in most of the developed parts of the world are democratic countries, are well developed and they are quite safe. It is very important that Yemen understood that. Of course it is a process and yet to be proved and so on. Also we participate frankly with Yemen, sometimes with criticism sometimes with encouragement and we know that there are a lot of things to be improved. But we are happy that

Yemen has chosen "Italy dealt with the this way. And we are Danish cartoon question very proud to have Yemen as partners with a lot of respect for in this Dialogue Islam and for the Assistance concerned countries." Democracy (DAD), which is an initiative by the G8 and a

part of the dialogue between the G8 and the Middle East. Yemen and Italy and Turkey are the three countries who are organising a number of initiatives and workshops and so on. We had some events in Italy, some in Turkey and now on the 25th and 26th of June a concluding conference will take place in Sana'a. This exercise is very important because it puts together government institutions and non-state actors dialoguing, exchanging experiences. The main themes of this are freedom of speech, women and democracy in general. We are very proud that you are participating in this initiative because not only you are following your own process in democracy but also you can explain your experience to other countries. "No Peace without Justice" is the NGO working with the government on this initiative and we met with them previously and will meet again and provide our contribution to this.

### YT: What about elections in Italy? Will Berlusconi eventually step down?

After the elections in April, Italy has a new Government. This will never change the traditional friendship between my country and Middle East Countries. Obviously, also Yemen will remain among our special partners, and we are planning a number of Italian vis-

> its here to strengthen and improve our rela-

we always try to be a bridge between different YT: What is the Italian government's countries. Our interest stance towards the in Africa would not Danish Cartoons affect our relations with and is there anything being done the Middle East, today to help the because Italy is a great country and we are present in every corner of the world."

"In our foreign policies

religious dialogue in Italy between the various religions? Italy dealt with the Danish cartoon question with a lot of respect for Islam and for the concerned countries. We want

the religious dialogue to go on with mutual respect and that the relations between Islamic and western countries becomes better. A lot of Islamic people live in Italy, with a good level of inte-

### YT: Finally, what are your impressions about Yemen? And, any wordsto the Yemeni people on the occasion of the Italian national day.

In Yemen, I felt comfortable since my first days. Yemeni people are very kind,

> both at authorities level and at ordinary people level. Italy is a loved and esteemed country, here. On the occasion of the Italian National Day, and in the very special occurrence of the

80th Italy - Yemen anniversary, I would like to share with Yemeni authorities and people the sense of both celebrations, as a further sign of friendship and cooperation. My experience here as Ambassador of Italy is great. For us Yemen has a very important position, we have with this country a historic relationship which goes back to 1926. Actually, I happened to arrive in Yemen on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of our relationship, which is a further motivation for me: we want fill this year of celebration with concrete supplementary results of our part-



H. E. Boffo and Ms. Al-Sakkaf at the celebration of the Italian National Day.

Italy has progressed in many aspects, in our civil society, our economy and our participation in the international

As for your comment on opposing the celebration, I want to say that all Italians are proud and happy to celebrate the national day. The debate is not about the celebration of the national day, but it is on the celebration with a military parade. Some parties call for the celebration with the parade and say that the parade does not mean war, it is a part of the identity of any country and this year we had the military parade like every year and people attended. one currency: the euro, and now we are working towards a military and defence integration. But I think that the right way for Italy and any of the European country is to improve the integration not in a state or a federation style because the European experience is different from a normal federation. Each of our countries has its own traditions and its own history. We can't merge the countries in the sense that the national identity of the countries disappears. We have to preserve the culture and individual identities of the European countries within the EU, and this is in fact richness for Europe. We have to create

Middle East, because we want to have a wide network in economic and political relations. Now with the new government we have separate secretary of states for Africa and the Middle East, so you see our interest and our attention is undivided, and we want to devote the same attention to all.

YT: Today, Italy and Yemen celebrate 80 years of close relations. Could you comment about this?

This is a special year: we celebrate the 80th anniversary of the official establishment of bilateral relations between our Countries, which took place in

YT: Last year the Arabo-Italian

chamber of commerce visited Yemen in order to examine potential investment opportunities. What resulted? At the end of June we will receive the

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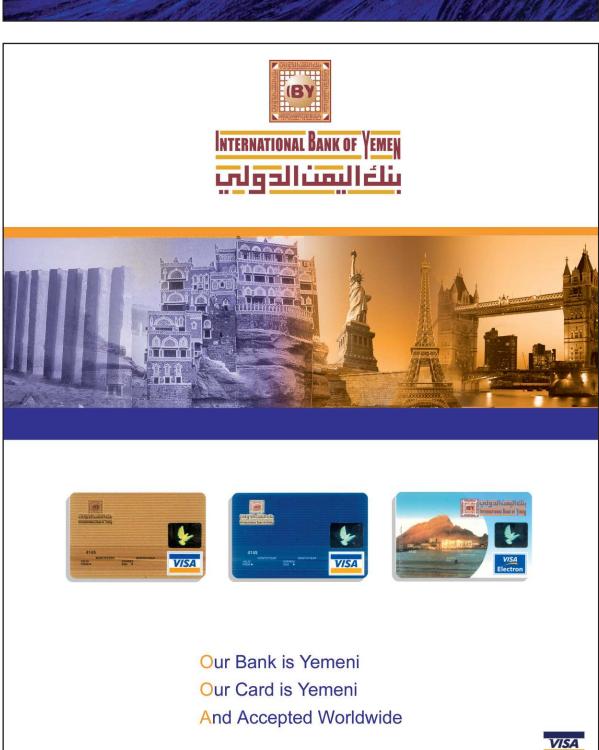
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## Students vs. Yemeni electrical outages

One sure-fire way of disappointing students are electricity cuts during final exam days, which runs counter to government claims of caring for youths.

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
Fatima fnfr@yahoo.com

hile both school and university students are preparing for final exams, Yemen's electricity switches off twice or more a day, especially in the evening. Switching off the electricity has become a problem which students take into account when planning for exams.

"I wonder why electricity cuts mostly occur during our final exam days. This has become so boring that I don't care about my studies. Let the government exercise a policy of 'depriving us from electricity on exam days' a thousand times," 12th-grader Emad Abdu said, "I know full well that nothing works in our country, although the government spends billions of riyals on the electricity sector."

By and large, more than half a million students in grades 9 through 12 suffer terribly due to recurring nightly electricity outages during exam days. Therefore, they must find other means of lighting. The majority resort to candles because they can't afford other lighting means, while those with high-ranking fathers in the state don't fear electrical outages because they have better alternatives.

### Disappointed students

Many students find it very disappointing when the electricity suddenly goes off at night without being cautioned beforehand because, as usual, such students find it appropriate to study at night.

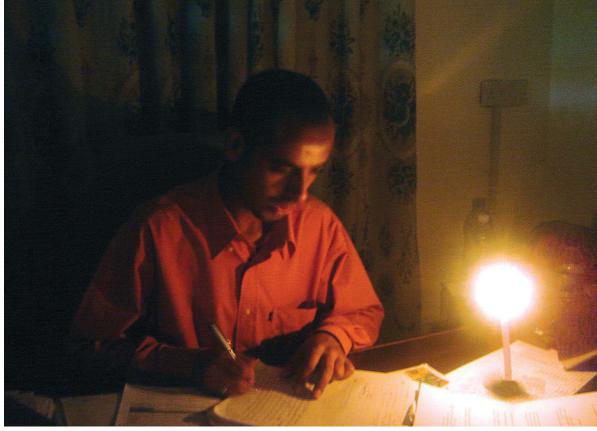
High school student Jamal Mohammed spends hours studying, especially during final exam days. "The best time to study is in the evening until the fajr prayer time, so I face the problem of the electricity switching off," he explained, "I must light candles one or two hours every day otherwise, I'll lose that time without studying"

Emani Ali Taher pointed out that she is busy all day, beginning when she goes to school in the morning. She also must work at home and help her mother "I don't find time to study except at night. I'm stressed all evening while I'm studying because the whole time I'm preoccupied about when the electricity will go off. So, I must finish my studying earlier," she said.

Ninth-grader Abdulrahman Al-Harazi prefers to sleep rather than study by candlelight because, for one thing, he finds it discouraging to read by the faint light of candles. "I like to study hard. As I begin reading a specific subject, my interest grows and I read without getting bored. But when the lights suddenly go off, I throw the book at the wall and immediately go to bed. This is very disappointing."

Students Abdulsalam Nasser, Tariq Aziz and Emad Abdallah have final exams for primary school and say, "We always study together in a house, but when the electricity goes off, we prefer to go to the mosque and study there rather than studying in the dark. We can't study by candlelight. If we don't go to the mosque, we'll spend the time talking or sleeping."

University student Mohammed Ahmed says, "I live in Bani-Hashash



Students have to study and read at the light of candles.

village, so I study and prepare for exams by candlelight anyway. When I begin studying, I put the candles beside me and wait for the moment of switching off. I've done this for years."

According to secondary school student Amat Albari Al-Amdi, for the past year, "Electricity switching off was one of the difficulties I faced during exams. I couldn't organize my time, however, my family tried to make a good atmosphere for me, especially my sisters. They didn't let me work at home, so I spent time studying in the morning and spent the evening for revision. I didn't care if the electricity went off or not. I hope students this year don't face the same problem."

### **Mutual worries**

For the most part, parents worry about their children during exam days, trying their best to provide an appropriate atmosphere for their children before and during exams.

"I must buy dozens of candles for my three sons who now are taking their exams. I really want to provide them with a better alternative, but because I am poor, I can buy only candles. I don't want them to feel disappointed. Every night I pray to God that the electricity will continue until dawn," said 45-year-old Sana'a resident Mohammed Saleh Al-Ba'dani

Haj Mohammed Nasser, who has two sons preparing for final exams,

expressed, "I must buy candles every day during the exam period. I want someone to answer my questions about why the Ministry of Electricity deals with our students like this and why they switch off the electricity more during exam time rather than at other times?"

Aden mother and teacher Nour Haza'a narrated her suffering during exam days, saying, "When the electricity goes off, my daughter goes to sleep until it comes on, then she continues studying until morning. She awakens too tired and sometimes forgets the information she studied all night. I live under stress until she finishes her exams."

Many accidents also occur as a result of the electricity switching off.

Haj Ahmad Nasser recalled, "In the past year, one of my neighbors burned his house while he was studying by candlelight. He went to sleep and a fire from the candles spread around the room until the family awoke and found the house on fire."

### Government ignorance

Many students wonder why electrical cuts increase during final exams, whereas the power never goes off on national holidays. The 16th anniversary of Unification Day is a case in point. Citizens complained that the electricity was not cut off at that time because the government spent millions of riyals to provide lighting for that occasion.

"When in need, the government uses school students on national holidays to participate in shows and parades. But during final exams, scarcely are students given full attention, as evidenced by the intentional electricity cuts at night," teacher Nasser Al-Jaili commented.

The Ministry of Electricity attributes electricity outages to generator power deficits and excessive pressure in the evenings, namely from 5 to 10 p.m. The ministry's public relations manager Sharaf Al-Huraibi noted that it's important to alleviate electricity generation via cuts for a specific period of time not exceeding one hour. "Most electrical appliances are switched on at night, as opposed to morning. Efforts are being made, but we need time to find solutions to this problem," he added.

Some students wish final exams would coincide with national holidays. "I notice that the electricity never goes off on national holidays. Perhaps they do this to allow spectators to watch the parades and shows displayed for such occasions. What we benefit is a mere enjoyment, which vanishes at the end of such occasions," said Mokhtar Faisal from Jamal Abdul Nasser School in Sana'a.

### WITA: Yemen's first women's IT association

Last month, SOUL announced the launch of the Women in Technology Association (WITA), which is the first of its kind in Yemen. In an exclusive interview with Women in Technology (WIT) program manager, Lina Al-Eryani, she gives an overall view of WITA.

Interviewed by: Mohammed

### What is WITA and how did the idea

come about?
WITA is the first Yemeni women's IT
(Information Technology) association
and its establishment came within the
framework of the Women in

framework of the Women in Technology (WIT) program to ensure the program's sustainability and expand its impact to a larger group of women.

### What are WITA's goals?

One of WITA's main aims is to create a database for female computer science graduates, including WIT participants, which will provide women better access to the labor market in a culturally appropriate way. The database will be available to private businesses, government agencies and academic institutes, which will facilitate recruitment of IT graduates and improve access to the labor market, especially for women specialized in this field.

Why is WITA confined to Sana'a city and not in other governorates? Because the WIT program has begun only in Sana'a; accordingly, WITA initially has been established in Sana'a. However, we hope that through its members' efforts and commitment, it will expand to other governorates in the near future.

Is WITA planned for the long run or will it be only for a specific time peri-

The WIT program cycle is until the end of March 2007. During this period, as

the agency implementing the WIT program, SOUL will assist WITA to stand on its own by providing an officer for WITA meetings, securing official recognition for the association and training administrative members, once

## How many women have joined WITA so far and on what basis do you select them?

they're elected, in grant proposal writ-

ing and management issues.

Because WITA initially is targeting all WIT program participants, the number of women in the general assemblage will be around 138, the same number who attended WITA's first meeting. We're confident that the second meeting, which officially will launch WITA and elect administrative members, will attract more women interested in joining the association.

### Why do you focus on IT?

Yemen's total population is 19.4 million, with women representing 51 percent. However, their participation in the paid labor force is only 24 percent and their participation in the IT field is even lower, with women accounting for only 15 percent of professional and technical jobs, according to the Women's National Committee's 2004 Human Development Report.

Impediments to women's education in the IT field are exacerbated by lack of access due to the high price of training, lack of women-only classes and low quality? of training. Thus, by providing free training with high quality? in a women-only environment, we hope to contribute to building women's IT skills, which is the most sought-

after skill on the labor market, both by private and public sectors, which ultimately will improve women's access to the labor market.

## Are there any other NGOs or establishments for IT for men and/or women or are you the sole association concerned with IT in Yemen?

There are no other IT associations in Yemen, either for men or women; thus, WITA is Yemen's first IT association in general.

### How widespread is computer illiteracy in Yemen?

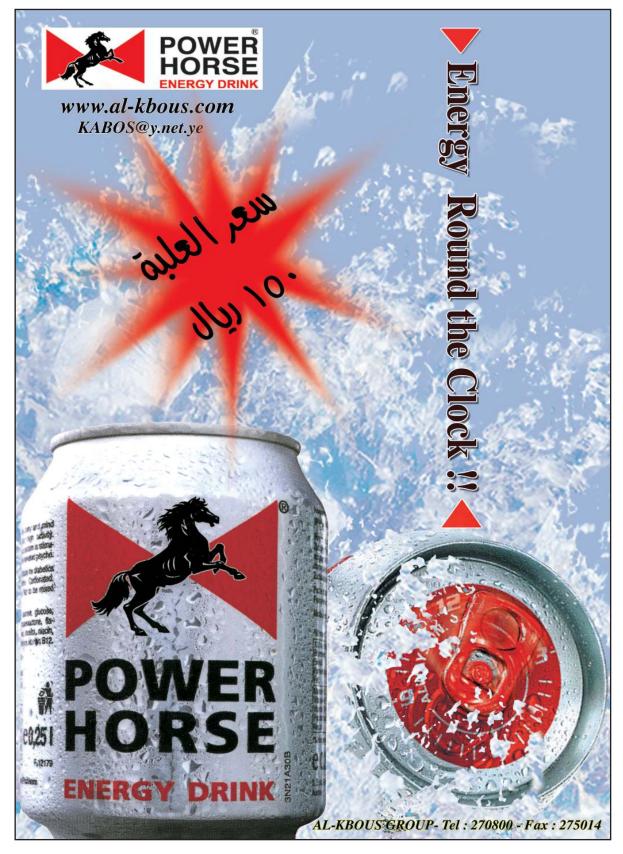
Even though there are no statistics on computer illiteracy among men or women, the 2004 Women's National Committee Human Development Report states that only 15 percent of women work in the IT field. Of course, this can be attributed to several other reasons, especially since women's participation in the labor market in general is only 24.6 percent, according to the same report. But since women still lack access to education in general and the literacy rate among women stands at 28.5 percent, we can deduce that computer illiteracy among women is very high, although no statistics are available in this regard.

### How do you receive funding and support for WITA?

During the establishment phase, WITA will be supported by WIT technology, which is implemented by SOUL for the Development of Women and Children. Following the WIT program's end, we hope WITA already will be established and its member trained and thus able to seek funding by themselves to be independent.

### What are your future plans for WITA?

Based on outcomes from WITA's first meeting, the selected preparatory committee, consisting of seven members elected by all members attending the first meeting, will establish WITA's plans and activities.





## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

## Consultancy to Prepare Gender and Environment Modules for the District capacity Building Program of the Public Works Project

### **BACKGROUND**

One of the components of the Public Works Project-Phase III is support to Decentralization and Development of Local Authorities in 20 selected districts in six governorates (Taiz, Abyan, Ibb, AlHodidah, Hajjah, and Hadhramut).

The participation of women, as well as men, is key to successful decentralization. Therefore, the PWP plans to include in its capacity-building program a focus on gender issues. The goal is to create awareness at the community level of the need to support the participation of both women and men in the decentralization process. Issues of the environment and natural resources management are also key for Yemen and thus need to be integrated into district level development plans and activities.

### The main objectives of the consultancy are:

- 1. Promoting the integration of gender issues into the decentralization process
- 2. Promoting the integration of <u>environment and natural resource management issues</u> into the decentralization process

### **SCOPE OF SERVICES**

The Consultant's scope of work is divided into two tasks:

### A. Gender Issues

- the development of a gender module to be piloted by the PWP district capacity building program and
- 2. the mainstreaming of gender issues into the local development planning process and during implementation of local development plans in the selected districts.

### B. Environment and natural resource management issues

- 1. the development of an environment module to be piloted by the PWP district capacity building program and
- 2. the mainstreaming of environment issues into the local development planning process and during implementation of local development plans in the selected districts.

### QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

An advanced degree in the Social Sciences or related field. At least 10 years post qualification experience. Must have proven experience in gender issues and in the environment/natural resources management in Yemen. Must have sound experience in capacity building. Ability to write in English and Arabic.

### **Duration: 12 months**

Interested and qualified candidates should submit their C.V.s within two weeks from date of this announcement to: Public Works project officer – 20m road off the west 60m road (previously community college). Tel #01 407354, Fax# 01 407353.



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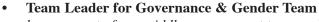


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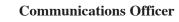
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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT UNDP Office in Sana'a is Expanding.

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become part of our middle management team and lead the implementation of our governance and gender programmes



manage UNDP's public relations through promoting the results achieved with the media and civil society

### • Programme Officer – Economist

manage the poverty reduction and economic growth programmes to help Yemen address the needs of the poor and improve the status of the economy

### • Programme Associate – Human Rights and Elections

manage the human rights and elections programmes to assist Yemen in improving its democratic governance and the participation of the Yemeni people in the betterment of their society

### • Programme Associate - Crisis Prevention and Recovery

manage the crisis prevention and recovery programmes which will enable Yemen to better manage natural disasters and crisis

### • Research and Knowledge Management Associate

manage the knowledge base of the UNDP Office and assist in research towards the development of new programmes and projects

### • Project Management Assistant (2 positions)

help our Programme Teams to manage their many programmes and projects professionally, while supporting the achievement of results on schedule and on budget

There is a variety of positions and we are looking for different skills, to learn more about these positions please visit our website [www.undp.org.ye and go to Vacancies under About UNDP Yemen] for the details and find a position that fits you!

Only candidates with the specified education and years of experience as indicated in the **Job Description/s will be considered**. We look forward to receiving your application (only short-listed candidates will be contacted).

### Deadline for receipt of applications is 30 June 2006.

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization, and qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

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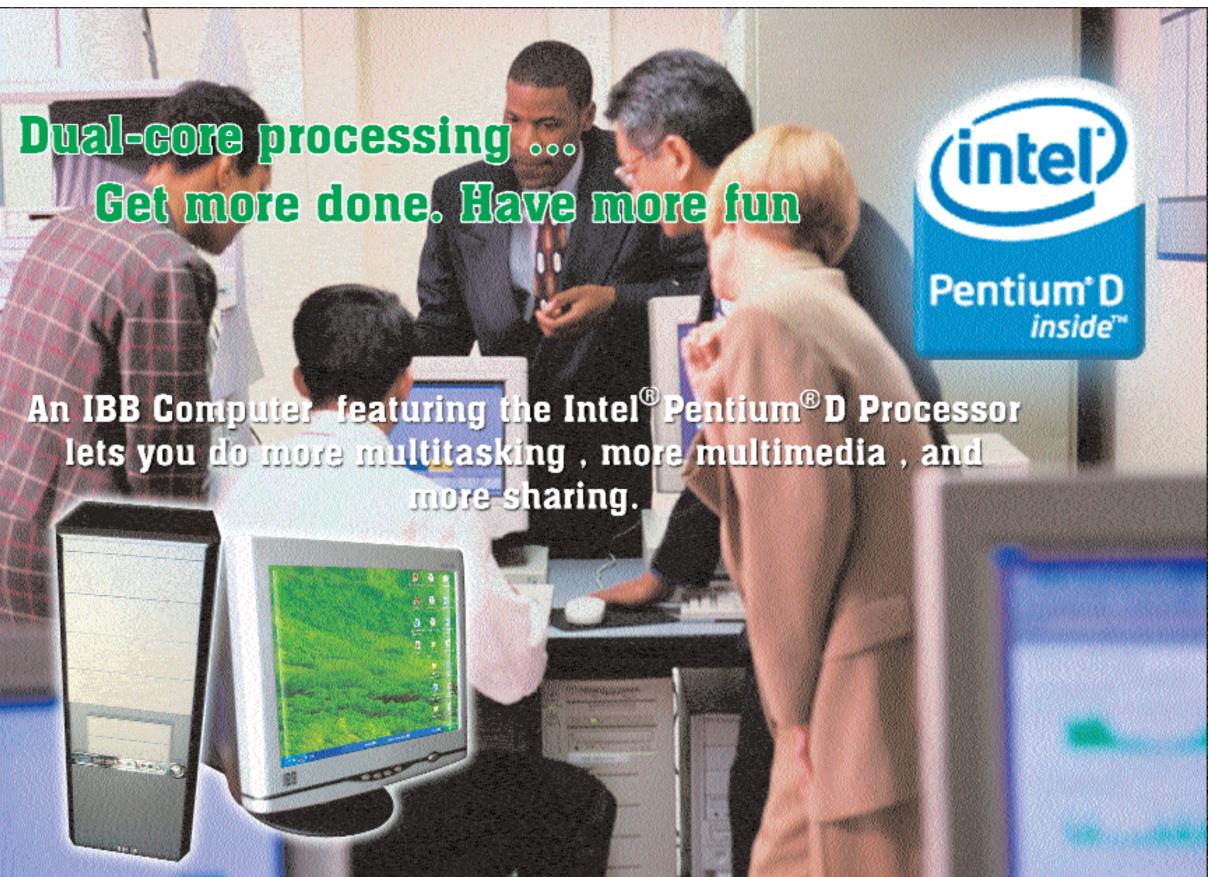
### **Minimum Requirements:**

- Degree in Business Administration or equivalent in administration
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Deadline to receive applications is Wednesday 21st June 2006.





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### **Words of Wisdom**



The Republic of Yemen cannot afford to develop on the basic 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**

### Yellow journalism in Yemen

s if it's not enough that the media scene in Yemen is in dire need of improvement in terms of professionalism and resources, Yemeni media now faces a new challenge - yellow journalism. There have been and still are certain debates and conflicts between Yemeni newspapers, especially those with conflicting views. But today, we have come to witness a new level of deterio-

Yemeni newspaper Akhbar Al-Youm (Daily News) has sunk to a very degrading level of professionalism, continuing to target individuals and institutions just for spreading unconstructive false information, to say the least. The latest incident is a direct defamation of Sisters Arab Forum director Amel Al-Basha regarding a development project established between Women Journalists without Chains (formerly Women Journalists without Constraints) and Canada's Bridges organization, directed by Donna Kennedy, to create communication channels between Yemeni and Canadian girls. The newspaper accused the program of assisting outside sources (i.e. Western) to infiltrate and 'occupy' Yemeni minds with dangerous, foreign and non-Islamic thoughts and views. They even denounce the Islah party for not standing

We have enough problems in Yemen, so we really don't need an additional setback. I don't understand how the Ministry of Information can turn a blind eye toward such humiliation. This isn't the first incident of its kind, as we all remember last year's defamation of Rahma Hujaira in Al-Bilad newspaper, wherein it attributed lies to her in urging Yemeni women to walk around 'naked' without hijab (covering).

Regardless of differences and viewpoints, there's a level of decency that shouldn't be crossed generally, but especially in the media. Having such yellow newspapers stabbing the backs of activists provides an additional obstacle to Yemen's development. It's true that such newspapers gradually lose their credibility, but this happens at the expense of the reputation and time of the targeted individuals and institutions. And in a conservative society like Yemen, such loss sometimes is too grave and cannot be retained.

Many initiatives in Yemen aim to support media and freedoms, but thus far, they're continuously hindered mainly by bureaucratic regulations and systems, resistance to change, lack of resources and the spread of these problems. Today, with this new trend of yellow journalism, our efforts also are threatened by negative publicity about and negative campaigning against some development efforts. Unfortunately, many among Yemen's population don't have the resources or access to be able to discern false information from truth, so such slander eventually does have an effect.

My hope is that legitimate authorities like the Ministry of Information and the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate will take an effective leading role against this new battle line. Else, we as individual media institutions will have our say, loud Nadia Al-Sakkaf and clear.

Editor-in-Chief

### **Letters to the Editor**

Government needs to regulate pharmacies hy did the medicine you sold me have no effect?," I asked to the pharmacist. "Well, because it is a cheap one," he replied. I struggled to control my fury. I wonder how many people have gone through this miserable situation. I forced myself to ask him why he had the medicine on sale if it was ineffective. He forced artificial smile and said, "Well I do have the expensive ones, but they will cost you more." I looked around his pharmacy and my eyes caught the commercial license he had stuck on the wall. For the sake of humanity how do the authorities allow this sort of practice to occur under their noses? What prompted me to write this letter was an article in the Yemen Times about contraband medicine in the market. I wonder the authorities will rectify the situation that has caused so much suffering.

Ali Sherif Ailsherif50@hotmail.com

## Withdrawal from Iraq first, rehab soldiers second

he steps that President Bush has taken with regard to his reckless soldiers-who have destroyed Iraq and the social relationship of its people-are objects of ridicule. The steps that the president has taken aim at teaching his soldiers principles of morals and good conduct. Yet, the training comes too late as these soldiers have assimilated



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

By: Prof. Abdulaziz

cruelty into their behavior. Regardless of opinion of moralists and those specialized in diagnosing human nature, Bush's directive to inculcate proper conduct to soldiers trained to kill-fighters or innocents-has come too late.

Perhaps the saving grace of the training is the revelation that the American administration is confused after it has reached its worst impasse. The effect has been to make the U.S. into an object of mockery.

If Bush succeeds in rehabilitating the conduct of his soldiers in Iraq and around the globe, he still would not have reformed the conduct of his administration. Composed of neoconservatives who prepare battle plans for

future wars supported by specious claims similar to the ones bandied about to justify invading Iraq, Bush has not shown much interest in rehabilitating his administration. Contrary to speculation, Iran will not be the first target in the foreseeable future. Rather, other countries will be subject to American action.

Shouldn't have President Bush thought first about the conduct of members of his administration such as Vice President Cheney and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld before rehabilitating the conduct of his soldiers? Was he aware that the members of his administration were morally corrupt and harbored animosity against humanity before they were appointed to their posts? Was Bush ignorant of the fact that his soldiers are killers governed by their instincts and not by principles of democracy and free-

Ethics is a product that is not exported by the White House. President Bush had to remain aloof from such matters so that rational Americans and others would not overly ridicule him because of his pitiable suggestions and solutions. Such solutions have no relation to his problems and the savage crimes his soldiers continue to commit in Iraq and elsewhere. The issue of misconduct at Iraqi prisons is but the tip of the iceberg.

To solve the problem of Iraq, the U.S. has to swiftly extricate itself from the morass it has caused before the problem becomes bigger. Improving the conduct of American soldiers, or their morals will have no effect on the overall issue of an unjust occupation. Unless the U.S. administration, heavy on neoconservatives, is aware of this fact, what now appears to be a difficult problem to solve, will transform into a

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

## The Arabs between scientific advancement & social change (1-2)

his topic does not seem far from the political developments in the Arab homeland. It is in fact part and parcel of the essence of developments and one of its fundamental dimensions because our Arab nation is still marking time and swinging between the lack of scientific progress on the one hand and to go in the social change on the other.

We think that the Arab countries would not be able to provide advanced technology while ignoring the characteristics of the expected changes in the Arab societies especially that we are presently observing the 600th anniversary of the founder of sociology Ibn Khaldun, the greatest Arab historian who born in Tunis and died in Egypt. It is not because he is the author of the Muqaddima 'Introduction 'but rather because he was the one who defined features of societies and the transfer from countryside to urban areas and wrote in the philosophy of civilization and appearance of cities and uniquely contributed to discovery of civilized construction, but also because he seems as if he is now living among us after 600 years of his departure. In order to clarify the message we want to convey we have to touch on the follow-

Firstly: the Arabs are in a state of feud with scientific research and technological advancement and consequently they cannot change to the western social change that is connected with the various styles of life. This is in fact a core point because the social backwardness that most Arab societies suffer from seems at this time more dangerous than the economic backwardness and maybe rather the political. We have to admit that most of the Arab societies advance slowly and do not achieve the progress expected for them. It is enough to

remember in this regard that the volume of social liberalism in the Arab countries for many decades was more than what it is now and this means that the relative progress towards democracy was related to a noticeable retreat in the forward movement of the society, which is a matter difficult to explain.

Secondly: it seems that the relationship between the scientific progress and the social change needs not new evidence to proof. It is because the great changes in human societies have been connected with scientific revolutions. The industrial revolution in modern Europe for instance had produced social changes similar to what the agricultural revolution had done with its impact especially in putting an end to feudalism .regime and in paving the way for capitalism in the concept that the western countries has experienced in various degrees. It may be convenient to stress here the need to change the

present social structure in different Arab countries. The middle class had disappeared or it has almost and the Arab societies have become in need of promoting for new values and various

Thirdly: The Arab countries would not achieve the required degree of integration or incorporation in the life of this age unless they adopt modern methods and means connected with heading towards the scientific research and technological advancement at a balanced degree allowing them to strengthen the power of the state and cohesion of the society. We also have to observe in this regards that the image of the arabs in the eves of others is not a positive one showing that the many gaps for criticizing them are the product of social backwardness, to the extent that the example of the arab has become associated with squandering the wealth and rushing towards delectations and life of comfort without any effort or work. This is a wrong picture and an unjust idea that almost makes him as a burden on the civilization of the

Fourthly: Periodic statistics reveal that the volume if Arab spending on the scientific research is less than the amount of expenditure on one consumer product the Arab countries import. This is a horrific picture especially if it is associated with the apparent degraded level of the movement of publication. The quick comparison between the numbers of Arab book titles with their counterparts in other cultures discloses clearly the flagrant variation between what he Arab mentality contributes to and that of others to our contemporary world.

Fifthly: the connection of modern technology and the social progress represents an essential direct relationship in the orientation towards scientific research seriously and with conviction having direct results on modernization of societies and prosperity of the states. It is enough to contemplate the supposed opposite connection between expansion in the use of mobile telephones and the crisis of transport and communication as we know. Intellectual developments are the actual umbrella for conformity between scientific advancement and social development.

Sixthly: It has settled in the Arab mentality that the reform is a modernization process connected with adoption of means of technology and to head for scientific research with firmness of other elements. The major of those elements is the political, economic and constitutional reforms that represent the locomotive of genuine progress, in addition to changing the mentality and exploration of visions allowing the process of reform to be continuous and durable that would not lose its momentum as a result of intellectual events or national setbacks and political frustrations.

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

## Impact of Zarqawi's death

n 7th June 2006 Abu Musab Al Zaqawi was killed when a US Air Force F-16 Jet dropped two 500 pounds guided bombs on his safe house near Baquba, Iraq. His death is indeed a big event. He was associated with so called Al-Qaida network and was leading it in Iraq. So it is a great setback to Al-Qaida and insurgency, but now the big question is that will Zarqawi's death brings any kind of peace in Iraq

and the bloodshed will be stopped?

I believe that there are 2 kinds of movements, one which is started by someone or by few persons to try to achieve something of their choice. The 2nd kind of movement is that which is brought up by the persons of any community or country themselves; we can call it a revolution also. When a large community in any area is fed up with something and nothing going in their favor, they will rise up and take things in their hands. In first kind of moment the people could listen to someone and may be a part of that movement but if the leader or leaders of that movement are vanished (killed die or whatever) then the movement is also weaken and it ends quickly. But in the 2nd kind of movement which is started by the entire community, it is very hard to stop and someone's death will never end it and if someone is killed by the other forces it can ignites more fury and even more power into the movement. History clearly proves it, for example in revolution in France where rulers tried to stop people by terrorizing them with daily killings and with hard punishments. But when people are united nothing can stop them and monarchs of France saw their powerful rule was ended by commoners.



mimraan.khaan@gmail.com

So one has to think that what the situation in Iraq is? What is going on there? Is the sectarian killing is a part of insurgents' plan only or there few factors which has created this situation. If civil war started in Iraq it will be eventually deadly for US occupation. How can any force stay in a country if everyone is killing everyone.

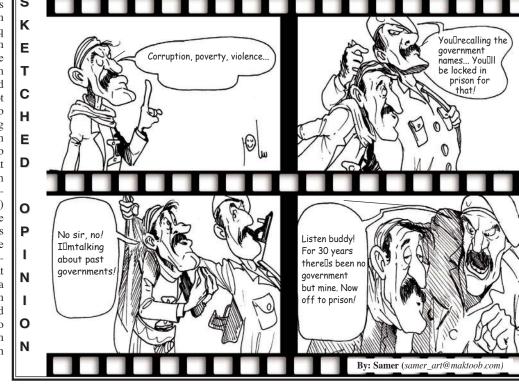
Iraq is mainly made up with

three communities' Shias, Sunnis and Kurds. Sunnis were in power before the invasion of Iraq in 2003. When Saddam Hussein rule was over, Initially there were few steps which have been taken by the Iraqi government and coalition forces were actually not very good. They were meant to spread negative feelings among certain community. Sunnis are in minority but does it means to completely ignore them or treat them as enemies in post Saddam Iraq. That was done when making Iraqi Forces (Army & Police) by completely ignoring the Sunnis so first impression was that perhaps these forces are made against the Sunni population. Few incidents proved that also. So insurgents or Al-Qaida thought it is the base and they can gain few advantages from it and started killing Shias and tried to create an atmosphere where both communities could fight with each other.

It is the responsibility of the Iraqi government to stop these kinds of measures which are sending wrong signals to any community. So the assessment of Sunni population about the Iraqi government will be very important for Iraqi future.

Few years ago no one was even aware of Zarqawi's name and his network in Iraq but due to some wrong actions by Iraqi authorities he was able to make a place for him. But now if all Iraqi communities decide to sit together and cooperate with each other I am sure that the movement which was started by Zarqawi & Co will end soon. Otherwise if an entire community is stand up and willing to fight than I am sure world will see someone else taking Zarqawi's position and completing his mission perhaps with more force and with more hate.

So it all depends on how Iraqi authorities work from now on and their decisions are meant for the betterment for all Iraqi residents or for any particular community. We will see it soon.



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## en Press By: Mohammed Khidhr



Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of Nasserite Unionist Organization (NUO) 13 June

### Main headlines

- the president's electoral campaign with one billion riyals
- prisoners in Aden, Sana'a JMP asks the Supreme Council to decide the question of the presidential nominee Physicians and pharmacists to stage
- sit-in Tuesday
- continues
- ing of cracks in a mountain in Al-Kaida town
- of the national project represented by the corrective movement
- Nasserite Organization: Boycotting presidential elections one of our

area where I

into an arena

turned

tribal

live

clashes. It was reported that

at least six people were

killed and others were

injured. The main street was

blocked forcing cars and

pedestrians to use a different

road to avoid the crossfire.

People living in nearby

houses were trapped in their houses for

hours while bullets flew outside their

This chaos was a result of a land

ownership dispute between tribesmen,

one from Sana'a and the other from

Thamar. I was told that one of the

tribesmen-supported by a notable-

wanted seize land that he had no rights

to. The outcome was that each side

deployed armed tribesmen to the scene

of the dispute. Fighting starting that

night despite being in the proximity of

a military compound. Yet, soldiers only

For three days, the street remained

blocked while gunshots rang during the

night. This was a terrifying experience.

This was not the boondocks but the

street that the prime minister drives

home on in Sana'a. All the government

did was to block the street ignoring the

threat to public safety that the armed

Land ownership disputes are crucial

social issues, and often major

headaches. Every now and then we see

the sky light-up with gun flashes. The

cause of such flashes comes readily to

mind: a land dispute. I wrote about this

problem in 1998 and no action as been

taken to address the problem since

"Why is that?," you might ask. The

answer is simple: military and security

officers, tribal sheikhs, and other

influential people are at the heart of the

problem. In the absence of law and

order, an officer under the escort of

'his' soldiers can easily to trespass on

any piece of land. The same is true of

any tribal chief who employs his

The plundering mentality has no

limits. If you visit the Indian Ocean

island of Socotra, you would find big

chunks of land fenced off by such

notables. Similarly, a casual observer

cannot fail to notice the same practice

in the Hadhramaut, in Aden, and in

Given the lawlessness that prevails

in the country today, landowners often

'murafigeen' to the same effect.

clash presented.

arrived after the shooting was over.

cle no one denies that the destiny of the country on the eve of the corrective movement on 13 June was suspended in autumnal winds. Ten the forces were disturbed and the political situation was in tense condition. Then first impressions the corrective project was bearing is that it aimed at leading the homeland to the transfer from the state of chaos and instability to a more balanced situation and clearer in its directions with features of progress and horizons of the change awaited by the society and needed for life.

The reality was then hard on the sociand with much satisfaction and support.

All the principles and goals included pouring in the rehabilitation of the September revolution and therefore

sell their land to two

people creating ample

room for rows over

land ownership to

develop into armed

clashes. Such disputes

have grown in volume

as landowners who

illegally sell their land

to more than one party

incur little penalty in

the process.

If the parties to a land conflict are

strong, the consequence is repeated

shootouts. Thick homicide reports

usually result. If a victim of a

fraudulent deal is weak, overly

civilianized, or too civilized, he will

quickly lose all hope of favorably

resolving the conflict through the

labyrinthine legal system. Such people

sell off their wife's jewelry in the hope

The Department of Real Estate

Registry is one of the parties at fault.

Chaos and disorder mar their work that

often fuels the problem they aim to

resolve. This department lacks

verification procedures to establish the

validity of land deeds. Either they can't

tell if the deeds are true; or, more

Some might not see the gravity of the

problem. In my mind, it is undoubtedly

a major concern. It is a clear indication

of the fragile authority of the state that

makes people take the law into their

own hands. The most important task of

any government must be to uphold the

law. If people feel that the government

is not able to protect their rights and

ensure their safety, taking the law into

their own hands is their only resort.

Such a situation leads to the law of the

jungle being the highest law of the land.

As some people succinctly put it,

instead of the power of the law, the

But there are additional costs. We are

a nation trying to entice local and

foreign entrepreneurs to invest in

Yemen. Creating an attractive

investment climate means that law and

order must prevail. If we cannot

guarantee that, then all our efforts to

It is up to the government to restore

order to the acquisition of land. Yet,

perhaps this is a wasted thought as the

people who run the country are the

draw investors have been for naught.

nation will have the law of power.

of regaining their land.

simply, they are corrupt.

three different

The political editor of the newspaper has in this issue written an article discussing the status of the American National democratic Institute (NDI) and its activities in Arab countries including Yemen, the writer has begun with the decision of the Bahraini authorities of deporting the institute from their country after accusing it of practicing security and intelligence activities and offering logistic support to American schemes in many of the Middle East countries. The writer cited the Bahraini authorities accusations of the NDI of using its slogan of assisting the region's countries towards adoption of the choice of democracy and activation of performance of civil society organizations, just for making inroads into the social reality of peoples and, tearing off their national fabric and supporting the social forces that are pro the American project in the region, especially in the Arab homeland.

The writer, and upon what happened to the NDI in Bahrain, holds comparison and arouses questions about the NDI performance and role in Yemen. The newspaper's political editor says the ruling party; opposition party and the supreme commission of elections establish cooperation with the NDI in the country and wonders about where those parties stand regarding "the sabotage and spying roles the NDI plays in the country.'

He maintains saying "we do not think that Yemen in more distinguished in its relations with Washington that the brothers in Bahrain who have discovered the conspiratorial role the Democratic Institute plays and practices. The matter requires from us, and with us all the national activities and the supreme commission of elections in particular, to think about the facts that have been revealed on the Institute's role and what our stance towards it should be."



26 September weekly, organ of Yemen Armed Forces, 15 June

### Main headlines

- The President inaugurates projects in communications sector
- A republican decree names Judge Isam Abdulwahab al-Samawi president of the Higher Judiciary Council
- The Yemeni political parties culminate their dialogue in signing an agreement of principles
- Organization of Islamic Conference discuses the common market, FM Qirbi: Yemeni initiative to establish a regional body to develop peaceful use of nuclear energy
- 150 civil society organizations, 35 government's, at the democracy and freedom of expression conference

The newspaper editorial is devoted to talk about the experiment of local councils. It mentions that while the local councils are about to terminate their electoral term and on the threshold of their elections for their second session. They have represented a distinguishing point in the courses of development of Yemen's democratic experiment. Those courses have been affirmed by achieved gains in the reality of the local society of the governorates and districts. Local councils 4<sup>th</sup> conference thus has a big importance different from previous ones. It is considered an evaluative stationary for the previous period separating the two conferences and the five years time during which embodied the popular democratic participation in the making of a new life in the local administrative units. The sons of those governorates have been major partner in making development and services projects. The experiment of local authority has become a major component in the Yemeni state's democratic institutional structure. Therefore, evaluation of this experiment in its conference should open spacious horizons to develop it towards enhancement of positives and overcoming negatives and difficulties

### Zionist style he video shots of the young girl at the Gaza after naval shelling on Friday, June 9, 2006, has annihilated all her family, as she was running from corpse to corpse of her brutally murdered kin defies

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

beach

Israeli

explanation and only goes to

confirm that the Zionist agen-

da in the Holy Land has no

room for crying children or picnick-

ing innocents trying to escape the

starvation diets they have been put

on by the their occupier with the

blessing of the international commu-

nity. There you have it, seven mem-

bers of one family by a barrage of

155 mm shells lobbed by the very

vessels that could plainly see that

there were no fortifications or armed

groups mulling around the beach.

No, this was no accident and anyone

who believes that must be gullible to

the Zionist logic that the only good

Palestinian is a dead one! In

Palestine, death comes in many

ways and the Zionist state will take

every opportunity to make any

reduction it can to the Palestinian

population and will use any pretext

to unleash its deadly arsenal of death

against the helpless Palestinians.

There is the pilot-less drones that

drop their deadly missiles on the

crowded streets, supposedly target-

ing what the Israelis call suspected

"terrorists", there are the tanks, the

caterpillars, the snipers and all sorts

of killing tools, not to mention the

dehumanizing slow death of eco-

nomic disruption and decay of sani-

It is really phenomenal that in

Palestine, victims of a systematic

terror campaign that has been ongo-

ing since the First Half of the Last

Century, are the "terrorists" and the

plunderers who have removed them

from their indigenous homeland for

generations, have killed thousands

along the way as the Zionist dream

is pursued to become an ungodly

reality that no human conscience

should ever be allowed to consume.

What terror could come out of the

Palestinians when they are home-

less, armless, stateless and living on

the brink of starvation, while their

opponent occupies what remains of

their diminishing land and controls

everything needed to sustain life for

the occupied? Yes, their opponent

has all the tools of terror under his

disposal including the terror of dep-

rivation - the terror of slow death.

What kind of terror is that one might

ask. It is the terror that says that the

only water you can drink is the poi-

sonous water that your occupier will

only allow you to have. It is the ter-

ror that brings trauma to 99% of the

tation and health services.

COMMON SENSE

The carnage at the beach:

**Terrorism** 

West Bank and Gaza, who are under the mercy of random Israeli shellings and bombings that have taken the lives of thousands of their kin fellow Palestinians in

beach, on the way to work or to school. Yes hundreds of children have been the victims of this ugly terrorism unleashed by the Zionist state and the tragic wails of the Gaza girl, seen throughout the world is only a very small part of a much larger scene of tragedy as an entire homogenous people are put to a slow and agonizing death, scientifically fine tuned and pictured as a glorious war of Jewish nationalism revived and blessed by the only

aptly describes this ugly form of state terror below:

against their children is hardly new. that, in the previous four years, homes, died from small arms fire, The Israeli wall "will isolate 97 primary health clinics and 11 hospitals from the populations they serve."

prison and terrorized by the sonic boom of Israeli fighter aircraft, has a population of which almost half is under 15. Dr Khalid Dahlan, a psychiatrist who heads a children's community health project, told me, "The statistic I personally find unbearable is that 99.4 per cent of the children we studied suffer trauma . . . 99.2 per cent had their homes bombarded; 97.5 per cent were exposed to tear gas; 96.6 per cent witnessed shooting; a third saw family members or neighbours injured

Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more

### that intercepted its courses in the past



- Official report discloses governof oil revenues
- Political parties agree on expanding membership of elections supreme commission
- Islah Shoura discusses presidential elections

Writer Zaid al-Shami says in a n article the GPC ruling party can decide its matter by a special meeting prevailed with transparency, frankness and reality

their sleep, in the

nation in the world that can do something to halt this horrible modern tragedy, which is unfolding in the eyes of the world night and day. John Pilger (http://www.newstatesman.com/200606190029)

"For the Palestinians, a war A 2004 field study published in the British Medical Journal reported "Two-thirds of the 621 children . . . killed [by the Israelis] at checkpoints . . . on the way to school, in their directed in over half the cases to the head, neck and chest - the sniper's wound." A quarter of Palestinian infants under the age of five are acutely or chronically malnourished.

The study described "a man in a now fenced-in village near Oalqilya [who] approached the gate with his seriously ill daughter in his arms and begged the soldiers on duty to let him pass so that he could take her to hospital. The soldiers refused."

Gaza, now sealed like an open

than 20 years.



- ment's hiding of hundreds of billions

where it could convince the president to

back down from his decision of not running for the upcoming presidential elections. The meeting can be held at the level of the general committee or the permanent committee before the whole thing changes into threatening and frightening. We wish no return of the tragedies of

past local and parliamentary elections. We should not allow the shedding of one drop of blood or repetition of the deployment of army armored vehicles in the streets to confront the citizens who refuse to have their votes confiscated. Freezing the local councils in which the opposition has won must be stopped. There the force of local authority was used to prevent the realization of the people's will and corruption was allowed to be above the law and constitution. The elections are in need of providing atmospheres of trust and implementation of justice and equality of opportunities among all the Yemenis.

- A new "dose" following support for
- Demanded for the release of political
- Dialogue between JMP and GPC
- Inhabitants leave their houses, widen-
- Politicians emphasize the important
- Head of the political office of the

Writer Ahmed Saeed says in an arti-

ety components and the homeland that was under threat of regional and international forces wanted to have sway on the people's political and economic decision. The 13 June movement had aborted schemes of those forces of hegemony. Soon after the winds of reforming the situations the citizens received and welcomed them strongly

in the declaration of the movement were

SILVER LINING

Land disputes symbolize

poor governance

By: Mohammed

### Main headlines

For the aim of seeking their help in the presidential elections, High-ranking directives for employment of members from Salafi groups

they received welcome from the

Yemeni students league in Cairo after

accurate follow-up of the happenings in

the homeland, starting from the army

statement that criticized the situations

until the outbreak of the June corrective

movement. The supportive statement of

the Yemeni students league included ten

points addressed to the leadership of the

movement calling it to embrace them as

a program for a change delivering the

homeland from its corrupt conditions

and to lead it towards progress and to

Al-Wasat weekly,

14 June 2006.

rally all the national forces.

- HOOD organization demands al-Zindani to pray for the killed in Guantanamo
- Government announces inability to protect children against smuggling and child labor
- Journalists extraordinary conference tends for postponement
- Masdus: Agreement of JMP and the president, a burial of the southern

In his article the editor in chief of the newspaper says talk is once again returns about credibility of the opposition in the struggle for establishment of genuine democratic values. By accepting the expansion of the elections supreme commission by addition of two of its members implies identification with excesses of the authority and to be partner in falsifying the consciousness and violation of the law.

The JMP kept calling for changing the commission, not for expanding it and this demand has become a public one and contained in statements of all gatherings it had held in most of the governorates. All of a sudden, there is an announcement about a suspected victory after the authority announced its acceptance of adding two members from the JMP to the supreme commis-

We have the right to ask about the alleged victory in the issue of the discussion. The second matter that will be discussed is represented in the commission formed for drafting guarantees for upright elections. This also dictates an opposition of preventing the official media, finance and defense and security, and even governors of the governorates, if they violated those guaran-

We have hoped that the opposition would insist on changing the supreme commission by forming it with independent members or to withdraw its membership from the supreme commission of elections, even if it entered the elections without them. That would have been better for its credibility. Surely, the regime would at the end respond to a demand like that if the regime were serious on holding decent elections or keen to give legitimacy to



Akhbar al-Yaum (The Daily News) newspaper,

### Main headlines

- NDI dismissed from Bahrain upon accusations of practicing suspected
- Defense and Interior ministries study arranging situations of those discharged from service after the 2994
- In response to finance minister directives of not paying their monthly rewards, customs employees begin a strike and intend to continue it
- Observers belittle the planning ministry credibility

Sana'a Cell case retained for issuing

Mohammed Al-Qadhi is a Yemeni journalist and columnist. (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com)















## The young prophet's human side in dealing with happiness and satisfaction

By: Ehsan Al-Rabe'i

ammak narrated that he once asked Jaber bin Samrah, "Were you staying the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh)?" He replied, "Yes, he was usually silent and rarely laughed. His companions recited poetry in front of him and mentioned some of their affairs. When they laughed, he sometimes smiled."

The prophet used to stay with his friends, but he wasn't talkative; rather, he'd spend most of his time contemplating and thinking about Allah. He used to join his companions but he only smiled because "Much laughter kills the heart," meaning it weakens one's faith. Nevertheless, he never prohibited his companions from talking to him about their daily affairs and they were free to laugh in his presence, but in modesty.

Abi Abdullah Al-Kibri narrated that he asked the prophet's wife Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her), "How was the prophet's conduct with his family?" She replied, "He was the sinful nor obscene. He wasn't loud in the markets and when offended, he never took revenge but rather he forgave and forgot."

From the above, one can see an example of a good demeanor reflected in the prophet's satisfaction with his companions, who found his manners a model enabling them to prevail over the darkness of disbelief by following

As for not being loud in the markets, it's a clear indication that he wasn't arrogant or among those competing for money or business. Instead, he rarely attended the markets, which were places for shouting and chaos.

He used to not retaliate when troubled and be patient and forgiving toward the harmful attitudes of others. His noble attitude had a great effect on the aggressive nature of Al-A'arab (the Bedouins), who eventually were led by him, fought with him and even preferred him over their families.

The prophet's manners were the best because "his conduct was the Qur'an," as Aisha narrated. The

best of men in manner and was neither prophet himself said, "I was sent only to complete noble deeds and moral constitution."

> His attitude toward happiness and satisfaction also was reflected in his aversion to being glorified, praised or complimented. Omar Ibn Al-Khattab narrated, "The prophet said: Do not praise me like the disciples when they praised Jesus, son of Mary. I am merely a servant, so say 'the servant of Allah and his messenger."

> Anas Ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that some used to call the prophet by saying, "Oh, the best of us and the son of the best of us, our master and the son of our masters." He then replied, "Oh, people, say what you used to say and don't let the devil deceive you. I am Mohammed, Allah's servant and his messenger. I would not like you to put me in a place higher than what Allah has decided for me."

> Some overpraise the prophet by thinking he knows the unseen, has the ability to benefit or harm individuals as he wishes, answers all kinds of demands and treats illness. However,

Allah denied all of the above in the Qur'an, "Say: I have no power over any good or harm willeth. If I had knowledge of the unseen, I should have multiplied all good and no evil should have touched me.'

This prophet, the best of those who ever walked the earth and was shaded by a tree, and Allah's obedient one, didn't like to be privileged; rather, he was a master of modesty and humbleness. Ibn Malik narrated, "There was no man as dearly loved to them (his companions) than the prophet. Nevertheless, when they saw him coming, they wouldn't stand up (as a sign of respect), for they knew how much he disliked this."

Another example of the prophet's noble attitude and humility was when he once met a poor woman and spent a long time with her, despite his enormous responsibilities. Ibn Malik narrated, "A woman came to the prophet and said to him, 'I need a favor from you.' The prophet replied, 'You may choose any street in Al-Madina and I shall come to see you

### The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 34 Translated by Edward FitzGerald While the rose blows along the river brink, With old Khayyam the ruby vintage drink: And when the angel wiht his darker draught Drws up to thee-take that, and do not shrink.

## Literary Corner By: Abu Al-Kalmah Al-Tayyibah

## Yemen: The People and Culture (VI)

Sulaihi State (426 – 532)

- 858 AH)

AH - 923 AH)

AH - 1045 AH)

AH – 1339 AH)

1289 AH)

-1990 AD)

of Yemen (1967 – 1990)

Bani Mahdi (554 AH – 569 AH)

Ayyubid1 Kurdish Dynasty (569 AH -

Bani Rasul Dynasty (Kahlani) (626 AH

Bani Tahir (Tahiri State) Dynasty (858

The Circassian2 State (924 AH - 945

The First Ottoman Rule of Yemen (945

Al-Rassi Alawi Dynasty (1045 AH -

Second Period of Ottoman Rule (1289

Hamid Al-Din Dynasty (1229 AH -

More recently the modern status of

Yemen as Yemen overthrew monarchal

rule and ended the British domination

of the South of Yemen are as follows3:

The Yemen Arab Republic (1962 AD

The People's Democratic Republic

The Republic of Yemen (1990 - the

Then the author gives a brief discus-

sion of the various dynasties that pre-

vailed in these different periods, show

ing the leading rulers of the era and

Some of these dynasties hailed from

other lands and this is a common phe-

nomenon that often appears in Yemen,

where the Yemenis often succumb to

outside prevalence in the leading authority of the land, as a means of

their major accomplishments.

Author: Qadhi Abdullah Abdul-Wahhab Al-Shamahi Language: Arabic

Publisher: Dar Al-Hana Printing **Year Published:** 1973 No. of Pages: 370

The Entrance of Shiite Islam to ith the death of Haroun Al-Rashid on 198 AH, the authority of the Abbasids gradually began to decline in the Arabian Peninsula and the followers of Ali revived their political activities and the Shiites gained a foothold in Yemen led by Ibrahim Al-Jazzar (the "Butcher") Bin Musa Bin Ja'afar Bin Mohammed Bin Ali Bin Al-Hussein Bin Ali Bin Abu Talib. According to the author this Ibrahim was a staunch believer in the Zeidi sect (this was prior to the advent of Yahya Bin Al-Hussein, who introduced a more moderate rendition of the Zeidi sect) and thus declared anyone who deviated from the Zeidi sect as an enemy of the religion of Islam and may be killed and have his properties confiscated. Thus the nickname "the Butcher". In the Year 213 Imam Al-Qassim Bin Ibrahim Bin Ismael Bin Ibrahim Bin Al-Hassan Bin Al-Hassan Bin Ali came to the Hijaz (What is today Eastern Saudi Arabia) from "Persia via Egypt", as the author says He settled in an area called Al-Rass, with a light vowel a. He was known as

the "Star of the Imams". His brother,

Mohammed, was an Imam who had

managed to control Kufa, the Perrsian

and Mesopotamian southern plains, and

Al-Qassim kept a low profile. In Al-

Rass the seeds were planted for the

Zeidi Imamate in Yemen were planted

and most of the Zeidi Imams in Yemen

trace their ancestry to this Imam Al-

Qassim and often the dynasty is called

the Al-Rassy Dynasty. The founder

himself kept a low profile and tried to

peacefully gain the Imamate throne,

while being chased by the Abbasid

caliphs. He died in the Sind area of

avoiding perpetual conflict between the various tribal factions of the country, not so much as accession to foreign rule, but as a relief from internal strife

### The Hadawi Zeidi State

The affiliation of the Yemenis with the Hashemites even predates Islam and the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH) had called the Yemenis of Yathrib who supported him and set the ground roots for the emerging Moslem Empire or Nation, the Ansar or the "Advocates" of the Prophet or the Religion of Islam. /There is a tradition often quoted of the Prophet which says, If people went in one direction and the Ansars took another direction, then the direction to be followed is the direction of the Ansars. But with the advent of Islam, the ties between the Yemenis and the Hashemites became ever so intertwined, in terms of blood and convic-

1) The Salah Al-Din Ayyubid descen-

2) Affiliated with Mameluke State of 3) Added by this writer since the

book under discussion was written long before the unification of Yemen in 1990.

## Syrian traveler: Yemen is a living museum

By: Yemen Times Staff

inister of Culture Khalid Al-Rowaishan and the Syrian and Lebanese ambassadors inaugurated a photo exhibition June 17 at the Cultural Center in Sana'a. The photos are by Syrian photographer Mohammed Haj Kab, in Yemen as part of his journey along the Incense Road. The three-day exhibition displays a variety of photos of Syria, with both its natural attractions and historic landmarks

### Travel lover

Kab now has reached the end of the Incense Road, which extends from Yemen to the Mediterranean Sea. It was the road by which Yemeni incense reached Phoenician and Greek tem-

"I arrived in Yemen June 4. In cooperation with Yemen's Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Culture, I've been able to see many parts of Yemen," he said.

Kab used the "autostop" type of travel, employing various transportation modes including buses, cars and trucks; however, his return will be aboard a plane. He held his photo exhibition in every country he visited (Jordan and Saudi Arabia), along with a lecture on travel literature, meeting many intellectuals and writers. He added, "My trip was very interesting. I



Mohammed haj Kab

met many Arab youth."

The photographer/traveler hopes to enhance Arab youth's knowledge about their homelands, as his trip's theme is: "Know your homeland's geography."

"I realize that many youth don't have ample knowledge about certain important places in their countries. For example, in Yemen, I asked a host of youth about Mukalla. They replied that it's a seaside city and that was all, but



Mohammed haj Kab (left) showing his photos to the Minister of Culture (center) and the Syrian Ambassador (right).

they haven't visited it. Do you believe they also haven't visited Aden's tanks? So, this is a good way to urge Arab youth to know the geography of their homelands," he explained.

### The Incense Road

Kab attempted to trace the Incense Road in reverse from north to south. "It's a historic route. We have other routes like the Silk Road and the Spice Road, but the Incense Road requires more attention because it's not that famous. There's also a lack of references on it. My trip is meant to shed light on this historic road and draw attention to its historic significance."

Setting out from Damascus, Kab's itinerary ran through Busra (a Syrian town on the Incense Road), the Jordanian border, Mafraq Um Al-Jimal, Jerash, Ajloun, Amman, Shawbak, Petra, Aqaba, the Saudi Arabian border, Medina, Jeddah, Mecca, Taif and Jaizan.

He then passed through Al-Tiwal and crossed Yemen's border coming to Hodeidah city and southward to Zabid, then to Taiz, Sana'a, Sayoun, Mukalla, Aden and then Sana'a again. He also plans to visit Marib and Ibb. He considers Sayoun in Adamou province the end of his Incense Road journey.

### Yemen's distinctive civilization

"I bow my head before Yemeni civilization," Kab enthused. "It's very outstanding – full of history and pan-Arab significance."

He feels that visiting a new country is like turning the pages of a book. He actually read research on Yemen published in an Arabic magazine four years ago. The piece encouraged him to further explore and visit the land of

Kab was struck by the special aspect of Yemeni towns like Zabid and Aden, being particularly drawn to Shibam

Hadramout, which he described as "charming – I was spellbound."

However, he was shocked while visiting Mukalla. "I've read about Mukalla, but when I visited, I couldn't see its ancient attractions. Even its gate isn't the old one - that was horrible.

### A living museum

The Syrian traveler admits that Yemen's pride is the fascinating Sana'a, wherein one can touch the 'intimacy of the place and the brotherhood of the dwellings.'

He regrets that he only has a short time in Yemen. "My 17-day stay in Yemen is hardly enough to see even a glimpse of this country. If I really want to see Yemen, I need two years. If I want to photograph Yemen, I need much time because Yemen is a living macro-museum with an authentic civilization. For instance, Bab Al-Yemen is a historic Sana'a landmark and so are its people - they still wear the same traditional dresses and jambiyyas and speak their true dialect."

Kab has taken hundreds of pictures of Yemen that are still on film. He doesn't like using digital cameras to take photos because they're "susceptible to manipulation of computer programs like Photoshop." Therefore, he prefers to use a still camera, especially black and white, which he processes himself in a small home lab. However, because black and white film often isn't available, he must use color film.

Kab took up photography in 1998, honing his skills at the Center for Applied Arts. He participated in several group and solo photo exhibitions, as well as in shows in countries like France, Germany and Holland.

He is well-versed in history and likes it very much. He specifically likes great travelers who contributed much to Arab civilization. "I admire ancient Arab travelers like Ibn Battutah, Ibn

Al-Sirafi, Ibn Fadhlan, Al-Idreesi, Ibn Jubair, Ibn Al-Wardi, etc. These great names enriched Arab heritage with their travels. I consider myself the grandson of these great forefathers, trying to toddle along in their foot-

### A book on Arab civilizations

The 29-year-old hopes to bridge divides between Arab nations, especially young generations who need to know each other more.

"Such a trip will be organized every year to several Arab countries," he outlined. "I'm trying to visit the whole of the Arab world and author a photo-supported book on the similarities of civilizations across the Arab world. Similarities are apparent in historic and archeological sites, as well as in social traditions. For example, Yemenis wear the knife-like jambiyya and so do Omanis. This doesn't imply a splitting of our Arab civilization; rather, there's a unity in diversity. All Arab countries are my homeland. I don't believe in sub-nationalities."

Kab called on all Arab youth to explore their countries' geography and do something for their homelands, which need them. "Nobody should feel frustrated or belittle their abilities. As youth, we should always remember that if there's a will, there's a way. I've come from Syria carrying depictions of Syria to show my Yemeni brothers. Let us be positive," he urged.

Kab's profession is as a teacher of Islamic and Arabic decoration at the Damascus-based Center for Applied Arts. A member of the Syrian Photography Club, the International Photography Union and the Syrian Geographical Association, he has conducted numerous exploratory journeys in Syria, rode a bicycle from Syria to Jordan and sailed down the Euphrates

### The Kingdoms and Emirates of Yemen from 203 – 283 AH

India in 245 AH.

In the Third Century after the (Prophet Mohammed's (PBAUH) flight from Mecca to Medina Yemen started to adopt a more independent role from the rest of the Moslem caliphate. Accordingly a number of kingdoms, emirates and sultanates arose from then to the last century. Some of these states overlapped in terms of tenor and domains. The list of prominent states among these are the following:

Bani Ziyad Dynasty (203 AH - 409

Bani Ya'afur Dynasty (225 AH - 397

## Leprosy, sexual and skin diseases

## Yemeni street children at risk

By: Amel Al-Ariqi amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

hey're everywhere - washing cars and buses and selling food, booklets and toys. They're physically visible, but they're also

often ignored, shunned and excluded.

They are known as street children. UNICEF confirms that street children are among the most physically visible of all children, living and working on streets and public squares. Yet, paradoxically, they also are among the most invisible and therefore, the hardest to reach with vital services like education and health care, as well as the most difficult to protect.

### Street children ... another world

Twelve-year-old Thabet Ghalib has worked as a roaming seller for three years. According to him, his father forces him to work. "My father forced me and my three brothers to work since he doesn't."

He insisted on showing spots and blotches that have spread on his back. "These spots suddenly spread on my body. I have no idea what they are." The spots weren't Ghalib's only concern, as he also suffers occasional spasms. "When these spasms attack, I fall down in the street, but nobody tries to help me. Even my friends run away



when I fall down."

Thirteen-year-old Ali Ahmed said he also experiences fits. "I suffer headache fits that sometimes continue three days and prevent me from leaving my house to work." Ahmed, who sells balls and dolls in a Sana'a park, said he suffered a terrible incident when he was burned two years ago. "I went with my cousin to burn my school books and the fire caught me abruptly," he explained, with the burning causing noticeable deformation on his right hand and back.

"Fever is killing me!" 11-year-old Mohammed Ali exclaimed. "When I experience this fever, I stay home for many days. The fever makes me weak, sleepy and my eyes fill with tears. I think it's malaria." Ali said his father forces him to work to get money; otherwise, his father will beat him. "My two older brothers ran away from home because of my father's treatment. I'm now the only one on which my family depends," he added.

Beating by one or both parents is not the only violence against these street children. Violence is widespread among the children themselves, as they must fight to survive. "We formed a gang to protect this area. We don't want anyone occupying this area and beginning to sell to and steal our consumers," Ghalib explained.

According to the children, they may get into bloody fights to "protect their business." "I was stabbed on my leg by a sharp glass piece when I tried to sell in an area another gang controls," 14year-old Badee said.

Badee's brother, who is working as a booklet seller on the street, faced possible death when a car hit him. "He badly injured his head and broke his arm and he spent 19 days in a public hospital. Now he's OK, but he often complains of a headache," Badee recounted.

Street children often find themselves in conflict with police and other authorities, who harass or beat them. "We keep running away from anti-begging police who arrest us, beat us, take our money and put us in jail. They say we're beggars, but we're not," the children protested.

Ghalib, Ahmed, Ali, Badee and oth-



A street child in Sana'a suffering from a deformation due to burning accident.

ers confessed that they constantly are exposed to sexual harassment. "Many times, those in their cars ask me to join them, saying they'll pay more money if I ride in the car. I ignore them and try to run away." Ali explained.

### More susceptible to disease

Medical experts say children in these circumstances are exposed to infection and disease more than adults.

"Children who work in the street mainly are subjected to skin diseases, respiratory diseases and venereal or sexual diseases," pediatrician Dr. Mohammed Kashnoon said.

Due to the absence of personal cleanliness and prevailing unsanitary conditions, most street children suffer scabies, chicken pox, measles and other infectious illnesses transmitted by direct and indirect contact, according to Kashnoon. "These children also are subjected to respiratory diseases like sore throat, pneumonia, bronchitis and tonsillitis, which may lead to meningitis," he confirmed.

Most of these diseases are transmitted by air; that is, if an infected indi-

vidual coughs, his bacteria-contaminated breath is transmitted by air to these children, who spend most of their time on the streets. "These diseases can be cured if the children receive medication early; otherwise, they'll suffer the pains and complications of their conditions," Kashnoon added.

Street children also are exposed to sexual and venereal diseases. "Sexual diseases result from sexual abuse that these children are exposed to on the streets. These children come under huge stress from those adults seeking perverted relationships," Kashnoon explained.

He also referred to injuries caused by widespread traffic accidents occurring in the streets, with the main victims being street children.

Dr. Abdulhamid Abu Hatem pointed to other chronic infectious diseases that have become common among street children. "Leprosy has become widespread among these children," he said, as children with no idea about the disease mix with lenrous individuals spread throughout many regions, for example, Bab Al-Yemen, using their infection to beg.

"Street children also can be disease carriers," Hatem explained, "They're exposed to viruses and bacteria more than others because they spend a very long time on streets that are very dirty and unsanitary. They also can carry these viruses and bacteria into their homes, spreading disease to their families and neighbors."

### Psychological problems

Hatem talked about the impact of difficulties and obstacles street children face on their psychological state and their health. "Street children are exposed to beating, sexual abuse and sometimes are used in illegal work. Such treatment negatively affects their psychological state, which also gradually weakens their immune system, so they become easy targets for disease and bacterial attacks.'

According to Hatem, most street children also suffer inferiority complexes. Kashnoon also emphasized that street children experience very complex psychological diseases. "A child who's mistreated constantly may become spiteful toward society and such hatred reflects itself in violent behavior: that is, these children become ruder and more violent," he

Street children experience symptoms of megalomania, paranoia and more rarely, depression. "These children weren't born with these complexes, but mistreatment, their circumstances and society's view all share in creating such psychological problems," Kashnoon asserted.

Regarding the rate of medical treatment street children receive, Hatem said, "These children arrive at hospitals in very serious and late conditions. Most of them don't complete their treatment because there's no constant medical care from their parents or due to poverty, which prevents many families from even consulting a doctor." Hatem harshly criticized NGOs and local associations adopting children's issues in Yemen. "Many organizations

use 'children's issues' to gain more support. In fact, those who use children's issues to gain financial support are just as much exploiters as those who force children to work on the

Although street children are running businesses to support their families, they still suffer society's low opinion and are treated as beggars, juveniles or delinquents. The Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood (HCMC) defines them as street children due to the shame involved in admitting this group's existence and absence of specific provisions for "street children" in Yemen's legal framework.

There are no specific statistics on street children numbers in Yemen and estimates vary enormously. The most recent study conducted for UNICEF in 2000 estimated the number of such children in Sana'a as 28,789. Most were between age 12 and 14, with the vast majority (78 to 96 percent) being

## among Yemeni street children. Nutritional supplements: Luxury or necessity?

By: Dr. Maha Al-Nakkash

controlling disease through diet, exercise and food supplements. All body tissues have uniquely balanced chemical elements designed to work in harmony with each other. It's now believed that all chronic diseases are accompanied by nutritional deficiencies and imbalance in essential chemical elements making up the

Many think of nutritional deficiencies in terms of inadequate diet; however, there are other ways in which the body exhausts its valuable supply of chemical elements. For example, excessive mental work can deplete the brain, nerves and glands; stress can wreak havoc on the immune system; toxins can build up in the body, leading to chemical depletion or we simply can neglect our bodies and forgot to get enough fresh air, sunshine and exercise. Any abuse or overwork of the body, in addition to any inherent weakness present, can leave us with nutritional deficiencies.

Once the body is depleted of its necessary chemical elements, tissue breakdown and toxin accumulation occurs and nutritional deficiencies only worsen the matter. Ill health symptoms are the consequence of nutritional deficiencies and chemical imbalance in the body. Typically, the first symptom of disease to appear is fatigue. Next, we may experience frequent infections, colds and the flu. Many times, symptoms are taken for granted as a natural sign of aging.

One way to evaluate nutritional needs is to obtain a biochemical health assessment, which can provide a portal through which to detect health or

disease and prevent diseases before gesting that a modern lifestyle drains vitamins and minerals, nutritional symptoms occur. A complete biothe bio uring the past 20 years, chemical health assessment should modern diets don't provide the body as an important contributor to overall coronary heart risk ratio, and liver, kidney and thyroid functions. It also should assess blood sugar levels and blood electrolytes, as well as check for signs of anemia and infection.

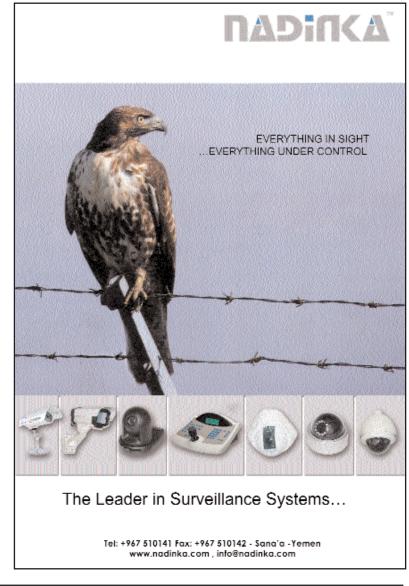
> Scientists now recognize that even mild nutritional deficiencies and biochemical imbalances can create subtle disease symptoms; therefore, preventing such chemical depletion is the key to optimal health. Even in AIDS cases, individuals don't die from the disease itself; rather, they die from AIDSrelated diseases and from weaknesses in the body. The same holds true for those with cancer.

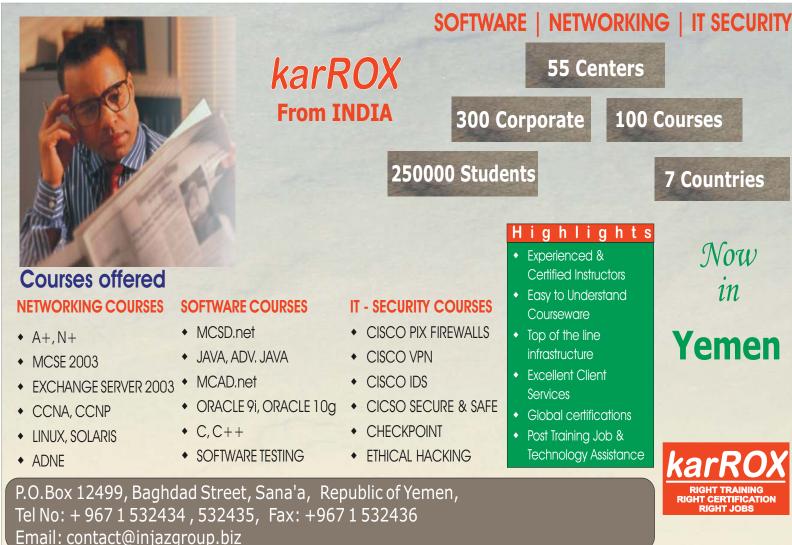
> Vitamins and minerals can be very beneficial. In today's fast food, fast moving culture, nutritional supplements aren't a luxury but a necessity. Due to the convenience of processed foods and cooking or microwaving most foods, 30 to 80 percent of nutrients are killed. Stress, an unbalanced diet, smoking, alcohol, sickness, vegetarianism and other factors also may lead to nutritional deficiencies.

The benefits of taking nutritional supplements are numerous, including, but not limited to:

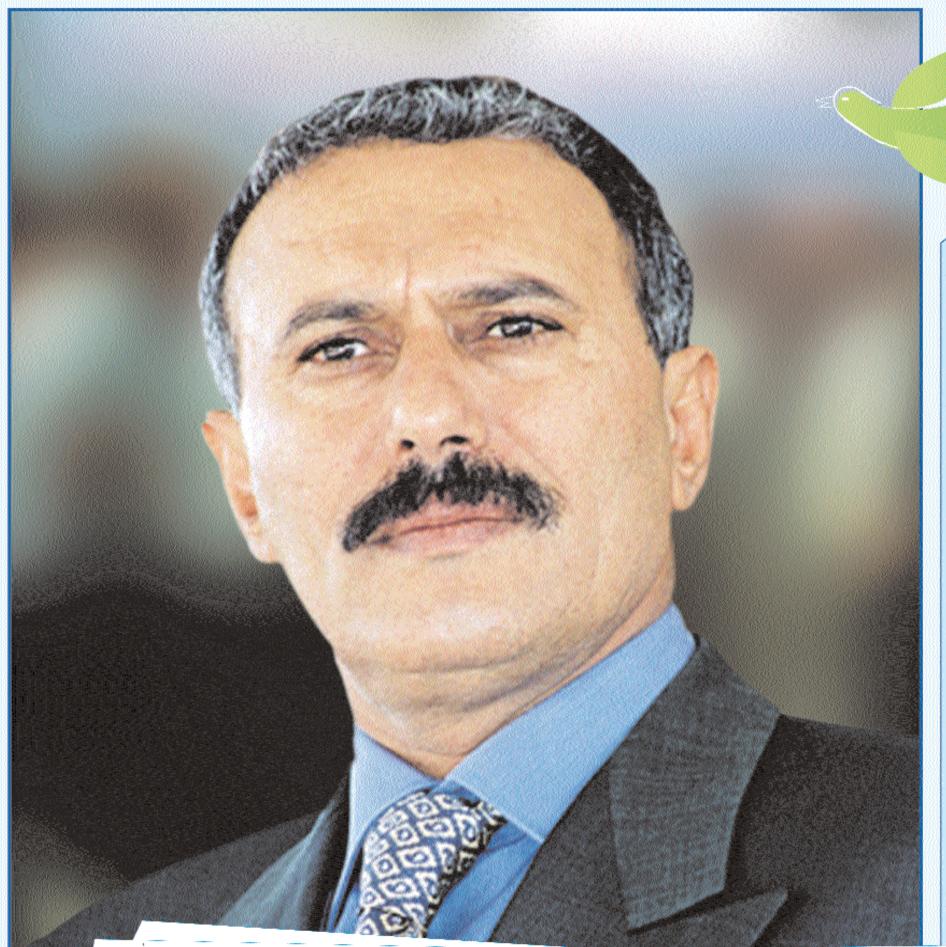
- Increased energy and vitality
- Improving the body's immune
- Enhancing skin tone texture and radiance
- Helping maintain a healthy heart • More restful sleep
- Greater sense of well-being · Improved moods and emotional
- Improved cognitive function
- Improved blood health
- ...and much, much more. With more and more evidence sug-

evaluate cholesterol levels, including with the proper balance and level of









أكمل

المشوار

حفظكم الله

تحبة طيبة وبعد

فخامة الأخ / رئيس الجمهورية

لسنوات طويلة تعلقت بكم أمال اليمن وأمانيها ومثلتم ضميرها الحي وقدتم باقتدار مسيرة التطور والتقدم لشعبنا وبلادنا وتحققت تحت قيادتكم انجازات كبيرة رسمت معالم

اليمن الحديث في الوحدة والديمقراطية والتنمية الشاملة . واليوم تنتظركم معركة البناء والتطور الاقتصادي والرفاه لشعبنا.. الأمر الذي يجعل من استمرار قيادتكم ضرورة تاريخية لقهر التحديات التي تواجه مسيرة التنمية الشاملة.

وانطلاقاً من مسؤوليتنا الوطنية نتوجه لفخامتكم بعظيم الأمل ونناشدكم العدول عن قراركم بعدم الترشح للدورة الانتخابية القادمة وعليه نطالب بمواصلة مسيرتكم المباركة الجنة القطاع الخاص والترشح لانتخابات 2006 - 2013.

لترشيح الأخ/ على عبدالله صالح لرئاسة الجمهورية للدورة الانتخابية القادمة 2006 - 2013

وتفضلوا بقبول خالص التحايا،،،

نحن ممثلو الغرف التجارية الصناعية اليمنية ومنظمات رجال الأعمال نعلن عن إنشاء لجنة القطاع الخاص لترشيح الأخ علي عبدالله صالح لرئاسة الجمهورية للدورة الانتخابية القادمة والتي تهدف إلى مناشدة رئيس الجمهورية بالعدول عن قرار عدم الترشيح لمنصب رئيس الجمهورية .

الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - أمانة العاصمة جمعية الصناعيين اليمنيين الغرفة التجارية الصناعية الضالع الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - رداع الغرفة التجارية المناعية - رداع الغرفة التجارية الغرفة التحارية الغرفة التجارية الغرفة التحارية المناعية - رداع الغرفة التحارية المناعية - رداع الغرفة التحارية الغرفة التحارية المناعية - رداع الغرفة التحارية الصناعية - أمانة الغرفة التحارية العربة الغرفة التحارية الصناعية - أمانة الغرفة التحارية الغرفة التحارية الغرفة التحارية الغرفة التحارية الغرفة التحارية الغرفة التحارية الغرفة الغربة الغربة

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غرفة التجارية الصناعية -صعدة جمعيه البنوك اليمنيه غرفة التجارية الصناعية الجوف جمعيه وكالات السياحه والسفر

الغرفة التجارية الصناعية مارب اتحاد الفنادق الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - عمران اتحاد شركات التأمين

العرفة النجارية الصناعية حضرمون الغرفة التجارية الصناعية حضاء الغرفة التجارية الصناعية الحويت الغرفة التجارية الصناعية الحويت الغرفة التجارية الصناعية حجة الغرفة التجارية الصناعية الجوف الغرفة التجارية الصناعية الجوف الإتحاد العام للغرف التجارية الصناعية الغرفة التجارية الصناعية عدن الغرفة التجارية الصناعية تعز الغرفة التجارية الصناعية العرفة التجارية الصناعية ابين الغرفة التجارية الصناعية أبين الغرفة التجارية الصناعية البيضاء الغرفة التجارية الصناعية شبوة الغرفة التجارية الصناعية الهرة الغرفة التجارية الصناعية الهرة الغرفة التجارية الصناعية الهرة الغرفة التجارية الصناعية الهرة الغرفة التجارية الصناعية المهرة



لجنة القطاع الغاص لترشيح الأخ / علي عبدالله صالح لرئاسة الجمهورية 2006–2013 «لجنة مكونة من جميع الغرف التجارية والصناعية ومنظمات رجال الأعمال في عموم محافظات الجمهورية»

مقر اللجنة ، الدور الثاني - عمارة شارب - شارع الستين - صنعاء - تلفون ،447341 - 10 - فاكس ،444730 - بريد الكتروني ،sanaacomyemen@y.net.ye حسابات اللجنة في البنوك ، البنك اليمني للإنشاء والتعمير ،10 - البنك الأهلي ،73422 - بنك التضامن ، 1818

## Al-Sagr nears Premier League Title



The Al-Saqr team poses for a group photograph.

TAIZ - Al-Saqr drew nearer to winning the Premier League Title for the first time in its history after it thrashed its guest Sha'ab Hadramout 5-1 last Friday in Taiz.

Striker Tareq Salem scored twice for the host team. Fahman Ayesh and Sami Karama added the third and the fourth goals respectively. An Ethiopian professional player netted the fifth goal in an unprecedented victory for the Taiz-based team.

The visiting team's only goal was scored by the Egyptian forward Mayron

With its 5-1 victory over Sha'ab Hadramout, Al-Sagr increased its total points to 46, remaining in first place with a 10-point lead over Sha'ab Ibb. Sha'ab Hadramout lost its standing and fell to seventh place with 25 points.

In Abyan, Hassan beat its guest Sha'ab Ibb 2-0 by the efforts of its star player, Abboud Mabrouk, in the first half. Hassan jumped to the sixth place with 31 points, while Sha'ab Ibb remained in second place with 36

In Hodeida, Shabab Al-Jeel defeated its neighbor Al-Helal 3-2, taking over twelfth place with 22 points. Losing Al-Helal retreated to the fourth place in the league with 33 points.

Al-Yarmouk hammered its guest Al-Rashid 2-0 to advance to the seventh place with 27 points. Al-Rashid remained in the eighth place with 25 points. Ahli Sana'a regained third place in the Premier League after downing the 22 May team 3-1 increasing its points to 35, while the loser remained in its last place with just 15 points.

Preimer League standings							
Team	Games	Wins	Draws	Losses	Goals	Goals	Total
	played				for	against	points
Al-Saqr	20	14	4	2	37	13	46
Sha'ab Ibb	20	10	6	4	37	26	36
Ahli Sana'a	20	10	5	5	36	25	35
Helal Hodeida	20	9	6	5	36	27	33
Al-Telal	20	10	2	8	27	26	32
Hassan	20	8	7	5	21	18	31
Al-Yarmouk	20	7	6	7	23	24	27
Al-Rashid	20	7	4	9	19	23	25
Sha'ab Hadramout	20	7	4	9	20	31	25
Al-Shu'la	20	5	8	7	22	25	23
Shabab Al-Jeel	20	6	4	10	22	26	22
Tadhamun Shabwa	20	7	1	12	25	35	22
Ta'awen Ba'adan	20	4	4	12	29	40	16
22 May	20	4	3	13	24	38	15

Promier League standing

## Running: From Sana'a to Dubai

Sharon Heller, a Briton, has lived in Yemen for over a year. She participated in a marathon in Dubai and collected her winnings for the country that she now calls home. In a special interview with the Yemen Times, Heller talks about the marathon and her life.

By: Fatima Al-Ajel fatimafnfr@yahoo.com

### YT: Can you introduce yourself to our readers?

I am from Northern Ireland and have lived in Yemen since April 2005. I teach English for the British Council-

### YT: About the marathon, why did you want to get involved?

I have been running for many years, but shorter distances. After a while, I felt I needed another goal. Marathons are held in many major cities in the world. The distance is always the same: 26.2 miles or 42.2 km. The Dubai Marathon started seven years ago. This was my second Dubai Marathon.

In 2004 my husband told me, "If you're ever going to run a marathon you'd better do it now before you get too old!" So, I ran the first one in January 2005. I learned a lot from that first experience and I wanted to do it again so I registered for the 2006 marathon. It is not something you can decide to do on the spur of the moment—it takes four months of training to build-up endurance to be able to complete this distance.



Sharon Heller (r) presenting her donation to Nouria Nagi (YERO).

### YT: How did you prepare for the marathon?

I started training in September 2005. I had to run five times a week, with one long run each week to build-up endurance. I ran around Sana'a, and sometimes outside the city—through San'han and beyond. By December, I had completed two twenty-mile-runs. I always did the long runs on Thursday mornings, so I could recover over the weekend.

### YT: Were there any difficulties you faced during the training?

Obviously, I had to dress conservatively when running outside in Yemen. It was not always comfortable! I was

concerned about the traffic, so I usually started around 5.45 in the morning. Apart from these factors, there were no major difficulties.

### YT: How did your friends react?

Some people think you are crazy. Seriously, everyone around me has been very supportive and given me a lot of encouragement. My biggest supporter is my husband!

### YT: Did you coordinate your charitable activity with the sponsors of the marathon?

The Dubai Marathon has a corporate sponsor. By registering for the marathon, you can raise funds for the sponsor's charity and they will assist with fundraising tips and other matters. Of course, there's is a worthy cause; however, as I am living in Yemen, I chose to support local charities.

When I did the first marathon, I was living in Oman so I raised funds for the "Helping Hands" charity there. Here, I contacted the International Women's Association (IWA) in Yemen. Two charities were selected by them: Yemen Smile, which provides free surgeries and care for the cleft palate and hair lip children of Yemen; and the Yemen Education and Relief Organization (YERO), which aim is to fight illiteracy and poverty by linking the poor and marginalized with educational opportunities. I elicited sponsors to pledge donations for each mile I would run, with all pledges to be divided between the two local charities. A total of \$2,568 (USD) was raised.

### YT: Why these organizations and not others?

When I decided to run for charity I contacted the IWA, since I had already heard of the work done by Yemen Smile and wanted to support this work. The IWA also proposed YERO; when I heard of their work, I decided to divide the funds raised between the two.

### YT: Could you tell us about your personal experience in Yemen?

Yemen is an amazing country with the friendliest people in the world. Living here has been an experience I will always cherish. I hope to see more of the country in my remaining time here.

YT: What would you say to people in Yemen, especially women, who are interested in participating in sports? Running is a sport that doesn't require much in the way of equipment, though a good pair of shoes is essential. Start slowly and gradually increase the time and distance you run. It is a good idea



Heller sprints to the finish line at the Dubai Marathon.

to keep a running log, and then you can track your progress.

For women who prefer not to run outside, there are several gymnasiums in Sana'a with treadmills.

### YT: Are you going to participate in the Dubai Marathon in 2007?

Yes, I would definitely like to run another marathon.

YT: Finally, do you have anything else to say to our readers?

Running is a great way to get and stay fit, and enjoy the fresh air and scenery. Once you buy your shoes, it's free! If you can help someone else at the same time, all the better.

Dubai Marathon has a website www.dubaimarathon.org

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### A proverbial Yemeni story

## Saidah saves the day: "If it wasn't for Saidah of Beit Radam, all Radamis would be dead"

By: Fatima Al-Ajel Fatima\_fnfr@yahoo.com

- You should have seen me yesterday, I saved a little baby and a house from burning!"
- "Yeah Sure! "If it wasn't for Saidah of Beit Radam, all Radamis would be dead."
- -"Really yesterday I saw smoke coming from my neighbor's house. I had to break in and turn off the fire and save their small girl who was sleeping in the house."
- " Why did you not call the firemen?"
- "I did, but they took a long time and I had to do something!"
- "Yes, you are as the proverb said. "If it wasn't for Saidah of Beit Radam, all Radamis would be dead."

Once upon a time, there were two Sana'ani (from Sana'a) tribes who had been fighting for a long time, one of which was called Beit Radam. One day, the other tribe decided to attack Beit Radam village by night and take them by surprise. The enemy prepared well for the attack and began moving in the evening.

That same night, Saidah, a member of Beit Radam tribe, was returning from a neighboring village when she saw the enemy's army moving toward her village. Acting at once, she ran to inform her tribe and alerted the whole village.

The Radamis (those from Beit



Radam) awoke and prepared to face the other tribe, which was shocked to find Beit Radam tribesmen armed and awaiting them. Despite their discreetness and planning, their plan was ruined because of Saidah's quick and instinctive response. Beit Radam our lives are saved," they proclaimed

won the battle and the village was saved, thanks to Saidah.

The next morning, the Beit Radam villagers went to Saidah's house and thanked her for her great effort in saving the village. "You're the reason

and kept repeating, "If it wasn't for Saidah of Beit Radam, all Radamis would be dead." As a token of their appreciation to her, Bait Radam villagers named a well after her.

Amusingly, it seems Saidah again saved the day some years later;

### لوما سعیده لبیت ردم مازد بقی ردمی

however, this time, it was the well so they again repeated the same proverb bearing her name that saved lives in Beit Radam. A time came when drought overcame the area and there was hardly any water to drink. All of the village wells were dry except Saidah Well. Surprisingly, it was the only well filled with water. Citizens came from all areas to draw water from Saidah Well,

that Saidah Well saved the villagers from the water shortage.

Since that time, many Yemenis, especially those in Sana'a, use the proverb to acknowledge when someone saves the day or does something for the sake of helping others in a grave situation.



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