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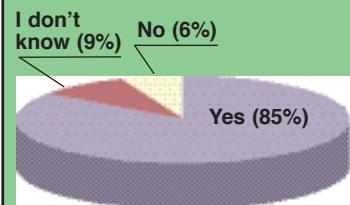
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Readers' Voice

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 diseases indicate a lack of proper healthcare in the country?



This edition's question:
 Do you think the United States will respond positively to the pressures of international public opinion and close the Guantanamo Bay detention camp and its other secret prisons across the world?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know

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

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 distributed 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, Qafra 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 tribes.

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 sacrifices.

Continued on page 2

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 Guantanamo 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 religion."

HOOD might consult international experts to investigate into this matter.

Ghanem asserted that the difficult situation Guantanamo 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 Guantanamo and other U.S. detentions.

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 Guantanamo and other U.S. detentions.

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 Guantanamo 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 Guantanamo and other such detentions. He also pointed out that a large number of Yemenis are in various detentions both inside and outside the U.S., including Abdulrahman 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 detainees' families.

Alaw further noted that the Guantanamo detention 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 them."

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.

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 for 2005.

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

es against them, as well as contained detailed information about human rights and aspects of democracy in Yemen.

Al-Mekhlafi confirmed that the state's weak structure, wars, tribal revenge and kidnappings, coupled with corruption, constitute a primary barrier to Yemen's democratic transformation.

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 structure.

Another important point the report highlighted is that Yemen suffers violence, deprivation, discrimination and elimination via official practices. It also indicated that children's rights lack empowerment and are exposed to inhu-

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 on democratic transformation, its obstacles and necessary steps for democratic and political reforms.

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Ambassador Mario Boffo to the Yemen Times: “We are very happy that Yemen has chosen the democratic way”

Interviewed by: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Mario Boffo has been the Italian Ambassador to 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 Republic 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 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 referendum to choose between a monarchy and a republican state, and Italy chose the republic. If there is anything to say about this celebration it is that we are proud. We 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.

“We have to preserve the culture and individual identities of the European countries within the EU, and this is in fact richness for 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 day.

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,

a political unity with a unique diplomacy 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 always try to be a bridge between different countries. And while we participate in the construction of Europe being one of the main 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, 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

“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.”

“We are proud of the achievements of our country.”

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 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 governorates 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.

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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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 twinning 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 and Tuscany.

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

We are very happy because Yemen has chosen the democratic way because this is a value per se 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 this way. And 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. 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

“In our foreign policies we always try to be a bridge between different countries. Our interest in Africa would not affect our relations with the Middle East, because Italy is a great country and we are present in every corner of the world.”

“Italy dealt with the Danish cartoon question with a lot of respect for Islam and for the concerned countries.”

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 visits here to strengthen and improve our relations.

YT: What is the Italian government's stance towards the Danish Cartoons and is there anything being done today to help the 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 integration.

YT: Finally, what are your impressions about Yemen? And, any word-to 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 partnership.



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 sphere.

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



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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_fjr@yahoo.com

While 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.

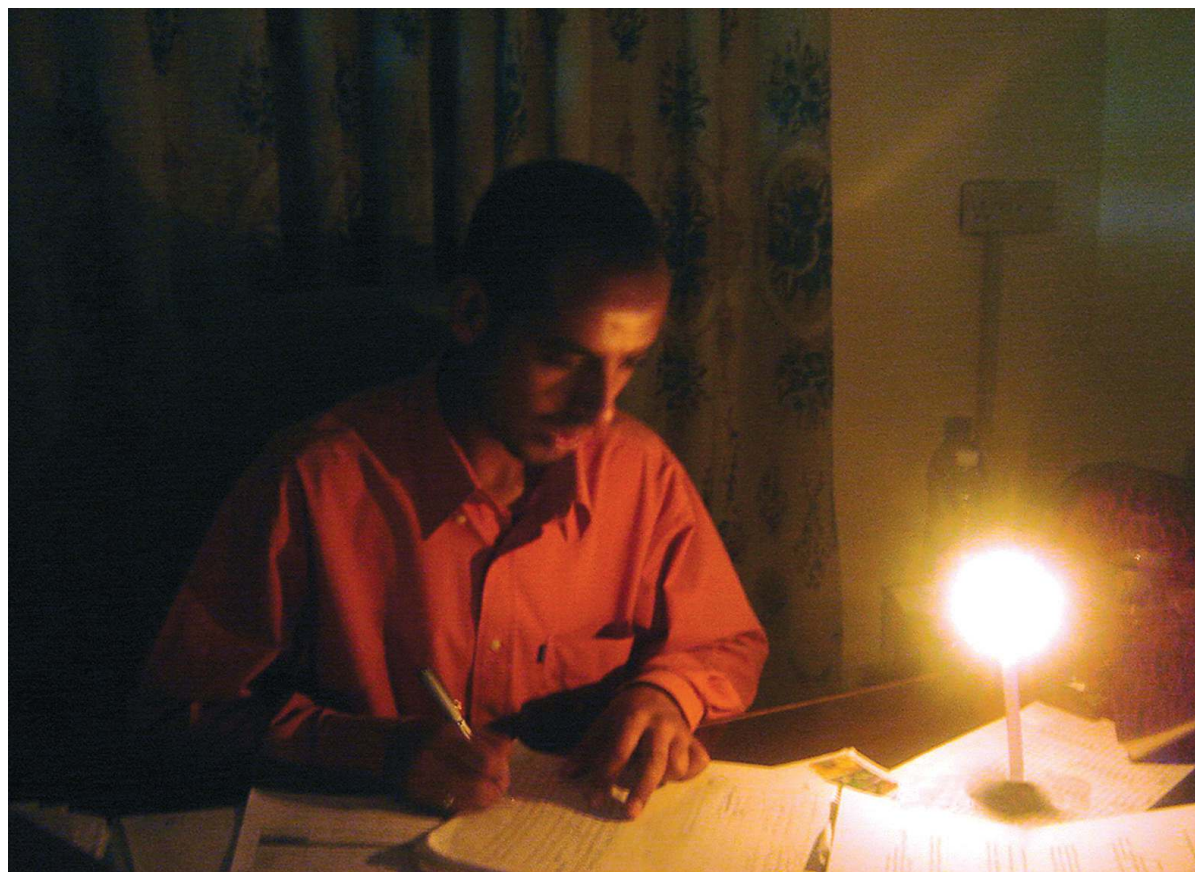
High school student Jamal Mohammed spends hours studying, especially during final exam days. "The best time to study is in the evening until the fajr prayer time, so I face the problem of the electricity switching off," he explained, "I must light candles one or two hours every day otherwise, I'll lose 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 Al-Jabri

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 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 period?

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 they're elected, in grant proposal writing and management issues.

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

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.

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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 environment and natural resource management issues into the decentralization process

SCOPE OF SERVICES

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

A. Gender Issues

1. 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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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UNDP Office in Sana'a is Expanding.



We are seeking energetic and skilled Yemeni nationals to join our core team. Following are the positions we seek candidates for:

- **Team Leader for Governance & Gender Team**
become part of our middle management team and lead the implementation of our governance and gender programmes
- **Communications Officer**
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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

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- Assists with travel issues, hotel reservations, airport pick-ups and other logistic arrangements for company's personnel.
- Responsible for Safety Meeting Minutes.

Minimum Requirements:

- Degree in Business Administration or equivalent in administration
- Relevant Experience
- Excellent oral and written English/Arabic skills are a must.

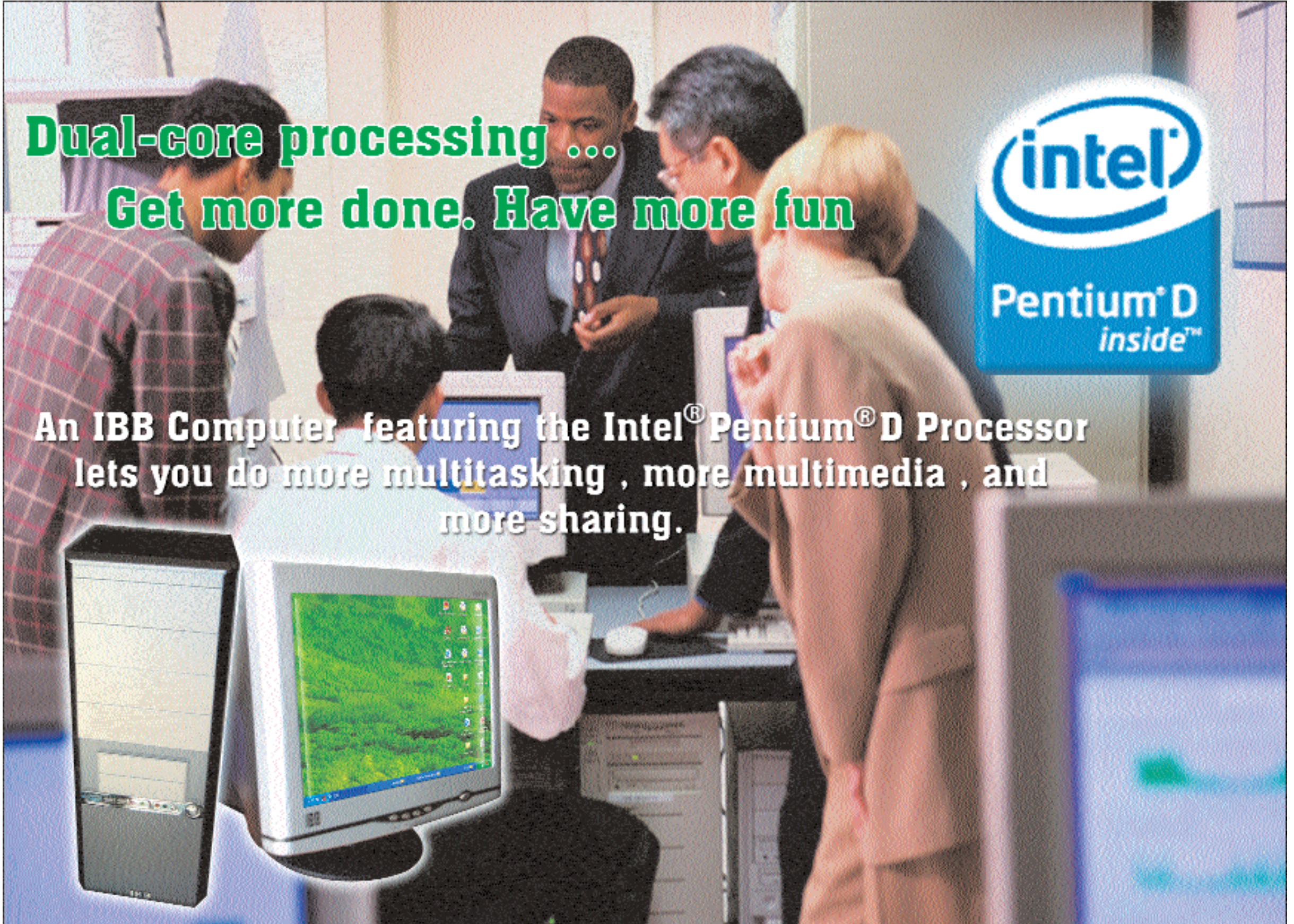
Interested candidates with the necessary qualifications and experience are requested to submit applications together with detailed CV by facsimile to: +967 1 410 314.

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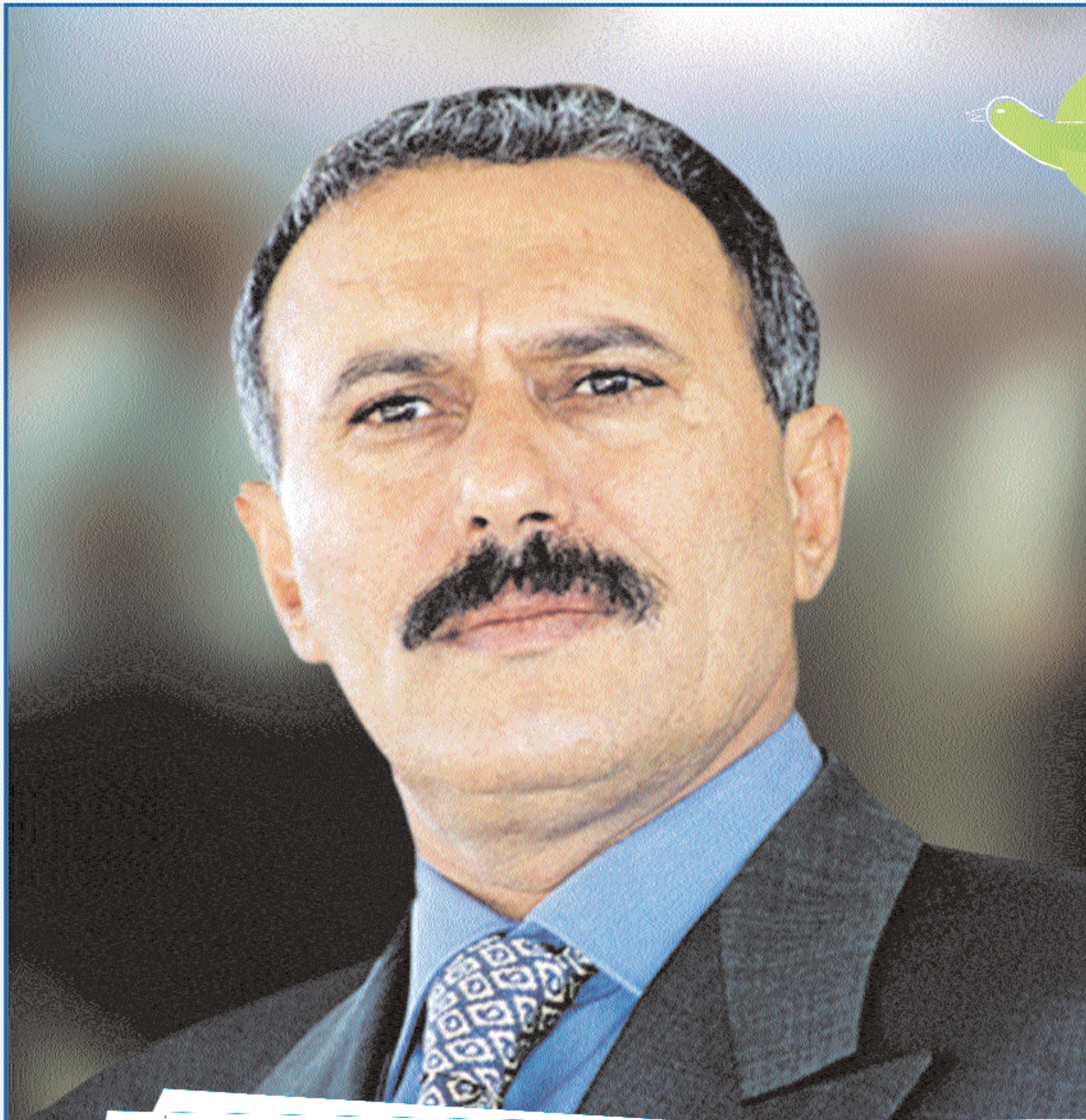
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A proverbial Yemeni story

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

By: Fatima Al-Ajel
Fatima_fjfr@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."

The story

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

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 our lives are saved," they proclaimed

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, Beit Radam villagers named a well after her.

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

لوما سعيدة لببيت ردم مازد بقى ردمي

however, this time, it was the well 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,

so they again repeated the same proverb 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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