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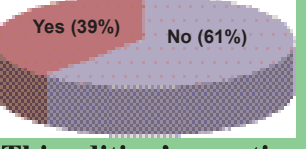
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Thursday, 22 June 2006 • Issue No. 957 • Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf • www.yementimes.com

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Inside:   **3** World newspapers convene in Moscow  **5** Mukalla after Al-Khour: From ugly duckling to beautiful swan  **10** Yemen sees rise in tourists

Readers' Voice
 Last 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?

 This edition's question:
 As he has decided not to run, President Saleh faces pressure from ruling party leaders to renew his candidacy in this September's elections. Do you think Saleh will rescind his decision?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
 Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

“It’s not a political ploy,” says President Saleh

In another unexpected declaration, Yemen’s president yesterday reconfirmed what he declared 11 months ago—that he does not intend to run for the presidency in the upcoming elections.

By: Hamdan Dammag and Saddam Al-Ashmour

SANA'A, June 21 — “You must look into and study a very important and historical issue, which is the future of the Yemeni people, not the future of the president.” With these words, President Ali Abdullah Saleh addressed ruling party members at its exceptional meeting yesterday.

The meeting was dedicated to convincing Saleh to rescind his decision not to run for the presidency in this September’s elections. The president said today’s Yemen is different than yesterday’s, as the country is stable and secure. He added, “Yemen is wealthy with its trusted and qualified men,” noting that governmental institutions will lead the country safely ashore.

Saleh confirmed that he will not nominate himself in upcoming elections. Amid interrupted shouts for him to change his mind, he said, “I warned the

Minister and General People’s Congress (GPC) Secretary-General Abdulqader Bajammal, said nominating Saleh to a second term is the people’s choice, as well as that of GPC members. Addressing the president, he said the GPC made its decision by nominating Saleh as its presidential candidate.

“I won’t nominate myself for the upcoming presidential elections and will give up power voluntarily today. The responsibility is on Yemenis to choose a new president for the country,” he emphasized.

At the meeting’s opening, Prime

Minister and General People’s Congress (GPC) Secretary-General Abdulqader Bajammal, said nominating Saleh to a second term is the people’s choice, as well as that of GPC members. Addressing the president, he said the GPC made its decision by nominating Saleh as its presidential candidate.

Emergency meeting

At the time of writing this, the General Secretariat of the GPC is holding an emergency meeting, chaired by the vice president, to discuss the developments and reactions to the speech of President

Saleh and his insistence not to run again for another term.

According to the ruling party’s web site, the General Secretariat will hold an urgent meeting to discuss the president’s latest stand. Prominent GPC leader Yasser Al-Awadi said, “The picture is foggy, as the president has refused to revoke his decision,” claiming that Saleh is “the only real political guarantee” for Yemen’s political stability.



President Saleh at the exceptional GPC meeting. SABA NEWS PHOTO

Continued on page 2



Demonstration in Sana'a (left) and Taiz (right) to persuade president Saleh to rescind his decision not to stand in this September’s presidential election.



2006 U.S. State Department report on trafficking in persons in Yemen

WASHINGTON, June 5 — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice launched the sixth “Annual Trafficking in Human Rights Report.” The following is part of the report that concerns Yemen.

The Report

Yemen is a source country for children trafficked internally for sexual exploitation and to Saudi Arabia for forced begging, unskilled labor or street vending, as well as a possible receiving destination for Iraqi women trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Children often are lured by family members or trusted adults with promises of well-paying jobs in Saudi Arabia or in the Yemeni cities of Aden and Sana'a. Estimates reflect that the age of children trafficked for forced begging ranges from seven to 16, with the majority being between ages 12 and 14. The number of child victims of sex trafficking is believed to be in the low hundreds.

ing is believed to be in the low hundreds.

The Yemeni government doesn’t comply fully with the minimum standards for eliminating such trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. Yemen expanded upon last year’s progress by continuing to train security forces, working with UNICEF and International Organization for Migration (IOM) to raise awareness of trafficking among parents of small children in rural and border areas and establishing a database to collect information on child trafficking.

However, the country should take steps to prevent incarcerating and prosecuting child victims of sex trafficking. It also should improve measures to effectively screen prostitutes and women entering the country for signs of sex trafficking.

Prosecution
 Yemen’s government has improved its efforts to prosecute child labor trafficking cases, but it should do more to increase prosecuting corrupt officials and traffickers of women and girls for sexual exploitation. In addition to absence of prosecutions against sex traffickers, Yemen reportedly detains and prosecutes child victims of commercial sexual exploitation under its prostitution

laws.

Although it lacks a specific anti-trafficking law, the country employs other provisions in its criminal code to prosecute traffickers. This year, the government reported 19 child trafficking convictions, up from two prosecutions last year, with 14 more investigations pending. Despite reported corruption among low-ranking government representatives, the country hasn’t prosecuted any officials for trafficking involvement.

Protection

Yemen has continued its progress in protecting child trafficking victims, particularly those repatriated from Saudi Arabia. The government has opened one fully operational reception center in Haradh region, providing victims with social services, limited medical care and family reunification services. The center received more than 300 children in its first six months.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs also operates four additional but smaller reception centers in the country’s northern regions. Additionally, the Ministry of Interior runs 10 specialized “rooms” to house repatriated children. Over the past year and with the help of UNICEF and IOM, Yemen has trained 51 government officials in shelter man-

agement and trafficking victim assistance.

However, the Yemeni government provides no protection for sex trafficking victims and therefore, should improve its efforts to screen girls and women arrested and prosecuted for prostitution to determine if they are trafficking victims.

Prevention

With UNICEF and IOM assistance, Yemen has increased its trafficking prevention efforts over the past year. The government launched an information campaign to distribute print materials, videos and radio messages to educate parents and local leaders about the dangers of child trafficking.

The Ministry of Human Rights also circulated information about a hotline it operates, particularly in areas where child trafficking is prevalent. Additionally, with equipment provided by UNICEF, the Yemeni government created a database for information collected on child trafficking at border crossings, resulting in monthly reports from the Ministry of Interior.

Yemen also continues to require visas for Iraqis entering the country to prevent trafficking of Iraqi women and girls and to identify potential victims.

Al-Moayyad appeals to Saleh to free him from U.S. jail

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 21 — Detained in a United States prison in Colorado, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Moayyad appealed to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and all Yemenis to step up efforts to release him and his aide, Mohammed Zayed.



Sheikh Al-Moayyad

In a letter entitled, “An appeal from Sheikh Mohammed Bin Ali Al-Moayyad,” the inmate urged Yemen’s government and its people to expend extensive efforts to free the pair, Al-Sahwa Net reported. In his letter, Al-Moayyad appealed to organizations interested in human rights and freedoms to rescue the two men from their unprecedented ordeal.

“For 3,000 hours in this jail, we have suffered harsh investigations, conspiracies, darkness and hard work contravening international human rights laws,” Al-Moayyad complained. “We neither see the sun, friends nor defense-advocates; rather, we’re thrown in a cell, the area of which is no larger than my mosque’s mihrab.”

The elderly sheikh added, “I don’t

know why I face this torture. This is the punishment for good deeds and feeding the poor and needy. Moreover, I’ve been deprived of talking with my companion Zayed. So I pray to Allah to accept our efforts and make goodness the culmination of our deeds.”

Concluding his letter, Al-Moayyad wrote, “This is the journey of torture — from Sana'a to Frankfurt and then to New York to live in a dark prison. We no longer value life. We only hope to return to our beloved country to bid farewell to relatives and sons, as well as to the poor and needy and those who stood by us with efforts and prayers.”

Zayed’s mother urged U.S. authorities to allow her to hear her son’s voice, as she’s been deprived of speaking with him by phone for four months. She said that the U.S. authorities prevented Zayed from telephoning his home under the pretext that he’s doing so in Al-Moayyad’s name. He’s only allowed to contact his father and brothers, who live in a village, but denied from telephoning his wife and children.

Fourth conference of local councils demands decentralization

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, June 20 — Under the slogan, “Improving Decentralization to Integrate Community into Development,” the fourth conference of local councils concluded its activities Monday.

Chaired by Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal, the conference discussed and assessed the local authority system, the way it operates and how it can develop, and suggested amendments. It also assessed economic and social development, which is the fruit of applying local authority experience.

Attendees came out with a statement demanding the government prepare a

study as a preliminary step toward electing administrative unit heads in a democratic manner and amending the election system. The statement rejected centralizing any new legislation or decisions involving rules and procedures, which contravenes local authority law and administrative units’ duties.

Conference participants recommended forming a committee from the Ministries of Local Administration, Civil Service, Planning and International Cooperation, Finance and Legal Affairs to set uniform standards for transferring executive duties from governorates to districts. They emphasized the need to eliminating mixing between accounting

units and finance offices in administrative units.

The conference stressed reconsidering local council support and raising it to 15 percent of the state’s total 2006 investment program. It called for increasing local council and executive apparatus spending and maintaining service facilities in the 2007 budget.

Participants called upon the government to approve public works allocations and transfer public works-related authorities from governorates to districts. They urged the government to complete constructing governorate and district administrative unit complexes within a short time period and seek other

funding resources to add to government financing.

Conference attendees demanded concerned parties specify locations in the vicinity of cities to help collect qat taxes and prevent qat tax evasion. They advised the government to take necessary measures to prevent the Road Maintenance Fund from taking money from its past years’ resources to pay for administrative unit allocations, which is contradictory to the funding law.

The conference also urged the government to reconsider 2006’s Republican Decree No. 35 regarding establishing the General Authority for Land and Construction Planning.

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World Bank approves 2006-2009 Country Assistance Strategy

SANA'A, June 21 — The World Bank's board of directors announced the new 2006-2009 four-year country assistance strategy for Yemen. The strategy has been revised on the basis of Yemen's steady progress in implementing economic, financial, and administration reforms over the past three years.

The strategy indicates that important steps have been taken in laying the

groundwork for civil service reform and in setting up decentralized fiscal entities, in addition to successfully restoring and maintaining macroeconomic stability. The new Country Assistance Strategy gives focus to enhancing harmonization with the poverty reduction strategy paper in order to achieve the required growth needed to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

The new strategy keeps in mind that Yemen is still heavily dependent on oil as a foreign currency earner (83 percent of total exports), coupled with declining production and limited reserves.

Mustafa Rouis, Yemen Country Manager for the World Bank, said that "governance will be a key focus for Yemen in the short term to ensure long-term development effectiveness."

MP Al-Houthi calls on president to abandon Sa'ada War

SANA'A, June 21 — Member of Parliament Yahya Al-Houthi has accused the Sana'a regime of endeavoring to impose Salafi mosque preachers on Sa'ada governorate residents by distributing such preachers in area mosques.

In a June 19 message to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a copy of which the Yemen Times received, Al-Houthi stated, "The war being waged these days on Al-Awasijah in Haidan in Sa'ada is the reason Al-Awasijah refused to listen to speeches of those accusing others of infidelity," according to his account.

From his residence in Germany, Al-Houthi said the chases, confiscations and arrests still are continuing in Sa'ada and there are prisoners from Al-Jawf and Amran. He added that the authority is seeking by force of arms to compel Sa'ada inhabitants to discard their religious sect and



MP Yahya Al-Houthi

embrace the Salafi sect. He considers the Sa'ada War a racist and sectarian one against the Zaidi sect and its followers and attributes its continuation to an influx of money.

The parliamentarian also said President Saleh promised to handle

the Sa'ada War himself, saying that he didn't need the governorate's governor or any others and that he wants military termination.

Al-Houthi mentioned that armed forces units on June 19 actually attacked "our people in Farn Bin Zaid by using army tanks, armored vehicles and troops in the south of Haidan city, but our people there managed to repel the attack and destroy a military group, inflicting direct hits on the attacking soldiers, despite what the official media has propagated that the Sa'ada War ended and prisoners were released." He said this was just a cover to avoid international pressure.

At the end of his message Al-Houthi said, "I call on the president to stop the war because it's just destruction for the people and increases their suffering. I also call on him for genuine peace."

HOOD asks for Al-Mudani's release

The National Foundation for Defending Rights and Freedoms (HOOD) sent messages to the chairman of the Central Apparatus of Political Security, Brigadier Ghalib Al-Qamash, and Attorney General Abdullah Al-Ulfi asking them to intervene and gain the release of Mohamed Abdulkhalik Al-Mudani if no charges are to be leveled against him.

The organization considers Al-Mudani's arrest as a violation of the constitution, which prohibits arbitrary arrest unrelated to criminal action. HOOD officials state that Yemeni law punishes officials who arbitrarily arrest innocent citizens with a term of five years imprisonment.

Press sources noted that members of Political Security kidnapped Al-Mudani—a fresh graduate of the faculty of medicine at Sana'a University—for unknown reasons.



Mohamed Al-Mudani.

Four males—operating out of a blue Suzuki Vitara and a Toyota Hilux—seized Al-Mudani on Qiyadah Street in the afternoon of

June 13 while he was with two of his brothers. His two brothers reported that four security personnel had tied him up, forced him into a car, and drove off to an unknown location.

Al-Mudani's family appealed to the government to allow them to visit him and to be informed with reasons for his arrest. They demanded that he be sent for trial in court if the Political Security has evidence incriminating him.

The family has also appealed to media organizations to intervene with the government to obtain the release of their son.

Al-Dastour, a government-financed newspaper, accused Al-Mudani being a backer of the Houthi rebellion.

Al-Mudani's father, an officer of the Interior ministry, refused to accuse any party of kidnapping his son. "I have no enmities with any party," he said.

Human rights training course opens

SANA'A, June 21 — The third regional training course for Training of Trainers on Human Rights began Wednesday, organized by the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC), in cooperation with the Canada Fund Development Program for Local Initiatives in Yemen.

Izz Addin Al-Asbahi, director of the HRITC, pointed out that the training course includes prominent human rights activists from civil society organizations and officers from the military judiciary.

"This course is distinguished by the

various experiences of the participants who come from Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The issue of defending human rights requires real awareness that can only come from experts capable of really establishing ideals," said Al-Asbahi.

Ahmed Al-Wehaishi, representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said this course would affirm the importance of civil society's activities.

"This Arab meeting, which includes participants from various Arab states, is a positive step that helps make this generation able to create its own future and

maintain its rights," Al-Wehaishi said.

Thirty-five participants from Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria are to take part in the course. Participants come from various backgrounds such as civil society, police, prisons, and the judicial fields.

The training course consists of two parts: one is theoretical and the other practical. The theoretical aspect includes general information on training, analyze of conditions, and identification of appropriate methods of training. The course is planned to run for one week, ending on June 27.

May accidents kill 160, injure 945

SANA'A, June 21 — Traffic accidents in May caused the death and injury of more than 1,100 people.

Sources at the General Administration of Traffic told the September 26 newspaper last week that the total number of reported traffic accidents reached 555. Those accidents claimed the life of 160 people and injured 945 others.

The same sources said that accidents have caused costly damages and the loss of property, as most cars were partially or completely destroyed. In addition, damages caused by vehicular accidents take into account damages caused to roads.

Reported accidents varied in nature, including car turnovers, and crashing into other cars, electrical polls, and trees.

The first third of 2006 saw 1,730 accidents across Yemen, causing the death of 702 people, and injuring more than 3,000 others.

Consumer Protection Society warns of scams on mobile networks

SANA'A, June 21 — The Yemeni Society for Consumer Protection has warned citizens to be careful in regards to offers that mobile telephone networks offer.

The Society stated in a press release, "Through continuous follow-up of their activities, and through reports it received from different clients, the society has noticed that [the] competitions [are a] means [of] deceiving consumers and using up their money

under motives of illegal profit."

The Society expressed concern of this phenomenon and requested the government to regulate the scams mobile operators often run. The request asked the government to entrust an official body with monitoring such competitions and announcements of discounts. Further it asked for the government to impose clear criteria protecting consumers from bogus deals and games.

Burglary at Manar Foundation

SANA'A, June 21 — The Manar Scientific Foundation was robbed last week. All its property were stolen including medical equipment, computers, drugs, and furniture.

Unknown burglars broke many expensive pieces of medical equipment, Dr. Ahmad Abdulaziz N'uman, chairman of the foundation, said in a statement to the Yemen Times. He estimated the cost of the damaged and stolen property at \$25,000 (USD). In

addition, documents related to health and environmental studies were destroyed and drugs worth more than 45,000 (YR) were stolen.

The Manar Scientific Foundation was established three years ago and specializes in conducting research on epidemics and contagious diseases, as well as on environmental pollution in Yemen. It is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that sustains its operations through donations.

Abizaid visits Yemen, tours Aden's port

SANA'A, June 20 — General John P. Abizaid, Commander of the U.S. Central Command, left Yemen Monday after an official two-day visit. During his visit Abizaid visited Sana'a and Aden. He met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh on June 18, where they discussed regional security issues, including the current situation in Somalia, and joint efforts to improve Yemen's counter-terrorism capacity and border security.

While in Sana'a, Abizaid conducted meetings with the deputy prime minister and minister of Interior, Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi; Minister of Defense, Major General Mohammed Nasser Ahmed; and Chief of Armed Forces, Major General Ahmed Ali Al-Ashwal. In Aden, Abizaid met with the Southern Military District Commander, Brigadier General Ali Ibrahim, and Aden Yemen Coast Guard Commander, Colonel Al-

Barati. Abizaid was provided a tour of Aden's harbor area aboard Yemeni Coast Guard vessels. He complimented the Yemen Coast Guard on their professionalism and its ability to create such a capable force in only a few years. He stated that the Yemen Coast Guard represented an outstanding example of how allies can successfully work together to improve mutual security and fight terrorism.

Coast Guard conducts joint exercise with Britain

ADEN, June 22 — The Yemeni Coast Guard and the British Royal Navy wrapped up a joint exercise in Yemeni regional waters, 90km from Aden, yesterday.

The three-day exercise, which demonstrated the bilateral cooperation between Yemen and United Kingdom, aimed to enhance the capabilities of

Yemeni Coast Guard to intercept enemy ships, fight terrorism and sea piracy, and conduct routine maritime activities.

A training course, under the supervision of British experts, for Coast Guard personnel preceded the exercise. Five small British warships participated in the exercise.

The British defense attaché, Captain

Phil Holihead, said that the joint exercise benefited Yemeni trainees. He pointed out that the two countries have plans to conduct more training courses with more participants and activities.

Finally, Holihead expressed his hope these exercises would enable the Yemeni Coast Guard to control the Yemeni coasts.

Surgery cures quadriplegic at Saudi German Hospital

SANA'A, June 21 — A medical team at the Saudi German Hospital (SGH) in Sana'a operated on a 60 year old patient to remove a spinal cord tumor on June 16. The operation was the first of its type performed in Yemen.

According to hospital, the patient had been suffering from quadriplegia, partial or complete paralysis from the neck down, for the past nine months because of the tumor. Although the patient had visited many hospitals and underwent many medical tests, other medical centers were unable to diag-

nosis her disease.

Her visit to the hospital coincided with a visit by the director of orthopedics and the trauma center and the vice president of Saudi German Hospital Group, Professor Khalid Patterjee.

Patterjee said that "after making several CAT and MRI scans, it was found that she [the patient] had a spinal cord tumor. Through the most sophisticated diagnostic equipment [available], the medical team was able to determine the shape, the type, and

the size of the tumor."

The medical team—Professor Khalid Patterjee, Dr. Essam Emara, and Dr. Abdel Azeem Abdel Azeem—decided to intervene through an operation to remove the tumor.

"The tumor was removed through a microscopic intervention and the patient's health improved...she left the intensive care unit and she started to move her four limbs...Now she [is] following an intensive physiotherapy treatment for rehabilitation of her limbs," said Patterjee.

Continued from page 1

"It's not a political ploy," says President Saleh

Public demonstrations
Thousands of citizens streamed into capital streets Thursday morning in a demonstration to persuade President Saleh to rescind his previous decision not to stand in this September's presidential election.

Lifting banners and photos of the president, marchers rallied at Al-Tahrir Square, urging Saleh to stand in the upcoming presidential race. They then moved to Al-Saba'een Square and listened to an address by Ahmad Mohamed Al-Haifi, Secretary-General

of Al-Saba'een district's local councils.

In his address, Al-Haifi said the demonstration's main objective was to persuade Saleh to rescind his declaration, pointing out that Yemenis want Saleh to remain in power and will never accept an alternative to him.

"Saleh's decision not to stand in the upcoming presidential race has left the ship without a captain. If Saleh doesn't run for president, sedition will break out," protestor Ali Al-Raimi told a Yemen Times reporter. Another pro-

testor, Helmi Abdu, said "it is part of my job" to promote campaigns and marches.

Taiz residents staged a rally Monday at Al-Shuhada Stadium, urging Saleh to revoke his decision and run for president in upcoming elections.

To the contrary, thousands of citizens in Taiz's Maoyah district appealed to President Saleh to implement his decision until the end — that is, not to run for president in this September's race.

World newspapers convene in Moscow

Special report on the 59th World Newspaper Congress and the 13th World Editors Forum in Moscow (1-2)

Earlier this month, Moscow welcomed the largest gathering of newspaper editors and media executives in history. More than 1,700 participants from 111 countries attended one of the biggest events for newspapers and editors organized by the World Association of Newspapers (WAN) and the World Editors Forum. One of nine Arabic newspapers, *The Yemen Times* was the only Yemeni newspaper participating in the event. This two-part report aims to shed light on the event's activities.

By: Hamdan Dammag

The 59th World Newspaper Congress and the 13th World Editors Forum and Information Services Expo were held June 4-7 in Moscow. The gathering of more than 1,700 journalist and editors was considered the largest event of its kind.

Gavin K. O'Reilly, who was re-elected President of WAN, said at the congress's opening ceremony, "I'm delighted to note that the attendance at these events is the largest ever in our organization's history, making this truly the annual summit meeting of the world's press."

highlighted and new publications, advertising and circulation strategies, digital product development and business practices were examined.

The Editors Forum

The forum focused on what newspapers can do to adapt to changing habits of the "free generation" – readers accustomed to getting their news from free newspapers and free internet sites. It also looked at embracing citizen journalism, offering new technological services, the importance of newspaper supplements and protecting newspaper credibility. The last topic involved a special session about the Prophet Mohammed cartoon crisis and the limits of press freedom.

Alongside these events, the 2006 Information Services Expo showcased new services and the latest products and technologies that are shaping newspapers of the future.

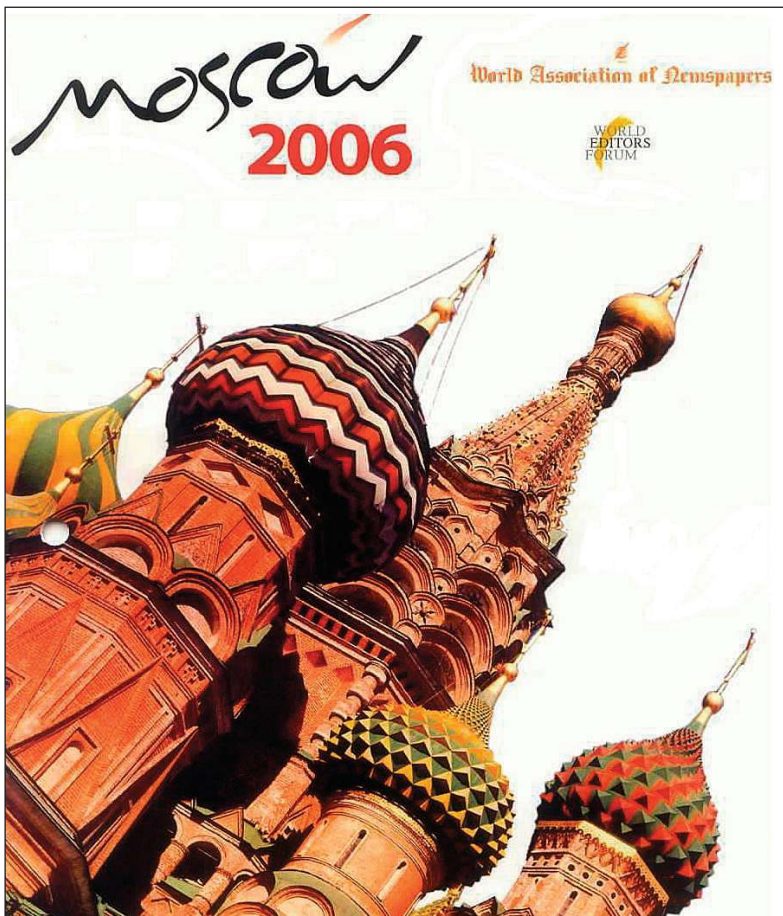
The conference opening

The opening ceremony took place at the Kremlin. Addressing more than 1,700 senior newspaper executives from 111 countries in the presence of President Vladimir Putin, as well as other Russian leaders and foreign ambassadors, O'Reilly said media control by the state and its allies is hindering free press's ability to contribute to Russia's development.

He told Putin that his legacy would be judged "as much by the media's fate – perhaps more – than any other measure."

A video was shown detailing numerous press freedom infringements across the globe, including last year's jailing of a *New York Times* reporter in the United States. However, the video avoided mentioning the Russian state or its press.

O'Reilly pinpointed Russia's absence of independent national television, which is still under direct or indirect government control, several important newspapers purchased by financial and



The gathering of more than 1,700 journalists and editors was considered the biggest event of its kind.

industrial groups directly controlled by the government or loyal to it and creation of an atmosphere of caution and self-censorship among journalists.

According to *The Moscow Times*, while Russian television's coverage of congress and forum events reinforced O'Reilly's remarks, it devoted considerable footage to Putin and little to the criticism aimed at him.

President Putin in attendance

Putin responded to O'Reilly's comments about the state's role in Russian media by saying, "The number of state assets in the Russian press market is decreasing steadily."

He said the fact that he and O'Reilly were speaking about the issue inside the Kremlin reflected vast changes that have occurred in Russia. "Today, we're discussing the problems of the press in a critical manner. You couldn't imagine such a situation 10, 12 or 15 years ago," he noted.

Minor incident

Three national Bolsheviks staged a protest in the middle of the meeting hall as O'Reilly was about to speak, shouting, "Putin is the executioner of freedom!" and "Russia without Putin!" The protesters' voices were muffled by security guards, who quickly detained them.

According to *The Moscow Times*, the protesters had obtained press credentials to gain entry into the conference. Putin appeared calm during the incident and referred to the protesters by saying, "True, Bolsheviks still come to this hall, but in a different capacity."

Golden Pen awarded

Leading investigative journalist Akbar Ganji was awarded the 2006 Golden Pen of Freedom during the opening ceremony. The prize is WAN's annual press freedom prize. Ganji, who is now one of Iran's most renowned political prisoners, spent six years in jail for articles implicating senior Iranian officials in the killing of dissident intellectuals in 1998.

The WAN award citation noted, "Akbar Ganji fights for freedom of expression in Iran, but his efforts are watched around the globe. His remarkable resistance to repression and his steadfast refusal to be silenced, at great personal cost, is an inspiration to journalists everywhere. It is through courageous journalists who do not capitulate – even in the face of long prison terms or death – whereby freedom advances."

In his acceptance speech, Ganji said, "This prize should go to all those who were tortured and paralyzed simply because they worked in journalism and

contributed to defending free thought in the country." He added, "Our ideal is creation of a humane world, but in fact, we live in a world steeped in reckless and widespread violence, a world of genocides and civil wars, of ethnic cleansing and gross violations of citizens' rights in many corners of the globe."

He continued, "Human rights knows no boundaries and accepts no exceptions," pointing out that, "Our world today suffers from violence and this violence has many facets. It creates various forms of pain and suffering. Terror, oppression, imprisonment and solitary confinement are only the more obvious facets of such violence."

Sentenced to six years in prison in 2001 on several charges, including threatening Iranian national security and insulting the country's leaders, Ganji was released this past March. He spent most of his prison term in solitary confinement while reportedly being pressured to give up his writing and opinions. He launched a hunger strike in 2005 to demand his release, which lasted more than 40 days. While on medical leave last year, he called for a boycott of Iran's presidential elections.

Three roundtable conferences prior to the conference

The Congress and Editors Forum actually began with three roundtable conferences Sunday morning, June 4. The first was on press freedom, the second on digital media and the third was on young readers.

The first roundtable was entitled, "From Dictatorship to Democracy," wherein the underlying factors limiting Russian press freedom today were highlighted. While admitting that Russian newspapers operate more freely than during the Soviet era, the

roundtable looked at broadcast media restrictions, which continue to raise grave concerns within the industry while public confidence in the media remains low.

The conference also looked at lessons that can be learned from neighboring countries' experiences. Conference speakers included Petr Godlevsky, director general of Russia's *Izvestia* newspaper, Olena Prytula, Editor-in-Chief of Ukraine's *Ukrainska Pravda* newspaper and U.S. media consultant William Dunkerley.

Under the title, "The Annual Digital Media," the second roundtable began by looking at the impact of new digital technologies and strategies, which continue their rapid growth across the globe. The main theme of this year's conference was "The Digital Explosion – Exploiting the Potential of Our Media," with an exploration of new content and advertising opportunities. This included a case study of how *The New York Times* aggregates its content services into new products and revenue streams. Vivian Schiller, Senior Vice President of *NYT* Television and Video, presented the case study.

The new 2006 roundtable involved "Young Readers," focusing on winning strategies for a new generation, with an examination of young people's aspirations and motivations and how newspaper companies can reach them. This roundtable's speakers were Senior Design Anthropologist Anne Kirah, who studies youth worldwide to help Microsoft produce its products and Marcelo Rech, Editor of *Zero Hora*, a Brazilian newspaper whose young reader strategies have enabled it to find 42 percent of its readership in the 10 to 29 age group.

This roundtable's presentations and discussions will be presented in a future report.



Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses congress participants at the Kremlin.

The Congress

The congress focused on the immense wave of innovation that continues sweeping through the global newspaper industry. Based on the latest data and information on global newspaper trends, key industry developments were



Golden Pen winner Akbar Ganji, released from jail this past March, receives the 2006 prize. Inset: Ganji after his last release in March, 2006.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationality Females** to apply for the following position with its project "Water Resources Management, Community Water Supply and Sanitation in Masila, Hadramout"

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Duration: 06 months (renewable)

Responsibilities

- Work in close collaboration with all Team members and particularly with the Gender, Health & Hygiene local team, the Project Manager, and the International Training & Capacity Building Specialist to coordinate activities and ensure timely delivery of required Project outputs.
- Coordinate public health training activities with training activities of other Team members to secure the timely realization of outputs planned under the component.
- Build up the capacity of the Gender, Health and Hygiene Team, mobilize and report on the inputs of the team members.
- Play the leading role in delivery of gender, health and hygiene training for the local team and evaluate their performance in delivering training at targeted communities.
- Up on actual field requirements, continually develop training materials and delivery mechanisms, through the guidance of the PHAST materials, or equivalent.
- Assist in the ongoing assessment of health and hygiene awareness level at the community, District addressing these issues.
- Contribute to the preparation of monitoring and progress reports as required by the UNDP Project Manager.
- Perform any other duties when required.

Qualification

- A university degree in Medicine, Public Health, Community Health or any other related field.
- Minimum five years experience in public health, particularly at the community level and experience in working with donor-funded projects, and familiarity with the UN project implementation rules will be an added advantage.
- Significant hands on experience development of appropriate training strategies will be required.
- Fluency in English and Arabic with proven communication and training skills.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.
UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 01-448841/E-mail: (registry.ze@undp.org)
The deadline for receiving applications is Wednesday, 1st July 2006

UNDP is an equal opportunity organization however this post is only for female candidates to apply.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its project "Environment Protection Authority"

Post Title: National Project Coordinator
Duration: Full Time-06 months (renewable)

Responsibilities

- Responsible for strategic planning and implementation of the project activities according the agreed project work plan.
- Prepare terms of reference of the international and national consultants in consultation with Environment Protection Authority, and UNDP.
- Establish norms of work between the Consultative Council.
- Monitor the progress of the project activities against the work plan, and recommend and implements remedial actions as appropriate.
- Manage the human resources of the project.
- Assesses, prescribe and manages the changes which may be necessary in staffing, procedures, office layouts, and budgets.
- Ensure fielding of project staff (international and national experts and consultants) as per agreed schedules.
- Co-ordinates project training activities, workshops and study tours;
- Pursue co-ordination with key Government institutions, Civil Society Organizations, private sector and other bodies, which will have an impact of the project and their institutions.
- Ensure that quarterly and biannually progress reports and annual project reports as set out in the project document and its annexes are produced and distributed to EPA, UNDP and active stakeholders.
- Perform other duties that related good governance related activities, when requested.

Qualification

- A master degree in environmental science or social science or equivalent.
- Five years of experience in the same field of study.
- Excellent command of Arabic and English.
- Excellent communication and writing skills in both languages.
- Good experience in Government administrative structure.

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its project "Masila Community Water and Sanitation"

Post Title: Project Manager, Community Development Specialist (National)
Duration: Full Time-06 months (renewable)

Responsibilities

- Work in close collaboration with all Team members under the specific administrative guidance of UNDP Sana'a (Project Administrator) and the technical guidance of the International Advisor;
- Assume prime responsibility for managing field implementation of all components of the Project, including operation of the Project Field Office;
- Maintain close and regular liaison with UNDP Sana'a administrative personnel while preparing Progress Reports, procurement requests and other administrative inputs as determined by UNDP's standard project procedures;
- Prepare, with the assistance of the International Advisor and UNDP Project Administrator, draft annual and quarterly Work/Activity Plans and budget projections (Work Plans in UNDP terminology) for review by UNDP Sana'a and/or the Steering Committee as appropriate;
- Work closely with all Team members, the International Advisor in particular, to develop appropriate Project implementation approaches and methodologies to ensure that expected Project results are achieved as outlined in the Project Document;
- Assume prime responsibility for the preparation and coordination of Team members' individual Work Plans assisted by the International Advisor;
- Provide the Team with community development insights, socio-economic and cultural knowledge, and language skills;
- Provide insight and linkages to related projects and/or development agencies in the Project area;
- Organize and attend regular Project Advisory Committee meetings;
- Provide informal updates to Nexen Masila community Affairs personnel and seek advice as deemed appropriate.

Qualification

- A master degree in Business Administration or Social Science or related field of study. (University degree accepted if only compensated with long years of experience).
- Three years of experience in the same field of study.
- Excellent command of Arabic and English.
- Excellent communication and writing skills in both languages.
- Should have some project management experience.
- Proven Leadership qualities.

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- **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)**
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- **Operations Assistant**
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Lamasat

Mukalla after Al-Khour: From ugly duckling to beautiful swan

By: Saeed Al-Batati

To paint an accurate picture of today's Mukalla and Al-Khour's impact upon the city, one must go back in time two years and take a look around. The site of Al-Khour (meaning the canal) previously was known as Al-Iga (a sewage disposal gathering place), where thousands of gallons of raw, fetid sewage was pumped, creating a lake of waste reeking with unpleasant smells and a powerful source of mosquitoes. It was a real blot on the landscape with its unbearable, musty smells that estranged Mukalla from both locals and tourists. Because people couldn't stomach the stench or the sight of Al-Iga, many left for cleaner spaces. Meanwhile, Mukalla thoughtlessly was forgotten amid the sewage marring its landscape.

In 2002, the cornerstone was laid for a long-awaited project to replace Al-Iga with an artificial canal. Locals rejoiced at the news in high hopes that the project would rid Mukalla of its fetid swamp. For three years, constructors dragged their heels on the project; yet, when the city was earmarked to host

celebrations for the 15th anniversary of unification, they worked to the best of their abilities to complete it at the stipulated time, a truly awe-inspiring achievement proving that "Where there's a will, there's a way."

During the project's last lap, the city appeared to be wearing a new dress for a new era. From an aesthetic point of view, Al-Khour is the most beautiful spot in Mukalla, if not Hadramout in general. Located in the heart of the city, the artificial channel is considered a beautifying watershed. To those who've never visited it or moved away for a long time, the city appears as a bride wearing a diamond necklace around her neck.

Now, with the newly-constructed canal project, Mukalla is poised to become a dominant Yemeni tourist attraction, with popular opinion giving it precedence over other holiday hotspots around the republic. It also explains the growing number of tourists to the city in recent years. People agree that Al-Khour marked a cosmetic turning point in Mukalla's history.

Dr. Naji Al-Kathiri, getting a real kick out of watching the splendid view

of Al-Khour, said the canal was a great project that had beautified and cleaned up the city as never before. "The city got rid of Al-Iga with fresh water from the Red Sea replacing the disgusting sewage. Now it's a place of tranquility and peace of mind. Previously, it was difficult for Mukalla residents to be comfortable for a picnic, but now Al-Khour provides the best spot for this and other forms of entertainment," he added. Visitors can see on both sides of the canal as water falls still and placid into the channel. They also can enjoy a fascinating 15-minute ride in a traditional blue boat along the waterway.

An enchanting place

The charming view is enough to attract thousands of visitors to Mukalla. "In the past, we'd never seen residents of Sayoun and Tarim come to Mukalla with any frequency, but now they visit the city often, proving that Al-Khour is an attracting factor," one citizen noted.

Another individual expressed his admiration, stating that Al-Khour is the crowing glory of Mukalla. Visitors from outside Yemen also detected the city's subtle changes with the new project. "I'm impressed by the pace of development that's taken place in such a short time period. I came here in February 2005 and found Al-Khour under-construction. It was a dirty, stinking place, but now it's a jewel of Mukalla, as well as the gateway to Hadramout," a visitor to Yemen remarked.

The status of the whole area around Al-Khour has increased, both economically and aesthetically. "I hail the government and the governor for their efforts," said Sheikh Ahmed Jamalulyl, head of English Language Unit (ELU) at Al-Ahgaaff University and a Kenyan of Hadrami origin.

Overcrowded parks

On Friday nights, Al-Khour's parks are absolutely jam-packed with visitors. As the sun sets, a crowd of people trickles to the site, thinking it a good place for the weekend holiday. Sea comiches



The canal's mesmerizing park usually is overcrowded with individuals and families looking forward to enjoying a restful time after the work week.

were forsaken after Al-Khour's inauguration, as many weekenders consider Al-Khour's calmness and beauty better than the huge waves of the sea.

The canal's mesmerizing park usually is overcrowded with individuals and families looking forward to enjoying a restful time after the work week. Some families stay up until the wee hours of the morning. The "early birds" get the better spots, leaving no room for latecomers who arrive with the same idea. Demand is constant upon local authorities to increase the number of parks with larger capacities as visitor numbers increase, especially as Mukalla is about to receive thousands of Yemeni expatriates during the upcoming summer vacation.

It's no exaggeration to say that Al-Khour has brought about a previously nonexistent social phenomenon. In a society with deeply entrenched conservative views, it was uncommon to see a couple walking in public, holding hands and exchanging words of love.

However, such things exist in Mukalla nowadays.

Qat isn't allowed in Al-Khour's parks, but this isn't a handicap for chronic qat chewers with their own methods of enjoying Al-Khour's impressive view. Owners of deluxe hotels and buildings overlooking Al-Khour complain that the pavement has become a resting place for qat chewers.

Local residents' previous repugnance to Al-Iga made the price of outlying lands very cheap; however, with the first drop of Red Sea water that flowed into the area, prices skyrocketed to astounding rates, making such lands inaccessible to even mid-level businessmen. Prices for plots of land before Al-Khour's construction were approximately YR 6 to 8 million, but at the moment, they exceed YR 100 million.

A matter of priority

Hadramout University lecturer Dr. Khalid Belkhashar seems to be out of sync with the majority view. Instead of

spending money constructing Al-Khour, he believes funds should have gone to more pressing projects "As a cosmetic project, I believe Al-Khour is fine. But is it a priority? The city needs survival projects in fields of health, education, water supplies, electricity and so on. After that, we can think of entertainment."

He continued, "In other words, Al-Khour gives a false impression that everything is going well in this growing city. However, there's only one public general hospital in the city; 50 percent of our students study in the afternoon (second shift) because schools are insufficient in the one-shift learning process and there are summer crises involving water and electricity supplies. But who knows, probably tomorrow they'll build hospitals, schools and mosques on the edge of Al-Khour."

All in all, the general impression is that Al-Khour has made a big difference in Mukalla which will last for years to come.



Al-Khour marked a cosmetic turning point in Mukalla's history.

Ethiopia-Somalia-Yemen: Testimonies from Somalia

IRIN Report

With life in Somalia offering so little comfort and hope, some migrants risk crossing the Gulf of Aden to Yemen, not just once, but time and time again. More than 5,000 Somalis registered as refugees in Yemen in the first four months of 2006, and the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) believes many more travelled on, making their way to Saudi Arabia

Jilibley Mohamed, 30, from southern Somalia

I have been deported nine times from Saudi Arabia and Yemen. We get put on planes or boats and taken to Mogadishu. The last time I got deported was in September [2005], just before Ramadan. I was working in Saudi Arabia for a water company

I have done so many different jobs - I look after sheep and goats, work in the house or garden, wash cars. We do anything and can earn about US\$100 month.

Life is too difficult in Mogadishu. I

went to Mogadishu because I thought I could find work there or do business, but you just survive. There are no jobs, and there is insecurity. I have two children - a boy and a girl - but I have divorced my wife. She is also looking for work. My parents look after the two children in Jowhar, where I was born.

We have been waiting here [on the beach] for two nights now, but we will go tonight. The owner says he can put 90 of us in the boat, and we have to squeeze together and sit still. We must sit still. We are allowed to carry three litres of water to drink, and we can take some dates to eat. It takes 36 hours to get to Yemen on these small boats. I have done it before. You just take your luck. What will happen will happen.

Ali Mohamed, 16, from Mogadishu

I'm going to Yemen. I can go to the camps or I can look for work. Anything I do is better than Somalia. I come from Mogadishu, where there is no work, no education, no money, no health - it is not a life for me. We have no government in Somalia. I have never lived with government, so I don't know what it is like. I think it could make things better for the youth, like me, so we can

have a future in our own country.

I talked to people in Mogadishu who worked in Saudi Arabia and Yemen, and they told me you can earn US\$1 or \$2, even up to \$5 a day. I can work as a labourer, or in construction, or work in the houses and gardens if there is a position. Or I can get work in the ports.

My family knows I have come here, and they helped me get the money. They encouraged me to make the journey because it is good to work and get money from abroad. We can send money back to them. The brokers tell you it is easy to get to Bosasso and across the sea. Many, many people have done it. I have already paid the 500,000 Somali shillings [US\$36] for the boat to the smugglers here. I paid money before to another and waited for two months. But we know this one is good - the boat is there. I know it is dangerous. Yes, people die sometimes. We take our luck. It is in God's hands.

Abdulhaji Ali Yusuf, 27, from Mogadishu

I work as a painter in Mogadishu, but life is very difficult. I come from a minority clan. People don't treat you well. I live with my family, but it is

very difficult to earn money and survive. If you get sick you cannot afford the private hospitals, so you suffer and pray. We can't buy drugs. There are some days you live in fear. Anything can happen on the street - there is no control.

Everyone knows about Bosasso and the boats. We collected money together so I could look for work. I travelled for eight days in a truck through Galkayo to get to Bosasso. You pay the 'hambaar' [smuggler] in Mogadishu. It is well known, and the trucks are there.

I have done this before. It took three days and two nights on a small boat, and there were no problems. I got from Yemen to Saudi Arabia and got work there. I took any job. But they have this thing called government, and after a few months I got arrested and deported back to Mogadishu. I was put on a plane.

Yesterday, the smugglers brought us here and told us to wait, but I don't see any boats here. I paid US\$50 for the boat. We don't know why it is only the five of us and no one else is waiting. The smugglers will be bringing more people in a truck, I think, but maybe we will give up and go back to Bosasso.

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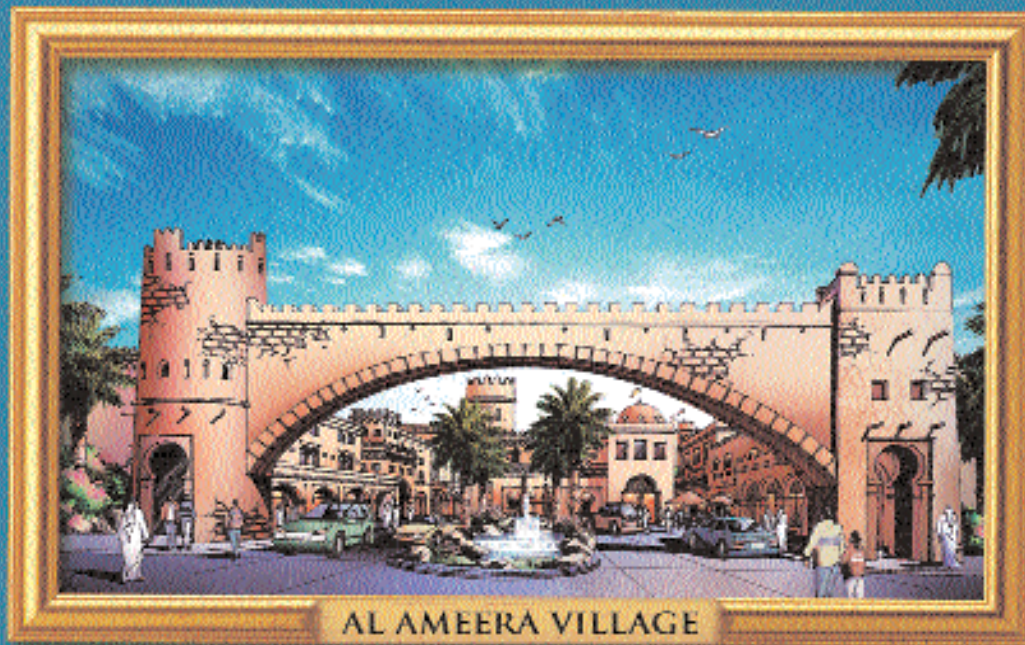
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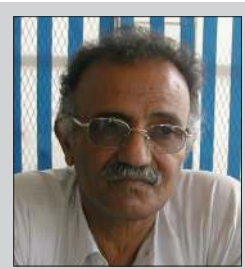


Does an Opposition exist?

Only the strange political mood, manifested by furiousness and changeability, can outdo the strange climate in Sana'a. A few days ago, the Yemeni government and the Opposition appeared as if they were preparing to enter a war, meanwhile the two-sided conflict led to a call for a popular revolution, advocated by Hamid Al-Ahmar and a threat of the sleepy serpent, Ali Abdullah Saleh. Unpredictability in Yemen's political scene is not necessarily a problem, rather it might be evidence of vitality and healthiness if authentic in nature.

In the past, the General People's Congress (GPC) leaders were extremist while Saleh was more flexible. But, disputes over the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum's (SCER) monitoring, revision of registered voter lists, and the subsequent formation of election management committees reveal that extremism is a characteristic of the GPC.

The most recent two-week long dialogue confirmed once again that Saleh, who holds all the documents, is the only eligible official to make bargains and respond to some of the



By: Abdulbari Tahir

Opposition's demands. The political opposition's only mistake in its comprehensive quest for reforms, including electoral reform, was that it set long-term demands and only accepts minimal solutions through negotiations.

The Opposition demands that a modern state be built and insisted on the separation of the different branches of government. It also wants to see the eradication of corruption and dismissal of the SCER, yet after negotiations with Saleh, it reached a compromise that called for the participation of two Opposition members on the commission that it accuses of being partial to the ruling party. During another dialogue with the regime, the Opposition accepted the division of the election management personnel as follows: 50 percent for the GPC, 46 percent for the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), and the remaining 4 percent for the General Assembly parties.

For both the government and Opposition national harmony is an important means to get rid of the crisis, but the most important question is "on

which matters do the regime and Opposition agree and on which matters do they differ?" The Opposition's demands are many, while government concessions are few.

Frequent meetings are the most important method to tackle the crisis between the government and the Opposition. But while discussing the crisis, the meeting attendees have to take into account its economic, social, cultural, and political dimensions because avoid the nature of the problem or the resort to half-measures will not work.

Diagnosing the nature of Yemen's ills and determining priorities are of great importance as the regime never divulges the existence of a crisis and considers any talk about the crisis as out of bounds.

The high illiteracy rate estimated at 65 percent among males and 80 percent among females is a catastrophic threat to our impoverished country that suffers from rampant corruption and oppression. Additionally, the state's backwardness coupled with its inability to enforce the rule of law requires an immediate remedy.

One should not reduce the significance of the dialogue sponsored by Saleh. All Yemenis know that the Parliament and the Shoura Council are

facades that have no relation to legislation. Neither institution has the authority to monitor the executive branch nor force it to account for its actions. Therefore, both bodies lack efficiency and independence.

Agreements between the government and the Opposition have shortcomings as they do not provide cures for our crisis. This raises the question: "Do the requirements for real competition exist?"

The government and the Opposition agree on partial solutions associated with reforming electoral mechanisms. Both sides have agreed on the revision of voter registration lists; however, the most urgent issues are those related to the construction of a modern state based on law and order.

As the government and the Opposition have agreed on methods of monitoring the polls, the ball is now in the Opposition's court. Will the Opposition nominate its own presidential candidate? Will it recommend an independent candidate? Or will the Opposition sell itself out in a bargain with Saleh over the upcoming elections?

Abdulbari Tahir is a Yemeni Journalist and the former chairman of Yemeni Journalists Syndicate.

GCC's volte-face supports Saleh's re-election

Talk has already begun in Yemen and states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) about qualifying Yemen to become its seventh member. It seems that the talk is serious, as it has been confirmed by King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz and the GCC secretary general.

For many years, the Yemeni government has desired to gain admission to the GCC. Yemen's request was never officially rejected, but the GCC put Yemen on the waiting list for entry. That stance was a cause of the Yemeni government much dismay and allowed some officials to release press statements that belittled the importance of the GCC and the benefits it could offer Yemen. The government-owned media tended to explain the GCC's by describing Yemen as a democratic country and the Gulf states monarchial.

To ease the emotions of the Yemeni government, the GCC opened its doors partially and allowed Yemen to join some of its minor institutions. Thereafter, the Yemeni government continued to search for any grouping of states that would accept it as a member. It has not found one group that welcomed it except for the quadrilateral group of the Horn of Africa consisting of Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, and Yemen. All these countries are occupied with poverty and other crises and lack the ability to help themselves let alone others.

Nevertheless, the Yemeni government has continued its insistent efforts to join the GCC, using all means at its disposal to pressure it. Ultimately, the Yemen and the GCC reached agreement regarding the qualification of Yemen. However, there has been no agreement on the definition of qualification and no schedule for admittance.

The reasons behind the GCC's volte-faces

The Yemeni government has lately made a string of perilous retractions in the democratic approach; its record with regard to human rights violations, attacks on journalists, and the reduction of press freedoms. However, these negative changes in Yemeni domestic policy were not the cause of the GCC's new stand on Yemen's accession. As democracy was not the reason why of Yemen was not admitted in the past.

According to the NewsYemen website, American and British diplomatic sources have revealed that the two countries have advised the Saudis and the GCC states to "shoulder their responsibility in protecting Yemen against verified imminent failure." The same sources mentioned that there were estimates pointing out that the "assistance of Arab countries did not achieve mentionable success in protecting Yemen against deep components of fail-

ure in the government of President Saleh." The site indicated that the Yemeni Ministry of Planning said that Britain will double its assistance to Yemen next year. The website also mentioned that the British ambassador

to Yemen appeared more "welcoming of the Saudi Arabia kingdom participation at the donors' conference to be held late this year."

This is the first time for donors to meet with Saudi Arabia in an international gathering to discuss political and economic reforms in Yemen. NewsYemen has also mentioned that the "escape of the 23 al-Qaeda linked prisoners last February has led to [a rise in] fears of the international community" about Yemen's situation.

The GCC secretary general said in press statements published previously that Yemen already qualifies to enter the council based on its level of press freedoms. The GCC's conditions for Yemeni accession do not differ markedly from those drawn up by the Millennium Challenge Fund, financed by the American government, for the qualification of Yemen for aid. To date, Yemen has failed to meet its terms and American officials informed President Saleh last year in Washington that Yemen would not benefit from the Fund.

Thus, it seems that the real reasons for the GCC's u-turn towards Yemeni entry are completely different from those mentioned by senior Yemeni officials. Recently, Yemeni officials began to whisper in the ears of media officials that the GCC's terms include imposition of restraints on democratic practices and the limitation of political pluralism.

Of course, there is no proof that such demands are to be taken at face value. Rather, these purported demands seem to be fabrications of the Yemeni government.

Presently, the Yemeni government are would like to take advantage of GCC qualification for the purpose of the September presidential election. The idea is to use the qualification process to convince Yemenis to concede some of their freedoms in order to enter the GCC in return for greater material prosperity. No doubt the material deprivation that most Yemenis suffer from will push some to believe in the government's promises. According to official propaganda, President Saleh's re-election is necessary for Gulf rulers to open their treasuries to finance development in Yemen.

Ali Al-Sarari is a Yemeni Journalist and a well-known politician. He is the head of the information department at the Yemeni Socialist Party.

The presidency requires popular legitimacy

The military ruler of Yemen is obstinate stickler for he sees in his crystal ball that 28 years of power as a tax for Yemenis to pay in return for his acceptance to rule the country at decisive moment in the country's history.

He's noticed that elites are not at the level of filling the gap that would result if he left the palace at this critical moment. Moreover, he sees that his idiosyncratic doctrines might be rubbed off the map if imamate supporters and other separatists gain power, as he declared in his shadowy address.

The central administration of the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) is unsure of the president's behavior, especially of his periodic projects to generate unrest between people and his practice of tyranny.

In my opinion, the Opposition sees that it is not up to the challenge of presenting their own presidential candi-



By: Abdurrahim Muhsin

date. The Opposition realizes that it lacks the wherewithal to compete with a shade that hides behind military barracks and security forces, hinting that he will deploy them against voters. For more than 25 years, Saleh has exploited his control of the state's treasury, media, patron-

age, and the monopoly over power to make his reign permanent.

There are two conflicting visions of Yemen's future: one is that of the people and the other of the existing power of the regime. Time is limited, for the presidency's nomination is at the end of the month. We have just 13 days until then, while we have about 3 months left until the voting process begins.

Within this short period of time, the central leadership of the JMP has done little to challenge the status quo. The JMP has left candidates for the presidency to fight in newspapers and websites to little effect. The JMP has not told candidates whether it will give

them their vote to enter the paradise that is the presidency. Further, the central leadership has not named its candidate for the presidency for fear of his or her assassination.

From my viewpoint, the silence of JMP's central leadership and its refusal to name a candidate are wise choices. The silence of the JMP is a natural response to Yemen's political scene. Right from the beginning, I can guarantee that legitimacy in the public's eye will make or break Yemen's next president.

For those who are in hurry, I would say that the he "who waited for one year, can wait for one more month." This is an incentive for preparing the public legitimacy in an all-inclusive way in order to give birth to long-lasting democracy and an united parliamentary system.

In order to achieve the aforementioned vision we, in my opinion, have to do the following. First, we have to leave the ruler to decompose out of his obstinacy and arrogance. His power is responsible for the forging of elections. His power has brought about different economical, social, political,

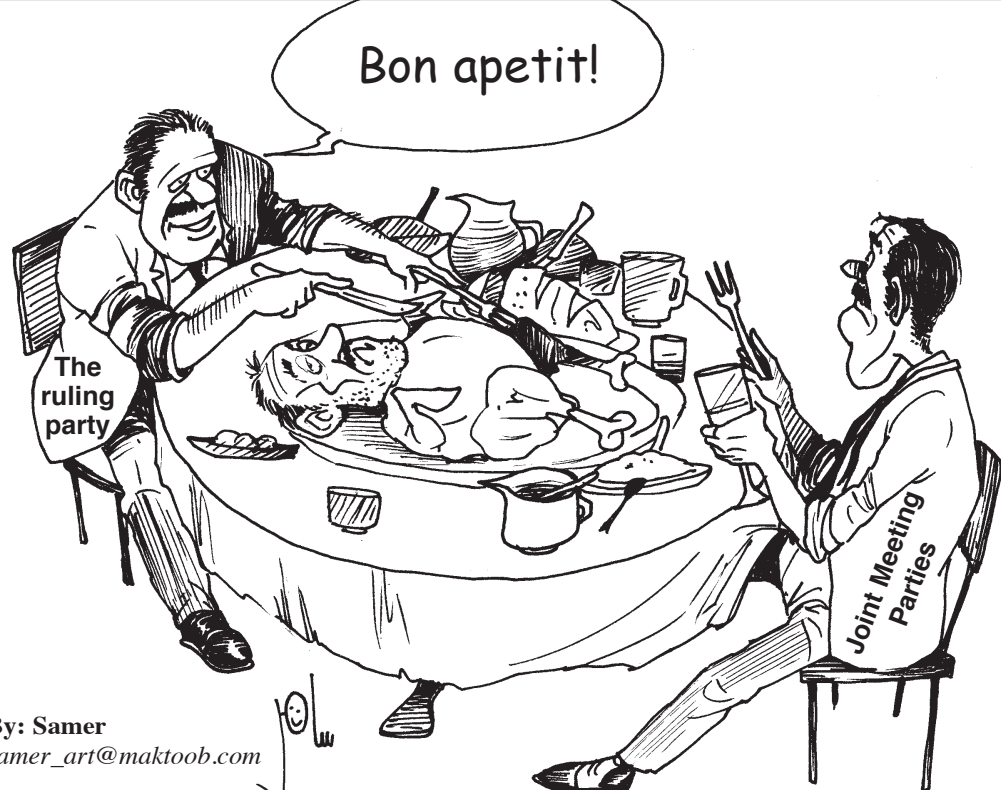
and to some extent, factional problems. When the JMP does not present a candidate, the ruler will be compelled to beg the JMP for national and political consensus or resort to picking a weak candidate from his entourage.

Second, we have to leave Saleh to stand alone as a candidate for the presidency, wearing his megalomaniac attire. Recalling Al-Hamidi's murder in a secondhand market on 45 Meter Street, the nature of the regime's detestable fanaticism has gone far beyond the constitution and the law. The crime plays a part in unveiling the illegitimacy of power since the Law of Penalty states in the Article 23 that an accomplice to a crime is one who provides assistance to some party who intends to commit a crime.

This crime, and similar mayhem, will be a rich issue for uncovering the regime's corruption that aims to exploit power for another seven years. Each Sanhani working in the Special Forces, the Republican Guard, and National Security will be able to walk on the dignity of the people after such a continuation of Saleh's rule.

Abdurrahim Muhsin is a well-known Yemeni journalist and opposition activist. Established the anti-regime movement called "Irhalo" which means get out. He was a former media person of the presidency office.

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By: Samer
samer_art@maktoob.com

Letters to the Editor

Aden's port operator refuses wage increases

I am a Yemeni employee at the Aden container terminal. I would like to disclose the violations committed against Yemeni employees by the port, Overseas Port Management (OPM) and the complicity of government officials.

When I say that OPM is a sham, I say this because OPM's current managers were employees with the former company, Port of Singapore (PSA), which operated the terminal. Our major problem with OPM lies in the stagnant wages they pay. Our wages are at the same level that they were seven years ago, excepting the annual

increase of 900 YR.

In spite of the rise of oil exports last year, our wages have not increased even though wages in the public and private sectors have done so. Employees feel angry because OPM has realized it can buy influential government officials with a bunch some qat.

We tried to form a workers syndicate to defend our rights. OPM responded by informing security forces in Aden's free zone who accused us of being secessionists. What a fine example of the lack of rights in this country.

S. A. Saleem
saleamad_2006@yahoo.com

World Cup should be free

How is it possible that most East African countries are watching World Cup matches directly while in our region that's impossible? Football fans who cannot afford satellite cards number in millions in our region. The monopoly over the matches should have been waived to allow millions to watch the matches at no cost. My advice to decision makers is don't trade the spirit of the sport for money. We should thank the German Embassy for its generous contribution to make it possible for people who cannot afford to buy a card to watch the World Cup at public venues.

Ali Sherif
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YEMEN TIMES

www.yementimes.com

First Political bi-weekly English Newspaper in Yemen. Founded in 1990 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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The World Health Organisation report 2006: Working together for health (1/6)

The World Health Report 2006 - Working together for health contains an expert assessment of the current crisis in the global health workforce and ambitious proposals to tackle it over the next ten years, starting immediately. The report reveals an estimated shortage of almost 4.3 million doctors, midwives, nurses and support workers worldwide. The shortage is most severe in the poorest countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where health workers are most needed. Focusing on all stages of the health workers' career lifespan from entry to health training, to job recruitment through to retirement, the report lays out a ten-year action plan

in which countries can build their health workforces, with the support of global partners.

Why the workforce is important
In this first decade of the 21st century, immense advances in human well-being coexist with extreme deprivation. In global health we are witnessing the benefits of new medicines and technologies. But there are unprecedented reversals. Life expectancies have collapsed in some of the poorest countries to half the level of the richest - attributable to the ravages of HIV/AIDS in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and to more than a dozen "failed states". These setbacks have been accompanied by growing fears, in rich and poor countries alike, of new infectious threats such as SARS and avian influenza and "hidden" behavioural conditions such as mental disorders and domestic violence.

The world community has sufficient financial resources and technologies to tackle most of these health challenges; yet today many

national health systems are weak, unresponsive, inequitable - even unsafe. What is needed now is political will to implement national plans, together with international cooperation to align resources, harness knowledge and build robust health systems for treating and preventing disease and promoting population health. Developing capable, motivated and supported health workers is essential for overcoming bottlenecks to achieve national and global health goals. Health care is a labour-intensive service industry. Health service providers are the personification of a system's core values - they heal and care for people, ease pain and suffering, prevent disease and mitigate risk - the human link that connects knowledge to health action.

At the heart of each and every health system, the workforce is central to advancing health. There is ample evidence that worker numbers and quality are positively associated with immunization coverage, outreach of primary care, and infant,

child and maternal survival (see Figure 1). The quality of doctors and the density of their distribution have been shown to correlate with positive outcomes in cardiovascular diseases. Conversely, child malnutrition has worsened with staff cutbacks during health sector reform. Cutting-edge quality improvements of health care are best initiated by workers themselves because they are in the unique position of identifying opportunities for innovation. In health systems, workers function as gatekeepers and navigators for the effective, or wasteful, application of all other resources such as drugs, vaccines and supplies.

Health workers save lives!

All of us at some stage work for health - a mother caring for her child, a son escorting his parents to a hospital, or a healer drawing on ancient wisdom to offer care and solace. This report considers that "Health workers are all people primarily engaged in actions with the primary intent of enhancing health".

This is consistent with the WHO definition of health systems as comprising all activities with the primary goal of improving health - inclusive of family caregivers, patient-provider partners, parttime workers (especially women), health volunteers and community workers.

Picture of the global workforce

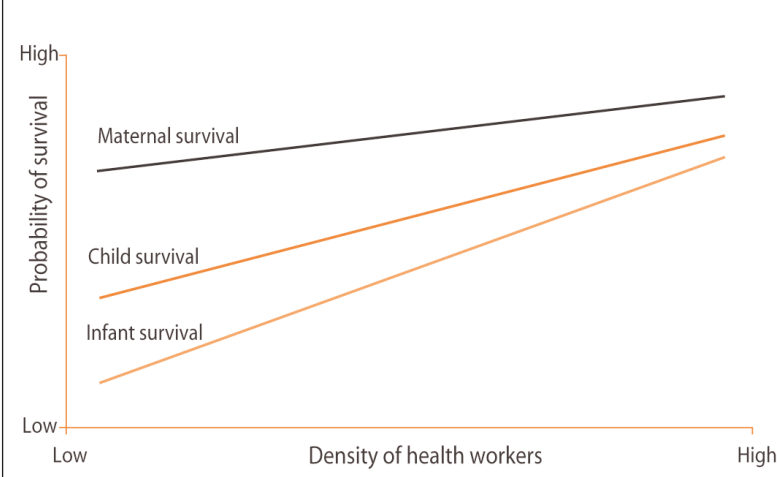
Based on new analyses of national censuses, labour surveys and statistical sources, WHO estimates there to be a total of 59.2 million full-time paid health workers worldwide (see Table 1). These workers are in health enterprises whose primary role is to improve health (such as health programmes operated by government or nongovernmental organizations) plus additional health workers in non-health organizations (such as nurses staffing a company or school clinic). Health service providers constitute about two thirds of the global health workforce, while the remaining third is composed of health management and support workers.

Global health workforce, by density

Workers are not just individuals but are integral parts of functioning health teams in which each member contributes different skills and performs different functions. Countries demonstrate enormous diversity in the skill mix of health teams. The ratio of nurses to doctors ranges from nearly 8:1 in the African Region to 1.5:1 in the Western Pacific Region. Among countries, there are approximately four nurses per doctor in Canada and the United States of America, while Chile, Peru, El Salvador and Mexico have fewer than one nurse per doctor. The spectrum of essential worker competencies is characterized by imbalances as seen, for example, in the dire shortage of public health specialists and health care managers in many countries. Typically, more than 70% of doctors are male while more than 70% of nurses are female - a marked gender imbalance. About two thirds of the workers are in the public sector and one third in the private sector.



Health workers save lives!



Global health workforce, by density

WHO region	Total health workforce		Health service providers		Health management and support workers	
	Number	Density (per 1000 population)	Number	Percentage of total health workforce	Number	Percentage of total health workforce
Africa	1 640 000	2.3	1 360 000	83	280 000	17
Eastern Mediterranean	2 100 000	4.0	1 580 000	75	520 000	25
South-East Asia	7 040 000	4.3	4 730 000	67	2 300 000	33
Western Pacific	10 070 000	5.8	7 810 000	78	2 260 000	23
Europe	16 630 000	18.9	11 540 000	69	5 090 000	31
Americas	21 740 000	24.8	12 460 000	57	9 280 000	43
World	59 220 000	9.3	39 470 000	67	19 750 000	33

Note: All data for latest available year. For countries where data on the number of health management and support workers were not available, estimates have been made based on regional averages for countries with complete data.
Data source: World Health Organization. Global Atlas of the Health Workforce (<http://www.who.int/globalatlas/default.asp>).

Yemen: A day in the life of a failing state

An outbreak of chickenpox in Yemen goes a long way in demonstrating the challenges of daily life for Yemeni citizens. The incident is also a snapshot of the factors that may lead Yemen toward state failure. Barhan is a typical village in Yemen where most villages have no electricity, no sewage system and no clean water. Nationally, one in ten kids dies by age five; contaminated water contributes to half their deaths. Of the millions of kids not in school, the highest percentage is among rural girls.

Barhan has reported over 90 cases of chickenpox, including a number of severe cases. Generally infants, adolescents, and adults are at higher risk to develop complications from chicken pox including pneumonia and encephalitis. If a pregnant woman contracts chickenpox, the fetus is at risk for birth defects. The highly contagious disease has spread to all households in Barhan, which has no doctor, and the village of 1200 people is at risk of developing 85% infection. The village's only road is under blockade by a neighboring village.

The Yemen Times, which recently won an International Press Institute Award for courageous reporting in an extremely hostile press environment, interviewed a member of the Health Ministry. Declining to be identified, the source told the Yemen Times, "We sent a message to the Epidemic Monitoring Department's director general, which told us it's a disease not subject to Health Ministry monitoring and that it's not dangerous. We were told to contact Director General Dr. Abdulhakim Al-Kuhlani, who refused to talk to us, giving certain excuses."

Barhan village has no doctor, no nurse, no midwife, and no hospital. Medical practitioners are scarce in the Yemeni countryside where 70% of

the population resides. There is one doctor for every 600 people in the capital Sana'a, one doctor for every 12,000 people in Dhamar governorate, and one doctor for 90,000 people in Otma province. Yemen allocates just 1.3% of GDP to healthcare and over 7% to military spending. (The military and security forces are largely headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh's relatives and tribesmen.)

In addition to low funding levels, medical care is hampered by bureaucratic corruption and inefficiency. In 2005 the Medicine Fund, by failing to distribute medicines, allowed YR60 million in medicine to expire on its shelves. Smuggling accounts for about 40% of medicines in circulation. Even when legitimate medicine is available, it is hard to afford for most Yemenis when nearly half the country lives on less than two dollars a day and many more live close to this level.

In response to the outbreak in Barhan, the ministry of health sent a doctor to the village for one day and released a statement that the outbreak was contained. The villagers were promised medicine and doctors, and are still waiting as the virus spreads.

The only road from Barhan is under blockade by a hostile neighboring village. Tribalism is growing in Yemen and the blockade arose as revenge. A fair portion of rural citizens have restricted freedom to travel due to tribal hostilities which often erupt in shoot-outs and deaths. One Barhan resident said, "We are living two tragedies: one involves the blockade and the other involves the epidemic." Living in fear of an attack by the neighboring village, residents are unable to transport their sick relatives to a hospital. Barhan is only 40 km west of the nation's capital city

of Sana'a. Barhan has received no help in securing the road from the military or security forces, recipients of about 40% of Yemen's budget. Tribal disputes, arising in the absence of an impartial judiciary, are normally left to fester by the regime. The Yemeni

government sometimes gets involved by taking hostages in order to pressure one of the parties involved. A 2004 Parliamentary report noted scores of persons listed on prison documents as "hostages." This regime policy can backfire: several times last year tribesmen kidnapped foreigners to pressure the regime to release or bring to trial detained relatives, including one 12 year old.

One distraught parent told The Yemen Times, "We've sought the help of the Health Ministry, the Capital Secretariat, the local council and all concerned parties, but they've done nothing to protect our children from this horrific disease." Local councils set up in 2001 were supposed to enhance democratic participation in Yemen, but somebody forgot to tell the councils and the regime, because the local councils don't work - literally.

The local councils have little training, structure, authority or coordination with central authorities. Executive council meetings are poorly attended. A Barhan resident explained, "They've done nothing ever since we elected them to be our representatives, to adopt our concerns and issues and solve them in coordination with Sana'a authorities. They've disappointed us."

Other "democratic" institutions are equally disappointing. Parliament is dominated by the General People's Congress Party which is headed by President Saleh. Parliament does little beyond shuffle oil revenue in

mysterious ways. MP's who try to advance the interests of the public are called traitors. The minority opposition parties hotly criticize the authoritarianism of the regime but are undemocratic in practice and dialog themselves. There's an election coming in September for both the Presidency and the Local Councils. With voter registration processes in the hands of GPC loyalists, so far there's about a million questionable voter registrations, according to one opposition tally about 11% of the rolls. Yemen is on the road to becoming a one party state, and an ineffectual one at that.

In a region is filled with dictatorships, the one in Yemen is particularly incompetent and distinctly corrupt with a good portion of public funds stolen, borrowed, embezzled, paid as bribes or otherwise misappropriated. The chicken pox vaccine is 95% effective in preventing a moderate or severe case of chicken pox. Other remedies are available for people who have already been exposed, including infants, to reduce the risk of a severe case. Yet at the top of Yemen's shopping list are helicopters, Mig-29 fighter planes and armored personnel carriers.

In the run up to the election, President Saleh has taken a road trip, laying cornerstones and making promises. In the little village of Barhan, 1200 people remain blockaded with no doctor and a rampant infectious disease. They have no government. There are 129,229 villages and districts in the Yemeni countryside. The lack of basic services, security and democratic institutions affects them all.

Jane Novak is an American journalist and political analyst. She is a contributing editor at WorldPress.org. (jane.novak@gmail.com)



By: Jane Novak

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره نتقدم
بخالص العزاء وأصدق المواساة
إلى الزميل / ياسر محمد المياسي
لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى
والده
سائلين المولى عز وجل أن يتغمد الفقيد
بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته
وأن يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر
والسلوان...إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون
الأسيفون
هيئة تحرير وطاقم صحيفة يمن تايمز
و نقابة الصحفيين اليمنيين

Yemen sees rise in tourists

By: Mahoub Al-Kamali

Until recently, the Yemeni tourism industry has witnessed continuous cycles of growth and recession due to various factors. In spite of the many natural attractions the country has—such as untouched beaches and islands and rare wildlife—Yemen's tourism industry has suffered from unpredictability.

Against this backdrop, the newly established Ministry of Tourism conducted a study on trends in tourism that indicates the period from 2002 to 2005 saw an unrecorded growth in the number of tourists coming into Yemen. The trend shows a steady rise in tourists visiting Yemen with double-digit-growth figures averaging at 41 percent during the period.

The study links the growth to the relative political stability the country has enjoyed, coupled with the hostility between Arabs and the West in the aftermath of 11 September 2001. Detritus of the unstable state of relations between the West and Arab states include the invasion of Iraq and travel warnings cautioning visiting the Middle East, which have resulted in



Yemen's nature, culture, and historical buildings are tourist attractions with an untapped business potential.

increased intra-Arab travel benefiting countries such as Jordan, Syria, and Yemen.

During the 2002-2005 period, Arab tourists to Yemen constituted a little over 65 percent of all tourists visiting Yemen, pushing European tourists to second place and Asians to third place. In 2005, 284,221 tourists visited Yemen creating tourism-associated revenues to \$262 million (USD). This figure is a huge increase from the mere \$20 million (USD) that tourists spent in Yemen in 1990.

Along the same lines, infrastructure for the tourism industry has expanded to meet the increased demand. The study mentioned that the number of tourist facilities have jumped to 2,890

in 2005 from only 768 in 1991, a number still inadequate to meet the growth in demand expected in the years to come.

In a statement to Yemen Times, Nabil Al-Faqih, Minister of Tourism, said that his ministry is working on a comprehensive plan to promote tourism in Yemen. The plan includes a marketing campaign aimed at informing prospective tourists about Yemen's unique attractions. The plan is part of a long-term strategy to develop the tourism industry so that it becomes a pillar of the national economy.

To that end, AbdulRahim Al-Sabri, Director of Licenses Unit within the Ministry of Tourism, indicated that

investments in tourism facilities have steadily increased by an average of 18 percent annually since 2001. He pointed out an on-going study to assess opportunities for investment in the Yemeni tourism industry including the hotels, resorts, recreational parks, clubs, health spas, and other facilities that will be presented at an investor's conference to be held in Sana'a in February 2007.

Plans to develop national infrastructure have occasionally been harmonized with plans to develop the tourism industry. For example, 301 roads were constructed with the purpose of providing access to locations deemed important to the tourism industry.

Number of tourists (2005):	284,221
Revenue generated:	\$252 million (USD)
Expected growth rate:	18-21%

Accommodation facilities:	
5-Star Hotels	6
4-Star Hotels	14
3-Star Hotels	45
2-Star Hotels	86
1-Star Hotels	149
Hostels	135
Total rooms:	11,890
Total beds:	33,066

Data source: General Authority for Tourism Promotion

Rental regulation law: A survey

By: Yemen Times Staff

The Parliament has recently approved Law No. 22/2006 that will regulate the relationship between tenants and landlords, as well as other aspects related to any rental agreement. The law includes eight chapters dealing with rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords,

details of a rental agreement, ownership rights of property, rental of furnished property, and the termination of rental agreement among others. The Yemen Times asked people on the streets about their rental-related problems, their impression of the new law, and how the new law might solve their problems.

Nabila, 31, school teacher: Our need for such a law is very critical. Landlords take advantage of the demand for

housing and raise the rent time and again, and we can't do anything about it as it is his property. The new law should clarify how we deal with such greedy landlords.

Yasser, 24, university student: We have plenty of laws that aren't enforced. What's the point of a law that isn't enforced or can't be enforced, especially as owners of property are usually influential people?

AbdulJalil, 49, plumber: Our problem is ignorance. Even if the government makes laws and regulations, most tenants do not know about such laws or how to bring about justice in case their landlords are greedy people or trouble makers.

Latifa, homemaker: We have been renting part of our house for over ten years. More recently, people are becoming more unable to pay their rents on time and always come up with excuses not to pay the rent for two or three months. We depend on that money for our own livelihood and are unable to deal with such tenants who refuse to pay or can't pay on time.

Mohammed Ali, 72, retired: The Relationship between tenants and landlords used to be that of neighbors and friends. Now, everyone wants to eat a bite out of each other. The tenants try to take advantage of the landlord if the landlord is a patient person and the landlord tries to increase the rent if he finds another tenant willing to pay more.

KhairAldin, 28, expatriate: Renting is luck. You can be lucky and have a nice landlord and rent a functional house or apartment in good condition, or you can be unlucky and rent from a

shark, having to live in house that is falling apart, and suffering mental and financial stress through repairing and fixing.

Ayman, lawyer, 43: Most of the problems we face in rental agreements is the non-respect for the law, even if the law indicates that rental should not exceed a specified sum. You find landlords reacting negatively and refusing to abide, saying its my property and I will rent it for the price I want, provided someone else is willing to pay that sum due to demand for property. So, the rental laws can be of no use.

AbdulRab, 32, mechanic: The solution for these problems requires that the government build residential cities to supply the demand for rental property. People come to the cities from villages looking for jobs and a better life and they must look for housing. With the limited supply of housing available, one has to put up with the hassle of landlords regardless of what the laws say.

Hussain, real estate agent: The problem is mutual. Landlords try to protect themselves from tenants by keeping an eye on what they do, while keeping the second eye on the current rents to make sure that they aren't paid less than market prices. Meanwhile, tenants always look for landlords who are willing to wait extra days for the rent, and want a very good deal and a long rental contract with minimum guarantees on their part. Both parties are being unreasonable. The landlord wants a high return on his investment, while a tenant wants a free ride. Rental prices are controlled by supply and demand, not by laws.

Yemenia honors employees

Yemen's national air carrier, Yemenia, honored 150 of its distinguished employees to appreciate the hard work and efforts they exerted in improving the performance of the airline services and management.

In the celebratory gathering, Yemenia's Chief Executive Officer, Captain Abdul-Khaliq Al-Qadhi stated that this honor is not limited to the 150 employees but it is extended to all employees, affiliates and associations of the company.

He indicated that Yemenia has several ambitious growth plans. These include the establishment of a subsidiary specialized in national air transport within the country, in order to

meet the demands of the travel industry as well as to promote domestic tourism.

Al-Qadhi has also discussed the various developments in the airline industry including the recent agreement between Yemen and Egypt to open their airspace and allow Yemenia to establish new routes to various Egyptian airports.

Captain Al-Qadhi has also announced that Yemenia has exceeded the current international standards of aviation by receiving the 'YOSA' certification in terms of customer service. He said that this comes as a part of an overhaul process aiming at making the company one of the region's leading airlines, calling on all employees of Yemenia to keep up the hard work.



Yemenia will establish a subsidiary for domestic air travel.

Business In Brief

WB approves country assistance strategy

The World Bank approved the 2006-2009 Country Assistance Strategy for Yemen. The strategy will provide assistance to Yemen by increasing non-oil growth, improving human development outcomes, improving fiscal sustainability, and addressing the natural resource sustainability crisis. The strategy will provide about \$400 million (USD) in IDA (International Development Association) credits to Yemen through a selective program of lending operations as well as a strategic program of analytical and learning services.

USAID may increase assistance to Yemen

Mike Sarahan, the director of USAID in Yemen, indicated that the U.S. plans to increase its economic assistance to Yemen to \$400-500 million (USD) annually from the current \$45 million provided that the government of Yemen continues its economic reform package, and intensifies its efforts towards realizing the Millennium Development Goals.

FAO provides \$285,000 for fisheries

A cooperation agreement was signed by Yemen and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations that will create an information system to support the infrastructure of the fisheries industry. The system will assist in the tasks of statistical, marketing, and resource management of Yemen's fisheries in order to better develop the industry.

Saudi Fund for Development funds electricity projects

The board of directors of the Saudi Fund for Development announced the establishment of a funding mechanism to finance electricity generation projects in Yemen. The initial plan is to finance the purchase of two power-generation facilities in Sana'a and Aden, each with the producing 60 megawatts per annum at a total cost of \$100 million (USD).

Hodeida Industrial Zone to start construction

Abdullah Hahya Bukari received the finalized illustrations and plans for the Hodeida Industrial Zone, which included a three-phase construction plan. The first phase, that will see 41 percent of the plan implemented, is expected to start immediately and will contain food and textile industries; electric and engineering industries; metal and chemical industries; as well as ancillary industries that will support other industries within the zone.

Red Sea island to become luxury resort

The Yemeni Ministry of Tourism has signed an agreement with the Al-Miqati International Investments Group to rehabilitate the Yemeni island of Entofash located in the Red Sea across from the town of Al-Lohayat. The plan envisions the

island becoming a world-class luxury resort. The rehabilitation plan includes the construction of an airport, a seaport, and a resort complex. Minister of tourism Mr. Nabil Al-Faqih, Minister of Tourism, and Rashed Al-Kaff, representative of the Miqati Group, signed the agreement.

SinoPec to start operations in Yemen in July

The SinoPec International Corporation of China will start explorations for oil in Block 69 in the Shabwa governorate in early July. A geological survey over 610 square kilometers will begin operations which are expected to continue for a few months. Progress reports will indicate if the survey has located any deposits that could increase the production capacity of Yemen. SinoPec has already had great success in oil exploration and production operations in several African countries.

YemenMobile announces public offer of shares

YemenMobile announced an ambitious plan to issue shares worth 45 percent of its capital. Shares are to be sold to the public through three schemes at 500 YR per share. The first scheme will sell 10 percent of the shares to employees of YemenMobile and employees of the Ministry of Telecommunications. The second scheme comprises of 14 percent of the total shares and these will be sold to banks, funds, and corporations. These entities will be able to buy a minimum of 4,000 shares and a maximum of 120,000 shares. The remaining 21 percent is to be sold directly to the public at a minimum of 20 shares and a maximum of 4,000 shares.

YemenMobile announced that its number of subscribers reached 500,000 in less than two years of operations, which exceeds their target of 320,000 by 36 percent.

Al-Dar Telecommunications acquires UniTel

Saudi-based Al-Dar Telecommunications acquired Yemeni telecommunication company UniTel, which is the third largest GSM operator in Yemen. The size of Al-Dar's investment will reach \$335 million (USD) including a \$149 million licensing fee to be paid by Al-Dar Telecommunications. The new GSM service is expected to offer advanced telecommunications solutions with the prospect of launching third generation (3-G) GSM mobile services in Yemen in 2007.

Saudi-German Hospital Group plans to build 29 medical facilities

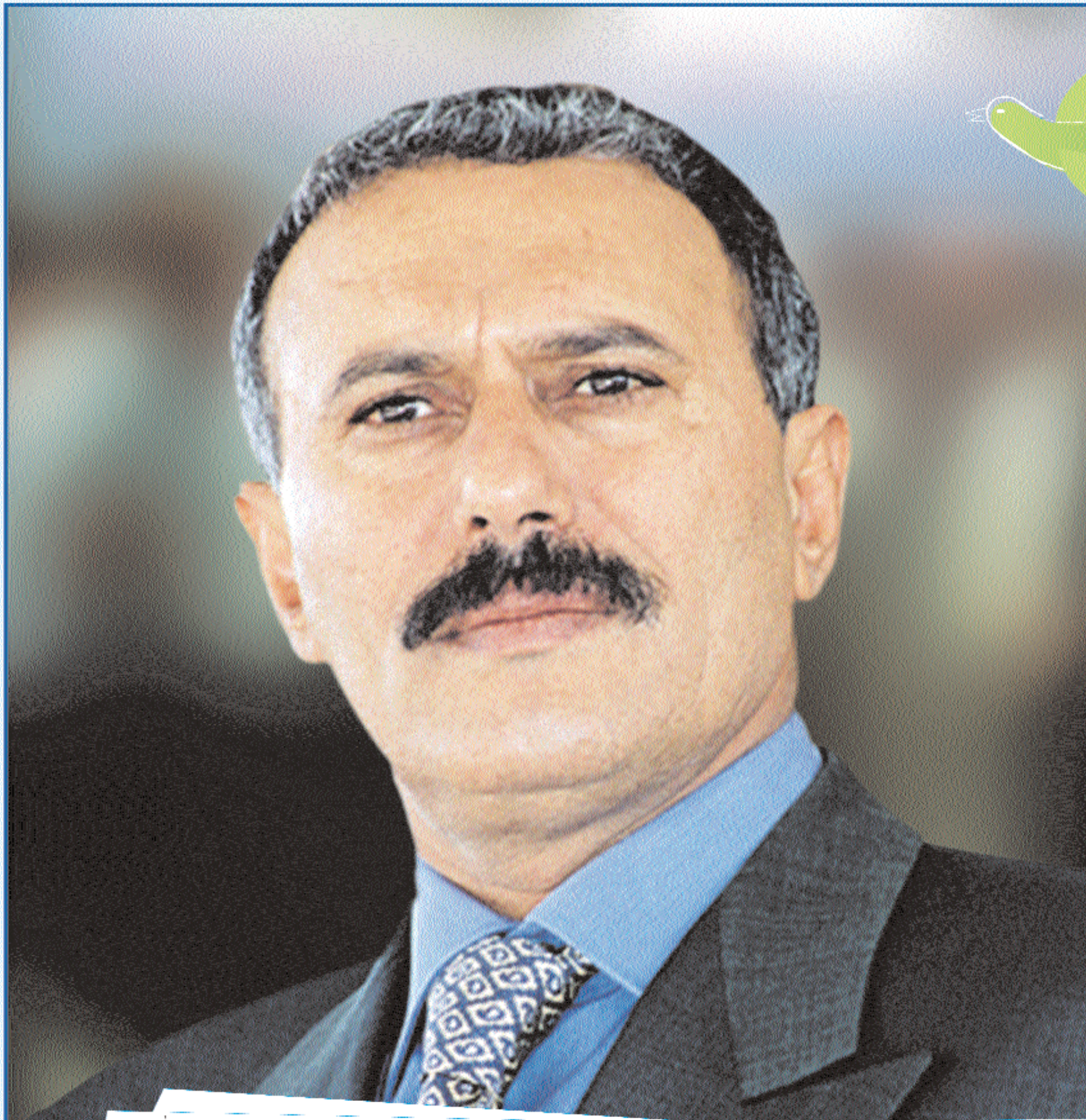
After the successful launch of their first hospital in Yemen, the Saudi-German Hospital Group CEO Subhi AbdulJalil announced an ambitious plan to establish 29 more medical facilities in Yemen by 2015. These facilities are planned to include a medical training institute. Total investment planned by the Group is estimated at \$3 billion (USD) and the facilities are projected to provide employment for over 50,000 people in Yemen.



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أكمل

المشوار

حفظكم الله

تحية طيبة وبعد

فخامة الأخ / رئيس الجمهورية

لسنوات طويلة تعلقت بكم آمال اليمن وأمانها ومثلتم ضميرها الحي وقدمتم باقتدار مسيرة التطور والتقدم لشعبنا وبلادنا وتحققت تحت قيادتكم إنجازات 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 وفناشدكم العدول عن قراركم بعدم الترشح للدورة الانتخابية القادمة وعليه نطالب بمواصلة مسيرتكم المباركة والترشح للانتخابات 2006 - 2013.

لجنة القطاع الخاص

ترشيح الأخ / علي عبدالله صالح
لرئاسة الجمهورية للدورة الانتخابية القادمة
2013 - 2006

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 مناقشة رئيس الجمهورية بالعدول عن قرار عدم الترشح لمنصب رئيس الجمهورية .

جمعية الصناعيين اليمنيين
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - الضالع
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - رداع
الإتحاد العام لمنتجي الأدوية
إتحاد منتجي المواد الغذائية
المجلس اليمني لرجال الأعمال والمستثمرين
جمعية البنوك اليمنية
جمعية وكالات السياحة والسفر
اتحاد الفنادق
اتحاد شركات التأمين

الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - أمارة العاصمة
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - حضرموت
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الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - المحويت
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - حجة
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - صنعاء
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - الجوف
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - مارب
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - عمران

الإتحاد العام للغرف التجارية الصناعية
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - عدن
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - تعز
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - لحج
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - إب
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - أبين
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - البيضاء
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - شبوة
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - المهرة
الغرفة التجارية الصناعية - الحديدة



لجنة القطاع الخاص لترشيح الأخ / علي عبدالله صالح لرئاسة الجمهورية 2006-2013

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Take the opportunity to become a part of this prestigious institution while space is still available! Applications are now being accepted for admission to the Fall 2006 semester, which will begin September 17, 2006.



For more information, contact the Admissions Office, George Mason University – Ras Al Khaimah, UAE. For enquiries in English call – Tel: +971-7-2210900 Mobile: +971-50-6273132 For enquiries in Arabic call – Tel: +971-7-2210500 Mobile: +971-50-6901356 Email: admissions@gmurak.com

Website: www.gmurak.com or apply online at <http://rak.gmu.edu>



Yemeni Nationals Only

Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr announces the following vacancies:

Senior Accountant (General Accounting) Sana'a

Accountant (General Accounting) Sana'a

For further information or to apply for this position please visit our website:

<http://www.nexeninc.com/Careers/Yemen/>

Application Criteria:

- All applications **must be submitted** through our online application system.
- Online Applications must be submitted **NO later than June 27th, 2006**.
- A member of our recruitment team will call you if you are selected for a test and interview.
- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, **contact** and **qualification** information.
- Faxed or Handed-In CV's will **NOT be considered**



Vacant Positions

Jannah Hunt Oil Company is currently recruiting for the following positions:

1. Reservoir Engineer

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Education: Bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering
Experience: Minimum 5 years Reservoir Engineering
 Minimum 2 years Reservoir Simulation experience
Skills: Proficiency with eclipse software Presentation Skills.
Language: Proficient in English (Oral and Written)

JOB REQUIREMENTS

1. Responsible for all reservoir engineering work to insure optimum production of oil and gas from the different block 5 fields in an efficient manner.
2. Provides technical expertise for drilling and well completion workover related to reservoir engineering work.
3. Plan and implement key well surveys and production logs.
4. Supervises, Prepares and quality checks the daily production report for accuracy.
5. Supervises, prepares and quality checks the monthly production report.
6. Monitors all the producers and Injectors performance and make the necessary recommendations to optimize production.
7. Performs reservoir simulation studies utilizing the existing Eclipse Reservoir Simulation Software.
8. Prepares Reserves, Decline Curve Analysis and Production forecast. A forecast per well and field should be done and updated each quarter (three months) routinely. Reserves per sand layer need to be updated every month.
9. Re-evaluates the workover candidates based on the new data. Prepares a complete package that includes reserves, cost and pay out when identifying any potential workover. Also, re-evaluates the results of the workovers.
10. Based on the fields performance evaluates areas for potential infill Drilling.
11. Ensures that all safety procedures are understood and that all work is performed in the safest manner possible.

2. AS400 Programmer

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Education: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science
Experience: Minimum 5 years hands-on System 36 and AS400 operations and development experience

Skills: Minimum 5 years hands-on COBOL development experience
 Proficiency with Client Access software is required
 Knowledge of Query and SQL for ad hoc reports as well as use internally in applications
Language: Proficient in English (Oral and Written)

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Provide AS/400 system administration support for user definitions, security definition, file management, communications definition and performance monitoring
- Ability to analyze System 36 OCL and SDA source code to determine job and program flow and make changes as necessary
- Provide in-depth Accounting and Payroll application knowledge to help support business and project objectives
- Design and implementation of interfaces, enhancements, reports and data conversions using AS/400 and System 36 COBOL, development tools and technologies

3. AS400 Operator

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Education: Bachelor's degree
Experience: Minimum 2-3 years hands-on System 36 OCL and AS400 CL experience
Skills: Tape drive and printer operations
 Backup and recovery methodology
Language: Proficient in English (Oral and Written)

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Coordinate and monitor the processing of all accounting programs
- Generate backup data tapes and backup tape libraries
- Maintain the AS400 tape drive
- Report system messages to AS400 programmer
- Control system monitors and printers

4. IT Manager

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Education: Bachelor's degree in Computer Science

Experience: Six years of related work experience
Skills: Strong technical knowledge of telecommunications, network and PC operating systems
 Analytical, evaluative and problem-solving abilities
Language: Proficient in English (Oral and Written)

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Manage the deployment, monitoring, maintenance, development, upgrade and support of all IT systems, including telecommunications, servers, PCs, operating systems, hardware, software, peripherals and Office Automation equipment.
- Manage financial aspects of the IT department, including purchasing, budgeting and budget review.
- Develop and implement all IT policies and procedures, including those for architecture, security, disaster recovery, standards, purchasing and service provision.
- Practice asset management for IT hardware, software and equipment.
- Manage IT staffing, including recruitment, supervision, scheduling, development, evaluation and disciplinary actions.

5. PC Technician

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Experience: 3-5 years of experience in the computer hardware and software information system industry
Skills: Solid working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite 2003, Outlook 2003, and other major systems utilized by the company
 Working experience with various network devices
Language: Proficient in English (Oral and Written)

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Primary responsibility to maintain the operational performance of all desktop computer systems utilized by the company user base. This includes troubleshooting, repairing, and upgrading most components within the desktop system
- Responsible for providing ongoing support for all company sponsored software applications residing on the Local Area Network. Software support includes providing the users timely support when requested when difficulties are experienced
- Insure all inventory systems are kept in a controlled and professional manner

All candidates must be Yemeni nationals. Deadline for submitting CVs for these positions is July 7, 2006.

If you meet the above requirements please email your CV to jannahrecruiter@y.net.ye.

Please note we will only accept CV's through email submission. Please mention the post you are applying for.

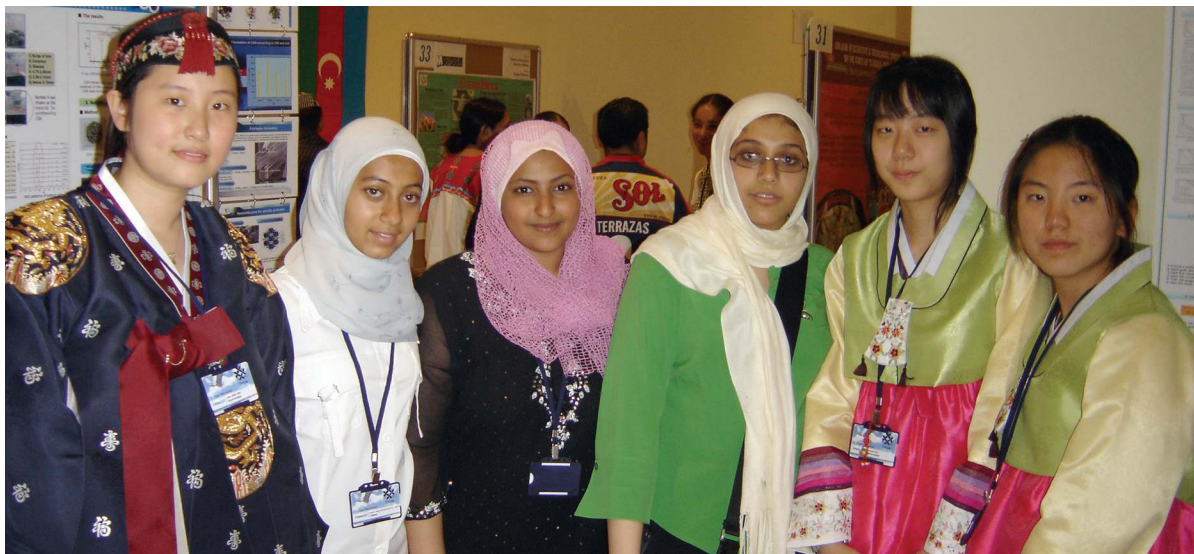
The Turkish international school students bring golden Medal to Yemen

Two students Maha Taha Majid Salim Al-Salihi and Mariam Mustafa Abdul Moula brought Gold Medal to Yemen at the 14th International Environmental Project Olympiad (INEPO).

The International Environmental Olympiad took place in Istanbul, Turkey between 4-7th June 2006 with a major participation of 75 projects from 29 countries. A total of 194 high school students from all around the globe presented original scientific projects on environmental issues in front of 41 members of international



Maha and Mariam receiving the golden medal.



Maha and Mariam with other participants of the olympiad.

evaluative jury. The participant countries were: USA, Germany, Georgia, Brazil, Belarus, Albania, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Mexico, Moldova, Nahjhevan, Romania, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Latvia, Nigeria, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Slovak Republic, Tataristan and Yemen.

Yemeni students shared the golden medal with South Korean students.

From Yemen, two students studying at Turkish International Schools presented "The Effects of Neem tree fruit extracts on the growth and development of Drosophila Larva - Mosquitoes."

The students did experiments on Malaria Mosquitoes and the wonder tree known as Neem tree "Azadirachta indica" or "Melia Azedarah". The plant is unique to grow abnormally and eventually lead them to death. By simply getting the extract of the fruit and using it on any plant the effects are tested and confirmed.

If you are discovering Neem for the first time, here are some quick amazing Neem facts:

- The tree is known to cure more than one hundred diseases.
- Neem is both a pest control material and as well as a fertilizer, making it an invaluable farm companion.
- Neem is an intelligent pest repellent - it affects only harmful pests and does not affect useful species in the farm!

It has significant effect on pests without harming beneficial insects. Toxicology studies have indicated it to be quite safe to mammals and human. (Schmutterer, 1990b.)

- Neem has a four-pronged repellent action and complex molecular structure which ensures that pests don't become immune to it.
- It gives more oxygen than other trees, making it a champion pollution

fighter.

- Just sleeping under the shade of a neem tree is therapeutic.

- The tree is known to halt spreading deserts.

- Its leaf and its extract are a natural substance that don't simply mask symptoms but encourage your body to heal itself.

- It's completely safe and causes no harm or side-effects. It has been used as a health and beauty aid in India for

more than 5000 years!

- It was considered a divine tree by ancient Indians.

- A world conference is held every three years to discuss the research and discoveries modern science is making, on this single tree. And there are lots to show and tell!

As if all this wasn't amazing enough, the Neem is a hardy tree that requires almost no water and grows happily on wastelands.




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Portugal tops Mexico 2 - 1

By: Yemen Times Staff

In the last matches of Group D, Portugal has been able to beat Mexico 2 - 1 in the last match, played simultaneously with the match between Iran and Angola. Thus, Portugal proved to be Group D top winner qualifying for the last 16 with 9 points.

Portugal opened scoring through a super strike by its midfielder Maniche

in the minute 6, and then added another goal in minute 24 through penalty shot by Simao, while Mexico reduced Portugal advantage thanks to a 29 minute goal from Jose Fonseca.

Mexico tried best to achieve tie, but that was unattainable, particularly after dismissing Luis Perez as Mexico players' task became quite difficult..

Iran also served Mexico as they have been able to equalize positively with them 1- 1, allowing Mexico to

qualify for the 16 round. Mexico will play Group C winner, while triumphant Portugal will meet Group C second place team.

Portugal close up the round in Group D with three wins from three matches, while Mexico joins it following Angola's draw with Iran. Right from the minute 60, Mexico Team played with 10 players after Luis Perez was sent off with a red card.



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- Aden : Al-Mansorah - Blok 32 - Tel. 02 - 386800
- Hodeidah : Port Street - in front of I'edEx - Tel. 03 - 233104



Under the sign "Diet is the beginning of cure"
Al-Mehdar Bros Medical Company launches
"Sweet'N Low products"

Al-Mehdar Bros Medical Company, held a party to launch Sweet'N Low products, which is a low calorie sweetener used as sugar substitute for Diet, Diabetic patients, and helps in reducing weight.

The party, which was held on last Wednesday in Sana'a, was attended by the Vice President of Cumberland Packing Corporation, numbers of Doctors and Pharmacists, Supermarkets & Sweets Shops owners and the staff of Al-Mehdar Bros Medical Company.

The Vice President of Cumberland Packing Corporation (Dietary Foods Ltd.) Dr. Silvio, and the Executive Manager of Al-Mehdar Bros Medical Company Dr. Marouf Abubaker Batheeb delivered a presentation in which they produced the products and its advantages. They also answered the questions of the audience.

The party was concluded with lunch that included sweets and drinks that sweetened by Sweet'N Low. The audiences were surprised and delighted by the great taste of the recipes that were cooked by Sweet'N Low.

Sweet'N Low has been available in the international markets since fifty years. It is sweet like sugar and provides low-calorie. It melts in hot or cold beverages. It keeps its sweet taste during cooking, baking and packaging.



The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

The role of youth in Yemen's development

By: Saeed Bahashwan
Teacher of English
Al-Ahgaif University
Abumus'ab2009@yahoo.com

I think youth is the first and the most important kind of people who are responsible to develop their countries. They can play that role in many ways. They can develop education, beautify the surroundings, provide social services, try to prevent corruption in all fields, and spread the work ethics such as punctuality, sincerity, honesty.....etc. They can also give a helping hand to bring under control terrorism, and to promote tourism, broaden world views, rational scientific attitude, and a saving mentality, which will help economic growth.

The youth should play a major role to develop all aspects of life in Yemen. Education in Yemen needs a lot of hard work to be improved at all stages and for all kinds of people. It should be improved in primary schools, secondary schools, and higher education centers (institutions, universities...etc). Education for women should be encouraged and improved and should not be restricted. The youth should also improve literacy by promoting local libraries, keeping and circulating good books, and spreading the importance of education among the people. They should try to modernize the system of education in Yemen so as to put it on a par with international standards.

The youth are supposed also to improve and beautify the environment by removing the waste disposal and the flow of dirty water (sewage system) and also by guiding people in a persuasive way to put the rubbish and waste materials in their right places to keep their

environment clean. People may be asked to try to cooperate with each other to share the expenses of keeping their surroundings clean and beautiful. Planting is a good way to beautify the surroundings, but also water is a precious thing, so, the youth should take care of planting those kinds of plants which require little water so as to preserve water which is becoming less and less, and at the same time to beautify the surroundings. They should also try to teach people to be aware of the fact that the surroundings have to be kept clean and beautiful for a healthy Yemen.

Social services must not be ignored by the youth. They should encourage and develop those services in all ways. By social services, the youth can provide help for those old sick people (men and women) who need our care. The children who are really poor and needy should be helped by paying the fees for their studies and providing them with shelters and food, for example. Health consciousness can be developed through social services.

The youth have to spread the message that smoking, for example, is very dangerous not only for those smoke, but also for those who are near them.

They should help the smokers to avoid and stop smoking for their good and others good as well. Moreover explain to them the health hazards.

Corruption is spread everywhere in the country, thus, the youth have to do something about it. We find corruption in all fields, such as, education, employment, transportation...etc. People accept bribes for offering services. People in high positions in the country spend a lot of in wrong places and situations.

These things affect the economy of our country. They also affect tourism and

investment in Yemen. So, the role of the youth here is to try to prevent corruption so as to keep the country clean slowly but steadily, for example, by making awareness campaigns to show people the ill effects and dangers of corruption for the economy of their country. They should also make all efforts to find solutions for it.

Work ethics are very important things to be spread among people. It can be a good check for corruption. Therefore, the youth have to spread the value of ethics, such as, punctuality, sincerity, efficiency, honesty...etc, among all.

All these will make people to be honest and sincere in their work, and will encourage them to refuse bribes. It may prevent all other kinds of corruption. If each person keeps his work ethics, he will fulfill and do his duties in a better manner. In this way, the country can be improved and developed slowly.

Another hard duty of the youth is to bring under control terrorism. They can spread the importance of peace and unity for progress among the people and try to help them to get rid of the ill thoughts and views so as to promote balanced and healthy views.

The youth should also take care of and promote tourism. Tourism is very important for us and a good source of income. They can try to design and establish festivals, set museums, and create all kinds of tourist attractions and facilities in the country.

Finally, the youth can try to promote a broader world view. They can promote a rational scientific attitude, and develop a saving mentality, which can help economic growth of our country.

Thus, the role of the youth in the development of Yemen is very important. The youth should spread the new

thoughts and ideas in the country. The government should give the youth the opportunity to play their role in developing their country. It should provide all that they need to play that role, such as, the tools, financial help, and moral support and so on. The government should not do anything to restrict their movements and thoughts so as to enable them to perform their role in a good and useful manner. Really the future of the nation is dependent on the youth. They can make it or mar it.

Days never come back

By: Amira Abdullah Al-Haddad

I Save you ,
And give it to you,
The light and sight;
That is brilliant
In the moonlit night ..

Let me see,
Or let me say,
What I always
go and do;
in the right way...

You are my friend,
who never will dread:
to fight or me,
to stay with me,

Stay in heart,
And never part;
"As day never come back!!"
to those who stay ,
in the dark ..

The Tehama Trading Company, Hodeidah

Applications are invited for following posts for our Automobiles Division:

- SALES MANAGERS - TWO - Locations: Hodeidah & Aden
Graduate with a minimum 7 years' experience in sales of Japanese or European Brand automobiles. Good communication skill in English/ Arabic languages and computer literacy are must.
- PARTS SALESMAN - ONE - Location: Hodeidah
High school graduate with a minimum of 5 years' experience in major parts warehouse. Knowledge of parts inventory methods and computer usage are essential.

Applications are to be sent by mail only, with copies of all educational / employment certificates to:

The Tehama Trading Company, P.O.Box 4422, Hodeidah - Website: www.tehama.com.ye

Extension for Bid's opening (Tender for Survey Boat for port of Aden)

Yemen Ports Authority (Port of Aden) wishes to announce that the closing date for above tender is extended upto 4th July, 2006

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- Scored 100 on, e.g.
- Where to get off
- Fuming
- Manner of doing
- Ravine
- Conductor's prop
- Autobahn auto, perhaps
- Lot measurement
- Prelude
- Debater's task
- Bishop of early TV
- It can fall flat
- Have the looks of
- Allay one's fears
- Gulf War Patriot, e.g.
- Nerve-cell conduits
- Compound used as fertilizer
- Where couch potatoes are usually found
- Abate
- Military cap
- Words from the sponsors
- Help for a mountaineer
- Physical starter

- Anonymous people
- "Tarzan of the Apes" writer
- Burroughs
- Brawler's threat
- Kick off
- Fox follower
- Bossy remarks
- Spanish title
- Rub the wrong way
- Chop copy
- Garfield's Pooky
- Tasty tubers
- The Amish, e.g.

DOWN

- Stockpile
- Suaveness
- Wally's pal of classic TV
- Uses a scraper, perhaps
- Sharp blow
- Starchy tuber
- Ancient Greek theater
- Instrument with hammers
- Long-legged waders
- Telephoned

"STUCK ON YOU" by Cole Cooke

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				16					18			
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44						45					46	
47				48	49			50			51	
52				52	53	54			55	56	57	58
59	60	61	62					63	64			
65						66					67	
68								68			70	
71								72				73

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

E	D	E	M	A	Z	A	P	S	I	R	A		
L	I	L	A	C	E	D	I	T	S	R	E	M	
K	E	Y	B	T	O	N	E	K	O	P	O	B	
T	O	N	A	L	U	M	I	N	U	S			
E	A	N	R	E	G	S	P	E	R	E	C	T	
G	L	A	S	B	O	R	O	T	R	U			
R	E	T	E	E	L	A	P	S	E	R	V	S	
E	X	A	M	P	L	E	E	I	D	E	T	I	C
T	I	L	A	L	M	O	N	D	L	A	L	O	
I	N	G	S	T	E	L	M	I	L	L			
S	P	E	A	K	S	O	R	C	A	N	E	D	
N	E	W	G	A	T	E	A	T	E				
A	D	O	G	O	L	D	B	R	I	C	K	E	R
P	R	O	E	M	B	E	R	N	O	O	S	E	
S	O	D	P	A	R	A	D	O	N	S	E	T	

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Calvin and Hobbes

WE SHOULD MAKE DAD A FATHER'S DAY CARD.

OKAY, I'LL DRAW A PICTURE OF HIM ON IT.

HMM... MAKE HIS MOUTH BIGGER. HE USUALLY LOOKS ANGRIER THAN THAT.

GOOD MORNING, DAD! HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

IN APPRECIATION OF YOUR SERVICE AS DAD, TODAY I AM LIVING ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF YOUR FATHERLY WISDOM.

CALVIN, WHAT TIME IS IT?

FIVE IN THE MORNING??

YES, "EARLY TO BED, EARLY TO RISE" YOU ALWAYS SAY...

I WAS GOING TO BUY YOU A NICE PRESENT BUT "A PENNY SAVED IS A PENNY EARNED," AS YOU SAY.

SO I'M NOW EARNING 6% ON THE MONEY I DIDN'T SPEND.

YES, DAD, THANKS TO YOU, I'M A HAPPIER, BETTER PERSON.

GOOD WORK, SOCRATES.

I KNEW I'D MADE A MISTAKE THE MINUTE I SAW THAT LITTLE BOLOGNA LOAF IN THE HOSPITAL BASSINET.

Garfield

HAPPY EARLY BIRTHDAY, CAT!

WE'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

ALL RIGHT!

GULP

PUI

HE'S NOT LOOKING VERY HAPPY.

NEITHER IS SHIRLEY.

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A passage to the land of incense

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

Historians can trace the discovery of incense in Yemen back to the days of ancient civilizations like the kingdom of Sheba, when Yemenis used incense in their religious and worship rituals. Remains of incense were discovered in Awam Temple, located in historical Marib, testifying to Yemen's ancient use of incense as a requirement to worship their gods.

The head of a Canadian archeological team which conducted excavations in Marib, notably in Queen Bilqis's Temple of the Sun, confirmed the discovery of quite a special quantity of incense belonging to the queen herself, in addition to a number of pottery, bronze and silver wares used as censers.

Up until 500 B.C., incense's fame was spread during the ruling days of Sheba's kingdom. At that time, the state relied on incense and spice trading as a major source of financial support. They were considered very important trade commodities, which were essential and highly demanded in other ancient countries' trade markets in the east and north of Arabia.

When Sheba's kingdom began to weaken, new and smaller independent states emerged in Yemen like Ma'een, Qataban and Hadramout.

Ma'een state was established successfully, with its capital, Qarnau, located 150 km. north of Sana'a in Al-Jawf, following its control over the region's main commercial and trade routes. With the help of Hadramout and Qataban states, Ma'een exercised sovereignty over caravan routes carrying incense, spices, frankincense and other merchandise. Ma'een traders established settlements and transitional stations along the route leading north to Palestine and northeast to Bahrain, as well as heading north to Egypt and Greece.



Caravans of incense plied trails that connected Yemen with northern Arabia and beyond.

Ma'een was well-known in the ancient world and its name was associated with the incense trade. Greek writers often named the commodity after Ma'een traders and other Yemeni states.

Qataban state split from the Sheban kingdom in the fifth century B.C., establishing its capital in Tamna'a. However, it wasn't until the third and second century B.C. that Qataban reached its peak of power and prosperity.

Qatabanis were famed for their agricultural products, as well as establishing dams and tunnels across their lands to ensure water flow to their farms. They also relied on trading agricultural products and other types of merchandise.

Qataban is known for enacting laws regulating economic and commercial affairs. The famous obelisk still standing in Hajar in Kahlan area in Tamna'a, containing inscriptions of laws and regulations regarding the city's main market, Shammur, indicates laws specifying commissions and categorizing traders.

Hadramout state gained independ-

ence from the Kingdom of Sheba and was established in the fifth century B.C. It gradually became a powerful state, establishing its capital in Shabwa, which was the center of the incense trade, whereas Dhafar city was famed for being the land of incense growing and production.

At that time, transportation actually was limited to animals like donkeys, mules, horses and camels. However, since this method of carrying goods didn't meet increased market demands in many remote nations and offshore states, Yemeni traders resorted to the sea, beginning at Yemen's southern ports and heading north toward Syria and northwest to Egypt.

One important incense trade route extends along the Qana and Najran eastern valleys. However, the way later was disrupted as a result of tribal disagreements and fighting and replaced by another famous route extending all the way from Aden to Sa'ada at the ruling time of Himyar state leader Asa'ad Al-Akamel, who was in power in the late fourth century A.D.

Historical sources divide the ancient incense trade into two main routes: the first (Yemen - Mecca), known as the Frankincense Road, ran along the mountainous Yemeni plateau and the second (Shami - Mecca) connected Mecca and Medina with Al-Petra city in northern Arabia. Such cities were said to have flourished at the time due to their strategic commercial and economic importance.

Resources further state that incense was transported annually to the Roman Empire in large quantities; and similarly, quite a huge volume was exported to both Iraq and India.

Thus, one can perceive how the incense trade long ago left Yemen's imprint on major ancient world civilizations. Yemen shall remain famous for being the land of incense and mystique.

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"No fire without smoke"

By: Hamdan Dammag

"No smoking" has become a familiar sign around the world, especially given that the global campaign against smoking is growing stronger every day.

In Yemen, one notices that there are an increasing number of places where smoking is prohibited or at least not encouraged. Moreover, despite the traditional link between smoking and chewing qat (many Yemenis enjoy smoking while chewing qat), more citizens nowadays complain about smoking in *maqayl* (plural of *maqil*: the place where people sit and chew qat).

Nevertheless, the tragic thing is that many Yemeni men smoke where it's common sense that they shouldn't; for example, doctors and patients in hospi-



PHOTO BY SADAM AL-ASHMOURI

tals, on-duty traffic police, inside crowded *dababs* (minibuses) and at gas stations while serving customers.

This photo shows a man working at a Sana'a gas station and smoking a cigarette while issuing a receipt for a cus-

tomer. If you drive in Yemen, you can't miss this scene. In fact, like me, you may get the opportunity to be challenged by a gas station attendant, who'll try to prove that the cigarette can't cause a fire, even if it touches fuel.

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