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Inside:  **5** Election-oriented projects damaging agricultural lands  **10** Interview with Bader Ben Hirsi  **12** Have you visited Al-Jumhuri Hospital in Aden recently?

Readers' Voice
Last edition's question:
Yemen's Prime Minister attacked the private sector for not donating to charitable work. Do you think he's right?
I don't know (13%)
No (32%) Yes (55%)
This edition's question:
Salaries paid to Yemeni teachers are not enough to maintain their living for even one week. Do you think the government negligence of this serious question affects the education process in the country?
- Yes
- No
Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

Amid strict security procedures Teachers stage huge sit-in

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri
SANA'A, Aug. 5 — Hundreds of Yemeni teachers staged huge sit-ins Saturday and Sunday in protest against government in implementing the teachers' wage law strategy. More than 5,000 teachers from numerous governorates congregated in the capital city of Sana'a, accusing the government of not applying the wage law strategy. Yemeni Teachers Syndicate president Ahmed Al-Rabahi affirmed that a delegation of teachers' syndicates headed for the President's Office, where they met with deputy manager Abdul-Hadi Al-Hamadani. "We have submitted our demands to President Ali Abdullah Saleh via Al-Hamadani," he noted. Al-Rabahi warned that if their demands aren't fulfilled, teachers will resume protests. He affirmed that Yemeni teachers' status isn't encouraging amid skyrocketing prices, which in turn "affect teachers' performance."

Reluctant government
Some members of Parliament expressed solidarity with the teachers as they attended the sit-ins. MP Aidarous Al-Naqeb affirmed that the teachers' demands are legal and not difficult, but those directing the state complain of lack of financial resources. "If 10 junior corrupt individuals of the state are tried, the teachers' problem will be solved," he suggested. Al-Naqeb added that the government sells oil at \$42 per barrel and "if it allocated just \$1 for teachers, there would be no problem." He stressed that Yemeni teachers belong to the poorest class and, even if applied, the wage strategy couldn't meet their full rights. MP Fouad Dahaba criticized government's delay in fulfilling the teachers' demands, asking, "We don't know - what makes the government procrastinate?" He further noted that the government will respect teachers' legal demands only if ministers send their children to study in public schools in

order to experience the sufferings of Yemeni teachers. Yahya Al-Hakim, head of the Technical and Vocational Education Syndicate, pointed out that teachers can't afford high prices, especially after skyrocketing oil prices in 2005. "Teachers today are unable to cope with life's difficulties and provide food, housing and clothing for their children," he added. The protests were in response to the three Yemeni teachers' syndicates' call to renew protests because the government continues delaying fulfillment of their demands. On March 28, teachers nationwide staged huge demonstrations for the same reason, while government took arbitrary and abusive measures against them. On April 2, a delegation from the three teachers' syndicates met with President Saleh, who promised to ask the government to look into their case, but the government hasn't done anything regarding their demands.



During a two-day sit-in in the capital city, Yemeni teachers held the government responsible for not fulfilling their legal demands. YT PHOTO

Security sources deny ban on raising Hezbollah flags

Security sources have denied banning Hezbollah flags, while sales of its leader's pictures and posters are booming these days.

By: Hamdan Dammag
SANA'A, Aug. 6 — Security sources have denied numerous media reports that authorities banned raising Hezbollah flags, slogans and pictures of its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, as well as removed such flags from shops, cars and homes.

According to 26September.net, sources confirmed that published media reports aren't true and lack exactitude and objectivity. It added that such reports contravene Yemen's announced stance on what's happening in Lebanon and its official and popular support for resistance against Israeli aggression in both Lebanon and Palestine. The sources added that media must examine the authenticity of information prior to publication and avoid publishing false stories. *Continued on page 2*



Two street vendors proudly showing Nasrallah's posters. YT PHOTO

Palestinian president concludes Sana'a visit

By: Yasser Al-Mayasi
SANA'A, Aug. 5 — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (also known as Abu Mazen) concluded his two-day visit to Sana'a, during which he held discussions with senior officials and met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Both sides discussed the latest developments in Palestine and efforts exerted to strengthen Palestinian unity in order to confront international challenges. In a news conference, Abbas ascertained that his visit to Yemen comes as part of an Arab round to exchange viewpoints on what is happening in Lebanon and Palestine. He confirmed that he exchanged viewpoints with Saleh on the crisis and how to settle it and he hoped that Arabs will have a unified stance on what's happening in the two countries. Abbas also condemned Israeli authorities' detention of the Palestinian Legislative Council chairman "We will speak with a louder voice at international conferences to denounce the detention of 65 high-level government officials, including ministers and members of the legislative and municipal councils." The Palestinian leader called for holding an emergency Arab summit to discuss the status quo in Palestine and Lebanon. He described what's happening in his country as similar to what's taking place in Lebanon, noting that the Lebanese legal resistance provides a good example for Arab nations.



Abbas and Saleh in Sana'a.

MP resigns from ruling party over corruption

By: Yemen Times Staff
SANA'A, Aug. 6 — Member of Parliament Sakhr Al-Wajih, who has represented constituency No. 178 since 1993, tendered his resignation from the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) over differing viewpoints on the spread of corruption within the party. Explaining his reasons for stepping down from his post in the party, Al-Wajih said, "I'm dissatisfied with the ruling party's practices, which lead to contradictory attitudes, particularly as I'm a member of the GPC parliamentary bloc. My

votes were contradicting the votes of other GPC members. Consequently, the situation convinced me that there's no need to stay in the party any longer. "The environment and climate in which the GPC exercises its activities are controlled by particular individuals who don't have any interest in the country. They prefer their personal interest to their party's," Al-Wajih added. "I've been a GPC member since 1985 - before reunification; nevertheless, I believe my resignation is the right decision, although it was late in coming." *Continued on page 2*

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Jibla hosts 4th tourist festival

By: Nashwan Damraj

IBB, Aug. 6 — Lasting for 6 days, the activities of the 4th tourist festival were launched yesterday in the historical city of Jibla.

This festival will include numerous activities relating to culture, sport, and arts and poetry, noted Ameen Al-Warafi, chairman of festivals committee and secretary general of Local councils.

Further, there will be accompanying exhibitions such as Ibb's first exhibition of books, an exhibition of women's clothes as well as agricultural, environmental and tourist heritage. There will also be an exhibition for Yemeni photos, paintings and different cultural competitions.

Locals from Jibla told the Yemen Times they are happy for having this



Different performances took place at the opening ceremony of the festival.

festival there, but it would have been better if light was shed on the historical features of the city. It would be better,

according to them, to restore the old historical buildings which are about to collapse, rather than to make such activities which do not reflect the natural importance of the city for tourism.

Ibb University will participate in this festival by holding cultural and educational activities and hosting two educational symposiums. The first symposium will address tourism's relation to the economy and the second one will discuss the importance of tourism at national and international levels. These two symposiums will discuss a number of working papers relating to tourism and development. Started in 2003, the festival is an annual tradition in Ibb aiming to promote development and tourism in the governorate.



Arab Writers support resistance and Ibn Khaldoun

SANA'A, Aug 6 — The meetings of the Arab Union for Artists and Writers (AUAW) permanent office, as well as Ibn Khaldoun Symposium's activities, were concluded last week over 4 days (July 29-Aug 1).

Ibn Kaldoun Symposium, held as a part of the permanent office's meetings, came up with a number of general and specific recommendations. The general recommendations included:

- Establishing a national foundation in one of the Arab capitals concerned with Ibn Khaldoun and to have branches later in all Arab capitals.

- Making researches on the association of science and arts for Ibn Khaldoun who benefited from sciences.

- Preparing a comprehensive bibliography on Ibn Khaldoun and translating everything written on him in other languages.

- Studying the historical, cultural and human structure of Ibn Khaldoun to discover the influence of his contemporaries on him and his influence on them.



Arab writers union called for adopting resistance principles by all means.

PHOTO BY FOUAD AL-HARAZI

- Collaborating with the local government in Spain which set up a special museum for Ibn Khaldoun, aiming to prioritize and keep up his heritage, particularly when Spain government paid much interest to his role.

The specific recommendations included copying the researches presented in the symposium in a book to be sent to all writers and participants and translating some research into foreign languages.

Concluding its meetings, AUAW came

up also with a statement calling Arab people to adopt a resistance principle and enhancing it with all possible means as the only way for liberalizing the Arab occupied lands and stopping the Zionist arrogance and violence which aborted all peace and stability projects.

They further declared their refusal for the official attitudes adopted by Arab regimes and denounced the detriment of an Arab summit in such circumstances under the American direction.

YLS demands authorities deport American lawyer

SANA'A, August 6 — The Sana'a Branch of Yemeni Lawyers Syndicate (YLS) held a press conference on called "Activities of the American Lawyer Robin Bieri." The syndicate accused Bieri of exercising activities that violate the Yemeni sovereignty and constitution and tend to edge out effectiveness of Yemeni laws and specializations of the syndicate.

The YLS ascertained that activities of the American lawyer cause harm to Yemen's sovereignty and is a foreign interference in affairs of Yemen's justice, advocacy and judiciary. It mentioned that Bieri began his activities with various meetings with syndicate leaders for the purpose of offering support and funding to implement a training course for lawyers.

It was immediately disclosed that Bieri's activities were aimed at establishing a permanent office for the American Lawyers Union and then to call for enhancing Yemeni judiciary and role of Supreme Judicial Council, in addition to enacting a law to train faculty of law graduates to work as advocates.

Yemeni lawyers demanded authorities deport Bieri and not to allow him to continue any activities in the country. They presented the government with the harms associated with the American lawyer's activities.

Yemeni lawyers blamed Bieri for publishing concepts and principles that violate Islamic Sharia and justice, as well as intervening in domestic affairs causing harm to the sovereignty of Yemen.

The statement by the YLS charged

official parties, including ministries of justice, legal affairs and foreign affairs and the Faculty of Law at Sana'a University, with facilitating activities of the American lawyer.

YLS members insisted on preserving their right as the authority concerned with managing and organizing the profession of advocacy and training lawyers.

The statement confirmed the American lawyers have no syndicate in their country, and they only have an association plus a school for organizing their activities.

Robin Bieri pursued several activities for supporting advocacy and judiciary including coordination with the Ministry of Justice and other parties for training faculty of law graduates to work as defense advocates.

Training course on human rights

TAIZ, Aug 6 — In collaboration with Canadian Program for Developing Subjective Efforts, Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) will conduct a "Special Training Course on Human Rights" in Taiz. The course is two days from Aug 12 until 13 and professional trainers Dr. Ali Al-Sharafi and Dr. Ahmed Al-Humidi will lecture during the course.

The course involves 20 participants from Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and human rights activists. It will teach the participants on the basic concepts of human rights and the international specialized agreements. Further, the program will include delivering lectures on the international legitimacy of human rights, convict's rights during investigations and arrest and the agree-

ment aiming at getting rid of all shapes of discrimination against woman.

Azzaldain Al-Asbahi, general manager of HRITC, pointed out this course aims to spread the principles of human rights and enhance awareness among society members. He also noted that the first step towards enhancing human rights principles lies in spreading and raising awareness of these rights.

Islamic Emergency Summit calls for ceasefire in Lebanon

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

SANA'A, Aug. 5 — The Islamic Emergency Summit, held in Potragia, Malaysia last Thursday came up with a concluding statement stressing an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon under United Nations supervision.

The statement welcomed all seven points presented by the Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Al-Sanyoura at the Rome Summit and it holds the UN and the UN Security Council accountable for what is happening in Lebanon.

Participants in the summit urged the international community to take serious steps to reach an immediate ceasefire. Meanwhile, the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) held Israel accountable for the destruction in

Lebanon, as well as the violation of International Human Law, and called for probing the massacres against Lebanese.

The OIC called on the UN Human Rights Council to discuss the issue and affirmed its supportive stand with the Lebanese leadership and people.

Participants considered the Islamic Emergency Summit a success since it coincided with critical conditions. Iranian President Ahmadinejad attended the meetings, but other Arab leaders were notably absent raising concerns about the differing Arab stances toward the Middle East crisis.

However, observers considered participation of foreign ministers in the meetings a success, making up for the Arab League's failure to do anything

for those in Lebanon and Palestine.

Opening the summit, OIC Secretary-General Ehsan Ughlo warned that failure of a new peace initiative will increase violence and terrorism, not only in the Middle East but worldwide.

He stressed the necessity of reaching an immediate ceasefire to be followed by the exchange of war prisoners and putting a stop to the fighting with help of international troops under UN supervision.

Malaysian President Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the UN Security Council lacks bravery to condemn the Israeli attack on Lebanon. According to Badawi, the UN Security dare not condemn Israel over the massacres it commits against innocent victims, most of whom are women and children.

Political Terms Guide 2nd edition launched

SANA'A, Aug. 3 — The second edition of the Political Terms Guide prepared by researcher Abdul Nasser Al-Mwudda was launched at the Yemen Times premises on Thursday 3rd August. Many journalists and activists attended the launching in which copies of the guide were distributed.

The Political Terms Guide project is a joint venture between Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation and the Civil Development Center directed by Abdul Nasser Al-Mwudda. It started off in December 2004 and aims at familiarizing readers in Yemen and in other Arab countries with basic political terms in order to enhance awareness generally and political awareness in particular. The 2006 edition is an expanded version of the first edition as it includes more than three hundred different political terms with their explanation.

The guide targets the Arabic language readers yet it includes English names of the terms. Also there is an index at the end of the book for easy reference.

Ms. Nadia Al-Saqqaq editor in chief of the Yemen Times commented on the importance of this publication by saying: "I think it is a useful reference for media people and others as well. The reader can easily look up the various titles and use them as background for their stories or even for general knowl-



Chief Editor and the author at the launching ceremony of the book.

edge. It helps clear certain ambiguities in a practical and fast way, and one could easily compare terms like Dominant Party and Ascendant Party."

However, one could argue the use of such guide in the presence of international and more comprehensive publications present in the market. Mr. Abdul Nasser Al-Mwudda the author of the guide explained this point when he said: "Many of the terms in this guide are totally new and some of them are particular to the Arabic political culture and are not available in international guides. For example there is the 'Just Dictator' term, which is not found in other encyclopaedias.

Moreover, Friedrich Ebert Foundation favored publishing a guide prepared by an Arab researcher

because it would then be much more capable of reaching the Arabic reader."

Mr. Felix Eikenberg resident representative of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation in Sana'a said that the foundation was encouraged to go ahead with the second edition after the significant success the first edition has achieved. "The demand for the political terms guide by the was outstanding and in no time we ran out of copies. Hence we felt confident that the second edition will receive the same appreciation from political figures, researchers and other interested institutions and persons in Yemen. And we took care that the 2006 version includes more political terms in order to increase the benefit from this publication."

Beekeepers trained in Socotra

SOCOTRA, Aug. 5 — The second training course on breeding bees concluded on Wednesday in Socotra, targeting twenty beekeepers in the island. The three-day training was organized by Socotra Conservative Development Program (SCDP), in cooperation with Bees Breeding Project funded by the French Embassy in Sana'a.

A number of experts attended the training and delivered theoretical lectures on the lives of bees. The French expert Kmel Sergent presented a lec-

ture on bees' life and breeding. She also referred to the relation between plants and bees.

Beekeepers were trained on how to deal with bees and how to use tools for bees. They were also shown a scientific movie on bees. Participants also discussed the possibility of establishing an association for beekeepers in an effort to improve the performance of beekeepers in the island.

Meanwhile, Mr. Tery Sergent, coordinator of the Bees Breeding Project,

said the training targets 100 beekeepers to be trained in groups, each group will include twenty beekeepers. The training, he added, will include a practical program to be done in November. This training program started in 2003, where fourteen beekeepers were trained.

The training aims to domesticate bees in Socotra, and help beekeepers get accustomed to the modern means in dealing with bees, and aims also to improve the beekeepers' status.

Continued from page 1

Security sources deny ban on raising Hezbollah flags

Earlier this week, the Yemeni Socialist Party news web site, Al-Ishtaraki.net, reported that authorities ordered the banning of Hezbollah flags and pictures of its leader, especially in northern cities (including the capital), fearing that Al-Houthi supporters might exploit current public sentiment to spread their political thought.

Hezbollah pictures and posters are being sold on major city streets throughout the country. "The sale of these pictures and posters is a profitable trade for the time being and people from various

groups are rushing to buy them." 14-year-old street vendor Mohamed Sa'eed said. He confirmed that he and other vendors have no problem selling such pictures and posters, adding that he loves Nasrallah and wishes him and the resistance victory.

Children's demonstration

In related news, a demonstration involving Yemeni children will take place Tuesday in solidarity with children in Lebanon and in protest against the brutal massacres to which Lebanese and

Palestinian children are being subjected.

Children joining the demonstration, organized by Shawthab Childhood Foundation, will submit a letter to the U.N. secretary-general, protesting Israeli aggression against Lebanon and Palestine. Foundation chairperson Lamia Al-Eryani said approximately 50 children will participate in the demonstration. The children also will organize several activities themselves, including a painting exhibition and a music festival, to show their solidarity with Lebanese children

MP resigns from ruling party over corruption

He clarified, "Any partisan work is voluntary and no privileges are to be granted by a party, nor is there any expected harm in quitting a political party since we live in a democratic country. I believe every person should be satisfied with the party he affiliates to and his viewpoints must appear convincing to his party; otherwise, he or she must step down."

Concluding his comments, Al-Wajih said, "I invite everyone to contemplate the country's progress amid increased poverty, high unemployment, oppression

and wasting of public funds."

Reacting to the MP's decision, Sheikh Sultan Al-Barakani, GPC secretary-general and chairman of its parliamentary bloc, said, "Sakhr Al-Wajih's resignation came late. Had he learned that the GPC isn't a national party, has no values or principles, nor did it reach great achievements, he wouldn't have remained a member of the party's parliamentary bloc from 1993 until today."

He continued, "If the GPC hasn't been exercising internal democracy or has adopted the style of totalitarian parties,

Al-Wajih and other members couldn't have exercised internal democracy. If the GPC isn't democratic, Al-Wajih and other members couldn't have expressed their viewpoints in Parliament and through various media. This party ever welcomes its members' criticism and differing viewpoints."

Al-Barakani noted that if his party was in line with depictions of it made by some individuals in their media statements, Al-Wajih wouldn't have remained a member of the GPC's parliamentary bloc for 13 years.

Flavia Pansieri: Yemen receives a fraction of the development assistance as least developed countries at a similar level

UNV: What is the current focus of UNDP activities and the U.N. system at large in Yemen?

Flavia Pansieri: Just two months ago, the U.N. system in Yemen completed formulating the Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) where we identified four key areas of U.N. intervention. The first is governance, which remains essential to address shortcomings that impede the most desirable utilization of both national and external resources for the country's development.

A second area is focused on social services. At 151 on last year's Human Development Report, Yemen is a low human development country and needs to focus on issues such as education, basic health, sanitation, shelter and so on. We recognize that it won't be possible to promote better social services for all unless there's a sizeable economic growth process in the country; therefore, a third pillar is promoting sustainable and job-creating economic growth.

Finally, because of the extreme degree of gender discrimination in Yemen, we decided within the UNDAF to have a special focus on gender to ensure that it's mainstreamed into the UNDAF's other three pillars, while also pursuing a number of activities directly, such as fighting violence against women, gender budgeting, preventing early marriage and changing overall attitudes toward women, which will be undertaken as part of the UNDAF's fourth pillar.

UNV: Within the U.N. system and as part of U.N. reform are ongoing efforts to coordinate activities at the country level to implement the "One U.N." notion. Is this taking shape in Yemen?

FP: We very much are working toward that goal. We were together in developing the UNDAF and we identified a



Flavia Pansieri

number of areas where we want to work together. Most specifically, in the area of monitoring Yemen's development progress via a common system of collection, analysis and publication of indicators because we do think there's a lot of duplication that can be eliminated by working together in these areas.

UNFPA (the U.N. Populations Fund) is leading this effort, with support from the other agencies, in using DEVINFO methodology first spearheaded by UNICEF. So, as you see, it's truly a collective effort.

Another area of work is trying to identify the geographic areas of greater deprivation because we then can focus our efforts in the same areas so that we intervene in health, education, capacity building and agriculture to bring to bear our respective competencies for greater impact.

UNV: With Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the overall framework of the U.N. system, which goals in Yemen are priorities and which are advancing?

FP: All eight are important. We conducted an assessment a couple of years ago on the degree of progress, which concluded that, based on current trends and with the possible exception of universal primary education, all of the goals would be missed. Of course, this is a source of serious concern. There is a positive development trend in the

country and there have been growth and improvement in various indicators, but not fast enough to meet the goals.

In order to ensure that we can progress more expeditiously in attaining the targets – hopefully reaching at least a large number of them by 2015 – it's also important to ensure greater engagement of the international community in Yemen because Yemen is an LDC (least developed country), but it receives a fraction of the ODA (Official Development Assistance) that similar level LDCs receive.

This also requires strengthening the compact between national authorities and international donors, as well as greater guarantees for these donors that the governance structure, oversight mechanisms, accountability and transparency measures are in place to ensure that both international ODA and internal/domestic resources are used in the best interests of the people.

So, we consider governance an important premise and a necessary area of work to ensure that there can be progress on all the goals. Without that, even increased financial availability to Yemen wouldn't be sufficient by itself to bring about the results that we hope for.

UNV: The UNV program is an active partner in Yemen in helping to achieve the MDGs. Please share with us an overview of the program there.

FP: We have a medium-sized UNV program in Yemen. Currently, 27 U.N. volunteers are serving and of these, 13 are international and 14 are national. They serve in at least three different agencies: one volunteer at the World Food Program (WFP) and the two agencies with the majority are UNDP and UNHCR.

UNHCR has a very large program of managing refugee camps with mainly African Horn refugees. Volunteers have proven indispensable to support-

ing UNHCR's protection, registration and administration activities.

In the case of UNDP, the mix of skills is broader, spanning from one volunteer in disaster preparedness to several engaged in providing support for the electoral process. Essentially national volunteers, they're working in field locations to support preparations for the upcoming September elections.

We also have U.N. volunteers who are part of the security system and a U.N. volunteer doctor, to whom we're all indebted for our own personal well-being and that of our families.

UNV: Looking at volunteerism beyond the UNV program, how is volunteerism viewed in Yemeni society and is support being provided to tap into this resource to support Yemen's development?

FP: We, UNV, the U.N., the international community, need to work more with our partners in Arab nations to stress how much the concept of volunteerism that we support is something already intrinsically part of Arab culture and the Islamic religion.

The very principles a good Muslim applies in his or her dealings with those less privileged in society are an expression of volunteerism. This goes from financial contributions (such as zakat, a duty for all Muslims) to engaging in establishing charitable societies, NGOs and volunteer organizations whose essential goals generally tend to be toward promoting the well-being of fellow human beings, whether from the humanitarian side, social services, education, health and so on. There's a tremendous resource of such riches, even in a country as poor as Yemen.

I do think there's more that's needed from our side to branch out to these individuals or small collective efforts and provide them support – capacity building – to make sure they can opti-

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mize the impact they can have. However, there already is tremendously fertile ground on which we can rely to promote a greater spirit of volunteerism.

UNV: Any final thoughts or words you'd like to share?

FP: There's one thing I'd like to stress: The U.N. and every one of us who works for any U.N. entity, program or fund really should be motivated by an ethical imperative. This is what our oath of office says. We never should look upon our work as just a job; it should be a calling and ideally, in that respect, all of us involved in the U.N.

should be viewed as volunteers in one way or another.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in the UNV program. There, the spirit of volunteerism and the response to this ethical imperative is accompanied not just by personal engagement and professional commitment, but also by a very clear and intentional dedication to goals that imply a certain cost to the individual, whether it's forsaken income or accepting to live under very difficult field conditions. From that point of view, all of us who aren't technically U.N. volunteers have a lot to learn from U.N. volunteers.

Source: UNDP website

Hezbollah in deadly rocket attack

Israel is still pressing on with its bombardment and ground offensive in Lebanon as Hezbollah fired a barrage of rockets at its northern towns, killing 12 Israeli Soldiers.

The attacks on Sunday, the 26th day of the Israeli offensive, left nine civilians and a Palestinian fighter dead and 10 other people wounded in Lebanon, police said.

And in Israel 12 army reservists have been killed in Hezbollah's deadliest rocket attack so far since fighting began on July 12.

Hezbollah fired a barrage of rockets at towns across northern Israel, including one rocket which landed near the entrance to the communal farm of Kfar Giladi.

Fourteen people were wounded, including four who are in a serious condition, rescue officials said.

The mayor of Kiryat Shmona, Haim Barvivai, said other rockets landed around the Israeli border town damaging a synagogue and starting a series of fires.

Forty-two Israelis have been killed in rocket attacks on the north of the country.



12 Israeli Soldiers were killed by Hezbollah's deadliest rocket attack so far.

Hezbollah attacks

Hezbollah said it had also attacked Israeli forces in south Lebanon on Sunday, inflicting several casualties. There was no immediate word from the army on Israeli casualties in the fighting.

Hezbollah fighters targeted Israeli military vehicles in Wadi Honeen on the border and an armoured Israeli unit trying to advance towards Adayseh village, killing or wounding several soldiers, the group said. Two tanks and two bulldozers were reportedly destroyed.

Israeli troops trying to advance north near Biyada village were also attacked and two tanks damaged, it said.

Eight civilians were killed as Israel continued air strikes across south Lebanon, security sources and witnesses said. Artillery on the Israeli side of the border pounded towns and villages.

Five died when Israeli aircraft bombed a house in the southern Lebanese village of Ansar and three were killed in Naqoura, on the Mediterranean coast side of Lebanon's border with Israel.

Lebanon says more than 900 people, mostly civilians, have been killed by Israeli attacks.

Meanwhile, Israel said that one of the Hezbollah fighters involved in the raid during which two soldiers were captured has been seized in Lebanon.

"We can confirm that one of the Hezbollah we have captured and interrogated was involved in the kidnapping of our soldiers," an army spokeswoman said.

The raid led to Israel's offensive against Hezbollah in southern Lebanon.

Israel said it seized several Hezbollah members during a raid on the town of Baalbek last week. Hezbollah denied those taken were part of the group.

Source: Al-Jazeera



Israeli settlers have never seen such threat before.

Chavez, in Iran, compares IDF bombings to Holocaust

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, visiting Tehran for talks with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad, compared Israel's attacks on Lebanon to the Holocaust.

"Israel is perpetrating the same acts against the Lebanese that Hitler perpetrated against the Jews - it is killing children and hundreds of innocent civilians," Chavez said in an interview with the Arabic satellite channel, Al-Jazeera, on Saturday.

Later Sunday, Iran awarded Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez its highest state medal on Sunday for supporting Tehran in its nuclear standoff, state-run television reported.

"The medal was awarded as an expression of gratitude for Chavez's support for Iran's stance on the international scene, especially its opposition to a resolution by the International Atomic Energy Agency," the station said.

In February, Venezuela opposed an IAEA decision to report Iran to the UN Security Council over its disputed nuclear program.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad presented Chavez with the Islamic Republic Medal in a ceremony at Tehran University.

"He is the one who has resisted imperialism for years and has defended the interests of his and other Latin American countries," Ahmedinejad was quoted as saying.

In their talks, the two anti-U.S. leaders pledged mutual support, Iranian state television reported.

Chavez' two-day visit came as Iran faces renewed international criticism for its nuclear program and as a backer of Hezbollah, engaged in fighting with Israel since they captured two Israeli soldiers July 12.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council on Friday reached a deal on a resolution that would give Iran until the end of August to suspend uranium enrichment or face the threat of economic and diplomatic sanctions.

Following talks, Chavez pledged that his country would "stay by Iran at any time and under any condition," state television reported.

Ahmedinejad said he saw in Chavez a



Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmedinejad embracing in Tehran on Saturday. (Reuters)

kindred spirit.

"I feel I have met a brother and trenchmate after meeting Chavez," Ahmedinejad was quoted as saying by state-run television. "We think Iran and Venezuela should share all experiences of each other, stay by each other and they have to be supporters of each other."

The Venezuelan leader has been on a trip that included a visit to Belarus where he met with authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko, who is dubbed "Europe's last dictator" by Washington and shares Chavez's strong anti-U.S. views.

Earlier this week he secured an arms agreement with Russia in Moscow that prompted the U.S. criticism.

While in Qatar on Friday, Chavez said it meant Venezuela could eventually export guns and ammunition to Bolivia and other allies once it opens a factory to make Russian-developed

Kalashnikov rifles under license. Chavez accused the United States of "threatening" to stop supplying replacement parts for the weapons to leftist Bolivian President Evo Morales' government. If the U.S. follows through, Chavez said, "we could supply Bolivia... and other friendly countries that also require a minimal level of defense."

"Maybe in the future we'll become an (arms) exporting country," Chavez said.

Bilateral trade last year between Iran and Venezuela was valued at approximately US\$1 billion (-790 million). Iranian investment in Venezuela includes a production line for tractors and several housing projects.

During his visit, Chavez was to inaugurate the new Venezuelan embassy in

Tehran and meet Iranian business leaders. He was also to tour Iran-Khodro, Iran's giant public sector automobile manufacturer. The leaders and top officials were expected to sign memorandums of understanding in various fields.

Iranian state television reported that Chavez was also to meet Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"We do not have any limitation in cooperation," Ahmedinejad was quoted as saying. "Iran and Venezuela are next to each other and supporters of each other. Chavez is a source of a progressive and revolutionary current in South America and his stance in restricting imperialism is tangible."

Source: Haaretz service and News Agencies

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E-press and freedom of expression

Below is an analytic study on the role of e-press in supporting freedom of expression prepared by Abdul-Rahman Al-Shami, liaison professor in Hodeidah University's Radio and Television Department.

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri

Yemeni electronic press enjoys much greater freedom than print press and launching such media doesn't involve the considerable resources, as with conventional press. A few computers or maybe even just one computer and a low-priced web site will do the trick, according to the Hodeidah University study.

The study tries to examine the qualitative addition offered by Yemeni e-press in terms of boosting freedom of expression, enhancing political involvement and broadcasting their limits among Yemenis both in Yemen and abroad. This examination was achieved by observing and analyzing the stances adopted by e-press toward various subjects over one month.

E-press dates back to May 1992, when Chicago online debuted on the America Online web site as the world's first online newspaper. The first online Arab newspapers were the London-based Al-Sharq Al-Awsat in Sept. 1995, followed by Al-Hayat in June 1996.

However, in Yemen, the internet was introduced in 1996, but took only two months for the first online newspaper to exist. The number of online newspapers since has increased due to technological advancement, especially between 2000 and 2004.

According to the study, 26 September was the first newspaper to go online in Nov. 1996, followed a few years later by several other newspapers appearing either as exact copies of their printed versions in portable document format (PDF) or as electronic newspapers. According to the study, there are now more than six web sites updated on a daily basis and

e-press has "opened the door for all views, regardless of how powerful are the indications and contents of their terms and expressions."

run by political parties, newspapers or independent bodies. Mainly concerned with news and commentaries, they also cover some social topics.

Al-Taghyar net was introduced Jan. 13, 2004. Though considered an independent and personal web site, Al-Taghyar net tackles issues related to democracy, human rights and civil society, but from a news point of view.

Al-Sahwa net, the first opposition party news web site, launched in 2002. Likewise, the General People's Congress, the ruling party, launched a news web site known as Al-Motamar net the following April. "It was the first Yemeni online newspaper that wasn't an extension of a published newspaper, as was the case with other similar web sites then," the study noted.

Yemeni e-press has witnessed a flood of online news web sites, some of which are the independent Newsyemen.net (2005), Al-Wahdawi net (issued by the Nasserite Unionist Popular Organization) and Al-Shoura net run by the Yemeni Union of Popular Forces.

According to the study, Nabanews net is the latest news web site, established last December.

Themes tackled

The study states that political subjects are the main topics, comprising 91 percent of content, which is evident in the nature of opinion and editorial columns. It's only normal that these web sites focus mainly on Yemen

Criticism dominated the nature of most articles, especially due to accusations exchanged between official and opposition media.

more than other regions, focusing on the local arena by 80.7 percent, followed by issues in the surrounding Arab world by 13.7 percent. The remaining world, including the United States, Africa and Islamic nations, made up only 1.5 to 2 percent.

Topics typically are viewed as criticism or explanation, the study added, with criticism estimated at 63.9 percent and explanation at 34.7 percent. Criticism dominated the nature of most articles, especially due to accusations exchanged between official and opposition media.

Freedom of expression and obstacles

The study made clear that e-press has "opened the door for all views, regardless of how daring they are or how powerful are the indications and contents of their terms and expressions." Criticizing the ruling party was one of the most prominent signs reflecting the new style of daring opposition.

As opposition parties now are able to criticize the government, official e-press must defend itself. In the face of fierce attacks on the current state and regime, official response was forceful, explaining their own stance and responding aggressively to opposition. So, they ran headlines viewing the foundation of the General People's Congress as "... a historical necessity for building the nation." They also point out their party's many good traits, while portraying opposition parties negatively.

The study listed numerous obstacles facing Yemen's e-press:

- 1- Inability to prove itself an independent entity, both practically and legally.
- 2- Financial difficulties hindering technical and editorial development. Financial resources are hard to obtain, especially those web sites unable to obtain advertisements.
- 3- Technical problems blocking the web site and sometimes lasting for hours.
- 4- Shortage of personnel who can contribute to this type of journalism.
- 5- Difficulty in contacting information sources, whether official, security or unofficial.
- 6- The vague nature of e-newspapers needing many articles to fill their pages.
- 7- Lack of respect for copyrights and literary rights.

E-press and readership

As indicated by the study, what

distinguishes e-press from conventional press is that the former has the advantage of interacting with readers via the content or contacting those in charge of the web site and even interaction among readers themselves. However, except for a very few news web sites, Yemeni e-press hasn't shown an interest in making such features accessible.

The study also finds that reader's forums represent the largest portion of e-press interaction, comprising 55 percent, followed by reader's comments at 31.2 percent and live conversations trailing at 13.8 percent.

This order could be explained by Arab internet users' tendency to participate in forums because they always are available any time users enter the news web site, wherein they can express their opinion and comment on subjects published. According to the study, most of the public tend to agree with subjects and issues on news web sites, with readers giving articles a 37 percent approval rating.

Other interactions include: expressing opinion about an article, using abusive language, asking the conversation guest directly and vehemently disagreeing with or reprimanding the writer or disagreeing with the writer on the way he or she approached the subject. This is an indication of the credibility of e-press, which reflects reader interaction, even if involving offensive language.



almotamar.net of the ruling party.



alsahwa-yemen.net of the Islah Party.



al-shoura.net of Popular Forces Union.



newsyemen.net is a popular independent news website.

Election-oriented projects damaging agricultural lands

By: Nashwan Dammaj

During the summer, coinciding with election season in Yemen, each and every party tries to pull Yemeni citizen to its side. According to their electoral campaigns, each party claims to provide the necessary services the citizens need.

Agricultural land is the sole witness to the validity or invalidity of these projects, as well as their simultaneity. Such land also will be a witness to those publicity projects coming at the cost of citizens and their crops, having reached their mid-life by now after months of effort exerted by farmers in caring for them. Here comes election season, accompanied by road building,

having been postponed like other projects, to be done by this time.

Construction of a new road linking Al-Sahul Wadi in the south to Shaban in the north began two weeks ago and was catastrophic for farmers and their lands because the new road crossed most of these lands, wiping out plants.

Jibla district's Al-Dihithath area is one such area whose lands were spoiled by wheel loaders and bulldozers, particularly in the east. Locals who have spent months caring for their crops and watering them from their sweat before the rains came were sad to see them washed away before their eyes and their objections and appeals were not heard. Appealing in vain, they found nothing but bulldozers and military patrols, which do not understand what such action means to poor locals

whose agricultural lands were torn in front of their eyes. These poor locals were having nothing to do except cry.

According to some locals, the matter would be different if the road was constructed at a different time than this, as they are close to harvesting time. Roads are made in the winter when there are no crops. Moreover, according to them, the road plan was approved long ago and wasn't to pass through their lands, as they knew from Iraqi engineers who used to come to the area frequently.

The road would have taken its planned route, if not faced with influential individual interests, who found it to be destroying to their lands. Benefiting from their influence, they lobbied to convince governorate leadership, the local council and engineers to make a different plan, thus saving their lands and turning to poor locals' agricultural lands. The road wasn't confined only to these locals' lands, but also included their houses.

Ahmed Al-Shahithi, who came to Al-Dihithath from Al-Mahwit years ago seeking work to support his 13-member family, used to go from one market to another selling sesame. He was able to build a small cottage-like house after being given a small portion of land by one of the locals.

Jibla district's Al-Dihithath area is one such area whose lands were spoiled by wheel loaders and bulldozers, particularly in the east.

Under the pretext of firing into the air and blocking the way of bulldozers that were approaching his home, Al-Shahithi was taken by force to spend three days in the criminal investigation bureau prison in Ibb and his family

knew not where he was.

When Col. Ameen Al-Warafi, secretary-general of the governorate's local councils, came to visit the new road, Al-Shahithi's family met with him, requesting that he free their only supporter and keep their house. According to Al-Shahithi's wife and his mother, Al-Warafi promised to free Al-Shahithi and compensate them for their house.

However, they declared that they will not accept compensation because the most beautiful place in the world wouldn't be like theirs; and furthermore, they'll do anything and everything to defend their house.

Via the Yemen Times, Al-Shahithi's family appeals to human rights organizations in Yemen and concerned authorities to defend their house against the aimed destruction. Additionally, they allege that such abuses are directed at the poor and assured that all family members will defend their house by all possible means and they will refuse any compensation.



Agricultural fields being spoiled by wheel loaders and bulldozers.



Al-Shahithi family.



Part of Al-Shahithi's agricultural lands.

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

Saudi-Egyptian-Jordanian axis in service of the Zionist solution (Part 1 of 2)

Diplomacy to disarm resistance

By: Mohammed Abdulhakim Diyab

One does tangibly feel the impact of what is happening in Lebanon on the political and practical life in Egypt. The resistance has restored the prestige to the approach of resistance, and its culture.

What the Egyptian Government has done to distract attention away from gains of the resistance has given a reverse effect. They created waves of resentment for raising fuel and energy prices and tickets on public buses and railways at percentages nearing 50 percent. The prices of other commodities and goods are also on the rise. There is a deep and degraded view towards the ruling group as being a domestic colonization and thus more dangerous than the foreign occupation. Overnight the resistance has become a goal many Egyptians seek to follow in accordance with the Lebanese style.

An observer feels that the great majority of the people look at the battle of the resistance as its own and their prime concern is exploring the means by which to offer support and help. We in this regard cannot ignore the existence of certain pockets consisting of individ-

ual humans, putting on white gowns and growing thick beards, refusing to support the resistance and displaying a sterile and prejudiced understanding of what is happening on the ground. They consider it a sectarian act. Those do not possess any alternative to sectarian fanaticism in their visualization of the ideal example of resistance. They give sectarianism priority to affiliation to the homeland or the nation or the people. This is the behavior and belief of recluse Salafî groups preferring to follow the orbit of any axis they enter or that is led by Saudi Arabia. Whether those pockets are aware or not of, they have entrenched themselves with the Zionists.

Many sites have changed into beehive-like workshops in expression of the large-scale support for the Lebanese resistance and the Hezbollah and into practical steps and measures. This support is not portrayed in the media in the required manner and level. The important thing is that the unions of journalists, lawyers and physicians, the federation of Arab lawyers and Kifayah movement have conducted activities in support of the resistance. It is rather difficult to find any national movement or an individual absent from those activities, especially activists from the new groups adopting the change that emerged in

the past two years. It has been noted that the organizations financed by American, Canadian and European sources remained with a marginal role and some of them sufficed themselves to issuing weak statements and the same case was that of the ruling party, repeating superficial words attributed to war strategists and expert analysts, supporting the Egyptian conniving official stand and describing a confrontation with the Zionist state as adventure and a kind of dreams as well as considering any military stand in support of the resistance as irrational.

The solution submitted by the ruling party is a continuation in conceding the power of the Zionist state and not to confront it. Many have ridiculed the stance because it contradicts the situation, as the Hezbollah party is dealing blows deep inside the Zionist state. Questions are raised about the inability of most of the Arab armies to combat the Zionist occupation and other questions about the justification of spending on training and arming armies that have nothing to do with defending the homelands or liberating them besides admission of the official Arab rhetoric of defeat in avoidance of engaging in any battle.

Some express the view that there is no justification for existence of armies and no need

to spend on them as long as they do not provide safety for their citizens or defend their peoples. The problem now is that the Lebanese resistance and Hezbollah caused the loss of confidence in many of the armies. Armament of those armies is deducted from budgets scheduled for food, clothing, education and health for using them for providing safety, whereas they are not used in these circumstances of danger. It means these armies are not meant for defense or standing up to danger threatening the nation, but are changed into tools protecting the enemy when they need them in facing the danger of independence. The enemy can use them in disarming the nation, not just the arms of the resistance. As the official Arab system did in financing the wars waged against the Arabs in the past two decades and some of those Arab states accepted to take part in and offer all means of support for the invasion of the region, the current stand is the obedience to the scheme drawn up by the American administration to fight the resistance. It is a scheme scheduled to be implemented at several levels.

Mohammed Abdulhakim Diyab is a writer and political analyst from Egypt. He is a prominent member of the Arab National Congress.



OUR OPINION

Presidential election:

Bet on the winning horse

President Ali Abdullah Saleh's YR 1 billion donation to Lebanon and Palestine is a good step, once again proving his brightness. It was upsetting how the official media didn't conduct any donation campaigns to encourage Yemenis to help their brothers and sisters in Lebanon and Palestine. I thought that if the government won't do it, then at least the wealthy should, beginning with President Saleh. President Saleh didn't let me down. If the money didn't come from his own account, then at least it came from the pockets of wealthy Yemeni businessmen wanting to support his campaign.

President Saleh knows he can rely on the people's love to win these elections, among other things, of course. And although I'm sure he was grateful for the support he received from Yemeni businessmen, he knew where to redirect it and that was a very good step. Not only did it show his support for our fellow Arabs, it also gained him popularity among Yemenis. As I heard (and I'm unsure of the rumors), it also was a step to overcome disputes regarding using that money in the presidential campaign.

An Australian reporter recently asked me what would be the worst-case scenario resulting from the presidential election and I immediately said, "Civil crises," something like what's happening in Somalia right now. This actually has been mentioned widely in the political sphere. People fear that Yemen will be divided between those who have power and those who want it. Another issue is that it practically has been the trend that the main opposition candidate in the 1999 presidential election and even now is from the south. The fear is that this might divide Yemen once again or at least hint toward the gist that Saleh is the north's candidate and Faisal Bin Shamlan is the south's candidate.

In fact, I read an editorial by my late father, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, written in May 1999 - less than a week before his fatal accident, wherein he talked about the need to avoid bipolarization in the presidential elections. It was his last editorial ever and it concluded with this line: "National unity and cohesion is an important factor in our future prosperity, peace and harmony."

Now that I think of it, maybe Saleh is the winning horse after all because the rest of the competitors aren't as prepared. Nevertheless, if the upcoming presidential election results in an actual peaceful transition of power with no side effects, then I truly would say that Yemeni democracy is for real. And I, like many Yemenis, would really want the chance to be able to see this happening, if not in 2006, then at least in 2013.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf
Editor-in-Chief



By: Samer (samer_art@maktoob.com)

Syria is out, Israel is in

By: Munir Daair

Some Lebanese despised Syrian presence. The fact that Syrian forces in Lebanon came at the request of Lebanon, the Arab and international community to keep peace in the aftermath of the long and brutal civil war was forgotten. It was also forgotten that throughout Syrian presence in Lebanon, civilians were not bombed, the country's infrastructure was intact, the ski slopes did brisk business, the shopping malls and hotels were booming, the economy was recovering and Lebanon was peaceful. That was not good enough. Syria was called a colonial power that must be removed. America, Israel and France led many Lebanese and Arab calls for the withdrawal of Syrian forces. When we warned that withdrawal plays into the hands of foreign powers who intend to destroy Hezbollah and with it Lebanon, we were called 'conspiracy theorists'. Well, we 'conspiracy theorists' did not get our wish, unfortunately. Unfortunately too, 'conspiracy planners' got their wish.

Rafik Hariri, a supporter of Hezbollah and a friend of Syria was assassinated. Syria was blamed and forced to withdraw. Nobody bothered to explain why Syria would want to kill its friend in Lebanon. Nobody explained why the investigation into Hariri's assassination was centered on Syria to the exclusion of those who benefited by blaming Syria and forcing it out of Lebanon, such as Israel, America and France.

Not long following Syria's withdrawal, Israeli bombs started falling. After all, with Syria out, the other fair game in town is Hezbollah.

Conventional wisdom said this war will be a

picnic, a walk over. Didn't Israel quickly beat Arab armies in previous wars? Wake up, that was in yonder, and the army was not Hezbollah!

Twenty something days later, facing an enemy they cannot see but are sure exists, America and Israel sobered from the intoxication of power, seeking other avenues. They remind me of my mother's favourite proverb, 'intoxication gone, sober thoughts born'!

What those who placed their wagers on Israel failed to realize is:

- Israel can fight only quick short battles, its military unable to fight long drawn wars. Following Israel's six day 1967 victory, Egypt's President Nasser decided to engage Israel in a war of attrition. Israel lost. When the 1973 war extended to 20 days, Israel's army had to be rescued by America's so-called 'Military Air Bridge' and an American sponsored Security Council resolution. In this war, Hezbollah is taking advantage of this Israeli weakness. Note that America, [the trusted peace broker and friend of Arabs, including Lebanon] already had to supply Israel with laser bombs in the middle of this war.

- In previous wars with Arab armies, Israel's American war machine easily faced conventional forces whose identities, locations and structures are known. Hezbollah is an unconventional army. Its tactics are feared by conventional armies and its forces are invisible. That Hezbollah will strike, somewhere, somehow, sometime is the only known factor. Everything else is unknown.

- Unlike Arab and Israel's army, Hezbollah's fighters are not going into war focused on coming back alive. They are focused on destroying the enemy. Such a force is difficult to defeat.

When conventional armies go into battle their families wait for them back eagerly, fearing their death. With Hezbollah, the fighters bid last farewells to families who have accepted that fate. The old military adage, 'you don't win wars by dying for your country, you win by making the other bastard die for his', has been proven wrong by Hezbollah. For more than 20 days Israel has been bitterly learning that again.

- Israel is fighting with the support of governments who themselves have no moral high ground in the eyes of their people. Hezbollah, on the other hand, has emerged as the hero for millions worldwide. It has managed to cross religious and national divides. Clearly, this support is a great moral boost for Hezbollah fighters and very demoralizing for Israel's. Close to a 1,000 people have been killed in Lebanon. Less than 50 are Hezbollah fighters. That Hezbollah is defending a population being massacred, is clear to people worldwide. By contrast, Israel is fighting America's war for a New Middle-East. How do you win a public relations battle when your war is identified with the world's 'Great Satan'?

Sudden efforts towards a ceasefire are proof that America and Israel lost the war. The announcement by Israel that it has destroyed Hezbollah's infrastructure was a precursor to a declaration of victory and subsequent face saving ceasefire. However, Hezbollah's 300 missile response, the biggest number in a single day, some deeper than ever into Israel, are intended to deny Israel's victory claim. Undoubtedly, Hassan Nasrullah wants a ceasefire, but one that will prove Hezbollah has won in a way that is again very humiliating to Israel and America. Nasrullah promised that

Hezbollah will ensure this is the last war Israel will fight. For a man known to have kept all his previous promises, it is clear that Nasrullah intends to keep this promise too.

For Hezbollah, the current situation is already a victory. America is talking of a ceasefire it rejected only a few days ago. The EU, using France and Spain, are courting Iran and Syria who were previously denied a place on the table. Proposals for a UN peace force are made subject to Hezbollah's approval. No one, not even America and Israel, are talking of a post Hezbollah Lebanon. A lot has changed in Israeli-American definition of a victory.

However, the next stage is more dangerous than the war itself.

American efforts to bring in UN peacekeepers under clause 7 of the UN charter, which authorizes the UN to use force, is intended to replace defeated Israeli forces with those of the UN. Having failed to destroy Hezbollah themselves, America and Israel want multinational forces, disguised as a UN peace force, to do it for them.

Lebanese must be aware of the dangers. If the Lebanese government agrees to UN forces being introduced under clause 7, they will attempt to forcefully remove weapons from Hezbollah. This will result in a major internal war, making another Lebanese civil war, one perhaps worse than the previous, inevitable. This is exactly what America and Israel want.

Another 'conspiracy theory'? No, this is another 'conspiracy plan' being hatched. Be warned.

Munir Daair is a Yemeni political writer. His articles appear in a number of publications. (mdair@gmail.com)

Letters to the Editor

Hezbollah achieved what was impossible for them

What a shame when they issued their declaration they believe is sound when they charged Hezbollah with rushing into and daring to initiate an "uncalculated adventure" by attacking Israel, capturing two of its soldiers and declaring open war against Israel. Unfortunately, they charged Hezbollah with such because they don't know anything about its great history in that it waged many wars against Israel, winning all of them due to their knowledge (al-hamdulillah). These wars were in 1982, 1993, 1996 and 2000. Hezbollah won, achieving great factors that are considered feathers in the hat of Arab and Islamic history.

Don't all of these victories prove that Hezbollah has vast experience, which it gained during these decades? Don't all of these witness that it planned for everything before initiating its "uncalculated adventure?" Don't all of these make us believe that it will win this war too?

But alas, our Arab leaders (the followers) dared to charge Hezbollah with causing Lebanon's destruction. They don't know that this adventure achieved what was impossible for them to achieve. The owners of this adventure created a huge threat against Israel. To the contrary, the Arab leaders' troops are incapable of protecting even themselves against Israel's attacks, so Israel thanks them for this.

Finally, we're sure that Hezbollah is going to win this war too, even if this "uncalculated adventure" is considered a new factor itself. And I dare say that we'll leave the remaining job for those who issued their wise declarations.

Mohammed Al-Ba'dani
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Causes of motor Accident

When the tire of your car fails to perform on the road while you are driving at top speed you end up in a car accident - tire bursts lead to road accidents. The road accident does not

necessarily rest on the driver's failure to control the wheel, lack of driving skill or the car's poor condition. More importantly we have to focus and identify the causes with the deep sense of concern for mitigation purpose. I have observed new tires in a new car get burst and that is bad tire performance needless to mention the consequences of the accident. The tires made available consumers are of two types and one is meant for snow and others are for our environment. The snow tires are designed for cold weather in Europe or other continents and cannot cope up with heat of the road on the surface in our climate type so a tire burst is inevitable. The reused tires are another risk as motorists are not aware that tires have life spans of only six years.

Well, I am confident that the quality control institution and the traffic department of the Ministry of Interior will hear the bell loud and clear.

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Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr

26 September
 weekly, organ of
 the Yemen
 Armed Forces, 3
 Aug 2006.

Main headlines

- President Saleh: The military and security establishment, property of the people and the striking force in their hands, Israel's unbreakable stick bent before steadfastness of the Lebanese resistance fighters
- FM Al-Qirbi: Yemen supports any Islamic action calling for immediate ceasefire
- PM Bajammal calls for efforts integration for success of upcoming elections
- Five Yemeni relief planes for Lebanon and Palestine
- Setting up legal controls for election propaganda

The newspaper's editorial mentions that the regrettable Arab inability in respect of the Israeli war and aggression to which the Lebanese and the Palestinian peoples are exposed has overstepped all boundaries and gone beyond all the red lines. Time has come for the Arab inability to depart its state especially after the Israeli war machine reached in targeting the civilians to the extent of committing cold-bloodedly mass massacres in Lebanon and Palestine. They have been committed in such a savage manner the whole world has seen especially in the second massacre of Qana, Lebanon, in addition to the carnages Israel is perpetrating in Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Israel is benefiting from the international community silence, though it had shyly responded for issuing a

statement of condemnation by the UN Security Council and even that was encountered by the American refusal. The American stand has gone further than just providing a cover for Israel to continue in its aggression so that most of the victims are from women and children, whose number in the massacre of Qana is a witness on the nature of this savage and inhuman war. That massacre discloses the actual motives of Israel that tries to show itself as a victim in front of the world public opinion. The crimes against humanity Israel is perpetrating are very clear and it uses all means of war, including internationally banned weapons and this war is escalating every day at a time the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples demonstrate brave resistance.

These peoples must not be left alone and the Arabs must wake up and come out of their state of inability by offering support to their brethren in Lebanon and Palestine. It is not that they must engage in a direct war and confrontation but they have to search for all other forms of support for an actual assistance. The Arabs can at least follow the means that they used in their support for the resistance in Afghanistan during the soviet occupation and leave the rest to the forces of resistance and sons of the nation to support and join their brothers in Lebanon and Palestine in funds and ammunition through opening the way and borders for volunteering.

such a demand would have been a subject of discussion and the resistance could be asked to leave the frontlines and be supportive for the army. It is not reasonable or acceptable to give the priority to the Zionist enemy interest and install a barrier preventing the resistance from repelling its aggression. What the Palestinian people are suffering of Arab besiege comes in the context that protects the Zionists from the Palestinian resistance. If the Arab armies had once stood up to the enemy, the equation would have been changed and we would have been in a better position.

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization (NUO), 1 Aug 2006.

- Main headlines**
- NUO secretary general: Destiny of the Arab system suspended in autumn winds
 - Tribal and family criteria hit candidates of the ruling party for local elections
 - With American demand from Cairo and Riyadh, pressures put on Damascus to stop supporting Hezbollah
 - Six killed and wounded in water disputes
 - JMP pays a visit to the Lebanese embassy in Sana'a

The political editor of the newspaper says it is true that Hezbollah is the only active power in Lebanon. This is a reality founded by the necessity of resisting the Zionist aggression and occupation of the Lebanese territories. It untrue to say that Hezbollah has violated the legitimacy or the central authority. This is because the Lebanese factions have been at loggerhead among themselves and missed for themselves and their homeland the opportunity of establishing a national unity government, building a central authority and an army expressing it and defending Lebanon and protecting it against faction conflict and the American and Zionist conspiratorial and military aggressiveness. In a situation like this that toppled the unity of Lebanon and hit the constituents of its power, Hezbollah did not violate anything but rather managed along all this period of conflict to make up for inability and build a defense for the land and people of Lebanon and it is unjust to accuse Hezbollah of causing this aggression as a result the operation of kidnapping.

How come such a viewpoint see today's aggression on Lebanon and did not see the aggression on the Arab nation going on for more than half a century? That aggression that extended to Arab territories in the Syrian Golan Heights and the Egyptian Sinai and he attempt of the colonization of Shaba Farms? Does not that mean that the long history of aggression is still there and the Zionist war on the Arab nation is continuous? The aggression and destruction and killing committed against Lebanon nowadays are just part of this war and an extension of it. The operation of Hezbollah is no more than moving the conspiracy and exposing the hostile plots. It is a warning for the Arab nation about the dangers threatening its existence.

Hezbollah has pushed the Zionist enemy in confusion and dilemma that revealed its inability and cowardice and proved the possibility of hitting its military strategy and more possibility of destroying its psychology. This is the message of Hezbollah to its Arab nation.

Al-Thawri weekly organ of the YSP, 3 Aug 2006.

- Main headlines**
- Bin Shamlan: Among my priorities improvement of the people living, Corruption devoured large numbers of the state treasury
 - The parliament put condition of

COMMON SENSE

Hezbollah: A return to Islamic glory

In the long history of the Arabs, a former Deputy Secretary in the Foreign Ministry of the United Kingdom, Anthony Nutting, in his Short History of the Arabs, written in the 1960s, was more optimistic about the Arabs than the Arabs themselves.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Moslem states than the Arab world, where the leaders of the latter have forgotten their history, their nation, their heritage and themselves. In fact Arab leaders did their best to suppress any show of support for their Lebanese and

After the book went through a rapid dissertation on the ups and downs of the Arab Nation, especially from the time of the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH) to the tumultuous period when the book was written, he commented towards the end of the chapter on the Palestine problem, that notwithstanding the pathetic state of the Arabs then (and now), the Arabs are bound to rebound and take their prominent place among world cultures and nations. He, of course, was not ready to note that the Prophet Mohammed (PBAUH), over 15 centuries ago stated that without Islam, the Arabs will have no place in history and that the Prophet's long forgotten prophesy is indeed true: Islam arose as a strange phenomenon and will return as a strange phenomenon and that the Arabs cannot expect any great place in the world without Islam. Ironically, non-Arab Moslems recognize this even better than the Arabs.

Palestinian brothers at arms or in prison in Lebanon and Palestine respectively. Perhaps, President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen is the only Arab leader, who without hesitation expressed his full support for the cause of liberation being fought by the likes of Nasr-Allah (Hezbollah leader) and Hemenia (Hamas), and he underscored this support by donating all the contributions he has received (US \$ 5 million) for his bid for re-election as President of Yemen to the Palestinians and Lebanese to alleviate some of the sufferings they are going through as the Zionist thugs in Tel-Aviv annihilate them or strangle them to death.

Back to the Battlefield and the Mainstream Media:

As if Qana II (an earlier massacre by the Israelis during the same week when 55 innocent civilians mostly children were burned or torn apart) was not enough for the Israeli bullies, they went this week and really showed their horrendous taste for terror and blood and scored another massacre by carrying out another indiscriminate barbaric slaughter in the Al-Qa'a area of Lebanon killing at least 33 innocent civilians, most of whom were vegetable packers as far away from Hezbollah as anyone can get in Lebanon. They are neither members of the Shiite community, from which the grass roots followers of Hezbollah come from, nor associated with any active political or para-military association.

So, to carry on with their deceptive cover-ups, the Israelis insist that instead of tomatoes, these innocent workers were packing Katyushas with dynamite! Ironically, this never received "Breaking News" status in CNN and probably the other mainstream US media. In fact, at the same time this massacre occurred, CNN briefly made a note of it and miraculously reduced the number of dead to 20, although in his initial report on the incident Brent Sadler (CNN Beirut Bureau Chief) has said they were 33. In its bid to be objective, the BBC insisted that the number of dead were 28, although it was unequivocally reported by all the official people at the remote site where the massacre occurred that the number of dead victims was 33!

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

constitutional amendments to endorse agreement of the international criminal court

- Opposition leaderships condemn the massacre of Qana, holds America and Arab silence responsible for what is befalling the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples
- Prisoners released from the political security prisons
- JMP calls for economic debate between its candidate and president Saleh
- MP Sakhr al-Wajieh resigns from tee ruling party
- YSP condemns the Zionist massacres, calls for unity and support for the resistance

confronting the aggression and preventing the enemy from achieving any military gain is an indicator of the resistance superiority in fighting performance and dealing with the rapid changes if the military situation positively. The resistance has prepared itself in a good manner politically, militarily and in security area to be able to deal with abilities of the Zionist army.

- Among the factors of the resistance successes are:
- its knowledge of the nature of the enemy and ways of his forces action,
 - using the capabilities in compatible with the nature of the enemy,
 - availability of security and intelligence information of the enemy,
 - the using of several tactics of fighting,
 - good blending between the tactics and laws of guerrilla war and wars of confrontation,
 - the good use of rockets to reduce the enemy's air and naval pressure,
 - the good use of the land and means of camouflage and hiding of troops.

Writer Yassin Dhaifallah says in his article that the Zionist aggression on Lebanon against the civilians and towns and villages, destruction of the Lebanese infrastructure and mass massacres are acts prohibited by war laws and Geneva conventions. These acts are not counted as war gains made by one of the warring parties. The bravery displayed by the resistance in

SILVER LINING

What the GPC and opposition think of the elections?

The heated debate and media barage between the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and the opposition started vigorously last week and it demonstrates the sophistication of the coming weeks. This momentum is expected to accelerate in the course of time approaching the voting day on Sept. 20. But the start is not promising. The two sides agreed in their principles of agreement signed last June to work towards a fair and free election which requires respect of media campaigns rules. This seems unlikely to take place if we scrutinize the media discourse of the two sides during last week.



By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi

there will be no meaning for the opposition candidate to challenge President Ali Abdullah Saleh if he is not able to strike major issues of concerns to the people without fear and by using the state media. Bin Shamlan should be vocal in discussing his messages to the masses as competition entails

he freely, like his competitor President Saleh, can use the media available.

The ruling party should not expect to have a challenger, whose role is just to testify the existence of democracy, blessing the landslide victory of Saleh and then ending the challenger's role. Saleh should accept the rules of the game and complacently expect any criticism that his reign should go through. It is the right of the opposition to question the oil revenues and any other issue and then GPC can freely refute. This approach is not a taboo. There should not be any taboo in discussing the people's concerns. I also guess it is in favor of Saleh to win with, say, 60-70 percent rather than cracking majority of 90 percent. This change is not humiliating to his legacy, but will be a victory for Yemen's democracy too.

The opposition, on its turn, should not be reluctant or shy in addressing issues. It has decided to compete and should thus consider the consequences of such a decision. It has to fight for its right to have a fair and free race, regardless of the outcome. I know it is demanding and challenging but they have accepted it; it helps increase Yemen's democratization drive at large.

I understand we are still crawling towards democracy and that there are a lot of considerations and limitations that should be taken into account. Yet, this does not mean it should not limit itself to this function, without having ambition to take this experience to the forefront. The easy approach should not be the perspective of the two players. In short, our democracy will not go ahead, unless serious and courageous decisions are made by both the GPC and the opposition. It is their responsibility to decide what direction our democracy is going to take. In short, if this election does not bring about any visible change, at least in the mind set of the voters and their awareness of the possibility of change, it will be frustrating and fruitless exercise in democracy.

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

The opposition started talking about oil revenues, one of the main issues that concern the public. But the backlash by the ruling party was severe and the opposition candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan was physically hit. Prior to that, a member of the ruling party warned of the potential fall of the country into civil war and disorder if Bin Shamlan wins. Such a media discourse helps to frighten ordinary citizens and influence their voting decision.

For this reason, the role of the media in boosting election fairness and transparency is pivotal. Last Tuesday I attended a workshop on monitoring media performance during elections. The event was organized by the Danish International Media Support and Human Rights Information and Training Center. The monitoring program targets state and independent media for the organizers and conceded it is difficult to monitor the party newspapers which are unfortunately obliged to political affiliations rather than professionalism.

In fact, it is the state broadcast media which matters here because of its wide outreach and ability to influence the voters. I know it is very difficult to enforce the objectivity, balance and neutrality of these outlets in reporting elections, something which the elections commission member Abdu Al-Janadi acknowledged. But this time the neutrality of the state media has been included as one of the issues where the GPC and the opposition agreed. This agreement of principles which received attention from the diplomatic community in Sana'a will be used as an important criterion to evaluate the overall election process. Therefore, keeping an eye on the performance of the state-funded media in particular is now very significant.

I guess you guys agree with me that

Interview with Bader Ben Hirsi

“I wanted to make a film which people everywhere would understand”

The London-based filmmaker Bader Ben Hirsi has made the first Yemeni feature film ever. "A new day in old Sana'a" has been awarded several prizes, among them the Silver Falcon at the Sixth Arab Film Festival in Rotterdam. He spoke there to Larissa Bender.

You've produced and made the first ever Yemeni feature film. The person from whose perspective the story is told is an Italian. Why have you chosen this point of view?

I considered how I could make the film more accessible to a wider public. So I put a European in the story. That way, if the film can't be shown in Yemen, it can at least be seen abroad throughout the world.

At the same time it allowed me to kill two birds with one stone. My friends in the West, in London, are always asking questions about the Arab world, about Islam and about Yemen. By having a European in the film I was able to answer these questions.

In addition there's the fact that Europeans sometimes have an "orientalised" picture of the Arab world. Some scenes in the film are like an explanation of why the Arabs or the Yemenis are the way they are. Anyone who sees the film will understand that the situation sometimes contradicts the picture which Europeans have of the Arab world.

My friends in the West, in London, are always asking questions about the Arab world, about Islam and about Yemen. By having a European in the film I was able to answer these questions.

The events in the film mostly deal with women. They appear often even without the veil. Why did you specifically choose a women's topic?

I often hear how people in the West talk about Arab women, about Yemeni or Muslim women, and they say that they live under the rule of the men, that they are weak, that they have to walk five paces behind the men. But that isn't my personal experience. On the contrary: I have seven older sisters, I grew up with them and I have seen how strong they are and how strong my mother is. In my opinion women in the Arab world and in Yemen are very strong; they have a voice and they have rights...

But in Yemen in particular women have scarcely any rights and their voice can scarcely be heard...

To be honest, I personally have a quite different experience. Perhaps the opposite is also true, but my experience with my sisters and my cousins is different: they are very self-confident.

Even those who live in Yemen?

Yes, even them. They learn, they study, they make the decisions in the household, they work on the farms. I've tried to show in the story that they play an important role.

How did you work with the women? Yemeni women normally don't leave their homes without putting on a veil. What kind of women were they, who were prepared to show themselves in the film without a veil?

I actually thought it would be harder. There are Yemeni women actors who have experience in television and on the stage, but there isn't any cinema. So we had to rehearse with some of them for five months.

Casting was quite hard. It was easier with the older women who were married, but it was problematic with the ones who weren't married. The actor who plays the role of Balqis, for example, was just seventeen years old. She didn't want anyone in her school to know that she was taking part in this film, even though she appears on television.

But there were absolutely no problems with the fact that the women performed without their veils. I was surprised. I thought they wouldn't accept it. But the opposite was the case: they were prepared to play the whole film without their veils. But I wanted the women to play the outdoor scenes, in the street, wearing the veil, and not wear the veil at home.

A lot of my friends in Europe believe that Arab women wear their veils or their burkas the whole time, even at home. They believe that even their husbands don't see them without the veils. That's why I concentrated on this issue.

And Najla Atef, for example, who plays Ghadir, the sister of Tariq, is one of the very few women who never wears a veil, who even goes on the street without a burka.

Where did the Yemeni actors study? Is there a drama school in Yemen?

There's a cultural institute where the actors have studied who are in the soap operas and the theatre. But there is no independent Yemeni cinema culture.

Where does this reserve or this resistance towards the feature film come from? Why has there been no Yemeni cinema until now?

Cinema has a very bad reputation because Yemenis believe that there are always sex scenes in films. I imagine that this comes from the films they see on the satellite channels. They fear that cinema will be the "gate to decadence" for Yemen.

But there's another point: in the seventies Paolo Pasolini filmed some of the scenes for his film "Arabian Nights" in Yemen. When the film came out, there were many sex scenes in it, and the Yemenis felt themselves cheated. Since then they've lost their faith in cinema. In addition, people who go to the cinema are seen as being not respectable. They're viewed with suspicion.

Before your film was shown, you said that this was the first Yemeni film and could well be the last. Why are you so pessimistic?

Because of the daily difficulties we had. They cut many scenes out of the film. I don't think any other director would have carried on and been so patient.

What kind of difficulties did you have?

The parliament got involved, they even changed the text. And they kept



Bader Ben Hirsi: "Anyone who sees the film will understand that the situation sometimes contradicts the picture which Europeans have of the Arab world"

saying we were working for the CIA or Mossad.

What was the reaction to the film in the Arab world?

When the film was finished I travelled to Yemen and showed it to the Yemeni president, Ali Abdallah Salih, and the former prime minister, Abdalkarim el-Aryani. Both of them liked the film. And I thought: if they like the film, then everything is OK.

But then the current prime minister saw the film and he didn't like it. He said he might ban the film in Yemen. Then I said: if you ban the film in Yemen, then that will be a good advertisement. Thank you – that will help me very much. But there's nothing in the film which justifies its being banned. So then he hesitated.

After that there was a festival of European film in Yemen. Every European ambassador chose a film from their country. And since our office is in

The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 41

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

The vine had struck a fiber;
which about
If clings my being – let the
Sufi flout;
Of my base metal may be
filed a key,
That shall unlock the door
he howls without.

London, the British nominated our film. That's how the film was first shown in Yemen, first in Sana'a and then in Aden. The public liked the film and asked themselves why the papers had written so badly about it.

Two weeks later we had the world premiere at the film festival in Cairo, where it won the prize for the best Arabic film. Then it was shown at the film festival in Dubai and then in Maskat, where it won another two prizes. Here in Rotterdam it's having its first showing at a European festival.

The film's story is quite traditional. A rich man is supposed to marry a young woman from his own class, but he falls in love with a girl from a poor family. Why did you choose this particular story which has been done so often before?

What I normally make are independent political documentaries, and I enjoy doing that. But if a film is being supported by television companies, whether in Britain or in the Arab world, they want sensation. They hype everything up so that the film seems like a kind of propaganda. They only follow their own interests and their own objectives.

At the film festivals I'm always seeing

political films, for example about Palestine or Iraq, and that too is very important. But at the same time we should also show something else from the Arab world. People who see those films get their picture of the Arab world from them, and think, for example, that there's no love there. That's why I wanted to stay away from politics.

This is a love story which people all over the world can understand. And because it's the first Yemeni feature film, I wanted to tell a simple story well.

But such stories really do happen often in Yemen. There are class differences there, even if many people deny it. But for people in Yemen it's an important issue.

Bader Ben Hirsi was born in London in 1967 as the son of Yemeni parents. He's produced and directed a number of documentaries and short films, among them two which have won several awards: "The English Sheikh and the Yemeni Gentleman" and "Yemen & The War on Terror" – a fifty-minute documentary on Yemeni attempts to fight terrorism. "A New Day in Old Sana'a" is his first full-length feature film. This interview was translated from the German by Michael Lawton. © Qantara.de 2006.

فعاليات بديعة في مهرجان شركة أرتكس التجارية

لتوزيع جوائز مسابقة كاس العالم - ألمانيا 2006

في أجواء احتفالية متميزة وبحضور جماهيري كبير... أسعدت آرتكس جمهورها بالسحب على جوائز مسابقة كأس العالم لعام 2006 يوم الخميس الموافق 27/07/2006

ابتداءً من الحفل عند الساعة الرابعة عصراً يعزف فرق موسيقية نالت استحسان الحاضرين وإحلاول مقدم الحفل بداية الفعاليات الاحتفالية المنمذرة حيث طرحت الأسئلة الثقافية المتنوعة على الحضور والتي تم توزيع جوائز قيمة وفورية على مختلف الأجيال المنزلية للمشاركين. وبعد تصاعد وتيرة الاحتفال وتزايد أعداد الحاضرين نادت الأمانة .. بدأ السحب لعشرون جائزة مسابقة كأس العالم ... وقد فاز الأخوة والأخوات التالية أسمائهم :

د	اسم الفائز	رقم الكوبون	الهدية	الموديل
1.	امبارك عبدالصالح عبدالصالح	10165	ثلاجة رويال باهن 108 لتر لون فضي	ROYAL-RD 108S
2.	رويدا عبدالرحمن عبدالرحمن	42818	طباخة رويال الانجليزية 50x50 اربع شعل - اسفل	ROYAL-OC504/S
3.	محمد عبدالقادر عبدالقادر	52859	مكيف رويال طن الاربع جداري مع - ريموت كنترول	RO-ACW9000R
4.	منصور منصور منصور	89402	مغريون قرن وشوايه متعدد الوظائف رويال 30 لتر اسفل	ROYAL-MW900L30
5.	فواز احمد صالح	029086	تلفزيون ملون رويال 21 بوصة متعدد الانظمة مع ريموت كنترول	ROYAL - TV21P9
6.	محمد حمود محمد	51134	ثلاجة 4 در رويال	WT-42A
7.	عبدالله محمد سيف	80381	تلفزيون 14 بوصة رويال	ROYAL -TV14S08
8.	احلام محمد عبدالرحمن	032589	ثلاجة رويال ثلج وسخف ماء 1300 وات مالتزي	ROYAL -VC3228
9.	فواز محمد عبدالقادر	80892	خلاط باور اكس مع مطبخة بن ومبردة كرويس	338-42
10.	صلاح جابر بركات	98928	مغريوة قهوة اروما كرويس	538-42-10
11.	محمد محمد حزام	56265	مغريوة حصار جزر وفواكه ديتونكي	KC280
12.	يوسف محمد علي	99276	خلاط بيض كرويس	GNA242
13.	شيم عبدالوارث عبدالرحمن	37373	ثلاجة اوتوماتيك رويال	ETK401
14.	منذر عبدالعالم محمد	88442	مغريوة شعر كرويس	446-70-10
15.	عمار عبدالوارث عبدالقادر	54022	مغريوة شعر كرويس	446-70-10
16.	فارس محمد عوفج	97226	خلاط بيض ديلونكي	KF255E
17.	ياسر عبدالرحمن سعد	01904	مغريوة برتقال كرويس	293-70-10
18.	فواز ناصر عبدالرحمن	29201	مغريوة برتقال كرويس	293-70-10
19.	سماح محمد احمد	39086	كاوية رويال بخار	ROIS-2038
20.	وليد عبدالرحمن محمد	87471	كاوية رويال بخار	ROIS-2038

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The Italian photographer Frederico and his Yemeni assistant Tariq take a bath - Ben Hirsi employed the European character as a kind of mediator for western audiences.

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VACANCY NOTICE

Title: ICT Assistant
Grade: G-5
Contract type: SSA
Duration: one year

Date: August 02, 2006
Deadline for application: 20/08/2006
Duty Station: Sana'a
Unit: Office of the representative
WHO-Sana'a

Description of duties:

Under general supervision of the head of the office, the incumbent performs the following tasks:

- 1- Provides technical support required for the administration and operation of the WR Office Local Area Network, Wide Area Network and Internet-based communications including hardware/ software requirements, network protocols, data security measures and assists in system integration through multiple LAN servers and protocols .
- 2- Coordinates with the Informatics Management Support unit at the Regional Office, the installation, set-up, implementation and training for computer applications to facilitate workflow and implementation of technical programmes including standard office applications, Internet and e-mail services, Regional Activity Management System (RAMS), the Imprest Account, Country Activity Management System (CAMS) and other country office applications on the country office LAN.
- 3- Installs, sets up, assists in configuration and certifies compliance with standards and specifications of new hardware and software in offices of WHO supported projects in the country.
- 4- Provides information technology training services leading to better use of IT resources by WHO staff through assessment of needs and provision of training sessions.
- 5- Implements in collaboration with technical and administrative officers computer applications to facilitate workflow and implementation of technical programmes .
- 6- Conducts assessment and evaluation of ICT needs in support of WR office and national health programmes and communicates results to the Regional Office for coordination and approval of action.
- 7- Prepares and verifies receiving reports of newly received data processing equipment for the WR office and other WHO supported projects and dispatch them to the Regional Office.
- 8- Any other data processing and telecommunication related task, as assigned by the WR.

Qualifications required:

- Graduated from Computer sciences university.
- Minimum five year experience in similar function.
- Very good knowledge in English and Arabic

Applications should be sent to:

World Health Organization, Ministry of Health building – El Hasaba Area
P.O Box 543 – Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Only candidates under serious considerations will be contacted for interview and test.

Republic of Yemen Ministry of Public Health & Population "SERVICE PROCUREMENT NOTICE"

Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

1. **Description of the contract**
Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib.
2. **Procedure of the tender**
International Open Tender.
3. **Contracting authority**
The Government of the Republic of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Public Health & Population.
4. **Source of Funding**
A grant from the USDA (416 B) to the Ministry of Public Health & Population.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

4. **Eligibility**
Participation is open on equal terms to all natural and legal International Consultancy Firms or Organizations of reputation in the field of management and operation of hospitals.
5. **Number of tenders**
Tenderers (including firms within the same legal group, or other members and sub-contractors) submit only one tender. An entry fee of US \$ 500 is applicable.
6. **Tender guarantee**
Tenderers must provide a "tender guarantee" of 2.5 % of their offer for the contract when submitting their tender. This guarantee will be released to unsuccessful tenderers once the tender procedure has been completed.
7. **Performance guarantee**
The successful tenderer will be asked to provide a performance guarantee of 15 % of their offer before countersigning the contract. This guarantee must be provided within 15 days of notification by the Contracting Authority.
8. **Information meeting and/or site visit**
Site visits could be organized by the Ministry of Public Health & Population, with no costs incurred on the Ministry.
9. **Tender validity**
Tenders must remain valid for a period of 120 days after the opening date of tenders.
10. **Maximum period for the initiation of the service**
Within two weeks from the signature of contract.

SELECTION CRITERIA

11. **Selection criteria**
Compliance with technical specifications and capacity to execute similar contracts specified in the "Terms of Reference" for the (Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib).
a) Economical and Financial Capacity.
b) Professional Capacity.

TERMS OF REFERENCE & TENDERING

12. How to obtain the "Terms of Reference"

The "Terms of Reference" for the (Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib) is available from the following internet address: <http://moh.gov.ye>. The "Terms of Reference" is also available for collection from the Ministry of Public Health & Population at the address shown below.

Tenderers with questions regarding this tender should send them in writing to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministers Office, P O Box: 299, Sana'a, Yemen. Tel + 967 1 252 198 / + 967 1 257 775, Fax: + 967 1 252 247 (Mentioning the following; Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib) at least 3 weeks before the deadline for submission of tenders. The Contracting Authority would reply to all tenderers' questions at least 1 week before the deadline for submission of tenders.

13. Deadline for submission of tenders

The deadline for submission of tenders is the 26/08/2006. Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.

14. Tender opening session

The public tender opening session will take place at 11:00 am local time on the 26/08/2006 at the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministers Office, Sana'a, Yemen.

To leaders of the Ministry of Health and Population:

Have you visited Al-Jumhury Hospital in Aden recently?

Aden's Al-Jumhury Hospital recently became a common fixture in local newspaper headlines, which criticized its medical conditions and administrative system. Yemen Times visited the hospital to take a closer look at its current state.

By: Amel Al-Ariqi
amel11ariqi@yahoo.com

Previously known as "Queen Hospital," Al-Jumhury Hospital is one of five government hospitals in Aden. Established in 1954 and opened in 1958. According to hospital general director Dr. Khalid Al-Jaradi, with its British and Yemeni staff, the hospital was considered the best on the Arabian Peninsula. After South Yemen's independence, the hospital's name became Al-Jumhury Hospital (a public hospital).

According to Al-Jaradi, the hospital daily receives 500 patients, with 200 visiting the emergency room and 200-300 visiting outpatient clinics.

The hospital also is considered an educational hospital, with many medical students applying their studies and

ment, saying, "There's only one laundry machine that works in this department and it's used to clean and wash blankets and the clothes of medical staff and patients at the hospital.

"The launderers say they use only hot water and one type of soap to clean clothes that they mix in the only available laundry machine. They don't make any type of classification of the clothes which belong to patients suffering infectious diseases," he added.

The employees are aware that this method of washing clothes is an easy way to allow germs to transfer. "However, I have no other choice. I'm working according to the available resources and equipment," the officer noted.

The autopsy room also has problems. A morgue employee explained that the morgue has only two freezers to save the dead bodies kept inside the morgue

Physicians face infection risk

The laundry, central air system and the autopsy room aren't the only places needing maintenance and reconstruction. Many locations inside the hospital require better control and supervision. In the emergency room, which supposedly is a new department in the hospital, doctors and nurses treat injured or ill patients 24 hours a day; however, the lack of protective means for these employees is evident.

"We daily receive many patients subjected to car accidents or drowning. Many times, these patients also are suffering infectious diseases like AIDS, tuberculosis or hepatitis. Most of the time, they don't tell us about their conditions and so we're exposed to infection as we try to treat their wounds," said a nurse not wishing to be named.

He confirmed that simple protective means like gloves and masks aren't available in the hospital, but after a nurse at the hospital contracted AIDS, hospital administration provided the emergency room with gloves and other protective tools. "However, we sometimes don't have the time to wear such gloves," he noted.

Mushtak Abdulrahman, who works in the contagious disease department, confirmed that any nurse at the hospital is exposed to numerous types of infection due to lack of protective tools for medical staff. "Many times, we asked patients to buy gloves and other protective materials for us to be able to treat them," he admitted.

Abdulrahman pointed out that medical staff many times have requested involved authorities such as hospital administration, the medical syndicate and Aden sector's medical office provide the hospital with these protective tools, but they received no response or reaction. "The problem is that when we become infected, we transmit this infection to our children and family," he explained.

There is no periodic testing for medical staff, according to Abdulrahman. "The only time the administration conducted tests was when one of the nurses discovered he had AIDS," he said. "The administration arranged a training course to raise the medical staff's awareness of infectious diseases and how they deal with patients; however, these training courses haven't been offered to all physicians," he added.

Medical waste

Physicians aren't the only hospital employees subject to infection. Cleaners also are at risk because the hospital doesn't take special care in disposing of wastes contaminated with blood and tissue. Doctors don't separate these hazardous wastes from ordinary waste. They put needles, scalpels and glassware, called "sharps," outdated and unused drugs along with papers in one wastebasket, without any classification of these different wastes. Cleaners then carry these in plastic



A nurse drinks directly from the tap of a rusty basin. The hospital also experiences constant water cuts.

cases, cutting their hands on the sharp tools and thus becoming easy targets for infectious diseases.

Weak budget

Al-Jaradi said the hospital experiences many obstacles due to its small YR 4 million monthly budget. "As a manager of this hospital, I myself see no justification to have such a small budget for a central hospital receiving patients from various governorates," he said.

According to Al-Jaradi, there are approximately 1,000 employees, consisting of 300 doctors, 500 nurses and 200 technicians and officers. While it has 500 beds, it daily receives approximately 500 patients from Aden, Lahj, Abeen, Shabwa and Al-Dhale because it provides medical services for five governorates, Al-Jaradi noted.

"Additionally, we receive car accident victims who may be citizens of Taiz, Dhamar or Al-Beidha, who had these accidents in their way to or from Aden," he added, highlighting the strain upon the hospital.

The cost of beds at Aden's Al-Jumhury Hospital is YR 390, a small sum compared to Al-Thawra Hospital in Sana'a, whose beds cost YR 4,000, according to Al-Jaradi. He says the hospital's small budget affects its medical state and its performance. For example, the hospital's cleaning budget is only YR 500,000 monthly, but Al-Jaradi says it's not enough to provide materials used to clean clothes, hospital surfaces or enough containers and sterilizers.

"We are suffering and our scarcity is reflected in the hospital's performance. For example, the hospital needs ambulances and maintaining its central air system. The hospital is suffering water shortage and drug scarcity because the Drug Fund stopped providing the hospital with medicine. We now use Community Contribution funds to buy medication and equipment to meet these shortages," he explained.

Al-Jaradi said he will propose that the Ministry of Health and Population increase the hospital's budget.

Physicians don't care

Regarding doctors' protection, Al-Jaradi pointed out that the possibility of infection among medical staff is that of any doctor or nurse in any hospital around the world. "However, we are focusing on raising the awareness of medical staff because it's very important to teach them how to deal with patients and how to avoid infections," he added.

Al-Jaradi accused some physicians at the hospital of negligence because they deal with patients directly without considering the possibility their own infection. He insisted that all protective means are provided to medical staff but because of carelessness, they don't use

them to avoid infection. He said hospital administration can't obligate medical staff to follow such protective measures.

He added that hospital administration is conducting annual tests for AIDS and hepatitis for medical staff. The results of these tests revealed the infection of one nurse with AIDS and some physicians with hepatitis, Al-Jaradi said.

Weak budget or mismanagement

One doctor insisted that the hospital's problem isn't its small budget but rather corruption and mismanagement;

believe that it's considered the worst hospital in Aden.

Dr. Al-Khadher Naser Al-Sawar, manager of Aden's Medical Office, pointed out the important role that medical management and leadership play in medical facilities. "I don't deny that the occupational budgets are small, but I don't believe that any medical services decline due to the small budget. Many hospitals are running with small budgets, but they can receive benefits from available resources," he said.

He confirmed that an examining and monitoring department is interested in evaluating government hospitals' per-



Needles, scalpels and glassware, outdated and unused drugs along with papers are thrown in one wastebasket. The hospital doesn't take special care in disposing of wastes contaminated with blood and tissue.

however, she refused to give her name, saying she didn't want trouble with the administration.

"For instance, the monthly income of the lab is YR 800,000, which is collected as fees patients pay. This money isn't used to provide the lab with medical solutions, equipment or any protective tools for medical staff inside the lab," she explained.

"The lab's lack of new equipment and existing equipment mostly is broken or misreads results. Some tubes are broken and rats and insects are widespread and freely move throughout the hospital," she added. She confirmed that staff working in the labs most of the time do so without protection and they must buy their own gloves from the pharmacy.

A technician, who also refused to give his name, agreed, saying that the hospital receives money from various sources like the Community Contribution and patient fees; however, the administration doesn't use such sources to improve medical services at the hospital. On the contrary, the hospital appears bad, leading people to

formance.

Al-Sawar denied that he's received any complaints from medical staff at Al-Jumhury Hospital, noting that he always visits the hospitals. He also referred to the importance of establishing an authority or committee to receive complaints and then investigate.

Last word

Although this report was done to clarify the medical state at Al-Jumhury Hospital, it also raises many questions: What's the problem? Is it the weak budget or mismanagement? Why are medical staff keeping quiet about problems facing them and patients? Are they afraid of any measures that may be taken against them or they just don't care? Does the Ministry of Health, which ordered shutting down, and suspending work at, many private medical facilities in many governorates for alleged failure to meet medical service standards, have a complete picture of this public hospital? These questions not only require answers but swift reactions too.



One laundry machine works in the laundry department, where blankets and clothes of medical staff and patients at the hospital are washed with only hot water and one type of soap.

lessons there. Al-Jumhury Hospital covers several governorates, including Aden, Abeen, Shabwa, Al-Dhale and Lahj.

From best to worst

In the past, the hospital was described as the best in the Gulf, but it now suffers obvious damage and devastation, as anyone can see cracks in its roof and walls. Also, many ventilators aren't working and broken taps, rusty basins and damaged equipment exist throughout the hospital.

Located only half a kilometer from the sea, Al-Jaradi explained that Aden is characterized by high humidity, which can affect construction and equipment inside the building. "Since the hospital's establishment, it hasn't witnessed any type of maintenance since 1983," he added.

"We recently contacted the Army Establishment to reconstruct water closest to the hospital. During digging to build water pipes, we found seawater in the ground. This water and the humidity gradually affect the hospital's foundation," Al-Jaradi confirmed. He has informed the Ministry of Health and Aden's governor about the hospital's poor condition.

The hospital's maintenance supervisor pointed out damages clearly apparent in the hospital's central air system, which hasn't been maintained since 1996. "Since that time, the pipes in the central ventilator are subject to constant breakdowns and the biggest problem is that most spare parts are unavailable," he explained.

The maintenance officer highlighted other problems in the laundry depart-

for criminal reasons or until relatives come to identify the body and request burial. The worker mentioned that he normally receives approximately 15 dead bodies daily.

"One of the freezers hasn't worked, as the ventilator isn't working, so I keep moving bodies from place to another to provide space for incoming bodies," the worker said.

Dr. Mansour Al-Hakimi, who is in charge of the surgery department, said the hospital has qualified surgeons performing many surgeries daily, but the old equipment they use requires constant care. He confessed that surgeons sometimes ask patients to buy medical supplies not existing at the hospital, but required to perform the surgery.



Pipes in the central ventilator are subject to constant breakdowns and the biggest problem is that most spare parts are unavailable.

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- Knowledge of and experience in using participatory methods and adult learning;

Experience

- Ability to and experience in working with both men and women;
- Experience in working in rural settings;
- Written and spoken fluency in both Arabic and English is essential. Reporting needs to be done in both Arabic and English.

Qualified applicants should forward CV and cover letter via email to care_vacancy@yahoo.com with the subject heading "Project assistant Al Mahweet", from which address detailed Job description may be requested. **Application deadline is 15 August 2006. Interviews will take place in the week of 19 August. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.**

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Sha'ab Ibb secures league second place

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiri

Concluding the Premier League 26th round, Sha'ab Ibb downed Sha'ab Hadramout 5-0 to secure second place with 48 points, following Al-Saqr from Taiz who clinched the title for the first time in the team's history.

Sha'ab Ibb star Fekri Al-Hubaishi is now leading scorer on 26 goals while Sha'ab Hadramout remained in its eighth position with 35 points and none of his teammates could score.

In the capital Sana'a, top-placed Al-Saqr drew its host 2-2 at Al-Meraihi Stadium to increase its points to 55 while the Sana'a team joined second grade teams with only 20 points.

Al-Shu'lah team from Aden beat its guest Helal Al-Hodeida 2-1 to occupy position ninth place with 34 points while the visiting team dropped to the fifth place with 40 points.

Despite defeating its guest Al-Yarmouk from Sana'a 3-0, Tadamun Shabwah fell to second grade teams, as it ranked 11th with 32 points while the Sana'a team secured the last place in the premier league with 34 points.

At 22 May Stadium in Aden, last season's winner Al-Telal secured third place thanks to a 4-2 victory over Shabab Al-Jeel from Hodeida who dropped down with second grade teams. Al-Telal increased its points to 43, only one-point ahead from Ahli Sana'a who suffered a 1-0 loss to Al-Rashid. The game's only goal was scored by Al-Rashid striker Yousif Othman Hashem in minute 62 of the game. With such a narrow win, Al-Rashid ranks seventh with 37 points.

In Abyan, Hassan knocked off its guest Ta'awen Ba'adan 2-0 to maintain position No. 6 with 40 points while the loser fell to second grade teams with only 27 points.

According to scores on the tournament, Al-Saqr from Taiz ranks first in terms of the number of wins, as the team won 16 meetings, drew 6 and lost three throughout the tourney. Also, the team is labelled to have the strongest defense as only 20 goals were placed in its net. Sha'ab Ibb came second in terms of wins and is labelled to have the strongest offense, as it scored 51 goals through the 26 rounds.



Al-Saqr is the champion of 2006 Premier League.



Sha'ab Ibb is in second place.



Altelal is in third place.

Premier League final scores (2005-2006)

Team	Games played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Goals for	Goals against	Total points
Al-Saqr	26	16	7	3	49	20	55
Sha'ab Ibb	26	14	6	6	51	33	48
Al-Telal	26	13	4	9	43	36	43
Ahli Sana'a	26	12	6	8	45	38	42
Helal Hodeida	26	11	7	8	45	38	40
Hassan	26	11	7	8	29	25	40
Al-Rashid	26	11	4	11	28	30	37
Sha'ab Hadramout	26	10	5	11	31	45	35
Al-Shu'la	26	8	10	8	31	29	34
Al-Yarmouk	26	9	7	10	29	32	34
Tadamun Shabwa	26	10	2	14	35	45	32
Shabab Al-Jeel	26	7	6	13	29	37	27
22 May	26	5	5	16	31	50	20
Ta'awen Ba'adan	26	4	6	16	33	52	18

Schumi woe as Raikkonen nets pole

Kimi Raikkonen took pole for Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix as title rivals Michael Schumacher and Fernando Alonso felt the effects of time penalties.

Raikkonen stole the show in the dying moments of qualifying with a time of one minute 19.599 seconds.

Ferrari's Felipe Massa was second, while team-mate Schumacher had to settle for 11th after a two-second penalty given after Saturday practice.

Renault's Alonso starts 15th after incurring the same penalty on Friday.

Alonso, who has seen his world championship lead whittled down to just 11 points by Schumacher, was penalised for a deliberate brake test and for overtaking under a flag during second practice.

Schumacher looked set to inflict more points damage on the world champion this weekend before also being docked two seconds for overtaking two cars under red flags during Saturday's final practice.

"I'm incredibly angry, but I have to blame myself," said the German, while Ferrari's technical director Ross Brawn added: "I don't think there is an explanation - he made a mistake."

Schumacher starts Sunday's race four places ahead of Alonso, having benefited from Jenson Button's practice misery.

The Englishman took 14th place in qualifying following a 10-place penalty for an unscheduled engine change after his Honda burst into flames in final practice.

"It's very frustrating that I will be starting from 14th on the grid because of the engine failure in the morning, even more so as the car is looking good," said Button.

"This is a hard circuit to overtake on but I'm going to go out there, enjoy the race and see what we can do."

Raikkonen's last-gasp lap denied Massa his maiden pole position by 0.267secs but the Brazilian still lines up second.

Afterwards Raikkonen refused to let Schumacher's time penalty overshadow his 11th career pole.

But Raikkonen said: "Whatever anyone says, it is still a pole and I think I can have a very good race but you never

know what's going to happen in F1.

"It was tough and I don't think it makes any difference about Michael - if you don't respect the rules that's what happens in racing."

Rubens Barrichello gave Honda hope of a podium return with a late lap to take third, while the other McLaren of Pedro de la Rosa is fourth.

Williams' Mark Webber briefly held second before slipping down the order to fifth on the grid, with Ralf Schumacher's Toyota starting alongside in sixth.

Meanwhile, Jacques Villeneuve's replacement at BMW Sauber - Robert Kubica - out-qualified team-mate Nick Heidfeld on his way to ninth place on the grid.

And Scotsman David Coulthard will have his work cut out if he is to score points from 12th in his Red Bull.

American Scott Speed was forced to drop a place on the grid to 20th after impeding another driver in qualifying.

Race stewards said in a statement that the Toro Rosso driver had been stripped of his three fastest qualifying lap times, allowing Super Aguri's Takuma Sato to move up to 19th.

Source: bbc.com

Chelsea suffer Cole injury scare

Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole could miss the start of the Premiership season after suffering a knee injury during the 1-0 defeat.

Cole had been on the pitch in Chicago for just five minutes before leaving the action clutching his right knee.

"Everybody is worried because I think it's something to do with his knee ligaments," said boss Jose Mourinho.

"We will have to wait until we go

back to London to see the specialist but he looks really injured."

Dwayne De Rosario scored the winner for the Major League Soccer side in the 70th minute but Mourinho was more concerned by Cole's injury.

"That's a real problem," he said. "If

you tell me there is no problem with Joe Cole and we lose 10-0 then that is better.

"The problem today is that we don't want injuries, especially in pre-season."

Mourinho added: "It's a problem because he is a big player for us. He was only on for five minutes but he gave a lot to the game during that time."

"You could see his quality as a player. He is a player that I need but don't have."

Source: bbc.com

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Birds in Yemen

Yemen is one of the richest countries in the Middle East as to birds. Across its lands are more than 370 different types of birds confined to the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen and other countries near it. In Socotra alone are 13 species of settling birds unmatched anywhere in the world.

Several birds unknown in the Arab and Islamic world come here in certain seasons to breed. Among them are African birds that come during Yemen's spring rainy season to build their nests and raise their babies.

In winter, different types of birds come from the north, particularly Europe and Russia, to escape cold weather there. These birds spend the winter in Yemen's mountains and coasts, where it's easy to catch food and then return to their original locales to

breed in spring.

Located in the southern Arabian Peninsula, Yemen has become a station through which thousands, and perhaps millions, of birds pass twice a year on their long journey between South Africa and Europe and Asia.

Though Yemen is filled with different types of settling birds, it also hosts migrating birds from various areas across the world in certain seasons.

Bird locations

Mountains

Yemeni highlands contain their own unique birds, some of which can live in deserted and dire places, like the Philby's Rock Partridge. They sometimes move to lowlands with the change of seasons and temperature.

The Tihama Red Sea coastal plain is the original habitat of Al-Habari Al-



Arabi (Arabian Bustard), which has adapted itself to live on Yemeni crops. Further, other bird species live in the Tihama's Al-Sumur Forest.



Sweetwater swamps

These are rare in Yemen and can be traced somewhere near Taiz city and in

some southern valleys. These are good locations to see water birds during winter, particularly the Abu Mingal Al-Asla'a (Baldibis), which is on the verge of extinction.

Coast

In protected gulfs with sand and mud accumulation or in places where valleys meet with the sea and following heavy rains, a considerable number of worms, snails and small lobsters exist, upon which coastal birds can feed. When the tide rises, these birds feed from mud and water pools. The best known among these birds is Zikzak Al-Saratan (Crab Player).

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Sea

Most sea birds depend on the sea filled with fish as a natural environment for food. Numerous birds need quiet islands in order to breed and increase in peace.

Source: High Authority for Environment Protection



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