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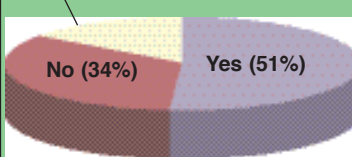
**Nostalgic about the war**

### Readers' Voice

Last edition's question:

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) offices was kicked out of Bahrain. Do you think they are operating with a hidden agenda in Yemen?

I don't know (15%)



This edition's question:

The GPC and opposition parties promised to support female candidates in the local council elections, yet several female candidates withdrew their candidacy complaining of verbal and physical harassment. Do you think Yemen is ready to accept women in prominent positions?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

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# Thousands chant for Bin Shamlan

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori

SANA'A, Aug. 27 — The Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) launched their candidate's electoral platform at Al-Thawra Stadium in Sana'a last Thursday, Aug. 23. Tens of thousands of capital citizens gathered, chanting for Faisal Bin Shamlan as Yemen's next president and a change of leader for a better future.

Addressing the crowd, Bin Shamlan expressed his trust that the JMP can make a change for the better and correct the nation's poor situation.

"Everyone asks what made me return to public life after I willingly left Parliament and the oil ministry. The JMP's project for political reform and righting the country's dire situation, as

well as the increase of beggars on streets and outside mosques and homes made me return to public life because abandoning it will restrict Yemen's present and future," Bin Shamlan explained.

He also questioned the fate of millions of riyals designated for development plans, declaring that they go into corrupt officials' pockets. "We suffer too much from these conditions and our poverty increases despite development plans," he noted.

According to Bin Shamlan, the current regime is accountable for such poor conditions, hinting at employees and state officials suffering under price hikes.

He also referred to Central Organization for Control and Auditing



JMP leaders announce Bin Shamlan as their leader before thousands at Al-Thawra Stadium. YT PHOTO BY GLYN GOFFIN

(COCA) reports documenting state corruption and public fund exploita-

tion, as well as donor countries' resolution to halt their support.

"The only way to correct the situation is to replace the existing system with another, wherein responsibilities are divided among all to build a nation

faithful to its sons and cooperative with its friends," Bin Shamlan insisted.

"The time is right for change in these elections, despite all the hurdles," he concluded.

*Continued on page 2*

## Elections spark violence

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 27 — Security authorities have stated that six individuals have been detained and investigations are ongoing to uncover details of last Thursday's deadly incident in Al-Hazim city, capital of Al-Jawf governorate north-east of Sana'a.

Sources recounted that



Musleh Shereyan

General People's Congress (GPC) candidate Mohammed Ali Al-Dhamen, accompanied by eight militants, went to see Musleh Shereyan, director of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER) supervisory committee, at around 9 p.m. last Thursday at his office in the government complex to request

changing his local council election nomination from the district level of Al-Zahir district to the governorate level.

*Continued on page 2*

## Oil Ministry opens to media

The Minister of Oil and Minerals, Khalid Bahah, says he has taken serious steps to upgrade his ministry's performance and qualify his staff as well as open up to the media.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, Aug. 27 — Not only was he working on a weekend, but this minister had been in his office since 7 a.m. He's Khalid Bahah, Yemeni Minister of Oil and Minerals. Regarding his journey as a minister, he says, "It's been six hard months, but we've achieved a lot and we aspire for much more."

*Continued on page 2*



Bahah (left) talking to Chief Editor.

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## Comedians participate in election battle

SANA'A, Aug. 27 — The well-known comedic actor Adam Saif denied that he is intending to publish a tape of propaganda for the electoral campaign of the candidate President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Saif is famous as his Dhibash personality and he says he is preparing a work tackling a number of social and family issues and woes, but they have nothing to do with the elections.

Meanwhile, the Office of Culture in Taiz carried out a campaign of storming and searching at a number of stereo and recordings shops to prevent

and confiscate the latest work of the popular artist Fahd Al-Qirbi titled "Opponent of the People."

According to some owners of recordings shops in Taiz some people from the Office of Culture entered their shops accompanied by soldiers from security. They searched their shops and warned the owners against selling Al-Qirbi's recordings. The cassette contains ten songs criticizing the present regime highlighting issues of corruption while one of the songs propagates for the Joint Meeting Parties presidential candidate Faisal Bin Shamlan.



The cover of the cassette.

## Games in the schools

SANA'A, Aug. 27 — Teachers are learning how to use games as a teaching tool.

At a three-day workshop at the Resources Center for Early Childhood Development teachers learnt how games will help them in their classrooms. It was part of a project brought together by the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, and the High Council for Motherhood, SOUL NGO and the Japanese Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood.

The workshop further focuses on practical methods and approaches to education through "playing," to be adopted while teaching small children.

The Japanese Higher Council also prepared material for the participating teachers, including illustrations and pictures of games used in classes with students. Their main interest lies in developing the areas of girls education, basic education, extending rural water



Teachers learning the virtues of fun and games for their classrooms.

PHOTO BY YASSER AL-MAYASI

supply, and improving health services.

The involvement of the Japanese Higher Council in Yemen started in 1991, when the first batch of volunteers came to Yemen. Due to security concerns they left Yemen in 1994, but returned in 2002 after they had been

assured that Yemen is secure.

The Japanese Higher Council office was officially reopened in March 2005 and the office is run by the office in Cairo, Egypt and the Japanese Embassy in Yemen is in charge of projects implementation.

## Price increase and 350 merchants prosecuted

SANA'A, Aug. 26 — Over the last 20 days, 350 merchants were referred to the General Prosecution after being caught red-handed.

The merchants were committing price infringements, failing to measure the right weight, selling expired commodities or commodities incompatible with standards.

The merchants included bakers who failed to commit to the fixed weight of bread loaf, according to Salim Al-Mamari, the general manager of internal trade in the Ministry of Industry.

"The ministry along with its offices in the governorates is imposing a tight

control and observance over all local markets and big stores to make sure that prices of food is stable, particularly before the onset of Ramadan," added Al-Mamari, stressing the potential of merchants to exploit the month of Ramadan and monopolize food stocks.

Trade Minister, Khalid Sheikh assured earlier that his ministry will not allow any manipulation of food prices, particularly during electoral campaigns, affirming that legal procedures will be taken against the violators. He further indicated that his ministry, in collaboration with commerce chambers in the governorates formed committees to

observe the markets across the republic. The Yemeni market witnessed a big increase in all governorates, involving primary foods including rice, flour, wheat, sugar, chicken, children's milk, and Yemeni national commodities were no exception.

"We were surprised at the sudden increase, and distributors were offering their commodities for higher prices than usual," said Ahmed Al-Kudimi. "An egg bought for YR15, and it's now YR 20, chicken rose from YR 290 to YR 350 as well as ghee, milk and juice which increased at 15 percent," added Al-Kudimi.

## News in brief

**Abyan:**  
**Two dead and three injured in land dispute**

Aug. 27 — A gun fire exchange left two men dead and three injured in Lodar district in Abyan last Saturday. The struggle was between family members over property. The three injured people were a father and his son, and another young man whose father was shot dead in the same dispute. The security forces rushed to the scene to investigate the dispute and the injured were transferred to Al-Razi Hospital in Abyan.

**Sana'a:**  
**300 random constructions removed**

Aug. 26 — The General Works Authority at the capital secretariat is currently performing a large campaign to identify and remove chaotic construction projects. The campaign began at the started of this year and so far 300 projects have been removed, explained director Ismaeal Al-Maqaleh. These constructions include single room premises, shacks and fences.

**Human Rights Course**

Aug. 24 — Yemeni Youth Development Center started the first youth regional course on human rights. The course is organized in cooperation with Bahrain Youth Society for Human

Rights and it intends to develop the concepts and skills of human rights among youth organizations and to teach them the nature of their work over one week. The long-term goal is to create a youth network among the Gulf countries.

**Yemen Unionist Party conference**

Aug. 27 — The Yemen Unionist Assemblage Party announced it will hold its general conference next week. Chairman of the preparatory committee, Abdullah Oubal, said the party demanded to take part in monitoring the upcoming elections, but the SCER only selected the GPC and the JMP.

**Aden:**

**300 decoration samplings planted**

Aug. 27 — The famous tourist attraction "Saharej Aden" Aden water reservoir's authority are making the monument look prettier. The authority is currently planting 300 flowers. The plants include French roses, decoration flowers and some rare flowers planted for the first time in Yemen.

**Dhamar:**

**Local youth assembly**

Aug. 26 — The Yemeni Youth Union in Dhamar is organising its annual assembly this week. More than 500 young boys and girls from around the

governorates will be camping in Ministry of Youth and Sports premises for the period for the last five days of August. The assembly will include various activities such as debates, sports and cultural activities as well as visits to historical places in the governorate.

**Taiz:**  
**High marriage rates in Taiz and high divorce in Aden**

Aug. 25 — A recent social report issued by the General Documentation Authority at the Ministry of Justice showed that Taiz has the highest number of registered marriages through this year with 10,657 weddings, while Sa'ada came last with 350. Similarly, the same report showed that Aden had the highest number of registered divorces with 737 and Marib came last with just 13 divorces.

**Al-Hudaidah:**

**Five thousand tons of corn rejected**

Aug. 27 — The Standards and Quality Authority, Hudaidah branch rejected 5278 tons of yellow corn because it didn't reach quality standards. The same authority has destroyed almost 4000 boxes of orange, which were not suitable for human consumption and is currently withholding 5479 packages of chicken for inspection.

## Japan cancels millions from Yemeni debits

SANA'A, Aug. 27 — The Japanese Government decided to cancel US\$7.8 million of Yemen's debts to Japan for the fiscal year 2006, according to a release by the Japanese Embassy in Yemen.

The move comes in response to a resolution made by the trade development board affiliated with the United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development that urged donor countries to help countries that are facing difficulties

The cancellation documents were signed and exchanged today between the Embassy of Japan and the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The cancellation aims at supporting the efforts of the Yemeni government to achieve

economic development and alleviate poverty.

In order to give evidence to the nature of the mutual relations between Yemen and Japan, Japan adopted a new relief project in Sep 2004. Since the onset of their relief programs Japan has cancelled over US\$25 million from Yemen's debts.

## Local woman candidates

SANA'A, Aug. 26 — The Homeland Alliance organization demanded support for women candidates for local councils elections. The call was addressed to all political forces, legal and developmental civil society organizations, the private sector and voters, asking them to offer support for woman candidates to the local councils.

A statement issued by the organization's secretariat Friday appealed for all those organizations to stand behind the 186 female candidates. The number of women to come forward for membership of the nationwide governorates and districts of Yemen is most recorded in history.

The organization stressed the commit-

ment by the president who issued a directive for the withdrawal of party-member candidates from election stations and constituencies where women are nominated. The move will provide an opportunity for women by stopping the practice of pressure and all sorts of social and institutional violence against women to force them withdraw through means of aggression and terrorization.

Homeland Alliance has asked all people concerned with the electoral process to work for documenting violations committed against female candidates and report them to legal organizations and to disclose them in the media. It also asked the political parties to provide their female candidates with all means of

material and moral support to ensure their success and victory in the local councils in parallel to the support offered to their male candidates. The organization asked the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum to provide moral support for independent candidates.

The organization concluded its statement by calling on all voters to grant women their confidence and to vote for them. Women are also confident that the religious establishment will offer them ample support, particularly by religious scholars, mosque preachers and religious candidates. The goal is their effective participation in the advancement of Yemen and the realization of their dignity along with their men brethren.

Continued from page 1

### Thousands chant for Bin Shamlan

In the name of the JMP, Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) First Secretary, Abdulaziz Al-Zarikah, delivered a speech expressing his confidence that Bin Shamlan is competent to lead Yemen to safe harbor and create a home for all. "We trust you are able to carry the deposit and rid our country of corruption, particularly via your honesty," Al-Zarikah remarked.

Dr. Amatasalam Raja'a, head of Islah party's women's bloc, gave another speech declaring Bin Shamlan as the fittest person to lead Yemen now. "We believe we selected the right person to lead the country's ship at this particular time, as millions of citizens suffer poverty, illiteracy and disease," Raja'a explained.

"We urgently need to formulate

desired change via a comprehensive national program to upgrade women's status, setting priorities assuring them rights in education, health and security," she stressed.

Raja'a also mentioned the JMP's attitude toward women, which adopts an equality principle in address and responsibility. She accused official systems of imposing pressure upon women in public jobs and education, thus leading to more problems and threatening women's development.

She also called upon women from all parties to meet and discuss issues affecting women, hoping the necessary political and legal conditions for women's involvement in political life will exist.

Several attendees expressed their hope that Bin Shamlan will reach power

because he's patriotic and has a clean record. "It's good that all of these citizens congregated here and I'm one of them who's hoping change will lift the country out of this nightmare. I think Bin Shamlan is competent enough," Abdullah Saif commented.

"The JMP is taking correct steps and the best evidence of this is their selection of men who are fair," Sheikh Jeibel Tuaiman added.

Crowds weren't confined to raising banners, but also chanted numerous slogans like: "From Socotra to Maran — no president but Bin Shamlan!" "Oh corruption, you will not remain for long — Bin Shamlan is coming!" "Oh broken projects, we're fed up with foundation stones!" and "Move our JMP — we're with you!"

### Election violence in Al-Jawf

The dispute followed another between the two men wherein Shereyan refused to hang President Saleh's picture on the SCER office wall.

Because the deadline for accepting nominations was past, Shereyan denied Al-Dhamen's change request, resulting in a verbal dispute followed by Al-Dhamen firing a gunshot, which killed Shereyan.

The murder was followed by Al-Jawf's SCER financial manager shooting back and killing Al-Dhamen, after which a heavy exchange of fire between Al-Dhamen's militant guards and SCER personnel and security injured six personnel, including two directors of the original committees of two Al-Jawf districts who were in the SCER office at the

time of the shooting.

More than 200 armed Shereyan tribesmen surrounded the government complex, requesting Shereyan's murderers be handed over. However, tribal sources claim security interference allowed the murderers to escape and hide under protection of the governor and the chief of police, who are affiliated with the GPC.

A Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) statement alleged that there was a conspiracy against their member Shereyan by facilitating the entry of armed militants into the government complex with the intention of killing Shereyan.

The JMP also demanded information about the police investigation; however, they haven't received any response from the government except for SCER regret

at Shereyan's murder.

Shereyan's tribe has objected to the investigation because it's headed by the governor and the chief of police, whom they accuse of being part of the conspiracy against Shereyan, especially as three of the six detained are Shereyan's personal guards. They demanded forming a neutral and independent investigation committee in order to accept the investigation results and, in turn, withdraw their armed tribesmen from Al-Hazim city.

The European Union Election Observation Mission (EUEOM) also condemned the violence in Al-Jawf and urged all parties to allow the SCER and its affiliate branches to fulfill their duties without fear, intimidation or violence from any official, party or candidate.

### Oil Ministry opens to media

With so much baggage in such an important ministry, in extraordinary time, Bahah has brought in new blood, restructured the organization, rearranged priorities, encouraged a new organizational culture and gotten an edge over the private sector — or so he claims.

However, the best part is that he's left it to the media to confirm. "Don't take it from me," he said, "Come and see for yourselves. You'll find we have nothing to hide."

Bahah is on a mission, saying he wants to remove the imaginary barriers between the ministry and the press. "Just six months ago, I was on the other side. I was one of you and I had my questions. Now that I'm in government, I'm adamant to provide answers and make things work right."

This was why he visited the Yemen Times last Thursday and why he opened the ministry's gates to the media. Abdul Kawai Al-Odaini, the ministry's information general manager, said, "We have everything documented and we've held three press conferences so far in which we invited all media, including those who are always skeptical about us."

Many media reports have doubted the actual amount of oil production. Last week, Al-Nas newspaper published a detailed review of official media reports about oil. The newspaper concluded that

there's conflicting information and it seems a mystery whether oil production is increasing or decreasing.

Al-Odaini explained that current oil production is 380,000 barrels per day (bpd). Although that's a decline from 2004's announced figure of 400,000, he said there's hope to regain some of the exhausted fields soon. "Sector 4's production in Shabwa has declined from more than 2,000 bpd to less than 400 bpd, but we just licensed a Korean company to re-explore in that sector and initial indicators are promising," he noted.

Whether oil production will increase or not remains to be seen; however, questions about where oil revenues actually go and how they're used remain.

"I made it a point to connect especially with opposition media and those who assume the government is wrong by default," Bahah commented, and he's focusing on English-speaking media because he believes it will help promote the oil sector among the international community.

According to the ministry, 27 explorative or producing companies currently are in Yemen. In two weeks, the ministry will sign the first contract on ministerial extraction with a British company to extract copper and silver in the area of Nahm.

Regarding his ambitions for the min-

istry, Bahah said he hopes to have 'Yemenized' the oil and mineral sector workforce by 90 percent by the end of 2007. "I know this is a difficult aim, but we know Yemeni men and women have the potential — it's just that we need to empower and train them. Currently, 16 students are studying abroad on government scholarships," he added.

Bahah also plans to automate the ministry and already has taken the first step in this project. In the area of human resources, the ministry is working on rapid development by imposing new standards for its staff. "We established a center to train our staff, stressing English and computer literacy. We even linked promotion with these two qualifications and you wouldn't believe the response we got. We're overwhelmed," he noted.

With a total workforce of 14,000 male and female employees, the ministry also has a department for women in order to work on mainstreaming gender issues in budgeting and ministry plans.

When asked about environmental hazards some oil companies have caused, which the Yemen Times currently is investigating, Bahah admitted that there were mistakes. "I'm not going to lie to you and say everything is OK. No, there were mistakes, but we're working on them and we'll be happy to provide answers to anyone who asks."

# Factors affecting Yemeni street children

By: Anwar Murgham

**A**ged between 6 and 18, Street children can be categorized according to their type of work, the time of day they work and their living situation.

Most children working or begging part of the day or night are enrolled in school. They study in the morning and work or beg at night, returning home to spend the night with their family.

Children who work during the day usually are school dropouts or those who didn't attend school at all. Most are from rural areas and live away from their family. They either come to cities with relatives or alone and spend the night in inns or living in groups in apartments.

Yemeni street children work in the following professions:

- Street vendors selling clothes, home appliances and other commodities on streets and at traffic lights/intersections.
- Car washers in street intersections and car parks.
- Porters carrying commodities on their shoulders or on carts working in general open markets and fruit and vegetable markets.
- Workers in restaurants and cafés.



Children who work during the day usually are school dropouts or those who didn't attend school at all. YT PHOTO



• Fare collectors on buses.

All of the aforementioned jobs are done by male street children, while female children work selling various types of bread (maloug, kudam and lahough) beside small specialized restaurants and markets and selling foodstuffs like eggs and potatoes. However, females represent only a small percentage of street children.

Whether male or female, Yemeni street children beg on streets, at intersections, bus stops, in front of mosques and other public places.

Numerous factors have led to the street children phenomenon's increase in Yemen, including social factors related to family circumstances and educational and cultural backgrounds.

#### Family circumstances

These include family differences regarding divorce, desertion, etc., unemployment of a family supporter or death of a family supporter, with the remaining

family members' inability to meet life demands, thus causing them to push children into the labor market to help meet their needs.

#### Educational factors

Among these are lack of clear philosophy for a developed education, lack of developed curricula and the fact that primary education doesn't qualify children for the labor market, as well as vocational education's inefficiency and its inability to handle more students desiring to join such institutions.

According to August 2005's Education Pointers in Yemen issued by the Supreme Council for Education Planning (SCEP), the number of Yemeni students enrolled in vocational education represented 1.6 percent of total students enrolled in secondary education and 1.7 percent were enrolled in technical education among those students enrolled in universities.

The spread of unemployment among university graduates and dire situations

employees experience is leading students to abandon education and tend toward the open market.

#### Dominant customs and cultural factors

Yemen is a traditional society with a high illiteracy rate of approximately 55.7 percent, particularly among women. According to the SCEP, the figure is even higher, at 74.1 percent. Further, numerous inherited customs pay no attention to children's mental and physical abilities.

Additionally, there's a dominant culture in Yemen regarding making children work at a young age so they'll become accustomed to it, with some families considering children working as early manhood. There's also a complete absence of media, which should spread awareness of children's rights and the risks involved in children working.

#### Effects of the street children phenomenon

**1. Educational effects**  
Children's educational levels are affected because they find no time to study, which may cause them to fail and subsequently, drop out.

A new study conducted by UNICEF and the Arab League addressing children's situations in the Arab world indicates that approximately 7.5 million Arab children have no education. According to the SCEP, approximately 1 million Yemeni children aren't in school, most of them female.

#### 2. Economic effects

What children receive from their work is too little when compared to the effort they exert, let alone the lack of training and qualification enabling them to be in the labor market. Therefore, they can't secure their future demands nor improve

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their living standard.

Increasing numbers of illiterate and unqualified children multiplies the state's duties toward them and further deprives the nation of their role in achieving sustainable development.

#### 3. Psychological and social problems

Street children acquire what's called street culture, including a lot of bad and immoral language and bad habits like chewing qat, smoking and addictions.

They also experience absence of care and protection needed at this early age, thus affecting them psychologically.

#### Violence against street children

Children working on streets are subjected to verbal abuse, violation and harassment, which hurts their feelings and demeans their humanity. They mostly experience such violence from their friends or adults, but sometimes from customers and even government officials.

# Internet suicide

**A**n Internet suicide is a suicide pact made between individuals who meet on the Internet. The majority of such Internet-related suicide pacts have occurred in Japan, which has one of the highest overall suicide rates in the world, but similar incidents are also being reported in Hong Kong, South Korea, Germany, Australia, Norway, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, and Sweden. Though the first known Internet-related suicide pact occurred in Japan in October 2000, it was a later February 2003 incident, involving a young man and two young women, that "became a landmark incident of Internet suicide pacts in Japan due to heavy media coverage"

Despite the alarmed response of the media, however, Internet-connected suicide pacts are still relatively rare. Even in Japan, where most of such pacts have occurred, they still represent only 2% of all group suicide-pacts, and less than .01% of all suicides combined. However, they do seem to be on the increase in that country: 34 such pacts occurred in 2003; at least 50 are estimated to have occurred in 2004; and 91 occurred in 2005

#### Traditional suicide pacts vs Internet suicide pacts

A recent Internet article published by the Canterbury Suicide Project ("Suicide Pacts", Christchurch School of Medicine, New Zealand, May 2005) makes some notable comparisons between the nature of "traditional" suicide pacts and more recent Internet-related suicide pacts (or, as described in the article, "cyber-based suicide pacts"). It points out that, traditionally, suicide pacts have been extremely rare; usually involve older individuals (50-60 years old) and very few adolescents; and tend to be between individuals with family or marriage-type relationships and differing, but complementary, psychiatric pathologies. On the other hand, the growing number of Internet-related suicide pacts are almost the exact opposite: they involve young people almost exclusively; tend to be between complete strangers or individuals with platonic friendship-type relationships; and the common characteristic between them would seem to be clinical depression.

The article also points out that the

trend of Internet-related suicide pacts is changing the way that mental-health workers need to deal with depressed and/or suicidal youngsters, advising that it is "prudent for clinicians to ask routinely if young people have been accessing Internet sites, obtaining suicide information from such sites, and talking in suicide chat rooms".

#### Internet suicide in television

• An Internet suicide pact was the main focus of an episode of Paranoia Agent. In the episode "Happy Family Planning," an old man, a young man, and a young girl meet to attempt many suicides.

• It is also seen in the Japanese film Suicide Circle.

• "Alt.suicideholiday.net" (2005; D.Verbeek) is a short film (25min) that centers around three internet friends from different parts of the world, who come together on New Year's Day to commit suicide. It was directed by David Verbeek and written by Rogier de Blok as a graduation project for the Dutch Film and Television Academy and aired by NPS on Dutch Television.

#### Copycat suicide

A copycat suicide is defined as a duplication or copycat of another suicide that the person attempting suicide knows about either from local knowledge or due to accounts or depictions of the original suicide on television and in other media. The well-known suicide serves as a model, in the absence of protective factors, for the next suicide. They occasionally spread through a school system, through a community, or in terms of a celebrity suicide wave, nationally. Examples of celebrities whose suicides have inspired widespread copycat suicides include the American musician Kurt Cobain and the Japanese musician hide. Recent books by Loren Coleman entitled Suicide Clusters (1987) and The Copycat Effect (2004) detail case histories of several centuries of copycat suicides.

To prevent this type of suicide, it is customary in some countries for the media to discourage suicide reports except in special cases.

The nature of copycat suicides suggests that it is a phenomenon that must have been with us since the development of civilization. One of the earliest known associations between the media and suicide arose from

Goethe's novel Die Leiden des jungen Werthers (The Sorrows of Young Werther), published in 1774. In that work the hero shoots himself after an ill-fated love, and shortly after its publication there were many reports of young men using the same method to commit suicide. This resulted in a ban of the book in several places. Hence the term "Werther effect", used in the technical literature to designate copycat suicides.

#### Factors in suicide reporting

Publishing the means of suicides, romanticized and sensationalized reporting, particularly about celebrities, suggestions that there is an epidemic, glorifying the deceased and simplifying the reasons all lead to increases in the suicide rate. Increased rate of suicides has been shown to occur up to ten days after a television report.

Many people interviewed after the suicide of a relative or friend have a tendency to simplify the issues; their grief can lead to them minimizing or ignoring significant factors. Over 90 percent of suicide victims have a significant psychiatric illness at the time of their death with mood disorders and substance abuse being the two most common. These are often undiagnosed or untreated. Treatment of these disorders can result in reductions in the suicide rate. Reports that minimize the impact of psychiatric disorders contribute to copycat suicides whereas reports that mention this factor and provide help-line contact numbers and advice for where sufferers may gain assistance can reduce suicides.

#### Social Proof Model

An alternate model to explain copycat suicide, called "social proof" by Cialdini, goes beyond the theories of glorification and simplification of reasons to look at why copycat suicides are so similar, demographically and in actual methods, to the original publicized suicide. In the social proof model, people imitate those who seem similar, despite or even because of societal disapproval. This model is important because it has nearly opposite ramifications for what the media ought to do about the copycat suicide effect than the standard model does.

Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

## Three Expression of Interests Basic Education Development Project Credit No. 3988-YEM and Grant No. TF-053721

These requests for expression of interest follow the General Procurement Notice for this project that appeared in Development Business and Dg Market dated Feb.2, 2005.

The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and Multi-Donors Trust Fund towards the cost of Basic Education Development Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit & grants to payments under the contracts for the below-listed consulting services.

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible consulting firms and an individual consultant, as stated below, to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc.).

### 1. Technical Assistance for Operationalizing Whole School Development, MOE

The objective of this technical assistance is to improve access to quality basic education by getting planning and resources allocated to school level. Through this TA the MOE seeks to develop a system to steer, support, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate school level planning and financing, and provide fund to make this process effective and make gain from resulting school plus.

### 2. Technical Assistance for Design and Development Education Management Information System (EMIS), MOE

The MOE has decided to design and develop a unified new EMIS to meet the information needs for planning, monitoring, evaluation, and policy development of the education sector at the Central level and local levels.

The objective of this technical assistance is to develop a blueprint of a unified EMIS system, to improve and streamline the existing databases, to identify new data demands for the education sector, to develop a set of core education indicators, to develop integrated and user-friendly EMIS software application, to make the EMIS a decentralized system, to ensure the EMIS data covers all levels of education, and to build capacity for the EMIS units at all administrative levels.

### 3. Technical Assistance to Support the Quality Task Force in Proposing a Workable System for the Teacher Deployment, MOE (Individual Consultant)

The purpose of this Technical Assistant is to build on local knowledge in order to broaden the ideas of the team, and to help development appropriate operational approaches and mechanism in a collaborative, participatory manner. The proposed expert would work in two stages. The first stage is to help the team in analyzing, prioritizing and suggesting the mechanisms to solve the problems identified by the team. The second stage will be devoted to implement process and specific services delivery issues.

The selection of the consultants will be in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004" Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat.-Wed. From 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by September 16, 2006.

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Basic Education Development Project  
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# Yemen Times ELECTIONS Update

Providing regular indepth analysis, reporting and coverage of the Yemeni elections.

## The Yemeni Parliamentary Elections: A critical analysis

This article examines the political, legal, and socio-economic framework of previous parliamentary elections. Among the real problems that threaten the Parliament are poverty and mismanagement of resources. The state becomes the main source of wealth and power; therefore, competition for authority has to be zero-sum, decreasing the possibility of resolving political disputes through systematic institutional processes. By the same token, culture is one of the main factors that have affected the Parliament through affecting party systems and electoral behaviour.

By: Ahmed Abdelkareem Saif

### Political Sphere

The short span since the establishment of the Yemeni Parliament in 1990 does not permit extensive institutionalisation and consolidation; nonetheless, Yemen has had three consecutive parliamentary elections in 1993, 1997 and 2003. During the respective elected councils the Parliament has functioned in an unstable political environment. Political life has been characterised by a struggle for power, swinging from co-operation to a large-scale war. Depending on the level of tension between different parties, power distribution, and the impact on the Parliament, Yemeni parliament swings from semi efficient and relatively autonomous to an ineffective.

During the first parliament that followed the unification in 1990 the balance of power between rivals provided the Parliament with reasonable room to manoeuvre, and the two ruling parties the General Peoples' Congress (GPC) and the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) tried to reach a compromise over many issues. In the process, they delegated considerable authority to the Parliament and 58.4 per cent of the MPs believe that it had high autonomy and 20.8 per cent say it had reasonable degree of autonomy. The Parliament, therefore, emerged as a powerful institution to the extent that it was prepared to withdraw confidence from the government in 1991 for raising diesel prices, whereupon the government retreated.

The elections of 27 April 1993 changed the power-sharing formula between the GPC and the YSP. Consequently, the YSP fell back to the third position, behind the GPC and its ally the Islah party, in the number of occupied seats in the Parliament. To maintain the united Yemen framework, the three parties agreed to form a coalition government. Because of the military power the YSP had, it was given more ministerial and administrative posts than was the Islah, the second party.

Nevertheless, the YSP was dissatisfied by the election results and became more vulnerable. Given these results and assassination attempts against its activists, the YSP assumed this was the beginning of a process to abandon it by gradually stripping it of power. The YSP therefore advocated constitutional reforms and new perception for state building as a strategy to bring its rivals down to its level.

A deep conflict emerged which, because of the gap between differing perceptions of the course of future development for Yemen and the declining balance of power between the ruling parties, resulted in the failure to create a joint platform for co-operation. The YSP's only solid support for its position was its control over the army in the south. As time went by, a bitter struggle erupted for governmental, economic, and military power.

This rivalry had its impact on the Parliament. Although the Parliament was more representative than the previous one, it appeared less powerful (48.3 per cent of the MPs believe that it had high autonomy and 40.3 per cent report it had reasonable degree of autonomy), having been affected by the disputing parties who were controlling state administration. The Parliament failed to resolve the political disputes and the war seemed inevitable, which eventually broke out on 5 May 1994. By 7 July 1994 the GPC and its allies had swept through the south and destroyed the military and security capabilities of the YSP.

As the situation deteriorated, the Parliament found itself crippled by the lack of power. However, it is worth noting that the Parliament remained the only functioning unitary institution (including the YSP MPs) during the civil war at a time when all other state institutions had splintered between the two parties. The Parliament lost its relative autonomy during and shortly after the war. Most YSP MPs continued their duties, but they were subjected to a state of fear and lost their organisational coherence. They dealt with different issues individually and incongruently. The GPC and the Islah parties found it easy, therefore, to pass their desired constitutional amendments. On 28 September 1994, the Parliament approved these amendments (1994 Constitution). On 1 October 1994, according to the amendments, the Parliament abolished the Presidential Council in favour of a one-man presidency and Ali Abdullah Salih was re-elected by the MPs as the president of the republic for a five-year term.

After fending off the YSP threat, both the GPC and the Islah started rethinking the formula of power distribution. They approached each other cautiously. Overtly, they claimed to be close allies, but in reality they were competing to build up their power. Fortunately, this allowed the Parliament to resume some of its power.

Another phase started with the 1997 parliamentary election, which resulted in a sweeping victory for the GPC. Despite the majority Parliament, it showed some degree of autonomy stemming from decreasing the threat imposed on the GPC, the fluid nature of the GPC organisation, lack of internal discipline, and the feeling of the MPs that they owed nothing to their party to be in the Parliament. Among the MPs, 47 per cent believe that the Parliament has low autonomy, while only 22.8 per cent believe it has reasonable degree of autonomy. This led the Parliament to generate unpredicted decisions as long as the core interests of the ruling establishment remain untouched.

The current phase has started with the latest parliamentary elections on 27th of April 2003, which again resulted in landslide victory for the GPC 241 seats of the 301 seats and Islah came in the second with 41 seats and YSP with 7 seat and independents and other small parties (Ba'ath and Nasserite) divided the remaining seats.

### Electoral and Party Systems

#### Electoral System

General Election Law No. 27/1996 has adopted the first-past-the-post (FPP) system with single-member constituencies. All election affairs are organised technically by the Supreme Election Committee (SEC), a body charged with the task of preparing for and conducting all elections. This system formula states that the candidate who obtains the most votes wins and all votes for the other candidates are effectively wasted. The 1993, 1997 and 2003 parliamentary elections showed that the FPP system favours the largest parties.

Supporters of this electoral system contend it suits Yemen's circumstances. With the high rate of illiteracy, voters can recognise and choose their candidates on a personal basis. This also provides transparent, easy, and straightforward elections. Moreover, this gives room for independents to be represented in the Parliament. Findings suggest that 69.8 per cent of the MPs support the existing electoral system, which brought them in.

Party	Parliamentary Elections 1993		Parliamentary Elections 1997		Parliamentary Elections 2003	
	Seats	%	Seats	%	Seats	%
GPC	173	40.9	187	62.1	241	80
IND	47	15.6	56	18.6	8	2.7
YSP	56	18.7	B	B	7	2.3
Islah	63	20.9	54	17.6	11	3.6
ANB	7	2.3	0	0	-	-
ASH	NH	NH	2	0.7	2	0.7
Haqq	2	0.7	0	0	-	-
CN	1	0.33	0	0	-	-
DN	1	0.33	0	0	-	-
PUNO	1	0.33	3	1	2	0.7
Total	301	100	301	100	301	100

**Parliamentary Seats by Party: Most of the newly created parties had to start from scratch and appeal to a floating electorate, resulting in marginalisation of the small parties.**

Opponents contend that such a system in a traditional society like Yemen's would increase the importance of kinship preferences, which would deepen the sub-national identity at the expense of party electoral programmes. This downgrading the level of Parliament's professionalism. This system also disfavors small parties, depriving them of representation in Parliament. Opponents instead call for proportional representation (PR), claiming that it minimises personal and financial influences, allows political parties to form coalitions, gives priority to programmes, and enables parties to choose the most qualified, not the most socially influential, candidates.

With regard to representation, however, the existing FPP system shows shortcomings. For example, in the 1997 election, at the constituency level, 116 MPs won with less than half (some as few as 23 per cent) of all votes in their constituencies. At the national level in 2003 elections when adding up all the constituencies' results to get an overall state of the Parliament, all MPs got 55 per cent of all votes cast and 33.5 per cent of all registered eligible voters. The FPP system produces a majority government. In the three elections held in Yemen small parties won 12, 5 and 4 seats in the 1993, 1997 and 2003 elections, respectively. However, in a nascent democracy such as Yemen's, this system probably provides a stable majoritarian government that allows for a certain co-operation between the Parliament and the government. In the short run this is possibly desirable to allow democratic institutions to consolidate and institutionalise further.

#### Party System

After the unification in 1990 Yemen had over forty political parties, later decreasing to fifteen in order to meet the requirements of Law No. 66/1991 governing organisation and political parties. Among the fifteen parties, nine pre-date the existence of the Parliament.

The prominent feature is the fluid state of most of these parties. The parties are weakened by the traditional context, fragmented social structure, paternalism, and personification of politics that affects parties' organisation and cohesion. In the historical evolution of the parties, severe repression pushed them underground, which has also contributed to weakening inter-party democracy and to the absence of a rational mechanism for decision-making.

Yet most large parties in Yemen did not originate in legislative bodies. They had their roots in local organisations or in the nationalist movement. So these parties, mainly the GPC and the YSP, emerged as single dominant ones benefiting from their links with the founding of the state. Thus, they have retained a known electorate cemented by using state patronage to reinforce their strength. During the interim period (1990-93) both the GPC and the YSP used their control of the state to reward their supporters with jobs and money. After the 1994 war, the GPC continued benefiting from this advantage.

Historical evidence shows a negative relationship between democratic consolidation and electoral volatility. In West European elections between 1885 and 1985 average volatility was 8.6 per cent. The lower it is, the more likely that the electoral arena is well established. The

high volatility of the Yemeni party system demonstrates a fractionalised party system. The volatility value increased slightly under the effect of the YSP's boycotting the 1997 election; nonetheless it remains high as shown in 2003.

With regard to party organisation, this explains the relationship between the parliamentary party and the party organisation. So far, only eight parties have been represented in the last two parliaments. Five parties are leftist (the three Nasserite parties, the Ba'ath, and the YSP), two are Islamist (al-Haqq and the Islah), and from the right is the GPC. Apart from the three biggest parties (GPC, YSP, and Islah), other parties have been, in all, represented by only seventeen MPs in the last two Parliaments. The MPs of the small parties are very disciplined and show strong commitment to their parties' policies. Their small number means that their parties and the media put extra pressure on them to be genuine representatives for their parties. Thus, those MPs' behaviour does not reflect systematically the organisation of their parties.

On the other hand, the three big parties show different trends. The MPs representing these parties viewed intra-party discipline as follows: 53 per cent of the GPC call for much higher levels of discipline; 56 per cent of the YSP call for much less; and 60 per cent of the Islah express their satisfaction with the present level of discipline. In all parties, the majority of MPs said there are no sanctions available to their parties against them in case of deviation from party policy, and at most they receive blame.

#### Parliamentary Campaigns and Elections

The Supreme Election Committee (SEC) decided on the exact boundaries of constituencies, based on the population census estimate of December 1992, which puts the population at 14'256'724. Considering administrative and tribal borders, the SEC came up with 301 constituencies, each to accommodate an average of 47,365 inhabitants, allowing for a variation of plus or minus 5 per cent. To ease polling, geographic proximity, population density, and availability of centrally located public buildings are again taken into consideration to choose election centres. Finally 2017 election centres were identified for all 301 constituencies.

The SEC organised this task through 4052 committees distributed throughout the country, and these rosters are to be updated every two years. The elections had been handled under supervision of the SEC by 7262 (in 1993), 13'850 (in 1997) and 25'528 (in 2003) field polling committees. The statistics from the voting rosters in show that of those who are eligible to vote has increased from only 43 to 70 per cent. Nonetheless, within the 18 governorates the percentage varied from 30 per cent in al-Mahrah to 60 per cent in Aden. There was also extreme refrainment among women; who also show variation: in some conservative provinces, such as al-Jawf, as few as 1 per cent while in more progressive urban areas like Aden the figure was 41 per cent. High rates of illiteracy, the culture, religion, the new practices of democracy in Yemen, and people's distrust of the regime's democratic orientation all diminished the registered numbers.

Election	Partisans	Independents	Total	Male	Female
1993	1'025	1'915	2'970	2'929	11
1997	643	1'399	2'042	2'019	23
2003	1'072	461	1'536	1'520	16

#### Candidates for Parliament.

The Opposition parties had been complaining that there were serious problems in the voter registration process, which disadvantaged localities with strong support for the opposition. Issues raised included allegations of using multiple registrations; registration of underage persons; and moving military forces in order to register them in certain constituencies to shift election results. These allegations were repeated over the three elections as well as in the presidential election in 1999.

The high number of independent candidates reflects the fragmentation of the political party system. Local notables usually were unrivalled and some of them enlisted in order to negotiate a rewarding withdrawal.

The big parties also contributed to this, hoping the distribution of votes among independents would benefit their candidates, who were supported by activists and enjoyed abundant financial support. The GPC looked for persons well-rooted in their communities, with party affiliation taking second place. Therefore, tribal leaders, big merchants, and high officials represented its main candidates. The YSP counted mainly on its disciplined cadre regardless of their origins. Tribal notables in the rural areas and Islamic activists in the cities represented the candidates of the Islah. Al-Haqq and the League of the Sons of Yemen were both represented by the Saayid and prestigious families. The nationalist parties were represented mainly by professionals and activists, though in some cases nominated social notables.

The party system and electoral struggle hardly helped the candidates representing new modernising trends or marginalised segments in Yemeni society. This entails under-representation of workers, peasants, and the more humble strata of the society. Representation of these groups decreased in the 1997 election due to the YSP boycott and in the 2003 election due to the massive hegemony the GPC has. The notables prevailed: great tribal figures, big entrepreneurs, new aristocracy in the south, Islamic activists, and clerics and professionals strongly linked to the ruling GPC. With only two women elected in each of the first two Parliaments and only one in the current (2003) Parliament, the three Parliaments reflect the political and social powers, but not the composition of the society.

Most of the parties drew up programmes and presented them on radio and TV. Recent research on party election manifestos offers a good means of gauging the general tendency of party programmes and to whom parties appeal. The method followed in these studies counts the percentage of sentences a party devotes to each category in its manifesto. This provides a measure of party emphasis on the issue domain represented by that category. This method is designed to measure change in issue content over time across parties and nations. With only three parliamentary elections in Yemen, this method cannot give reliable result. There will have to be several consecutive elections before it is possible to measure change over time. To overcome this obstacle, adding to manifestos the party Charters and political parlance would help bring into focus the general tendencies and changes since 1990.

#### Election Participation and Voting Behaviour

Several factors contribute to the degree of election participation. According to Michael Rush, electoral turnout varies according to education, occupation, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, residence, and the surrounding environment. There are two categories to look at. The first is the numbers of actual votes cast in relation to numbers of those who are eligible to vote

see. The participation goes down to 36.14 per cent, 40.5 per cent and 53 per cent for the 1993, 1997 and 2003 parliamentary elections respectively. Level of education, conservative religious and traditional habits, new democratic procedures, and absenteeism outside the country contribute to this. The other category is the actual votes cast in relation to those who have registered on the electoral rosters see. The participation here was a relatively high 84 per cent in 1993 and 61 per cent in 1997 and 74 in 2003.

The interesting observation is that participation in rural areas, in particular for men, was higher than in urban areas. In the 1993 election the average turnout in the countryside reached 88 per cent, against 81 per cent in the cities. In the 1997 election it was 64 per cent in the countryside and 58 per cent in the cities. In Yemen's traditional society this shows a strong sense of identity amongst the people in rural areas, stronger than amongst their counterparts in urban areas. The rurals usually resist any change that may strike and threaten their identity and existing social arrangements.

Electoral behaviour in Yemen is anchored in the social structure. Unlike the well-established democracies, which have seen the decline of electoral cleavage on politics and the rise of issue voting. It seems that demographic identity predominated in the 1993 election. The distribution of seats was in accordance with the pre-unification geographical division. The GPC won 117 seats in the north and only 3 seats in the south. The YSP won 41 seats in the south and only 15 seats in the north, and the Islah won 62 seats, all in the north. Structural (demographic) cleavage, however, was not purely the electoral preference, as the 1993 election is widely believed to have been distorted by two factors. The first is that both the GPC and the YSP had used mobile military camps to alter the results in some constituencies. The second factor is that there were several indications of a possible agreement between the two parties to direct the election to what they saw as a stable division of power.

In the 1997 election the structural (demographic) cleavage decreased to its minimal level and normative (value) cleavage predominated. The defeat of the YSP in the war deflected electoral preferences. A relaxation in the power struggle after the war allowed the electorate to re-arrange their preferences according to values, traditions, and patrimonial relationships. The Islah party, which did not win a single seat in the south in 1993, won 14 seats in 1997 in the south and 39 in the north. By contrast, in 1997 the GPC won 160 seats in the north and 27 in the south. Value reference evokes group solidarity and thus it is more effective in Yemen to sustain party loyalty than organisational loyalty. This explains why the greatest support for Islah came from rural-tribal areas and the urban-based Islamist faction made only a minor contribution to its performance. Therefore, it can be said tentatively that the high level of electoral volatility and the weak embodiment of political parties in the system go together with a relatively strong correlation between values and party choice in Yemen.

Finally, it is important to note that the dominant parties control the elections in Yemen: in 1993 by both the YSP and the GPC, and in 1997 by the GPC and to some degree the Islah. Domination means a semi-competitive election in which the ruling party uses all advantages including state resources to influence electoral behaviour.

Ahmed Abdelkareem Saif is an Assistant Professor of Politics at AUS and Research Fellow at IAIS, University of Exeter.



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- Experience:** Three-to-five years of progressively responsible professional experience in program management, media relations, post graduate research and analysis, or governmental relations is required.
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\* NOTE: ALL ORDINARILY RESIDENT APPLICANTS MUST BE RESIDING IN COUNTRY AND HAVE THE REQUIRED WORK AND RESIDENCY PERMITS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CONSIDERATION.



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## General Tender Announcement Number (7) Year 2006

For The Second Time

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation re-announces tender for the second time for the following:

- Supply, supervising installation, testing, hand-over and guarantee of two FM broadcasting equipment 5 kilo watts along with antenna systems and connection equipments for Marib and Ibb governorates.

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US 200\$ an additional 100\$ is charged for optional postal delivery.

#### General conditions:

- 1- Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2006
- 3- Valid commercial registration card for 2006
- 4- Valid Insurance card for 2006
- 5- Valid Alms (Zakat) card for 2006
- 6- The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax
- 7- Commitment to the general and special conditions stated in the tender documents

#### Place and date for opening the envelopes:

The envelopes are to be opened at 1:00 PM on Monday 25/9/2006 at the corporation premises.



## General Tender Announcement Number (8) Year 2006

For The Second Time

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation re-announces tender for the second time for the following:

- Supply, supervising installation, testing, hand-over and guarantee of various audio equipments for Sana'a and Aden broadcast stations and local stations in al-Mahara, Haja, Marib and Ibb.

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US 300\$ an additional 100\$ is charged for optional postal delivery.

#### General conditions:

- 1- Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2006
- 3- Valid commercial registration card for 2006
- 4- Valid Insurance card for 2006
- 5- Valid Alms (Zakat) card for 2006
- 6- The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax
- 7- Commitment to the general and special conditions stated in the tender documents

#### Place and date for opening the envelopes:

The envelopes are to be opened at 1:00 PM on Wednesday 27/9/2006 at the corporation premises.

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- International College: In Collaboration with Malaysian Universities Information Technology (MIT) Business Administration (MBA) Graphic Design and Digital Media Interior Architecture
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## The Road to a Better Future



### General Tender Announcement Number (9-a) Year 2006 For The Second Time

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation re-announces tender for the second time for the following:

- Supply, supervising installation, testing, hand-over and guarantee of TV Cameras for the Satellite Channel.

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US 500\$ an additional 100\$ is charged for optional postal delivery.

**General conditions:**

- 1- Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2006
- 3- Valid commercial registration card for 2006
- 4- Valid Insurance card for 2006
- 5- Valid Alms (Zakat) card for 2006
- 6- The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax
- 7- Commitment to the general and special conditions stated in the tender documents

**Place and date for opening the envelopes:**

The envelopes are to be opened at 1:00 PM on Wednesday 27/9/2006 at the corporation premises.



### General Tender Announcement Number (9-b) Year 2006 For The Second Time

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation re-announces tender for the second time for the following:

- Supply, supervising installation, testing, hand-over and guarantee of Montag unites for the Satellite Channel.

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US 400\$ an additional 100\$ is charged for optional postal delivery.

**General conditions:**

- 1- Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2006
- 3- Valid commercial registration card for 2006
- 4- Valid Insurance card for 2006
- 5- Valid Alms (Zakat) card for 2006
- 6- The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax
- 7- Commitment to the general and special conditions stated in the tender documents

**Place and date for opening the envelopes:**

The envelopes are to be opened at 1:00 PM on Saturday 30/9/2006 at the corporation premises.

## Words of Wisdom



The fall-out from technology advances, notably globalization, is clearly ahead of us. We need to grapple with this and the sooner we assess the issues and decide on what we need to do, the better prepared we will be. A main component of globalization is liberalization.

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

OUR  
OPINIONStatement  
of worth

The Yemeni government has taken a brave step when it approved the statement of worth decree. Not only do new sworn government officials have to explain their wealth and that of their relatives, this decree includes existing officials right from the president to all the ministers, governors, local council directors, heads of offices and all the way down the line.

That was the good news. The bad news is that almost no one whether in the government, opposition, or even individual citizens think this decree will ever be implemented. Apparently it is one of the many good ideas which remain only an idea.

Moreover, there are many authorities involved in implementing this decree. There is the general attorney, the judiciary and the legislative system in general, Central Organization for Control & Audit and of course the various ministries. With so many authorities involved and no clear mechanism, the responsibility will likely be passed between them all.

In fact, even the media has a role in this too, but with no available information to start with, we in the media would remain in the dark.

Today, with the election campaigns hogging the headlines in most papers, this significant decree could be lost without a trace. It is very important that this does not happen or else it would be a lost opportunity that could have given the system a giant leap in credibility and given the Yemeni people a reason to trust their governors once again.

Yemenis have become so used to the overnight wealth phenomenon, where an official starts off his career as a simple man, but in less than a year he or she is swimming in wealth. There are many new constructions going on around the cities, villas, and malls. Many expensive cars are on the streets. And the common man cannot but help but wonder where the wealth suddenly comes from - especially with the economic situation of the country deteriorating.

Implementing the statement of worth decree would bring back the trust of the people in the government and would help save the resources of the country and ensure that the Yemeni people's money is spent in the right places.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf  
Editor-in-Chief

## President Bush's self-paralogism

President Bush deludes himself of achieving victory in Afghanistan and of more victory in Iraq, it is no wonder that he considers himself as victorious in Lebanon and the surrogate war that the Zionist entity fought for his administration. Bush's administration has already inflicted many losses in life, money and reputation on the great American people that they have never before sustained. We cannot claim there is an information blackout surrounding the president, as it happens in regarding presidents in a number of third world countries, or there is concealment of information from him to cause his ignorance or feigning to ignore. This is a matter causing astonishment. On the other hand, President Bush is not that stupid to imagine tragic defeats as victories, he is rather very smart to an extent making him deceiving others that he had triumphed and that everything is as desired and well.

No one knows for how long would president Bush continue in deceiving others and deluding himself that those others are convinced in his paralogism that that exceeded imagination. For instance the former American Secretary of State Collin Powell has become skeptical in what President Bush says about fake and deceptive victories and added to what the press says in exposing stands of President Bush and his aides in the administration and the lies they are marketing to the public. Such lies are not subject to the logic and hardly to be accepted, as

one of the newspapers mentions, an eastern society governed by oppression and extortion as well as a modern democratic society.

Probably the strangest words of President Bush are those talking about his victories as he says that the world would not understand the reality of the defeat inflicted on Hezbollah but after years. It seems as if he wanted that the American public not to understand the dimensions of defeat inflicted on the Zionist entity, and which in fact was a defeat for him personally and his administration, until after he has left the White House and to be one of the former presidents who usually would not bother about a defeat or victory. He is among those who believe however clever and conscious they rapidly will forget and that the days would make the American people forget the defeat sustained by the Zionist entity and the American administration together. These paralogisms generally imply of the situation the White House has reached, especially the political and moral fall.

According to some psychologists, whatever dangerous conse-



By: Dr. Abdulaziz  
Al-Maqaleh

quences entail deception of others, they are not comparable to those resulting from self-deception. The latter creates a state of split between the person and the reality and makes all his judgments and visions in a position of uncalculated evaluation and accordingly small and great matters come to be at the same footing. The more dangerous is when this case is the characteristic of president of a state that is the greatest power in the world if the case were of an ordinary person the matter will be easier because its effect will not go beyond a narrow circle around him. However when the one affected with this case is a president of a superpower then this is a tragic situation and its impact will not be confined to days but will extend to tens of years.

Bush has been defeated in Afghanistan and is being defeated in Iraq after his policy has worked on destroying the Iraqi people and tearing to pieces their unity and the bonds of brotherhood among their sectarian and ethnic components. Only lately Bush has been defeated in Lebanon and the world is still waiting his new defeats unless a miracle happens when demands for expelling him from presidency, called by some congressmen, are achieved, as was the case with his predecessors whose mistakes were less and in limited extent.

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

## Social Security, Cowardly Trick by Ruling Party!

By: Nabeel Al-Nowairah

One week ago, I met with an old woman who works as a servant for a local company. She looked tired and full of miseries. I started asking her about her living conditions. Her name is Hajja Saeda, living in Al-Qa'a zone in Sana'a. She said that her salary roughly covers her family's needs. With a hidden sigh, she said that she also receives social security from the government. "But in the last month, the government refused to give us the social security until we give them our election cards," Hajja Saeda stated.

She explained that the government employees asked her to give them the election cards of all the adult members of the family; otherwise she wouldn't receive the security. Powerlessly the old

woman said, "I had no other solution but to take all the election cards of the family and gave them to the employees. I want to live and survive with my family. Hadn't I done so, we would die of hunger."

It is, indeed, a cowardly trick by the ruling party represented by the government to prevent poor people from voting or to misuse their cards. "This is not only my case," Hajja Saeda added. "It is the case of all those who receive social security in Al-Qa'a zone. And I think it is the case of all the poor people throughout the country."

In his interview with Al-Jazeera Channel, President Ali Abdullah Saleh said, "The elections are free and fair. But when the other parties lose the elections, they say that the elections are unfair." What kind of fairness the President is talking about? When

the citizen is deprived from his basic right of voting to the one he chooses, is this called fairness? When the weak citizen is put between two difficult choices: to vote to the one he chooses or to survive in the difficult life conditions, is this called freedom?

I doubt the upcoming elections will be fair and free. It is just a kind of sham elections where the ruling party rules over the elections until it wins by hook or crook. Stop these cowardly tricks and let people choose the one they want! I am not prejudiced against any party. I am with the one who is voted in by the majority. Let us have free and fair elections so that our country can develop and improve. Let the polling boxes govern this game.

Nabeel Al-Nowairah is a Yemeni writer.  
(nabeelhoodorg@yahoo.com)

## SILVER LINING

Women mishandling  
women issues

Last week, few women marched to the presidential palace, voicing disappointment with political parties for not supporting women candidacy in the upcoming local council elections.

I believe the political parties have failed women and let them down by not taking their nomination away. All political parties, without exception, have shown no support for women. They constantly make nice rhetoric while talking about women's contribution and need of their involvement in the democratic drive and political empowerment. When it comes to action, these nice speeches disappear. Only ten women ran for the local council elections compared to around 24 male candidates. The gap is so wide.

I do agree with Madrid Robin of the NDI that political parties do not want women nominations as they do not want to face their people with this reality. It is true that these political parties are stagnant and tend to comply with the situation and cherish the status quo even if it is bad. They always pretend that confronting the conventions will bring about negative consequences. These are the parties not able to force any change in the country.

But it is also the task of women themselves to change their situation and rebel against such a repressive and male-dominating culture as women did in Europe and the US.

Change is never achieved effortlessly or at leisure. It is a difficult process that needs hard work and sacrifice. Some of those women claiming to be fighters for women rights are hypocrites who want to make these issues a means for attaining personal interests.

Last Week, I attended the meeting of President Ali Abdullah Saleh with the protesting women at the presidential palace. Women like Ramzyah al-Eryani and others who are running the women unions became did not put forward their message clearly. These women pushed some of the participants in the protest to claim they are oppressed by their parties like Islah and the Socialist. It was a disgusting ploy that put women concerns as part of the ongoing debate and attacks and counterattacks between the opposition and the ruling party.

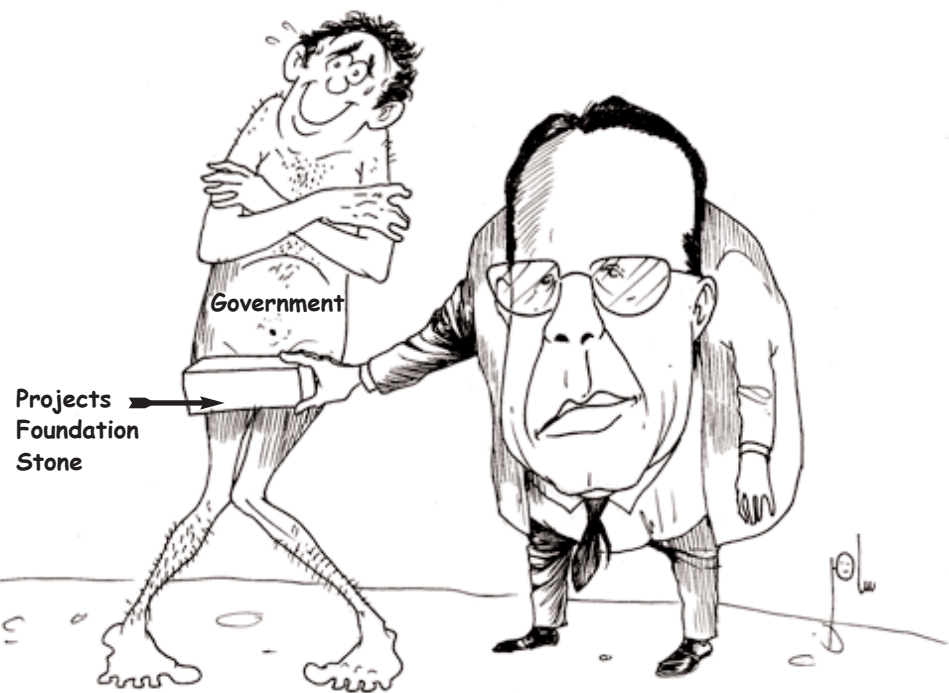
The purpose of that protest was thwarted by such intents for the meeting turned this major issue of women candidacy into a subject fueling the ongoing argument between the two sides. None of these parties are serious about supporting and empowering women politically. Islah alleges, with which I despise, that some religious conceptions stand behind their refusal to nominate women. If this is the argument of Islah, which is pregnant with patriarchal religious figures, what is then the problem with the other parties, including the ruling party and the socialist?

Again, if these leading women are serious and really want empowerment, then why did they protest just one day before the application for local councils candidacy terminated. This shows they were not serious about it and they were just asked or ordered by the ruling party to protest against political parties, mainly the Islah party. These women could have challenged women discrimination, injustice, inequality and abuse of their rights, lobbying for reform of legislations concerning women. They are just keen on obtaining a ministry for women so that they can take over and that is all.

I am a feminist and do not object giving women closed constituencies. The quota system might push to erase the traditional social stigma, doubting the competence of women in the political sphere. However, it might turn women into idles, depending just on the quota share as long as the situation remains the same. The quota, therefore, should act as an impetus to encourage women to struggle and fight for their full rights.

In short, women need devoted and dedicated leaders who do not mishandle women issues but take them seriously; women who do not depend on the political parties support; women who can identify women need and set up an action plan and a vision to work on step by step, achieving women's integration rather than the segregation which we find now, even in the work of women's NGOs.

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

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By: Samer (samer\_art@maktob.com)

The world will influence the transition Cuba will face when Fidel Castro's life and rule come to an end and it should be decidedly geared towards the implementation of a new democracy.

Cuba's present communist government falsely presents itself as the authentic spokesman for the aspirations of the people, and it claims to be able, though by recourse to violent means, to bring about radical changes which will put an end to the oppression and misery of people.

Marxist Communism, is characterized by the "class struggle" which implies that society is founded on violence. Within this perspective, any reference to ethical requirements calling for courageous and radical institutional and structural reforms makes no sense. In this system, every affirmation of faith or of theology is subordinated to a political criterion, which in turn depends on the class struggle, the driving force of history.

Participation in the class strug-

## Letters to the Editor

gle is presented as a requirement of charity itself. The desire to love everyone here and now, despite his class, and to go out to meet him with the non-violent means of dialogue and persuasion, is denounced as counterproductive and opposed to love.

With the anticipated changing of the guard in Cuba, let us hope a new wave of freedom from the tyranny of communism is on the horizon.

Paul Kokoski  
paulkokoski@mountain-able.net

Shame on Ministry of  
Education

Shame on the Ministry of Education or which, who ever the reason for our suffering is. I am writing this letter in the name of all retired teachers who served the nation in education fields for more than twenty years - 91 retired teachers started from the educational year 2006 are ignored

completely forgotten by the corrupted officials in the corrupted ministry. These corrupted officials could not solve the problems of 91 retired teachers to settle our salary for almost six months what a shame.

What is the secret behind these corruption and delay?

Is this the reward we receive from this ministry after serving the nation for this long period or is this what you mean by retired? Is it your corrupted policy at this ministry or is it your government policy? Give retired employees death by hunger. Don't you have mercy for elderly people? Don't you feel guilty when you do so? You corrupted officials how it became so difficult for you transferring our salary from your account to the social affairs office? Nothing is clear for us and what reason do you have for all these delays? We even do not know where the problem lies, to whom to complain which department to refer to?

You corrupted dead fish officials at this ministry and your friends at others governmental offices, when are you going to work and act properly?

By the way this ministry needs changes from the roots. Many advisors, many deputies, many general directors, many directors, many inspectors are doing nothing there in huge buildings at the head office, and at Sana'a Educational Office and at the regional educational offices are the most corrupted offices in the republic.

The educational system cannot be improved unless these corrupted officials get moral lessons.

At last I want to advise for these corrupted officials that sooner or later we will get our salaries even if we die our families will get it, but you will never succeed, and continue in your corruption administration or management, as the new generation can not tolerate your dirty behavior. You will be thrown away like garbage bags.

Mohammed Mohsin Shatubi  
Retired English Teacher

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# Yemen Press Review

By: Mohammed Khidhr

## الوحدوي

Al-Wahdawi weekly, organ of the Nasserite Unionist Organization (NUO), 22 Aug. 2006.

- Main headlines**
- "Al-Wahdawi" publishes platform of the JMP presidential candidate
  - JMP embarks on its election propaganda campaign in Sabeen Square
  - Bin Shamlan: By changing the regime corruption stops
  - GPC ministers assail those who call for change
  - Exchange of fire at an electoral center in Marib, electoral differences in Shabwa
  - The opposition welcomes Al-Eryany's acknowledgment of the danger of terror
  - Dahhan: Justifications of the elections commission unacceptable
  - Training on managing electoral campaigns held at the NUO headquarters

The newspaper's political editor writes that in the Arab world there are no term ramifications of war or that after war because the war is going on as long as the Zionist gang is remaining in Palestine and the Palestinian cause is still unsettled justly in a way satisfying the Arabs of Palestine, the legitimate owners of the land. There are no ramifications as long as ambitions and policies of occupation are expanding day by day in the Arab region. The Sinai desert is occupied by forced treaties, the Golan Heights of Syria occupied by the Zionist aggression and the Lebanese Shabaa Farms region is still occupied. The rest of Lebanon is under the Zionist military besieging, especially aimed at destroying Hezbollah and assassination of its leaders. The situation also extends to the occupation of Iraq and the attempt of destroying its unity and the attempt of implementing the scheme of a new Middle East, especially if the Arab regimes continue to carry the shame of the lost peace and extend their hands to an American friendship characterized by betrayal and conspiracy against the

issues and rights of he nation. As it has been mentioned above about the terms of war ramifications, the Hezbollah rockets war that stopped at least for the time being between the Lebanese Arab resistance and the Zionists has entered a new stage of another type of war of a more dangerous kind; it is the war of conspiracies, assassinations and liquidations.

## الوسط

Al-Wasat weekly, 23 Aug. 2006.

- Main headlines**
- Al-Majidi considered freezing of his membership as a result of alliance between the two currents of extremism inside the YSP and the Islah
  - Presence of the president of Al-Eman University party, will it represent an introduction to benefit from later?
  - Qahtan: Organizers of Al-Eman University avoided invitation of personalities causing anger of the president
  - The YSP freezes membership of al-Majidi and Thabit, the first refuses the decision
  - Security incidents and legal violations permeated the process of registering candidates of the legal councils

In his article on who will rule Yemen, Dr Rashad Ahmed Al-Rassas says it is nice to see this democratic action Yemen is seeing in this current political period in the history of the democratic experiment of Yemen. This democratic experiment Yemen has pursued since the declaration of the Yemen Republic and the Yemeni people will protect it because it protects them from conflicts on power. All of us know that Yemen suffered much from power conflicts before the political, social and economic stability they have reached at the present. Democracy moves the question of the transfer of power from behind scenes, conspiracies and cannon barrels to the people the owner and source of power and they decide who to rule Yemen in the coming period through ballot boxes

in the upcoming presidential elections scheduled on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September of this year. Here the question pops up, who will govern Yemen in the coming period? What are the programs, plans and mechanisms he is going to use in his tenure? Will president Saleh continue what he has begun, from realization of unity, consolidating the democracy under which we are living, to adoption of political pluralism, to flourishing development, to demarcation of borders, to achievement of stability and to development of investment? No doubt if he wins he would run the government with capability and wisdom as we are used to know him. President Saleh has made for himself and for Yemen, people and government, a bright history in his national, pan-Arab or Islamic stands and through his achievements in all political, economic and social areas. There is no doubt that Ali Abdullah Saleh will govern Yemen, benefiting from his previous experiment and political visions and to practice his power through his party, the General People's Congress implementing his platform prepared by the GPC and he accepted it in the party's general conference. This means that the coming period of president Saleh's rule would witness more political, economic and social stability.

## الوطية

Al-Wahda newspaper, 23 Aug. 2006.

- Main headlines**
- Electoral propaganda for presidential candidates kicked off
  - Endowments calls for informing on the use of mosques for election propaganda
  - System of individual constituency is most suitable with the nature of our social reality
  - Yemeni-German consultations in November for the support of development sectors
  - Yemen free from bird flu

Writer Ahmed Abdrabeh Alawi says in his article political analysts and

observer in the world know about the open bias of president George Bush to Israel in most times and as if he speaks the language of the Israeli prime minister Olmert. The main reason is ascribed to pure electoral reasons as he aspires an electoral presence for his party although he is personally about to end his second and last term in power. He does not want to go through the same experiment of his father when he was defeated in the American presidential elections before Clinton. President Bush is sincere in winning satisfaction of the American Jews because they are owners of business, influence and the media and they made him win in the elections against Algor. The paradox is that Bush who rules a superpower claiming to be defender of democracy and human rights in the world, he himself demands the change of many an Arab and non-Arab presidents despite his full knowledge they are elected by their peoples and the elections that brought them were free and held under supervision from the United Nations and some countries, as what happened in Palestine, Lebanon and Venezuela. Bush can stand by Israel and support it with all means, but he cannot extinguish the flame of resistance or suppress the spirit of resistance inside the souls of the Palestinian and the Lebanese people.

- Governor of Hadramout personally follows up the governorate's projects
- General Prosecution interrogates chairman of the board of directors of the housing loans bank

Writer Ayman Mohammed Nasser says in an article the upcoming local councils elections are an important stop in our life as it is supposed to form an important qualitative transfer in our life through the political and social action that is supposed to bring about qualitative renewal in the political representation.

This logical and beautiful talk remains theoretical in the light of the big probability that the local elections will reproduce the same existing situations regardless of the proportion of opposition or the ruling party. This supposition is based on the reality of the Yemeni political elites, whether in the opposition or ruling are the same for 30years and renewal I its best forms is rather nominal, where mentalities and concepts of the old guard remain he more influential.

## النداء

Al-Nidaa weekly, 23 Aug. 2006.

- Main headlines**
- The opposition hires transmission hours in an Arab satellite channel to enhance is election campaign
  - Election Commission made reservations against paragraphs of Bin Shamlan platform implying libel and exaggerations
  - The president promises increase of salaries and shortening the presidency tenure to 5 years
  - 100 women out of 16 thousand candidates, The women accuse political parties of letting them down and the president gives directives in favor of the woman
  - JMP: The SCER manipulated in favor

## الطريق

Attariq weekly, 22 Aug. 2006.

- Main headlines**
- The GPC announces its support for all woman candidates from political parties and independent
  - A candidate from Shabwa insists on his legal right in nomination to the local councils elections
  - 700 soldiers of both sexes appeal to the president

## The war on "democratization"

The wars in Lebanon and Gaza constitute a grave threat to democratic reform in the southern Mediterranean. These wars are inflicting heavy punishment on precisely those peoples who have held fully free and fair elections in the region, while eroding the legitimacy of Israel's democracy.



By: Alvaro de Vasconcelos

because it won't persuade electorates to turn away from Islamist movements. The efforts of reformist governments in the region to integrate such movements into the public sphere have been dealt a severe blow.

Democracies have long known that extreme and indiscriminate punishment - which by definition affects friend and foe, combatant and civilian alike - is a grave violation of international law, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, has pointed out. They also know that such action fuels radicalism, leading to the kind of tragic consequences that are all too familiar nowadays.

Hezbollah is, after all, a creature of Lebanon's resistance to Israel's 1982 invasion, now trying to reassert its influence at home and in the wider region by portraying itself as a champion of the Arab-Islamic cause, namely in Palestine. Any reinforcement of its power will necessarily weaken Lebanon and the region's democratic forces.

The prolonged absence of the United States from truly active engagement in the Middle East peace process is partly to blame for the current situation. For almost six years, there has been no significant US diplomatic initiative to resolve the Palestinian question or to pursue the Syrian track (Israel still occupies the Golan Heights).

Moreover, just when we were beginning to think that the Iraqi tragedy had made the limits of unilateralism and preemptive military strategies clear to all, the Bush administration encourages Israel's military action - this time against a country that has painfully been attempting to consolidate democratic reform and to reaffirm its sovereignty in relation to Syria.

Bush's most promising initiative, promoting democracy across the Middle

East, was already dealt a crippling blow by US intervention in Iraq and the ensuing civil war there. Now the project is buried under the weight of America's inability to protect Lebanon's fragile democracy and Palestine's democratic experiment.

The European Union's feeble response to the warfare in Gaza and Lebanon has oscillated between understanding and condemnation of the disproportionate use of force by Israel (described as "ten eyes for one" by the Finnish presidency), thereby betraying its dependence on the US to end the violence. Europeans will have learned nothing from the damaging disunity, and thus weakness, that they displayed during the Iraq war if this conflict does not compel them to speak with one voice.

What is needed is a European initiative that is backed by a credible military deterrent, consisting of forces from the EU, Turkey, and Arab countries, to be dispatched under a UN mandate to Lebanon and Gaza. Europe must not only put forward a clear demand for an immediate cease-fire and the end to Syrian and Iranian meddling in Lebanon, it must also provide the means to enforce it as well as massive support for Lebanon's reconstruction. The EU should decisively back the end of the embargo on Palestine and the urgent creation of a Palestinian state.

A common European front could persuade the US to give Lebanon and Palestine enough time to consolidate their national democratic processes, thus isolating the radical elements of Hamas and steering Hezbollah to dissolution of its private army. With the US project in ruins, a credible European policy to delegitimize war and support democratization in its neighborhood has become essential.

Alvaro de Vasconcelos is the Director of the Portuguese Institute for International Affairs. Source: www.project-syndicate.org



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# Rabid dogs spread death in Yemen

By: Ahmed Al-Bukhari  
Taiz Bureau

Several local newspapers recently reported that rabies has become a serious problem in many Yemeni governorates and districts. For example, over the past six months in Ibb, newspapers reported approximately 400 rabies cases, most involving children, shepherds and farm guards.

Hundreds of cases also were reported in Taiz governorate. However, these numbers, based on medical sources at anti-rabies units, may not reflect actual statistics, as many patients living in remote areas aren't able to reach such units to receive medication.

Dr. Abdul Jabar Al-Muhia of the Yemeni-Swedish Hospital's anti-rabies unit in Taiz referred to another problem, which is lack of injections to treat rabies

patients. "Within the first six months of 2006, the hospital treated approximately 375 dog bite victims, one of whom died; whereas the hospital is provided only 300 vaccine injections monthly, which doesn't cover patients' needs," he explained.

Patients are to receive five free injection doses over the course of seven to 28 days. "However, we only give patients three of the five injections because the hospital isn't able to treat all of the cases, which sometimes come to us from other governorates. In this case, patients must buy the two extra injections, which costs a lot," Al-Muhia confirmed.

"In the past, we provided patients the entire course; however, we were shocked to discover that some individuals somehow receive the injections and then sell them to pharmacies, so we decided to give only three doses at the unit," he added.

#### Not just dogs

Many Taiz citizens have complained of the spread of dogs that feed on hospital and medical center waste sometimes containing human organs, as such waste is disposed in residential area waste containers.

However, dogs aren't the only animals that transmit the disease. According to Al-Muhia, rabies is an acute, contagious infection of the central nervous system caused by a specific virus that enters the body through the



This stray dog may be a rabid, but no body will know until bitten. YT PHOTO

bite of infected animals like dogs, cats, skunks, foxes, wolves and bats. In humans, the incubation period varies from three weeks to 120 days, averaging approximately four to six weeks.

#### Patients with hydrophobia

Al-Muhia described rabies symptoms,

noting that they begin with warning symptoms usually lasting one to four days, thus indicating the beginning of the disease. During this period, symptoms include fever, headache, malaise (a generally ill feeling), muscle aches, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, sore throat, cough and fatigue.

There also may be a tingling or twitching sensation around the area of the animal bite, which is one of the most specific rabies symptoms at this stage of infection.

After this initial period, a second stage begins with symptoms mimicking those of encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). There may be fever as high as 40.6 degrees Celsius (105 degrees Fahrenheit) with any of the following symptoms: irritability, aggressiveness, confusion, hallucinations, bizarre or abnormal thoughts, excessive movement or agitation, muscle spasms, abnormal posture, seizure (convulsions), weakness or paralysis (the person can't move some part of the body), extreme sensitivity to bright light, sound or touch and increased tears or saliva production.

Patients are extremely thirsty but experience spasms of the larynx when water is presented or even mentioned, hence the disease's original name, hydrophobia [Greek hydro = water, phobos = fear]. There also may be an inability to speak as the vocal cords become paralyzed.

The last stages of rabies produce symptoms reflecting the infection's destruction of many important areas in the nervous system, such as possible double vision, problems moving facial muscles, abnormal movements of the diaphragm and muscles that control breathing and difficulty swallowing. It's the difficulty in swallowing - combined with increased saliva production - which leads to the "foaming at the mouth" usually associated with rabies infection.

**Patients are extremely thirsty but experience spasms of the larynx when water is presented or even mentioned.**

Finally, the individual infected with rabies can slip into a coma and stop breathing. Without life support measures, death usually follows within four to 20 days after rabies symptoms begin.

However, Al-Muhia pointed out that urgent measures can be taken as first aid. "The wound should be treated by cleansing with hot water, an antiseptic solution like iodine and a sterile dressing," he explained. "However, the patient must be given the daily vaccine injection course according to a doctor's schedule," he insisted. "as rabies virtually always is fatal if the vaccine isn't administered."

**The patients take three injections of the five injection course. they have to buy the two extra injections costs a lot**

**Many Taiz citizens have complained of the spread of dogs that feed on hospital and medical center waste sometimes containing human organs, as such waste is disposed in residential area waste containers.**

## Why medical studies are often wrong

Commentary by: John Paulos

How many times have you heard people exclaim something like, "First they tell us this is good or bad for us, and then they tell us just the opposite?"

In case you need more confirmation for the "iffy-ness" of many health studies, Dr. John Ioannidis, a researcher at the University of Ioannina in Greece

writing in the Journal of the American Medical Association, recently analyzed 45 well publicized studies from major journals appearing between 1990 and 2003. His conclusion: the results of approximately one third of these studies were flatly contradicted or significantly weakened by later work.

There's the well-known story of hormone replacement therapy, which was supposed to protect against heart disease and other maladies, but apparently

does not. A good part of the apparent effect may have been the result of attributing the well-being of upper middle class health-conscious women to the hormones.

Another bit of health folklore that "everybody knows" that has turned out to be unfounded is vitamin E's protective effect against cardiac problems. Not so says a recent large study.

And how about tea, fruits and vegetables? Surely the anti-oxidant effect

of these wondrous nutrients can't be doubted. Even here, however, the effect appears to be more modest than pinot noir lovers, among others, had thought.

And certainly many lung patients who inhale nitrous oxide and swear by its efficacy will be surprised to learn that a larger study does not show any beneficial effect.

#### Faulty Statistics and ...

A common procedure to remove fat from neck arteries, prescription drugs used by millions of people, the herb Echinacea ... The examples extend beyond those in the JAMA article and go on and on, but the general point is that a single health study by itself cannot be taken as indubitable. The totality of the available evidence, appropriately weighted, is what counts, and this balanced appraisal is difficult to fit into a news article, much less into a catchy headline.

One obvious problem is that studies vary in size and quality. Some are well-designed, others are not, yet most media reports give all of them the same status — the medical variant of "astronomers say one thing, astrologers another, so let's hear from both." Margins of error, low correlations, or very large ones that mask confounding variables seldom make it into the lade of news stories, whereas "X will cure you" or "Y will kill you" always seem to.

Another issue is that many health studies rely on self-reporting, which is notoriously unreliable. The average number of sex partners reported by heterosexual males, for example, is almost always considerably larger than the average number reported by heterosexual females. Certainly if these numbers, which should be equal, are so out of whack, it's hard to put too much credence into sex surveys as a whole. Similar bias results if people are asked whether their incessant drinking of green tea has lessened their angina.

#### Misleading Psychology

And the evaluation of all studies must contend with wishful thinking: people naturally want to believe in the value of new treatments, sometimes so much that their critical faculties are dulled or extinguished altogether. For an extreme example consider the studies on the purported effectiveness of prayer.

In the other direction, people often over-react to bad news and fall subject to the "tyranny of the anecdote." For example, TV viewers see parents keening about the unfortunate effect of some vaccine on their child and give little weight to the hundreds of thousands of children who've benefited from the same vaccine.

A distinction from statistics is marginally relevant. We're said to commit a Type I error when we reject a truth and a Type II error when we accept a falsehood. In listening to news reports people often have an inclination to suspend



**Medical research reported in scientific journals typically use small statistical samples and other mathematical biases that are revealed and corrected by additional studies later — after the initial incorrect reports have been heralded by mass media.**

their initial disbelief in order to be cheered and thereby risk making a Type II error. In evaluating medical claims, however, researchers generally have an opposite inclination to suspend their initial belief in order not to be beguiled and thereby risk making a Type I error. There is, of course, no way to always avoid both types of error, and we have different error thresholds in different endeavors.

Moreover, the questions health studies address are often subtly different so seemingly contradictory or confirmatory results are difficult to compare and evaluate. Also sobering is the realization, acknowledged by the JAMA author Ioannidis, that there's no conclusive proof that the results of later studies will not also be rescinded or modified.

So what should you conclude about, say, a small new study that flavonoids in dark chocolate help lower blood pressure? It's your call, but realize how

credible you find this chocolate study may say more about your psychology than the biochemistry of chocolate.

As I've written before (although with a different number), it's been conclusively established that 43.58871563% of all statistics are made up on the spot.

Professor of mathematics at Temple University, John Allen Paulos is the author of best-selling books, including "Innumeracy" and "A Mathematician Plays the Stock Market." His "Who's Counting?" column on ABCNews.com appears the first weekend of every month.

Source: www.abcnews.go



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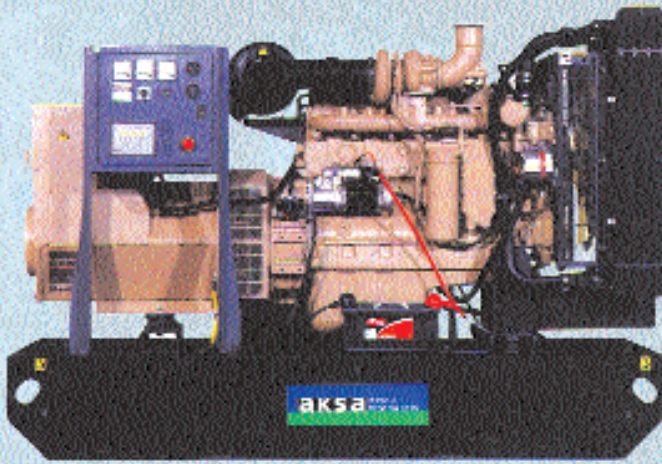
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## Music scene in Beirut

## Nostalgic about the war

"Everyone longs to return to his childhood, and my childhood simply took place during the war", says **Mazen Kerbaj**, a pioneer of free improvised music in Beirut. **Thomas Burkhalter** takes a look at how years of war have influenced the sound of Lebanese music.

The Lebanese musician Mazen Kerbaj is regarded as a pioneer of free improvised music in Beirut. He recently launched a new weblog - mazenkerblog.blogspot.com.

"Thank you that I can hear the war again," he remarks cynically on his blog. Kerbaj was born in 1975, during the Lebanese civil war. He is nostalgic about that time, he tells me in an interview. "Everyone longs to return to his childhood, and my childhood simply took place during the war. I didn't know anything else."

Kerbaj is also known for his comics and caricatures - on his blog he now posts samples of his art every hour. At the moment he is playing his trumpet in Europe. He was actually supposed to fly to the US in the next few days, but after the bombing of the airport that probably won't work out.

#### Trumpet sounds like machine gun volleys

Kerbaj's solo appearances have invariably impressed me. He uses every conceivable playing technique: he plays with and without a mouthpiece, sometimes he blows through a long tube that he wraps around his stomach, often he takes his trumpet vertically between his legs, puts a tin can on the bell, and alternates between blowing, sucking, and percussive sounds.

On his solo CD "brt vrt zrt krt t," we hear his trumpet hissing, grunting, and gurgling, in the highest and lowest registers, often in several voices, always rhythmically precise. The trumpet sound in the piece

"Tagadagadaga" is reminiscent of machine gun volleys. In "Taga of Daga" it sounds like the clatter of helicopter rotors.

It was his friend, the Austrian trumpeter Franz Hautzinger, who called Kerbaj's attention to the similarities between his sounds and war machines. Since then, Kerbaj has been pondering over how the sounds of war from his childhood are connected to his music today.

Earlier, he wanted to rebel against Lebanese high society, the conservatory, and the classical school of trumpet playing. Now he realizes that it was not only this dissociation that attracted him to John Coltrane, Evan Parker, to Peter Brötzmann's album "Machine Gun - Automatic Gun for Fast and Continuous Firing," and to other musicians from the free jazz and free improvised music scene.

"I am probably imitating the sounds of my childhood on the trumpet. I also have a special relationship to silence. Although silence is synonymous with peace, it was always ominous as well - waiting for the next hail of bombs."

#### Healing the wounds of war

The war is also omnipresent in Rana Eid's music. Two years ago, she compiled a kind of monologue of sounds of Beirut on CD. When I talk to her, she sounds upset, almost hysterical.

Eid composes the soundtracks for almost all the important Lebanese films. As the skies rumbled during the Israeli invasion in 1982 and bombs fell on West Beirut, Eid, still a child, put a Walkman headset over her ears and listened to music - the majestic



On his blog Mazen Kerbaj calls the Israeli pilots "sound artists"

ornamentations of the Egyptian diva Umm Kulthum, the soothing songs of the Lebanese vocalist Fairuz, and the politicized musical theater of her son, Ziad Rahbani. Eid's father was a Communist. Tall, bearded, unkempt men used to sit in their living room and argue heatedly, she recalls.

At first, she was afraid, then she became increasingly immersed in her father's world and memorized the political songs of Marcel Khalife, Ahmad Kabour, and Khaled el Haber. After the war, she didn't want to listen to any more music. During her studies at the university, however, she began to talk to friends, acquaintances, and strangers about wartime memories. She recorded these conversations.

"I am fascinated by the way the tension and voice register change when a person speaks," she explained during an interview. Later, Eid began to record the sounds of her city.

They are the sounds that I recall now, too - pedestrians calling out to a taxi driver where they want to go. Sometimes resolute and loud, sometimes hesitant, reserved: Achrafieh, Basta, Mathaf, Tabaris. Screeching tires on Beirut's asphalt,

honking sounds from every direction, sputtering Mercedes engines.

The humming of the many electrical wires that kept me awake during my first few days in Beirut. The ringing of the church bells, the call of the muezzin to prayer. The sound of hammering and drilling from the rapidly growing city center that spread over half the city. And much more.

Eid wanted to develop a sound archive of her city, but unfortunately nothing came of it. Soon she was working with increasing success as a sound designer for film and video. She is trying to gradually heal the wounds of war in her work.

"I don't know how I can stand this raging in the sky," she says now on the telephone. "All the memories are coming back. I want to get away from here, but at the same time I want to stay. My family is here. I don't know what I should do."

#### Sound collages of destruction

I am thinking about Raed Yassine. Last week I talked to him for an entire day and exchanged music with him. In his 23-minute work "Featuring Hind Rostan," he has packaged political speeches, war sounds, commercials, radio jingles, and television tunes from the Lebanese civil war into a sound collage.

These are aural recollections which many Lebanese wanted to erase from their memories but are still very fresh in their minds. It was very difficult to get these archive tapes at all, said Yassine. "Even the radio and television stations don't like to look back on that time."

In the piece you hear the Christian military leaders Samir Geagea and Bachir Gemayel speaking, sometimes interrupted by the Communist leader Georges Hawi, who was murdered last year, or the Druze clan leader, Walid Jumblatt. Interspersed regularly are snatches of radio broadcasts, jazz-rock, or synthesizer pop that was played in Beirut in those days, despite the war. Discos and clubs were flourishing then; the party community wanted to dance, to forget.

Commercials from various radio stations enrich the collage. They form an absurd contrast to the everyday life of Lebanese soldiers and civilians at that time. "I rarely have time to sit around," says an American voice, "and I rarely have time for a proper meal. That's why I eat Snickers. I can't live without Snickers."

There were supposedly around 200 radio stations during the civil war. Every community, every militia had its own station that continuously informed its listeners about who had made what strategic moves, who had been killed, which streets were open to traffic at the moment, and which were not. After the war, television became more important.

#### Beirut's desolate past

"Hi Tom, we're having a bloodbath again here," Gharo Gdanian of the death metal band Weeping Willow writes me via SMS. "I'm at home, furiously laying into my guitar. Are you alright? Hoping for better times." Even today, he still dreams about war sometimes. He watches horror films; he doesn't like happy ends, Gdanian told me a week ago.

"My music plays on the dark side of life; the song 'Remains of a Bloodbath' is about Beirut's desolate past. I've seen a lot during my lifetime." Weeping Willow is - or was? - the extreme, loud wing of an emerging subcultural music scene in Beirut.

## The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam 44

Translated by Edward FitzGerald

Oh, thou, who man of baser  
earth didst make,  
And who with Eden devise the  
snake;  
For all the sin wherewith the  
face of man  
Is blacken'd, man's forgiveness  
give - and take!

Ziyad Sahhab could perhaps be at the other end of the scale. I just analyzed the piece "Ma ana bahibb ar-Rawwaq" with him. An Arabic 'ūd, an Arabic qanūn, a violin, guitar, and electric bass play this wonderfully embellished, yet gently evolving melody.

In his deep, Leonard Cohen voice, Sahhab sings that he would like to learn from mistakes and develop further in peace. He is trying to find his personal artistic direction. Like many musicians here:

Zeid Hamdan, with his trip-hop group Soap Kills and his post-rock band The New Government; Hayaf Yassine, with his homemade santūr, on which he plays early Arab music; Rayess Bek, who raps about the fact that the different religious communities in Lebanon still view each other with suspicion; pianist Joelle Khoury, who regularly invited international composers and musicians to workshops and two weeks ago played compositions by John Cage with an orchestra consisting of classical musicians, free jazzers, and jazz musicians.

After the concert, she was overjoyed and said that these were the rare moments that had been worth fighting so long for. All these musicians - and several others - launched their own CD labels, networked internationally, and decided to remain in Lebanon and build something.

They were in good company. The civil society grew larger; independent media platforms such as indymedia Beirut, the gay and lesbian NGO Helem, conservation organizations, and many others addressed taboos and new subjects. They wanted to proceed step-by-step, but no longer believed in far-reaching political solutions.

National dialogue as political theater  
Although they participated in the mass

demonstrations that led to the formation of a new government last spring, they did not trust the politicians who had already been in power during the war and had been conciliatory recently. Many regarded the "National Dialogue" that had brought all the country's political clan leaders, including Nasrallah, to the conference table again and again during the past few months as theater.

It appears that they were right. Did the reforms move too slowly? Is Lebanon being punished for that now? Or could this war not have been prevented anyway?

This active scene reached ever-broader sections of the population. They were on the verge of changing this country. The rather dark intellectual film "A Perfect Day," directed by Joana Hadjithomas and Khalil Joreige, was shown in multiplex cinemas at Beirut's large shopping malls, for example - in the heart of the Lebanese consumer society that is so annoying to many intellectuals and artists.

"The Lebanese suppress their memories of the civil war with extreme consumption," writes Samir Khalaf, sociologist and professor at the American University in Beirut. The young artists addressed these and other taboo subjects with increasing frequency. In this way, they succeeded in building the first bridges to the population. Now these bridges - like those made of stone - have been brutally bombed to bits for the time being.

Meanwhile, Mazen Kerbaj has switched over completely to war music. On his blog he calls the Israeli pilots "sound artists," and he has put his MP3 recording of a night of bombing on the Internet.

Thomas Burkhalter. © Qantara.de 2006.

## General Tender Announcement

### Number (9-c) Year 2006

#### For The Second Time

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation re-announces tender for the second time for the following:

- Supply, supervising installation, testing, hand-over and guarantee of lighting equipment handy for the Satellite Channel.

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US 100\$ an additional 100\$ is charged for optional postal delivery.

#### General conditions:

- 1-Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2006
- 3- Valid commercial registration card for 2006
- 4- Valid Insurance card for 2006
- 5- Valid Alms (Zakat) card for 2006
- 6- The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax
- 7- Commitment to the general and special conditions stated in the tender documents

#### Place and date for opening the envelopes:

The envelopes are to be opened at 1:00 PM on Sunday 1/10/2006 at the corporation premises.

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## Libya beats Yemen 1-0

SANA'A Aug 26 — The Yemeni national team played Libya in a friendly match at Sana'a's Al-Murisi Stadium on Saturday afternoon.

Libya scored the only goal in the match to win 1-nil. Mohammed Sa'ad netted the winner in the 60 minute. The match comes as preparation for each team's qualification. Libya is trying to get into the African Cup of Nations while Yemen is playing for their first-ever spot in the Asian Cup. Both teams will have their next qualification matches on Sept. 6 with the Libyan team facing Ethiopia in Addis Ababa while the Yemen play in Sana'a against Japan.



Yemen's national team.

## Hot Sun too strong for Schnyder

Patty Schnyder was the first seed to fall in the women's Pilot Pen event in New Haven as she went down 6-1 6-3 to Chinese qualifier Sun Tiantian.

The sixth-seeded Swiss admitted she was surprised by the world number 93, who came through three games in qualifying.

"I was not on my game and she really mixed up her serves well. I really didn't know her," Schnyder said.

Russia's fifth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova had to work hard to beat American Jill Craybas 6-7 (6-8) 6-1 6-1.

The first set lasted an hour and 22 minutes, including a marathon seventh game that went to deuce 14 times before Craybas held serve.

But the local favourite's resistance did not last as the 2004 US Open champion raced through the second and third sets.

"The rallies were long and it was a very hard match," said Kuznetsova. "I just felt so tired. You have bad days sometimes, and I'm very happy I got through."

Source: BBC



Sun enjoyed only her second victory against a top 10 player.

## Man City 1-0 Arsenal

By: Mandeep Sanghera

Arsenal were punished for a host of missed chances as Manchester City clung on to end a turbulent week with a win.

Arsenal's Thierry Henry missed two one-on-ones with City keeper Nicky Weaver and a Robin van Persie shot hit the post before City took the lead.

Justin Hoyte conceded a penalty for a foul on Trevor Sinclair and tireless Joey Barton smashed in the spot-kick.

Ben Thatcher's tackle on Pedro Mendes in midweek had cast a dark cloud over City but they held on valiantly.

The game had got off to a fractious start before settling down with both teams spurning good chances.

Henry was unusually Arsenal's main culprit with the French striker showing his trademark pace and predatory instinct but lacking in his execution.

He was clean through after latching on to Alexander Hleb's lofted ball after 14 minutes only to see keeper



Thierry Henry was in strangely lacklustre form for Arsenal.

Weaver save with his leg.

Arsenal keeper Jens Lehmann gave his side a scare at the other end when his goal-kick struck Bernardo Corradi before rebounding back into his grateful arms.

Barton side-footed agonisingly wide and Corradi saw a header saved low down by a scrambling Lehmann as the home side threatened despite Arsenal's domination.

The visitors have frequently been accused of failing to apply an end product to their play and they showed why as the half wore on.

Henry angled a drive wide, was twice let down by his poor touch in threatening positions and saw another effort saved by Weaver as they strained to break the deadlock.

Van Persie's snapshot beat Weaver but hit the post before Arsenal paid the price for their profligacy.

A cross-field ball caught out left-back Hoyte, who conceded a penalty for a foul on Sinclair, and Barton dispatched the spot-kick in off the crossbar.

City had the woodwork to thank again when Gunners defender Kolo Toure's header came back off the crossbar, while Van Persie reacted angrily to not being given for a perceived push by Richard Dunne.

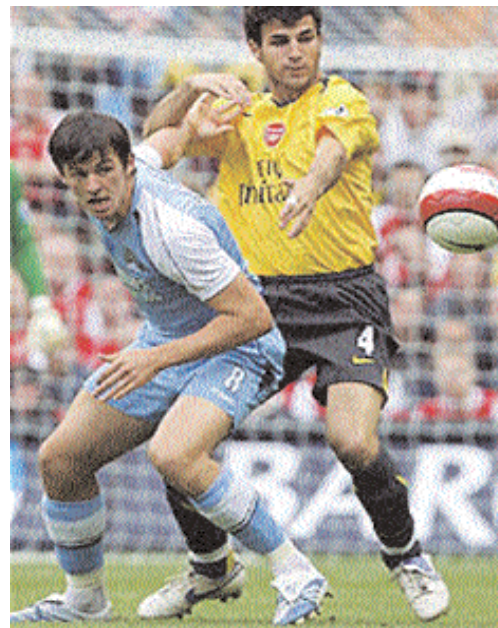
The home side could even have extended their lead on the stroke of half-time if Corradi had been more clinical with a poked shot hit straight at Lehmann.

Arsenal continued to pass and probe after the break and Van Persie dragged a shot across goal and wide just after the hour mark as City battled to hold on to their lead.

The home crowd were giving their side plenty of encouragement while Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger threw on teenager Theo Walcott.

Walcott has twice come on to engineer late goals for his side but could not do it again as City got their goal and points tally off the mark to move off the bottom of the table.

Source: BBC



Barton gave City the lead from the spot.

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

## Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib

#### CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

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

#### TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

- 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

- 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 27/09/2006. 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 27/09/2006 at the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministers Office, Sana'a, Yemen.

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## Zabid Public Library opens

By: Yemen Times Staff

Consisting of 23 divisions, Zabid Public Library opened last week. Minister of Culture Khalid Al-Rowaishan, who opened the library, stated that the library, which contains approximately 5,000 titles and valuable literary manuscripts, is the beginning of significant cultural activities to be witnessed in Zabid. He added that the historical city "is qualified to be the Arab Culture Capital."

He also revealed his ministry's efforts to submit the historic western Yemeni town in the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (ISESCO) program as the Islamic culture capital. "Here, Zabid comes with history peering from its window and shaking hands with us with no warmth but the warmth of its people's hearts," he added.

Al-Rowaishan and other Hodeidah local council officials also laid the foundation stone for Zabid Cultural

Center and Central Library. Additionally, a manuscript center is expected to open in the city within a month.

Founded in the ninth century, the historical city of Zabid was the center of an influential Islamic school and the famed University of Zabid. Named after its first governor and founder,

Zabid is one of the oldest towns in Yemen and one of the first to convert to Islam during the Prophet Mohammed's lifetime. It boasts several families who can trace their lineage to the prophet.

UNESCO has declared Zabid a World Heritage Site and funded excavations of its old schools.



Hundred years ago, Zabid was among the most sophisticated centers of learning in Arabia.

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